

The Second Harvest School Partnerships Program (SPP) promotes a community-centered, stigma-free approach to increasing food access among students experiencing hunger utilizing distinct program models, including:



The School Partnerships Program has served over 1 million meals to students and their families at 65 partner sites.



School Market (Pantries)

Emphasizes student engagement in school-based pantry operations, with students tasked with running day-to-day market operations.

Second Harvest Food Bank provided School Market Managers in two schools with a four-part training program around nutrition and nudge efforts, which are traditionally placed in community pantries. After designing a plan to implement nudges, 59 students were recruited to participate in one of three methods during the evaluation: student presentations, focus groups/interviews and pre/post surveys. The goal of the evaluation was to implement and determine the effectiveness of student-led nudge programming in the School Market environment.

Student-led Nudge Programming: Findings



Student Presentations

- High school: Identified eight nudge strategies and materials to supplement nudge implementation - **ready for implementation**
- Middle school: Identified four nudge strategies - **more education needed**

“A lot of students in the class changed their own habits and food choices. I noticed that they were choosing water or real fruit juice over sugary items. I also saw them trying to persuade their peers to make healthier choices.” - School educator



Focus Group and Interviews

- Red/yellow/green light SWAP system positively impacted ordering and selling ‘green’ food items
- Recipes and bundling nudges and creatively naming healthy foods made items at market more appealing

“The training was beneficial to our ordering. We were trying to focus on the nutritional quality of things and the training helped our orders become more intentional.” - Student



Pre/Post Survey

- **Statistically significant:** Improved health status among market visitors
- **Statistically insignificant:** Improved health and food insecurity status

“As we started to do more marketing and especially with the cart and baskets, we noticed more and more students coming to the market. People would get so excited and it helped build a sense of community.” - School educator



Rooted in Evidence

In 2021, Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida (SHFB) was selected as a Rooted in Evidence grantee. Established by the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition, with funding support from the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition Foundation, 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.