

2010 Summit County Basic Food Assistance

As of 9/24/2010

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 and \$1,033,557 January through August 2010 (see page 9).
- The average yearly Food Stamp case load increased from 68 families in 2000 to over 586 families in 2009 (see page 9). The case load for the first quarter in 2010 was 602 families and the second quarter was 531.
- The dramatic increase in visitors to our local food banks continues in 2010:
 - ◊ The Family Intercultural Resource Center shows an increase in visits to their food bank from 200 visits in fiscal year 2006-07 to over 2,134 visits in fiscal year 2009-10 (see page 8).
 - ◊ 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, with 2,606 served from January through August in 2010. As an additional comparison, 370 people visited the food bank in the entire year of 2000, and 491 people were fed in January 2010 **alone** (see page 8).

- ◊ 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—Dillon
 - ◊ 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).
 - ◊ At the end of 2009 the food bank space was doubled to just under 1,000 square feet.
 - ◊ 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—Frisco
 - ◊ Provides canned, frozen and perishable foods to individuals and families in need. Open Tuesdays (12:30-3:30 pm) and Thursdays (2:00-5:00).
 - ◊ Limit one visit per month per household.
- Summit County Church of Christ—Frisco
 - ◊ Provides canned, frozen and perishable foods to individuals and families in need. Open Mondays and Wednesdays (3:30 pm to 5:30 pm).
- Summit County Government, Dept. of Social Services—Frisco
 - ◊ 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 pov-

erty 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.
 - ◊ In the past money for this fund came solely from the Christmas Bell Ringing Campaign; however, in 2010 the Salvation Army will be donating \$3,500/year and the Summit Foundation donated \$7,000 to the fund.
 - ◊ There is currently a balance of \$4,300 in this fund.
- 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 September 2010, the Anchutz Foundation (through the Summit Foundation) donated \$2,000 to this fund.
 - ◊ At the last quarterly Emergency Services meeting in August DSS noted that the Church Fund had experienced a 66% year to date spending increase. Due to this increase they spent the majority of the funding for 2010. Elks Lodge 2561 graciously offered to host a breakfast to benefit the Summit

County Church Fund. Proceeds from this breakfast will allow the Summit County Church Fund to provide much needed assistance for the remainder of 2010. The breakfast is from 9am-12pm on Sunday October 17th at the Elks Lodge in Silverthorne.

- 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 non-profit food purchasing program, serving families in Summit County to help save up to 50% on food purchases, is no longer in business.

Meals

- Summit School District
 - ◊ Free and Reduced Lunch program.
- Senior Meal Program
 - ◊ As of July 2010, the Community Senior Center is no longer a Title III meal site. Mountain Meals on Wheels has taken over, delivering meals to any home-bound individual (not just seniors) on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays (2 meals each day). Suggested donation is from \$2.50—\$4.00.
 - ◊ A Mountain Meals Buffet is served in the Community Senior Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon. Fees are on a sliding scale based on income lev-

els (\$2.50—\$4.00).

- ◊ A Mountain Meals Monday Dinner is also served at the Community Senior Center at 5:30 pm. This meal is \$6 per person.
- 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 received, through the FIRC, from the Summit Foundation. The DCC congregation funded an expansion of their food bank 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 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 were limited to the Dillon Community Church food bank; however, the FIRC now has refrigeration and also distributes frozen and perishable foods.
2. One of the main needs is funding, to make sure that organizations can purchase enough food to keep the food banks stocked.
3. DCC needs a large, walk-in refrigerator/freezer unit.
4. All of the previously listed organizations need volunteers.
5. 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 by the end of 2010:

- ⇒ Over \$1.5 million in food stamp assistance with a caseload exceeding 600 families.
- ⇒ Over 5,000 people will be fed by the DCC food bank.
- ⇒ Visits to the FIRC food bank will approach 2,500.
- ⇒ The free meals around the county will continue to be **very** well attended.

The increased demand in food assistance was considered at a 2009 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 see page 7](#)) to champion this document. They will begin to reprioritize the following lists based on community need and CARE Council input:

1. Continue to 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 complements those of Father Dyer. 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.

2010 Completed Projects

1. A new food bank has opened in Frisco, through the Church of Christ in Bill's Ranch.
2. FIRC's food bank now has refrigeration and distributes frozen and perishable foods.
3. The Summit County Food Policy Council was created and has been meeting monthly since Jan.
4. The Summit County Food Help flier was created in English and Spanish and distributed across the County.
5. Summit Prevention Alliance's "What's Cooking" TV show—Episode 18, hosted by Dr. J. Walldan was filmed at City Market and the food bank to show families how to shop on a budget:
<http://www.summitnews.com/programming/summit/spaarchive.html>
6. Nancy's Community Garden (Community & Senior Center greenhouses) was built in May. 560.12lbs of produce was donated to the Rotary Community Dinner, DCC & FIRC food banks with bi-lingual recipes.
7. FIRC has increased the number of nutrition cooking classes offered with FOUR planned for 2011.

2010 Ongoing Project

- ⇒ Food Recovery : "Feed the Community, Not the Landfill". Educate restaurant owners and ski resorts on how unused food can be used to feed their employees or the others in the commu-

nity
and not thrown out.

Implementation

The Food Policy Council will, upon the formal adoption of this document, submit a semi-annual report to the CARE Council (around 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
- ◆ Frisco Church of Christ
- ◆ Summit County Catholic Churches
- ◆ Father Dyer Methodist Church
- ◆ Summit County Rotary
- ◆ Vail Resorts
- ◆ Elks Lodge #2561
- ◆ Summit Prevention Alliance
- ◆ High Country Conservation Center

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, Summit Prevention Alliance.

Food Policy Council

New Vision Statement: Sustainable Food Solutions for Summit County!

New Mission Statement: The Food Policy Council will support local efforts to:

1. grow and acquire healthy, sustainable food to

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2. serve the hungry and
 3. educate our community.

For additional information and past meeting minutes, please go to:

http://www.highcountryconservation.org/sustainable_foods.htm#FPC

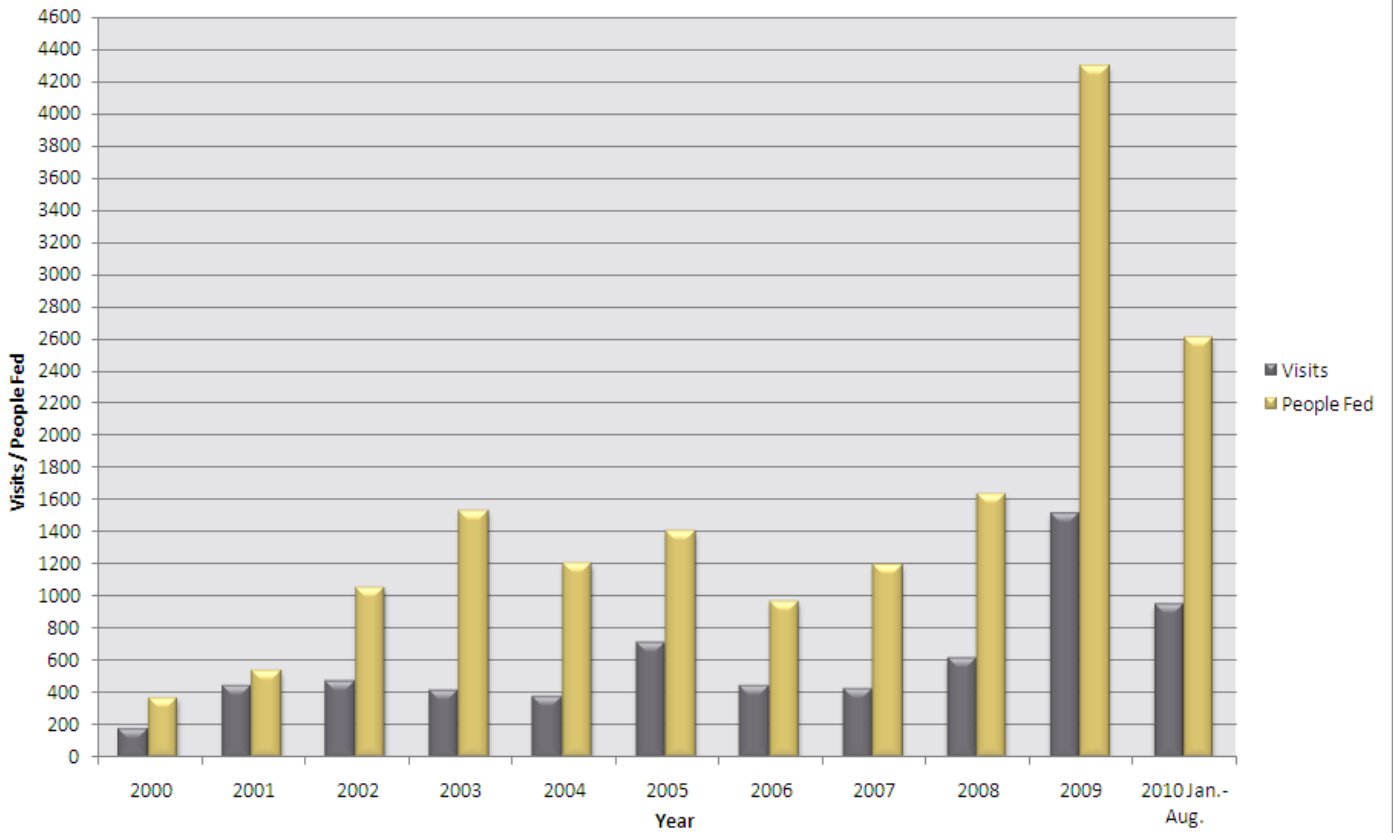
Thanks to those members of the Food Policy Council who have worked to make access to food services in Summit County easier and more efficient:

Co-Chairs: Joanna Rybak - Summit Prevention Alliance and Jennifer Santry - High Country Conservation Center

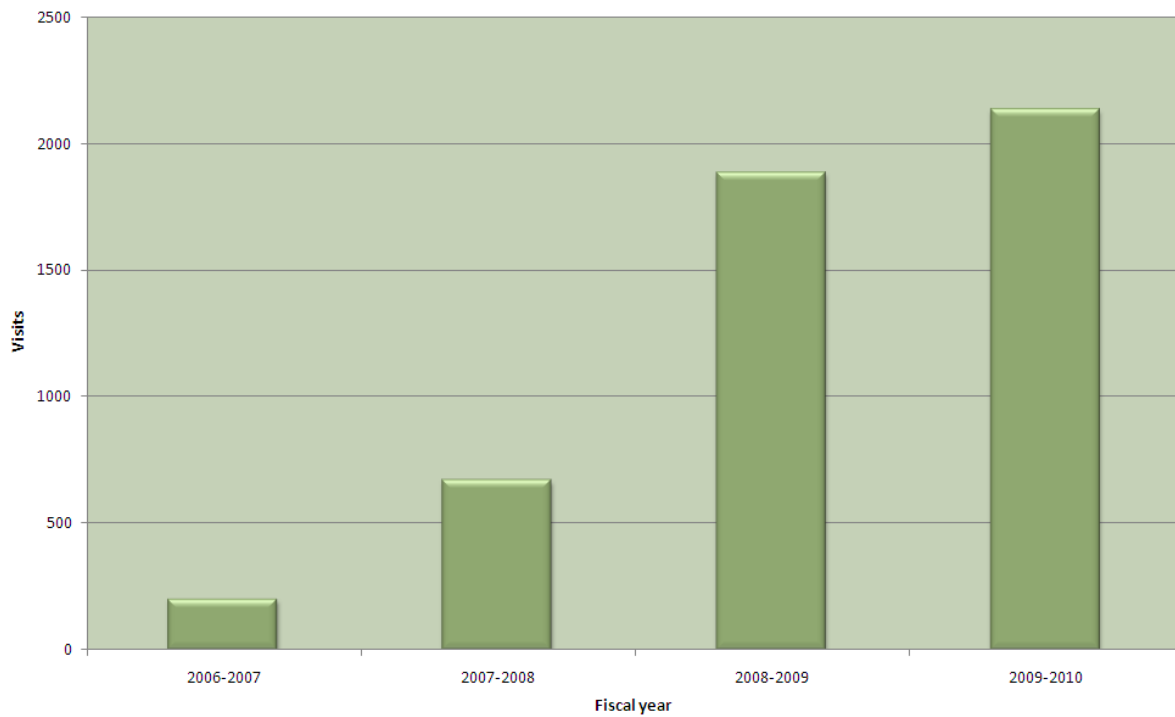
Active Members: Jude Mitchell, DCC; Rob Murphy, FIRC; Don Parsons, Community Member; Deb Price, SCG Youth & Family Services; Emily Tracy, Community Member; Jannine Walldan, Summit Prevention Alliance



DCC Food Bank - 2000 thru' August 2010

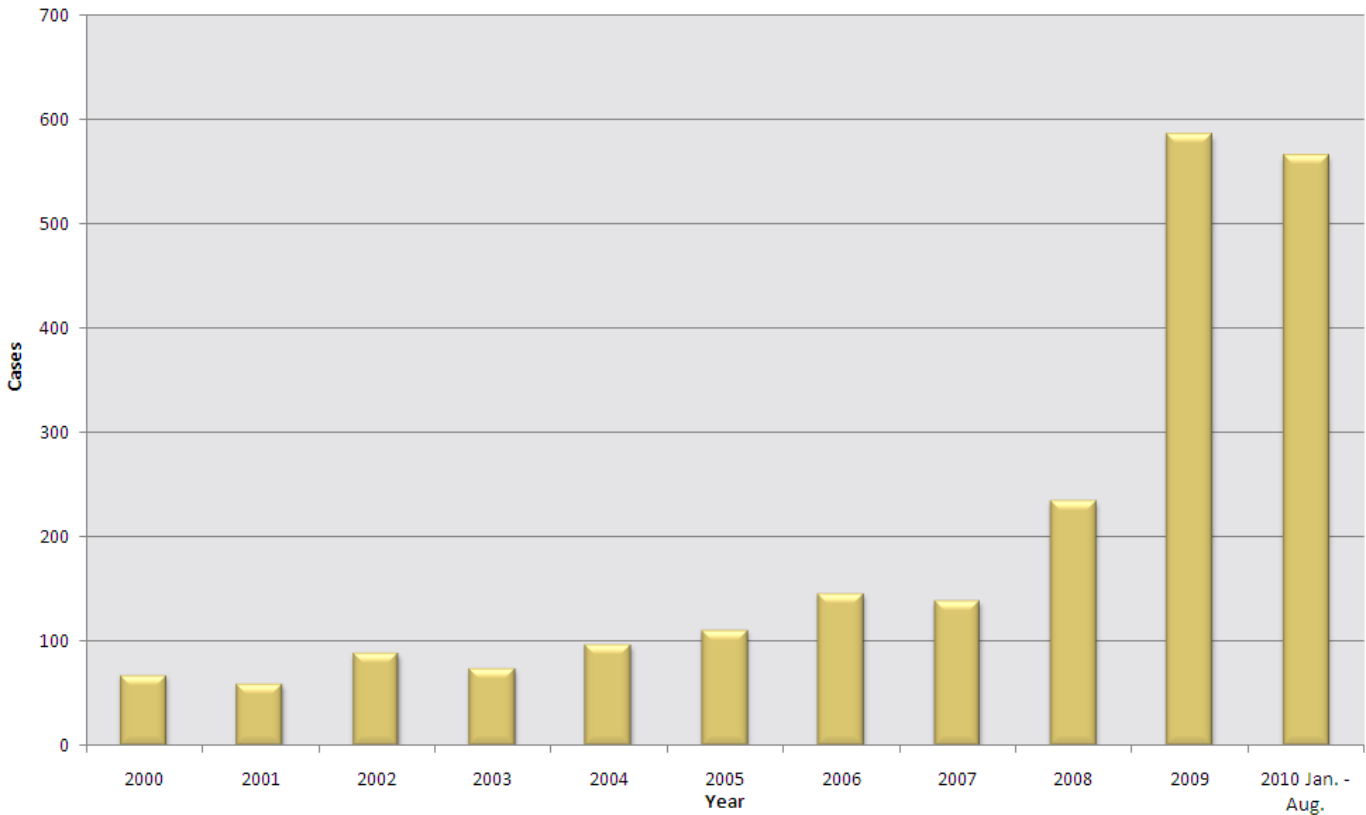


FIRC Food Bank - Fiscal Yrs. 2006 thru' 2010

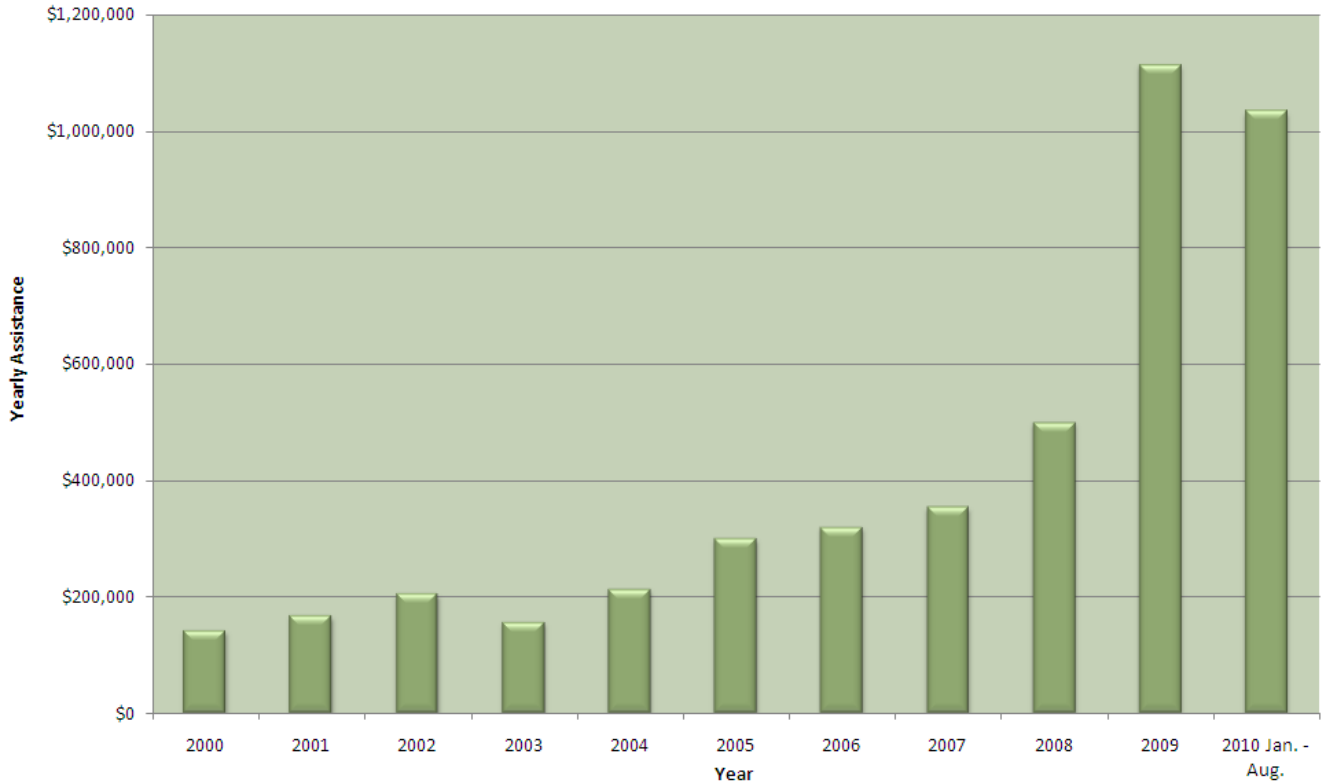




Yearly Food Stamp Caseload - 2000 thru' August 2010



Food Stamp Program - Year 2000 thru' August 2010



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



- ◇ The Food Policy Council meets monthly to review the needs of the community and address critical issues.
- ◇ The Basic Food Assistance document is used to define priorities and strategies. This document is also updated with progress toward issues.



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—around February and August, to correspond with the grant cycle.



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