

Appendices

Supplemental Material

Addressing Food Insecurity in the African Community in Worcester
Cape Town Project Center
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Massachusetts Organization of African Descendants (MOAD)

For more information, visit <https://wp.wpi.edu/southafrica/projects/2020-projects/moad/>

Appendix A: Interview Questions for the Massachusetts Organization of African Descendants (MOAD)

Interview Questions

Liaison/Sponsor Background

- What role do you play within the MOAD and how does your role play a factor in the overall goal of the organization?
- What does the organization hope to achieve in working with the African community in Worcester and how are you all working towards that goal?

Project Motivation

- What encouraged you to get involved in tackling the food insecurity situation among the African community in Worcester?
- What is the severity of the food insecurity crisis within the African community?
- What are the causes and prevalence of food insecurity in the African community?

Information on Targeted Community

- What is the best way you suggest we can get in touch with the people that could potentially be using our services?

Past Efforts & Lessons

- Do you know of any solutions that have been proposed in the past targeting the African community specifically?
- Are you aware of any other communities that have tried to address this issue?

Mobile Food Van

- What kind of platforms does the organization use to spread the word and how do the families gather information?
- Please tell us more about the Food Pantry Truck.
 - a. Where is the food coming from?
 - b. Are you receiving donations, catering from food restaurants or purchasing certain foods weekly?

- c. Does it operate on a first come first serve basis or do the families have to sign up to receive food?
- d. Do you have a data sheet regarding all this information?
- What kind of selection process do you have?
 - e. Is it client chosen or pre-boxed food? What quantity of food weekly/monthly is needed?

Contacts and Resources

- Do you have any reports, websites, organizations, or resources that could help us?
- When should we speak again?

Miscellaneous

- Remind them to send us any report/material they mentioned throughout the interview.

Appendix B: Interview Information Sheet for the Massachusetts Organization of African Descendants (MOAD)

Interview Information Sheet

Interview methodology

- The kind of interview we will be conducting is a semi-structured interview method. It's basically a meeting in which the interviewer asks open-ended questions, allowing for discussion with the interviewee rather than straightforward question and answer format. The interviewer can also ask probing questions if they feel like we need further information about something the interviewee mentioned.

Who are we interviewing?

- A representative of the Massachusetts Organization of African Descendants (MOAD).

How will the interview be conducted?

- Interviews can be done in one of two ways:
 - Over a Zoom conference call and recorded with the interviewee's permission.
 - Conventional phone call.

What information will be collected?

- Information about the sponsoring organization and the project motivation.
- The severity of the food insecurity crisis within the African community.
 - The causes and prevalence of food insecurity in the African community.
- Location of food insecure families in Worcester.
- Platforms the organization uses to talk to members of the African community, potentially people who will use the service.
 - Best way our team can get in touch with the African Community.
- More information on the Mobile Food Van.
 - Where is the food coming from; receiving donations, catering from food restaurants or purchasing certain foods weekly; operation on a first come first serve basis or the families have to sign up to receive food.
 - Selection process: client chosen or pre-boxed food.
 - Quantity of food weekly/monthly needed.

What will we do with this information?

- We will analyze this information along with the information gathered from other interviews to develop a strategic plan to create a food pantry for the African community in Worcester.

Appendix C: Interview Questions for EBS Food Pantry and Wachusett Food Pantry

Program Background

1. Tell us more about your organization and the work that you do.
2. What is your role in the organization?

General Information

3. How many people use your pantry?
4. How often do families use your pantry?

Quantity of Food

5. On average, how many pounds of food are needed for each person that uses your pantry?
How is this calculated?
6. How much food is left over?

Distribution of Food

7. How is the food distributed?

Funding and Food Collection

8. Does the food pantry work with a food bank? If so, do you mind sharing some positives and negatives of this collaboration?
9. How does food get delivered from the food bank to a food pantry? What are the logistics of this process?
10. Is the food dropped off by a truck? If so, is the truck sponsored by a grant?
 - a. If we need to, how can we get a truck for our food pantry?
11. Where do you receive food from?
12. If you are comfortable sharing, how do you get funding?
13. After speaking with the Worcester County Food Bank we realized they require 3-6 months of successful function before even being considered for a partnership. We were wondering how you supplied the food pantry and what other organization you had partnership with.

COVID-19 Changes

14. What major changes have you noticed due to the onset of COVID-19 (i.e. demand, supply, participation, etc.)
15. What COVID-19 guidelines are you following when people acquire their food?

Volunteers and Certifications

16. Do you have a breakdown of volunteer duties and how many are needed at various times?
17. What certifications do your volunteers need?

Appendix D: Interview Questions for Worcester County Food Bank

Program Background

1. Tell us more about your organization and the work that you do.
2. What is your role in the organization?

General Information

3. We saw that you receive donations through your website, we were curious if there's any other way you receive food.

COVID-19 Changes

4. What COVID-19 guidelines are you following when people acquire their food?

Developing a partnership

5. What are the steps to developing a partnership with the Worcester County Food Bank?
 - a. What is the process of accepting a new food pantry?
 - b. How long does the process take and what are the steps?
 - c. Is there a charge to the food pantry when forming a partnership?
6. How does the partnership work?
 - a. What services typically come with the partnership? (i.e. food delivery)
 - b. How is food distributed and delivered to the food pantries?
 - i. Are the costs of trucks and transportation covered within the partnership or is that a separate fee?
 - ii. Does the food bank provide a truck that can be used to transport the food?
7. Would you like to share any suggestions or refer us to any services that you think MOAD can benefit from in serving the African community?

Appendix E: Survey Information Sheet

Survey Information Sheet

Why are we conducting this survey?

We are a group of student researchers at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) working with the Massachusetts Organization of African Descendants (MOAD). We would like to learn more about the background of the African community in Worcester and the consequences of food insecurity for the participants. MOAD, in partnership with UMass, South West Neighborhood Center, and HVK Children's Foundation, is establishing a faith-based food pantry at the New England Seven Day Adventist Church (SDA) located at 67 Vernon Street. This pantry will meet the cultural and linguistic needs of this community and address the location and economic and health implications of the African people in the region. While participation is voluntary, any answers you do provide will help us better understand the background of the individuals we could be potentially serving. Our goal is to address food insecurity in the African community.

Who are we surveying?

- African immigrants and refugees over the age of 18.

How will this survey be conducted?

- Surveys can be completed in one of the two ways:
 - Online through the following links:
 - Survey in English: *Link to be added*
 - Paper version that will be given away at locations visited by the African community, such as local churches.

What information will be collected?

- We will gather enough data to understand the causes of food insecurity in the African community in Worcester, the location of the food insecure families, and any health disparities associated with food insecurity in the African community.

What will we do with this information?

- No individual data will be reported. Individual answers will be combined with those of all participants for analysis.

For more information about this research or about the rights of research participants, or in case of research-related injury, contact: The investigators at gr-ctpc20_aiwc@wpi.edu, the IRB Manager (Ruth McKeogh, Tel. 508-831-6699, Email: irb@wpi.edu) and the Human Protection Administrator (Gabriel Johnson, Tel. 508-831-4989, Email: gjohnson@wpi.edu)

We appreciate your cooperation in our efforts to address food insecurity in the African community in Worcester.

Thank you!

Appendix F: Informed Consent Form for Participants

CONSENT STATEMENT

This study has been approved by the WPI Institutional Review Board for the Rights of Human Participants in Research and Training Programs (IRB). Any questions about human rights issues should be directed to the IRB Chair, Ruth McKeogh, Tel: 508-831-6699, Email: irb@wpi.edu.

Dear Participant:

We are student researchers at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) conducting a research study on food insecurity and barriers to accessing food pantries in Worcester, MA during COVID-19. We are interested in hearing from:

- African and African American residents who live in Worcester who have used or are thinking of using food pantries, mobile meals, or other food assistance programs

All participants in the survey must be 18 years or older. Participation in this survey is voluntary. It is estimated to take 15 minutes to complete, but take as much time as necessary.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Our survey does not ask any identifying information, please do not insert any. Your answers will be kept fully anonymous, and cannot be traced back to you. The information gathered will be kept confidential. Data will only be accessed by researchers on this project.

RISKS

This study is of minimal risk. It does, however, ask questions about food insecurity that may make the respondent feel uncomfortable or anxious. Please fill out as many questions as possible, but if you are unable to complete any of these questions, you may stop at any time.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about this research or about the rights of research participants, or in case of research-related injury, contact Camila Cavalcanti Bezerra M. Carvalho, Isabelle Chi, Lauren Guerrero Negron, and Mary Scrivanich, Email: gr-ctpc20_aiwc@wpi.edu. The supervisors for this research are Gbetonmasse Somasse and Scott Jiusto. They can be reached by email at gbsomasse@wpi.edu and sjiusto@wpi.edu respectively.