



GLEANERS HIGHLIGHTS

WHO:

Initiative Name:

Voices for Food (VOICES)

Contact for Questions:

- Rebecca Majestic
- Sarah Mills

Funding or Organizational Partners:

- SNAP-ED/Michigan Fitness Foundation
- Partner Agencies

Pertinent Financial Information:

- 470



WHAT:

Overview:

VOICES is a continuation of Gleaners' Healthy Pantry Initiative. Participating pantry agencies are required to take a more active role in seeing that the short, medium, and long-term goals identified in their application become embedded in the pantry's culture and protocols.

WHAT:

Examples of goals include:

- Redesigning the layout of their pantry
- Adding colorful signage with nutrition promotion messaging
- Converting to a client choice model
- Offering Cooking Matters or other nutrition education for their client's recipe tasting, including nutrition education materials and handouts to all clients, creating training for volunteers that is focused on inclusion, cultural awareness, and how to encourage clients to make healthier food choices

Teams & Departments Involved:

Programs and Agency Relations

How They Contribute:

- **Programs:** Oversees all aspects of the initiative. Assigns program staff to work directly with selected partner agencies who are interested in creating healthier pantry environments and creating long-term changes. Writes, submits, and manages annual SNAP-ED proposal that provides financial support and structure for this program.
- **Agency Relations:** Facilitates communication with partner agencies. Manages the recruitment and selection of partner agencies. Helps to support and reinforce positive, healthy changes at pantries.

WHEN & HOW:

Scope:

VOICES launched in early 2020 with a pilot group of 14 partner agencies. The scope of the project will increase over time as more pantries are ready and able to become involved in the project. The 14 pantries onboarded in 2020 include:

- Good Samaritan Food Pantry
- Liberty Family Outreach
- Operation Refuge
- Shared Harvest
- Oxford/Orion FISH
- Neighborhood House
- Hospitality House
- Detroit Friendship House
- Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry
- Our Home Pantry
- Capuchin Service Center
- My Father's Business
- Redford Interfaith Relief
- Mercado Food Hub



Community Impact:

The targeted audience of the program includes clients, staff, and volunteers of participating pantries. The amount of people reached will vary widely based on each individual partner agency who is involved in this initiative.

Partner agencies who wish to participate in VOICES will have the opportunity to offer nutrition education opportunities for their clients, in addition to implementing policy, systems and environmental changes throughout their pantry. The result is an improved experience for everyone at the pantry by creating a more wholesome and wellness-focused pantry environment. The more exposure clients have to these environmental changes and opportunities to engage in nutrition education, the more likely they are to shift their behaviors and eating habits. In turn, VOICES has the potential to improve community health, and also increase the amount of nutritional foods the pantries are ordering from Gleaners.