

2023/07/27 HAC Meeting Review

During July's Hunger Advisory Council (HAC) meeting, we discussed our goals and the progress we've made, highlighting HAC's purpose and our intent to improve value derived from our conferences. Below is a light summary of events that aims to complement the recording of the meeting, which serves as the HAC's formal Minutes publication.

- SNAC Update
 - Sharing information between non-profit and government agencies
 - Improving goal alignment, awareness campaigning, resources
 - Finishing two (2)-year action plan with five (5) action groups
 - Connecting with professionals, communities re: Summer Food Service Program
 - Intending to expand over the next year
- HRP Agency Update
 - **The Emergency Food Assistance Program** and **Commodity Supplemental Food Program** (TEFAP & CSFP) are receiving extra truckloads of food
 - Our **greatest barrier** to efficacy is **cold storage** for perishable food
 - % of documented people in need being served increased 5.9% → 11.5%
 - Food costs more → money to purchase food for programs increases
- Policy Update
 - Farm Bill may cut budgets for hunger relief programs
 - HAC members are working to sustain outreach
 - TEFAP/CSFP income thresholds may change this year
 - SNAP history-of-drug-use ban may be repealed
 - Summer School Meal EBT-based program may be expanded
 - Medicaid auto-opt-in for free school meals starting soon
- Public Forum
 - "Reducing homelessness, neglect, and abuse" has been rebranded to 'reduce barriers, increase stakeholder engagement[...]'
 - They are still a priority, but are a function of reducing barriers etc.
 - Karil: 400 schools were able to feed children at no cost with the help of the AZ Food Bank Network