

GREATER ISLAND COUNCIL

FOOD INSECURITY SURVEY

Food insecurity, always a problem for many Americans, has become significantly exacerbated as we experience the COVID-19 pandemic. Newscasts are constantly showing long lines of cars patiently waiting for a box of groceries. Stories abound of people who were assisting food banks having to fall back on those same resources to eat. People who never considered requesting assistance have been laid off from jobs once considered secure.

We have been asked to study the issue of hunger in the GIC region. While the need for assistance can be determined empirically, available statistics show food insecurity at a level of 9.6% of the Beaufort County population and 15.1% in Jasper County. Our focus will be on identifying depth and demographics of the need, the resources available to meet that need, and what assistance can be provided to enhance availability and accessibility. The goal is to ensure that needs and supply are well defined and adjustments to better serve this immediate need are identified so that supportive actions can be initiated.

To this end there is no more valuable contribution immediately available than donating food. We invite each GIC member to participate wherever there are collections.