



# Healthy School Pantry Program Evaluation (2019-2020)

@**17**  
schools in  
Washtenaw  
County

Food Gatherers partners with schools that have a high rate of students qualifying for free or reduced priced meals to provide families with more fruits and vegetables, and simple, low cost, and nutritious recipes to prepare the distributed foods.



Produce box  
w/ recipes and tips



Client choice

Provides parents an easy, **less stigmatizing** way, with no financial risk, to incorporate more vegetables, and have their kids try new items at home.




Reaching **1,000 children & 500 families** each month

**Any family can participate**  
no application required



Food Gatherers surveyed 115 clients and interviewed 13 clients and 3 staff across 8 school pantries to determine if the Healthy School Pantry Program is meeting an unmet need and benefiting participating families.



### Pantry Client Socio-Demographics

- Avg. Household Size:** 4.2
- Income:** 75% of clients have incomes \$25K or below
- Pantry Use:** 57% were 1st time users at the start of 2019-20 school year
- Other Assistance:** 80% participate in at least one other assistance program (43% Medicaid and 43% SNAP)

## School Pantries Reach Food Insecure Families



67% food insecure

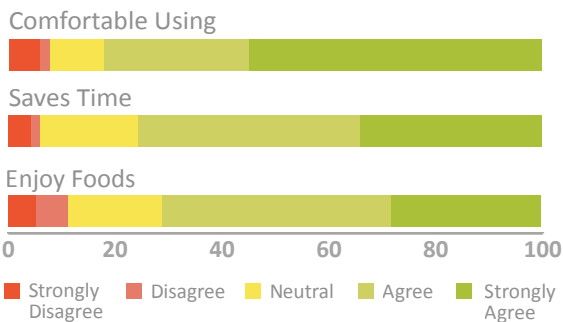
33% food secure

## School Pantry Usage



33% Only visit **school pantries**  
29% Only visit **1-2 times per year**

## Pantry Perceptions



## Positive Pantry Experiences

"I think that the food is always fresh, and it's always good. And I think that, I wish more people were able to do it....It's about children eating healthy, and having a better diet."



## Rooted in Evidence

In 2019, Food Gatherers was selected as a Rooted in Evidence grantee. Established by the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition, this grant program funds eligible food banks working to support innovative and dynamic programming to improve the health and dietary quality of emergency food recipients. Grantees were awarded \$20,000 and received technical assistance and evaluation support.