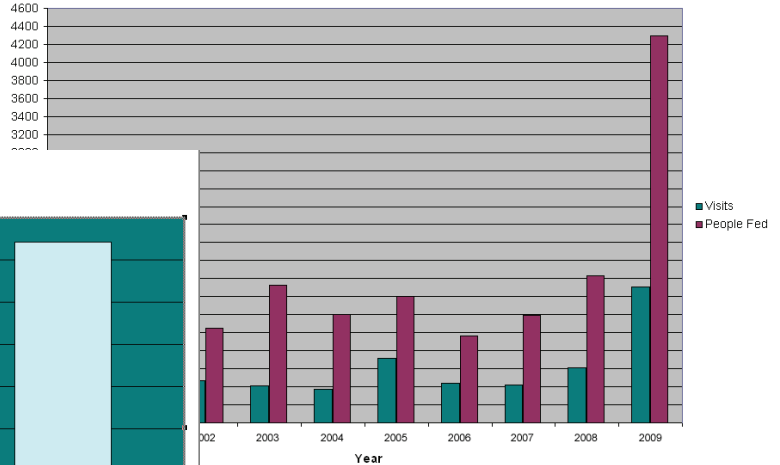
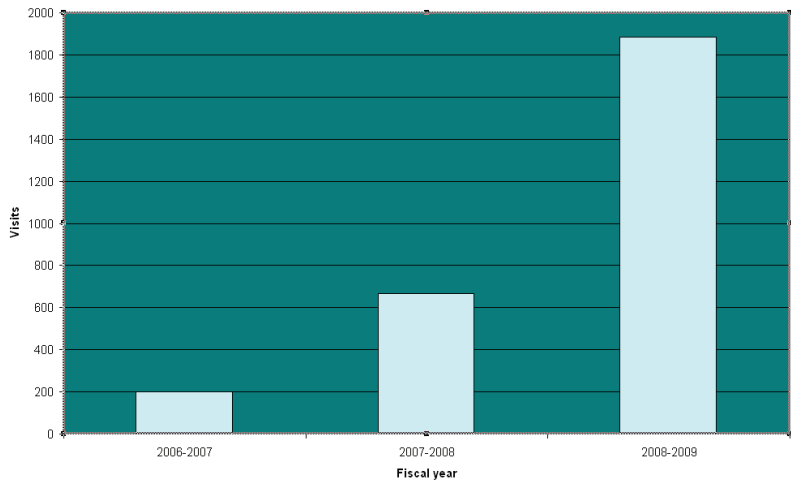


DCC Food Bank



FIRC Food Bank



Full size graphs on page 6.

2009 Summit County Basic Food Assistance

Trends, Issues, Available Services, Funding,
Unmet Needs, Future Strategies and
Priorities



Trends & Issues

The downturn in the economy has certainly been at center stage in the increased need for basic assistance and, specifically for this document, food assistance. There are fewer jobs in the County and, in many existing workplaces, job hours have been significantly reduced. Locals who were making a sustainable wage are now in need of assistance to help make ends meet. Should the economic situation worsen, not only will we see greater need in our community but, eventually, families may need to leave the county in search of employment elsewhere.

The trend in increased basic food assistance in Summit County is evidenced by the following:

- An increase in dollars spent for the federal Food Stamp assistance program from \$142,300 in the year 2000 to \$1,113,663 in 2009 (see page 7).
- Food stamp case load increased from 68 families in 2000 to over 586 families in 2009 (see page 7).
- A dramatic increase in visitors to our local food banks:
 - ◇ The Family Intercultural Resource Center shows an increase in visits to their food bank from 200 visits through 2006 to over 1,900 visits through 2009 (see page 6) .
 - ◇ The Dillon Community Church food bank, shows an increase in the number of people fed per year climbing from 370 in the year 2000 to 4,293 in 2009. As an additional comparison, 370 people were fed in the entire year of 2000 and 491 people were fed in January 2010 **alone** (see page 6) .
 - ◇ Father Dyer United Methodist Church food bank states that they are now serving over 3,600 visitors per year.

Current Services Available

Food Banks

- Dillon Community Church
 - ◇ Provides canned, frozen and perishable foods to individuals and families in need on Mondays, Wednesdays (4:30 to 5:30 pm) and Fridays (1:30 to 2:30 pm) .
 - ◇ Clients may visit up to three times per year. If their needs are greater than that limit, they are asked to set up an interview with the Benevolence Team to establish additional needs - more lateral assistance and potentially more frequent visits to the food bank due to a medical emergency, job loss, family death or other crisis.
- Family Intercultural Resource Center
 - ◇ Provides canned goods, diaper and toiletry items. Open Tuesdays (11:30 to 2:30 pm) and Thursdays (1:00 to 4:00 pm) .
- Summit County Government, Dept. of Social Services
 - ◇ Social Services has a small food bank that is used for clients applying for services that need food immediately. Government commodities are also available once a month on an on-going basis for families and/or individuals who meet the 185% of the federal poverty level. Distribution day is the first Friday of the month. Clients are referred to FIRC or DCC food banks when food supplies are depleted.
- Father Dyer Methodist Church
 - ◇ Food bank is open Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 to 12:00 pm, and Sundays 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

Programs and Vouchers

- DSS—Food Stamp Assistance




- ◊ Monthly benefits provided to low-income households to buy the food needed for a nutritionally adequate diet.
- Salvation Army Fund
 - ◊ Gift cards are issued by the Dept. of Social Services to needy individuals and families one time a year at the discretion of staff.
- Church Fund
 - ◊ Administered by the Dept. of Social Services providing vouchers to be distributed by law enforcement and local churches to be given to individuals and families in need of food, gas or temporary shelter. As of February 2010, there is \$1,170 in the Church Fund.
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
 - ◊ Provides commodities and checks to buy milk, eggs and vegetables to residents of Colorado who are pregnant or breastfeeding and/or have a child under the age of 5. Income limits are required for this program.
- American Red Cross
 - ◊ Food assistance to those affected by a disaster.
- Advocates for Victims of Assault
 - ◊ Provides many emergency services, including food, to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other trauma.
- Food Share America
 - ◊ This is a non-profit food purchasing program where families in Summit County can save up to 50% on their food bill. Volunteers help sort, package and distribute the food that is purchased in bulk.
 - ◊ The program is being championed by FIRC.

Meals

- Summit School District
 - ◊ Free and Reduced Lunch program.
- Senior Meal Program
 - ◊ The Senior Center is a Title III meal site servicing meals to seniors on Tuesdays and Thursdays, on a sliding scale contribution.
 - ◊ Meals are also delivered to homebound seniors over 60-years old. In January 2010 this program will expand to include any homebound individual for a small fee (yet to be determined). A coordinator has been hired and it is hoped that deliveries can be made five days per week.
- St. John ' s Church
 - ◊ Free spaghetti supper on Tuesday nights through the winter.
- Father Dyer
 - ◊ Free meal every Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m.
- Thanksgiving Community Dinner
 - ◊ Free Thanksgiving dinner at the Red, White and Blue Fire Station in Breckenridge. Sponsored by local churches.
- Rotary
 - ◊ Free supper on Tuesday nights 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Elks Lodge in Silverthorne. Now feeding around 300+ people on this one night.

Funding

Funding for our church food banks relies on the generosity and support of local congregations as well as donations from City Market, Safeway and Vitamin Cottage when food is available. Food is also purchased from Food Bank of the Rockies. Grants have also been re-



ceived, through the FIRC, from the Summit Foundation. The DCC congregation funded an expansion of their food bank (in the last quarter of 2009) to just under 1,000 square feet to better facilitate their visitors and store more food.

The DSS food bank is dependent on the availability of local donations to the Salvation Army Bell-ringing campaign in the month of December. Increased need for food supplies was funded by one-time grants from El Pomar and the Summit Foundation, which will not be sustainable in the future.

St. Mary's and Our Lady of Peace Catholic Churches have established a monthly monetary donation to FIRC, the Community Care Clinic and Social Services. They are provided food to 33 families through the Colorado Shares program in November 2009. They continue to run monthly food drives at both churches, which is then donated to FIRC and Father Dyer. The FIRC also receives funding from grants through the Summit Foundation and other sources.

It is obvious from the above, that the community is working hard to fund programs for basic food assistance. The question that has not been answered however, is—**At what point will the need completely overwhelm the supply?** We are going to have to rethink our supply and delivery of basic food systems in the county should this upward trend continue.

Unmet Needs

Given the existing demand, basic food assistance is adequate for most individuals and families in need, with the following exceptions:

1. Frozen and perishable foods are limited - with the only availability being through the Dillon Commu-

nity Church food bank.


2. One of the main needs is funding, to make sure that organizations can purchase enough food to keep the food banks stocked.
3. FIRC could use more space for food storage.
4. DCC needs a large, walk-in refrigerator/freezer unit.
5. All of the previously listed organizations need volunteers.
6. DSS needs 60 bell ringers for its Salvation Army bell ringing campaign this December.

Related Issues

1. Information should be readily available that informs individuals about the availability of food and food banks. www.SummitCares.org lists all of our local food banks and their hours under the Community Resources link.
2. When distributing food, the dignity and respect of the recipient should be honored.
3. Transportation to get food to those who are mobility impaired is difficult or completely lacking beyond the limits of the Stage.
4. Programs for educating food bank visitors about the economical preparation of nutritious meals should be coordinated and expanded.
5. Donors should be educated about the types of food desired, when food is needed and the added benefit of cash and financial contributions to their favorite organization.
6. Can openers should be purchased in bulk and distributed to those who need this basic utensil.

Future Strategies and Priorities to Improve the Delivery of Services

New strategies for food delivery and sources of food



are going to have to be developed if the trends for basic food assistance continue. Given continued economic stress on the county, there will come a “tipping point” when the need exceeds the availability of food donations. Exactly when this point will be reached is unknown. The generosity of our community has so far been extraordinary. A “best guess extrapolation” for food bank and food stamp needs could show the following numbers in 2010:

- ⇒ As with 2009, over \$1 million in food stamp assistance with a caseload exceeding 600 families.
- ⇒ Over 5,000 people will be fed by the DCC food bank.
- ⇒ Over 2,500 visits to the FIRC food bank.
- ⇒ The free meals around the county will be **very** well attended.

The increased demand in food assistance was considered recently at a Hunger in the High County meeting, moderated by Don Parsons, and well attended by 32 individuals/organizations in the county. Also in attendance was Mike Hammes (Keystone ’ s Food & Beverage Director). Mike was interested in a continued conversation about finding a way to distribute food that would be discarded at Keystone. There is an on-going conversation between Mike and FIRC regarding this topic as well as Keystone creating its own food distribution service for their employees to also use food that would otherwise be discarded.

First Order Priorities

The following priorities were created by staff and affirmed by the CARE Council in 2009. Recently, a grassroots community group has been formed (the Food Policy Council) to champion this document. They will begin to reprioritize the following lists based on community need:

1. Encourage collaboration between Vail Resorts, FIRC and other local food banks whereby VR assists the food banks with food drives or other creative solutions to help with meals around the county.
2. Distribute information regarding food bank availability (hours of operation and locations).
3. Investigate ways to provide other outlets for frozen and perishable foods.
4. Aid with funding, as basic food assistance is stretching our local food organizations to the point of being overwhelmed.

Second Order Priorities

1. Encourage other non-profits, community groups and churches in the south part of the County to develop a food bank that compliments those of Father Dyer.
2. Work with Mountain Mobility and the Board of County Commissioners to provide access to those with mobility impairments that live beyond the limits of service.

2009 Completed Projects

1. DCC has expanded its food bank storage and visitor space. They have also found an outlet for can openers and many are now available.
2. FIRC is expanding its nutritional education and will offer two nutrition courses per year.
3. FIRC is coordinating the once a month food delivery to the county from the Food Share America program.
4. www.summitcares.org has been updated with complete information on county food services in the Network of Care and on the site itself.



Implementation

The Food Policy Council will, upon the formal adoption of this document, submit a semi-annual report to the CARE Council (February & August to correspond with the Summit Foundation grant cycles) and an annual update to the BOCC and County Mayors and Managers.

Thank you to those organizations that are collaborating to make local food services more available, healthier and easily accessible.

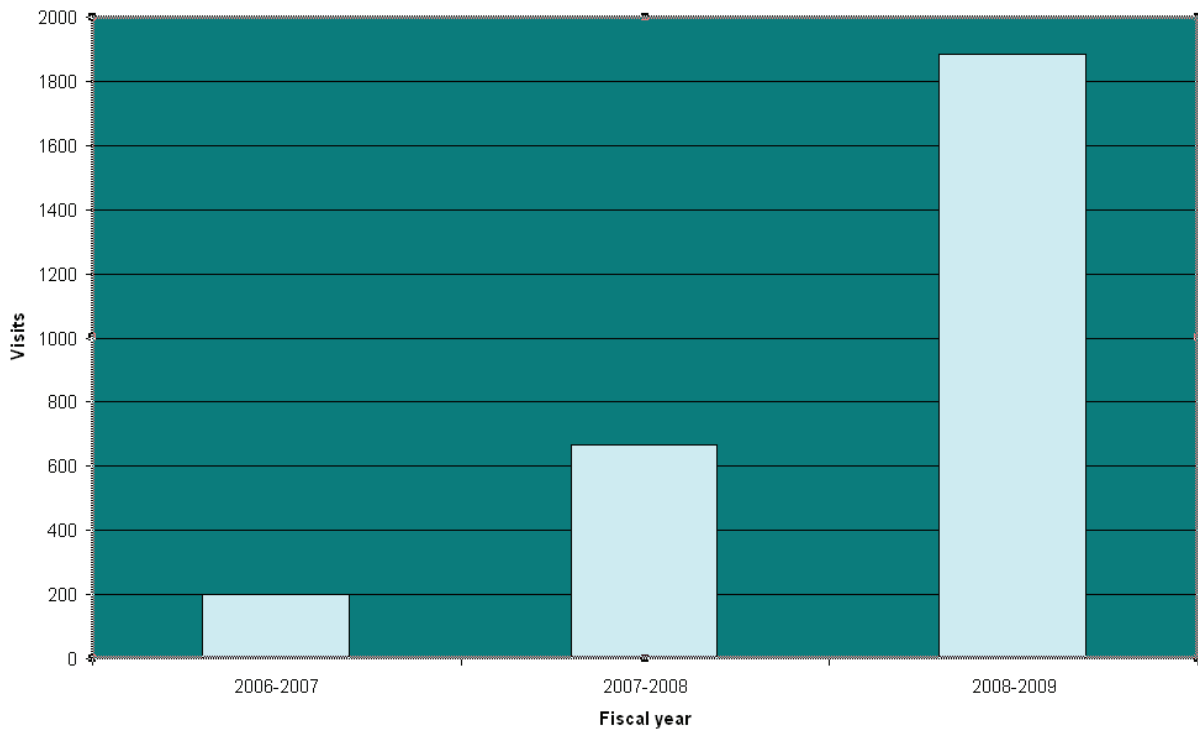
- ◆ Summit County Government
- ◆ The CARE Council
- ◆ Summit County Community & Senior Center
- ◆ The Family Intercultural Resource Center
- ◆ Dillon Community Church
- ◆ Summit County Catholic Churches
- ◆ Father Dyer Methodist Church
- ◆ Summit County Rotary
- ◆ Vail Resorts

Input to this document

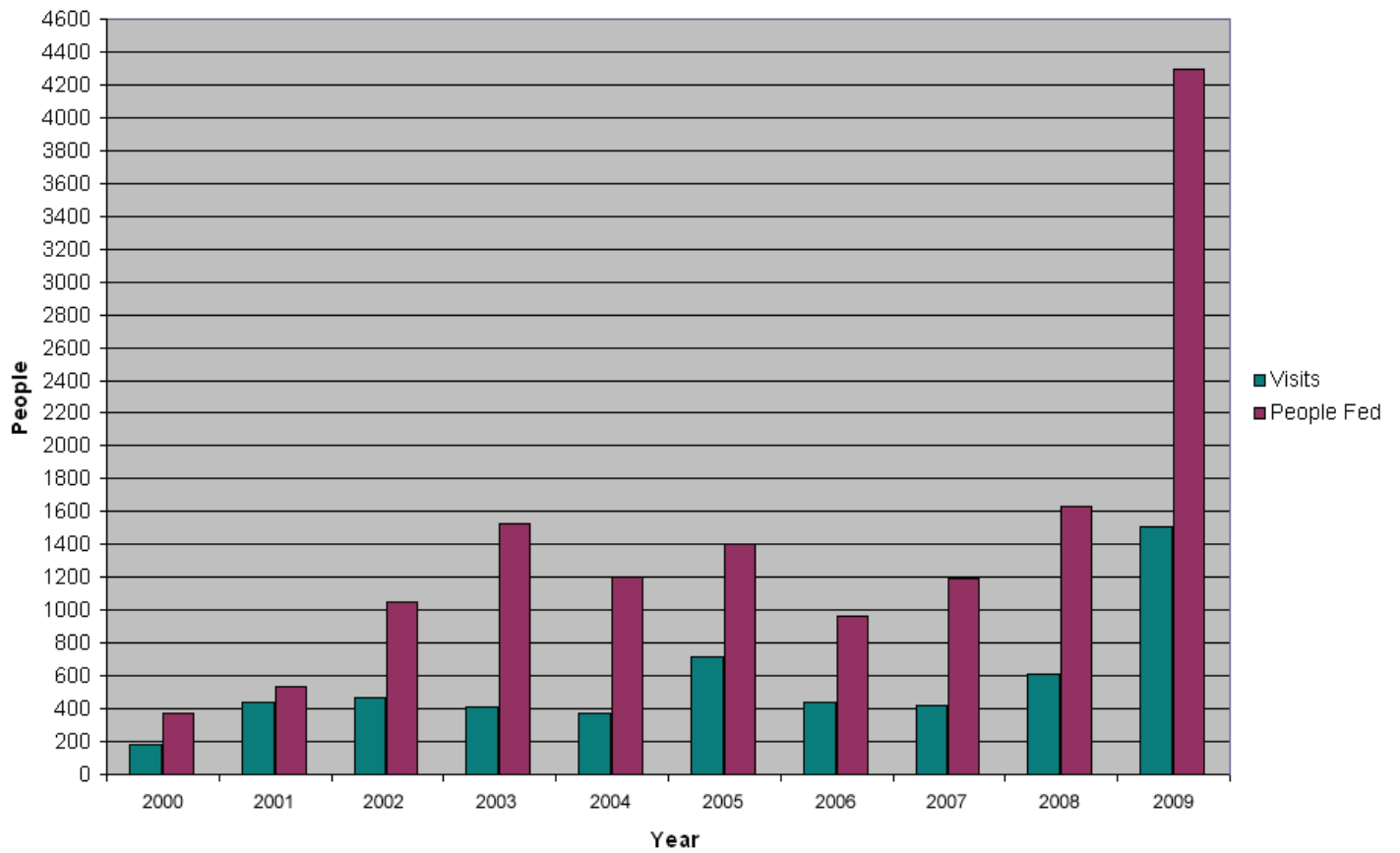
Thanks to the following organizations for their valuable input: Family Intercultural Resource Center, Dillon Community Church, Father Dyer Catholic Church, Dept. of Social Services, Community & Senior Center



FIRC Food Bank

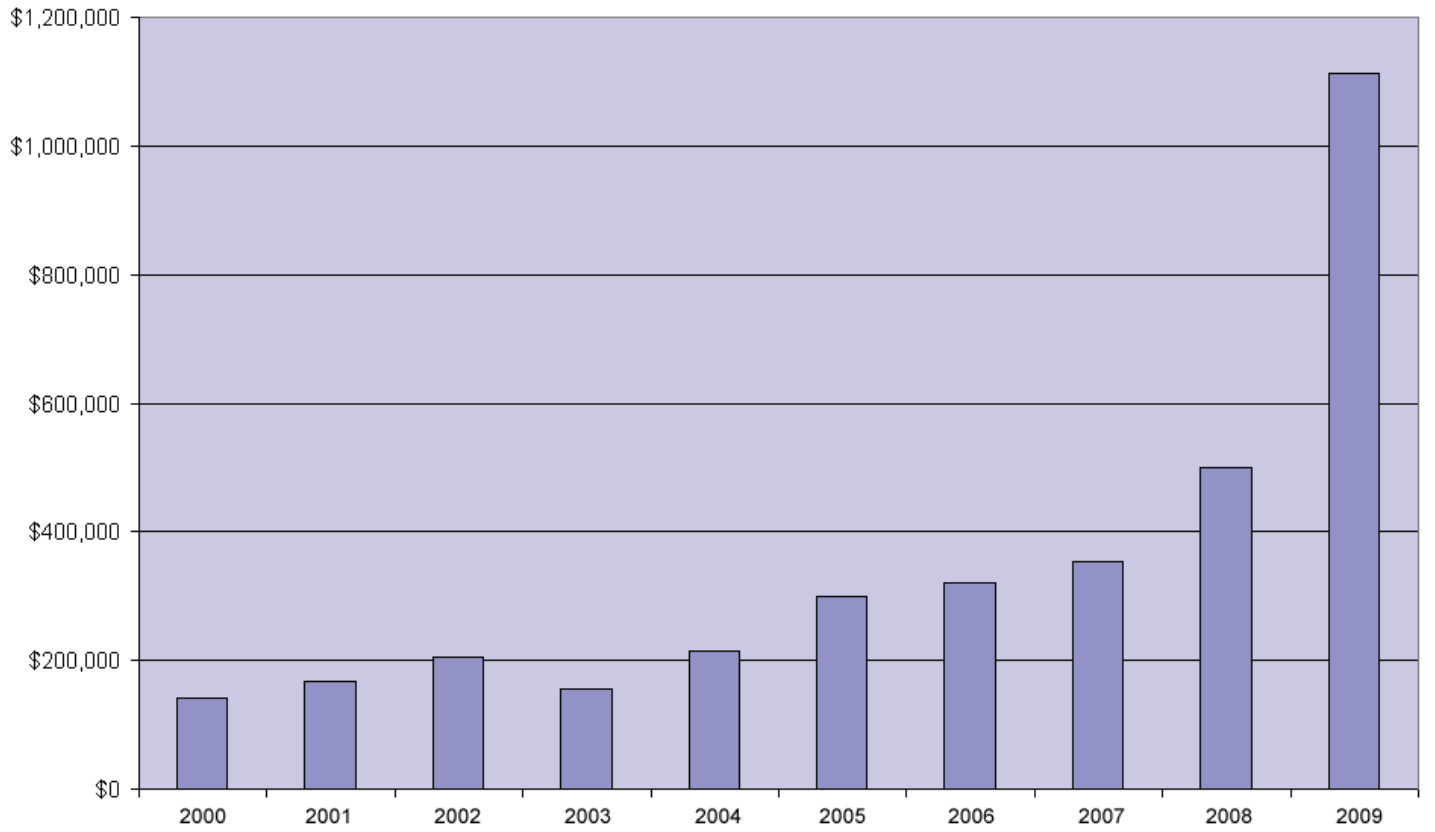


DCC Food Bank

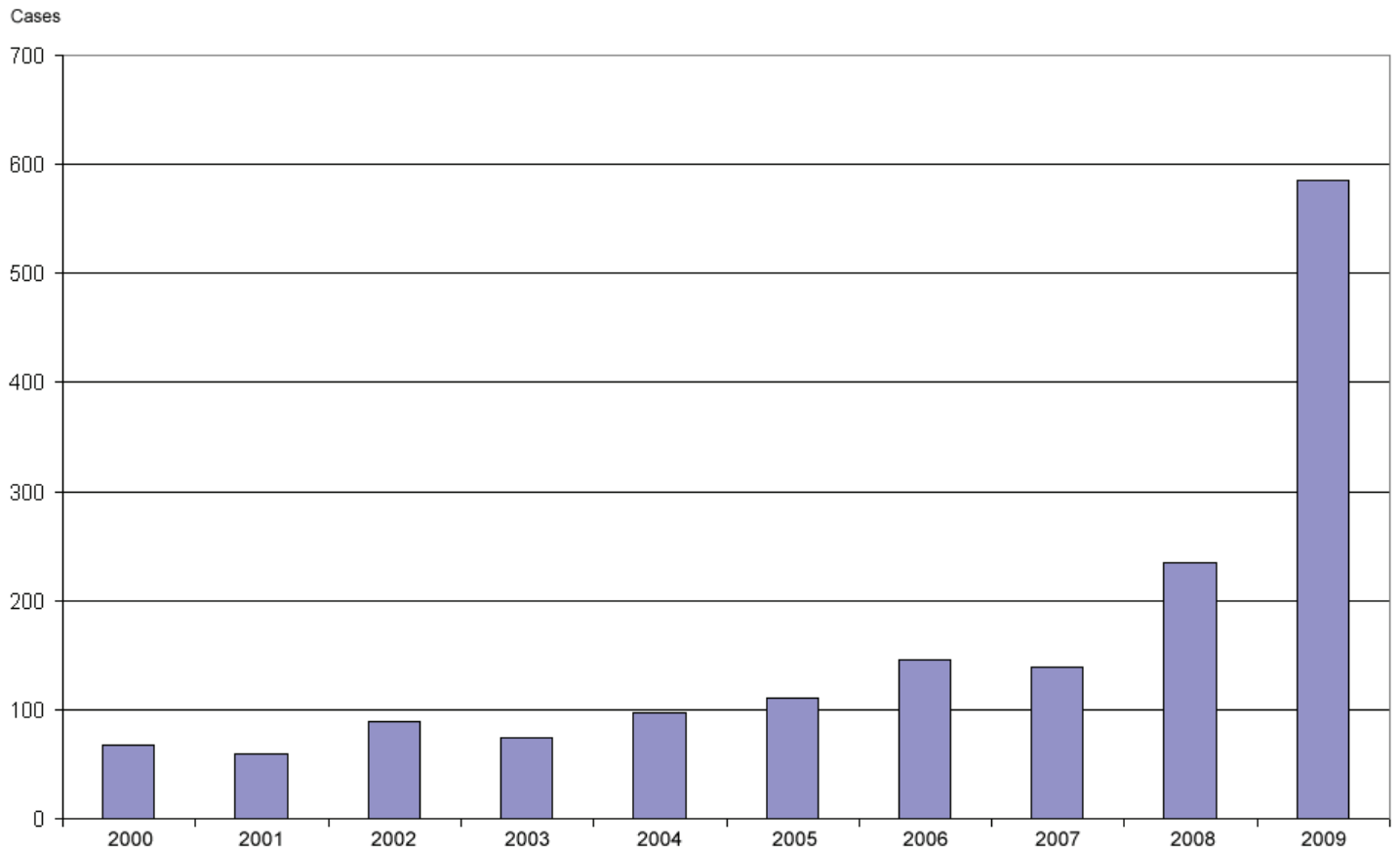




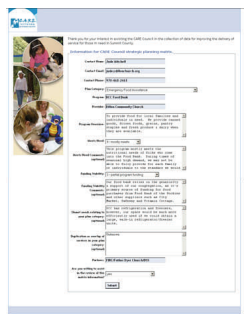
Food Stamp Program



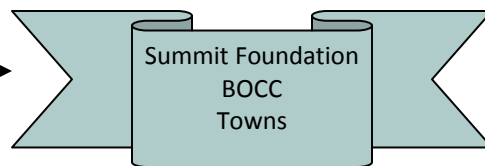
Yearly Food Stamp Caseload



Basic Food Assistance document flow to maximize information dissemination for community action and the grant writing process.



www.SummitCaresMatrix.org—Easy online data collection is reviewed and added to the content and statistics of the Basic Food Assistance document.



Grant applications are made and funders consider CARE Council recommendations in their grant reviews.

CARE Council endorses the priorities and revises as necessary.

Food Policy Council reports to the CARE Council with updated information, priorities and strategies twice a year—in February and August, to correspond with the below grant cycle.



www.SummitCares.org web site updated with the latest food bank requests (food bank need of the week) and Volunteer opportunities.

2010 Summit Foundation Grant Cycle Dates

| <u>Applications Available</u> | <u>Deadline to Submit</u> | <u>Award Dates</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| January 1, 2010 | April 9, 2010 | June 2010 |
| July 1, 2010 | September 24, 2010 | December 2010 |