



Healthy Communities Platform

A Path Toward Greater Food Equity

June, 2024

Our objective is to mobilize sustainable food equity solutions to improve the lives of Black Americans by bringing communities and businesses together to take action.

Food Insecurity: The Burden on Black Americans

With over **9 million**¹ Black Americans grappling with food insecurity, businesses possess a unique opportunity to drive impactful change.

Food insecurity is a household's inability to provide enough food for each person to live an active, healthy lifestyle.² This burden is disproportionately borne by the Black community, which faced the highest percent of food insecurity in 2022 (22%) as compared to all other racial demographics (see Table 1).³ Various factors, including income, employment, neighborhood conditions, physical access to food, lack of transportation and more can contribute to these disparities.⁴

The Business Case: Why Food Insecurity Matters

The effects of food insecurity plague individuals, communities and can have major implications for businesses. Many companies are discovering that there are economic benefits in the choice to address the vital conditions required for health, such as food equity. Taking actions towards greater food equity provides the opportunity foster a robust business environments built on trust and shared values, ultimately improving the health and well-being of communities.⁵

Effects of Food Insecurity⁵

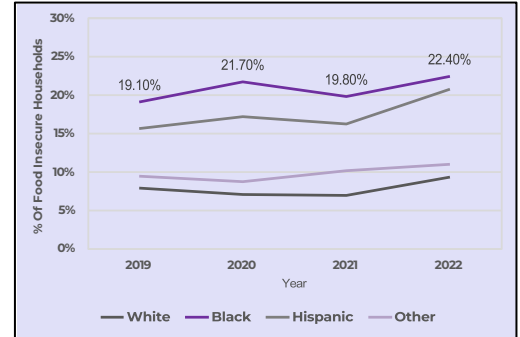
- Poor overall health
- Higher employee absenteeism
- Increased financial stress
- Lower educational achievement



Potential Impacts of Food Equity⁵

- Healthcare cost savings
- Boost in employee productivity
- Rise in consumer purchasing power
- Expanded customer base

Table 1. Percentage of Food Insecure Households by Race from 2019-2022³



Taking Action: Leading Practices for Collaborative Action and Sustainable Impact

To engage in food equity efforts, consider the following strategies:



Establish Clear Objectives For Supporting Food Equity – Determine the scope, appropriate stakeholders and the desired outcomes to be achieved through collaborative efforts.



Engage with Community – Participate in dialogue to understand community needs.



Assess Internal Resources and Experience – Evaluate business' available resources, relationships, experience, and capabilities that can be effectively leveraged.



Foster Collaboration – Establish and maintain consistent and effective communication channels.



Develop a Sustainability Plan – Consider plans that prioritizes community empowerment and help drive food equity.

What's Next? Engage with CEOARE!

Let's discuss where you are on your food equity journey, reach to the Food Equity Solution team at foodequity@ceoactionracialequity.com or visit our website at <https://ceoactionracialequity.com>

1. USDA, Household Food Security in the United States in 2022, October, 2023, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/107703/err-325.pdf?v=6314.6>
 2. USDA, Food Security in the US, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/>
 3. USDA Interactive Charts and Highlights, January 2024, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/interactive-charts-and-highlights/#disability>
 4. The White House, The US Playbook to Address SDOH, November 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/SDOH-Playbook-3.pdf>
 5. Community Health and Economic Prosperity – Report of the Surgeon General, <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/chep-sgr-full-report.pdf>

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