Foundation For Essential Needs

Strategic Food Sourcing Service: July – December 2025

Program Characteristics and Data Insights

Campus Pantries

Service Overview:
FFEN's Strategic Food Sourcing Service helps food shelves better understand what they are sourcing, what it costs, and how they compare to peers across the state and their region. This regular food sourcing "health check" supports food shelves of all sizes in identifying trends, adjusting sourcing strategies, and making consistent, informed decisions that reflect both shopper needs and available resources.

Reports track performance across eight measurements in two areas:

- Meeting shopper needs with a focus on fresh produce, protein, and dairy
- Stewarding donor dollars related to cost per individual served and budget effectiveness

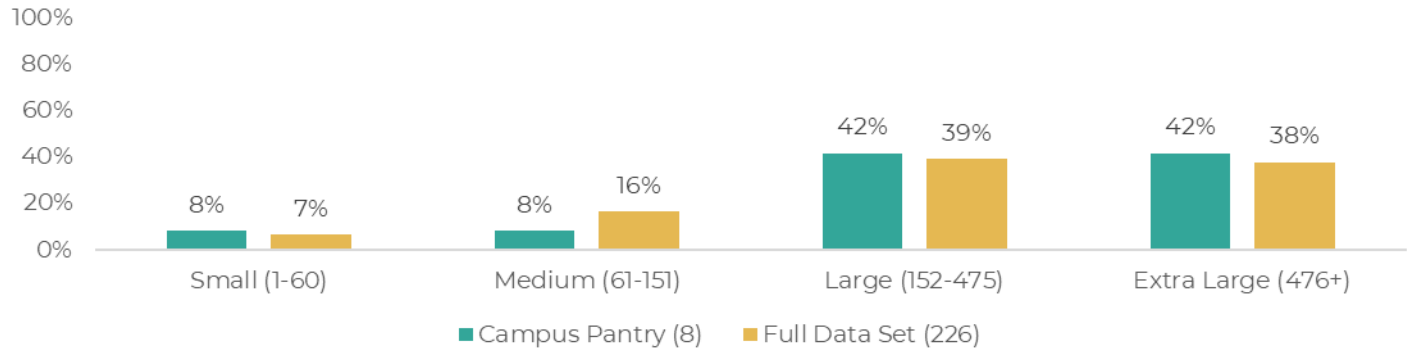
The Strategic Food Sourcing Service provides food shelves with a customized Food Sourcing Analysis (FSA) Report and 60-minute consultation twice per year, at no cost.

Program Report Overview:
This programmatic view is intended to help programs of certain types identify where their network aligns with, or diverges from, statewide trends allowing for further food sourcing conversations. This report covers food shelves operating a specific program model that participated in FFEN's Strategic Food Sourcing Service during the timeframe listed below. It includes a summary of program characteristics for sites of this program model, followed by data insights that compare program model food sourcing metrics to the full dataset.

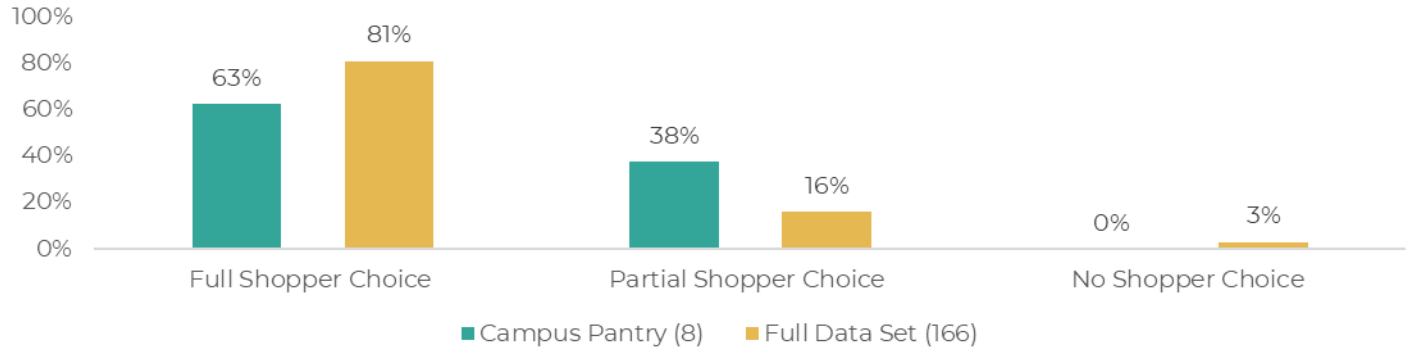
- **Food Sourcing Timeline:** July – December 2025
- **Program Model:** Campus Pantries
- **Participating Food Shelves:** 12
    - 8 provided program characteristics

Program Model Food Shelf Profile: Program Characteristics

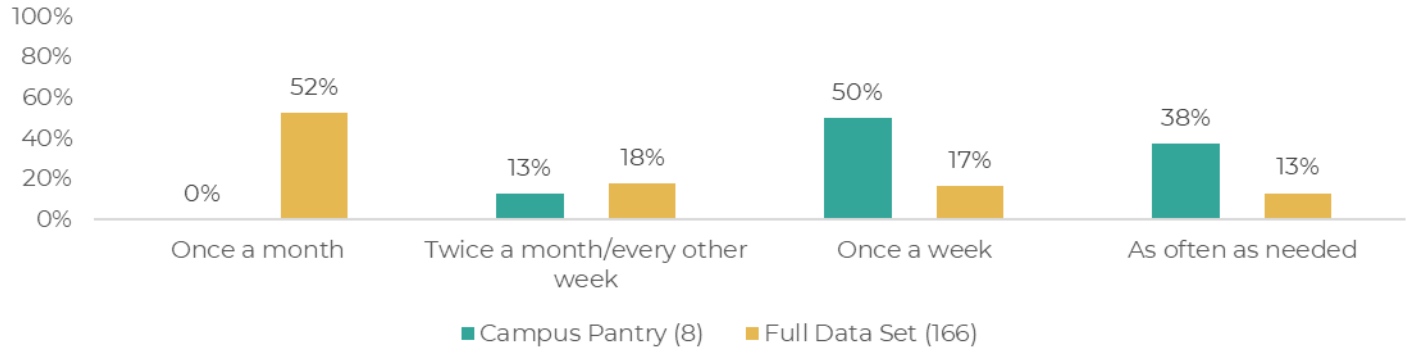
Service Size: Average number of households served per month.



Distribution Method Type: What best describes the way the majority of shoppers selected their food at this food program?



Visit Frequency: How frequently do you advertise that shoppers can visit the food program?



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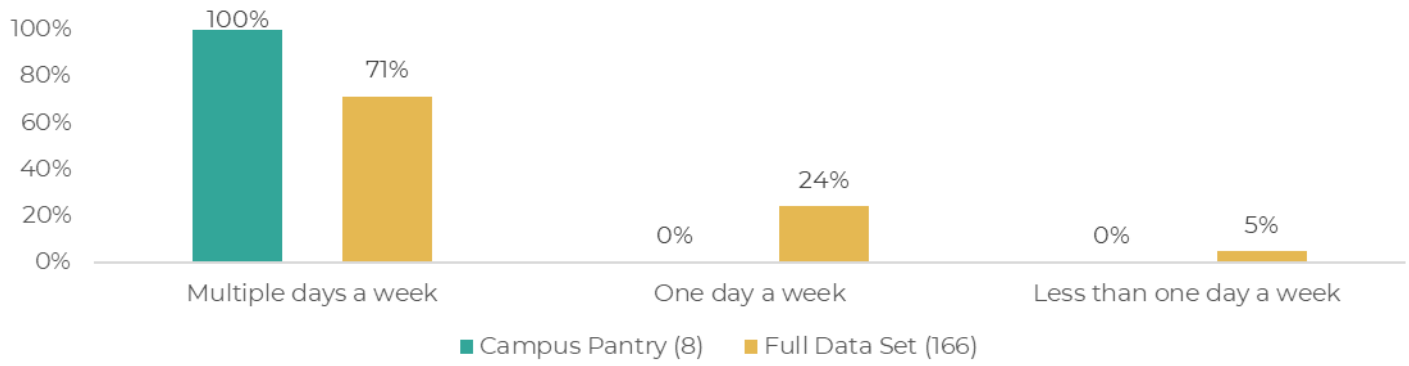
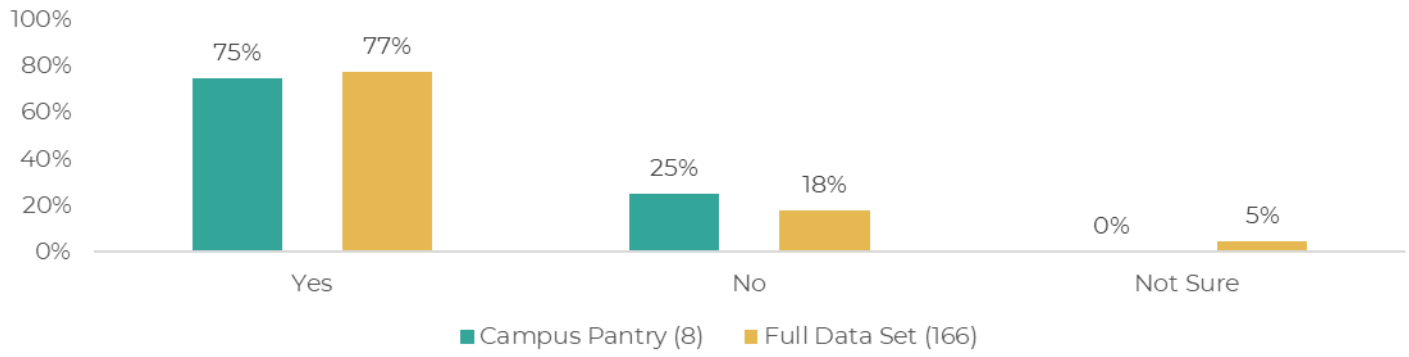
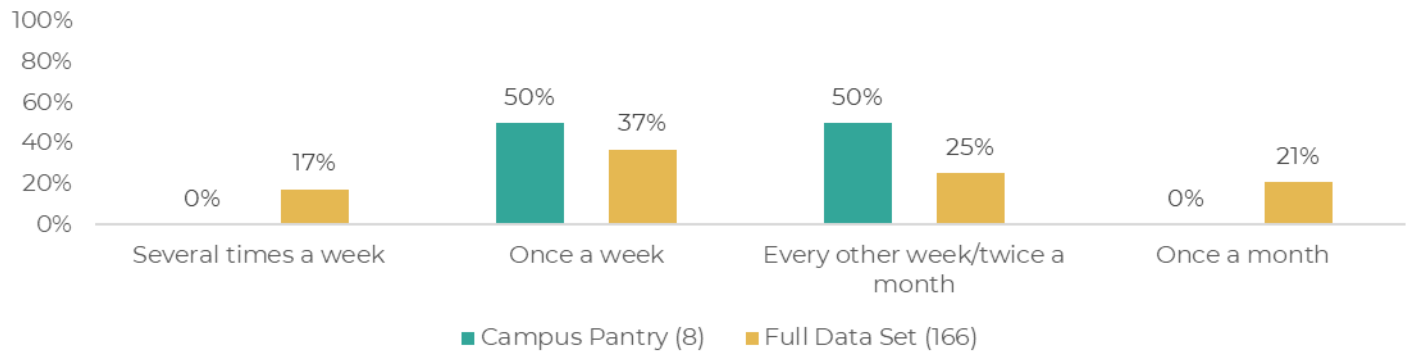
Hours: My food program's hours of operation are:



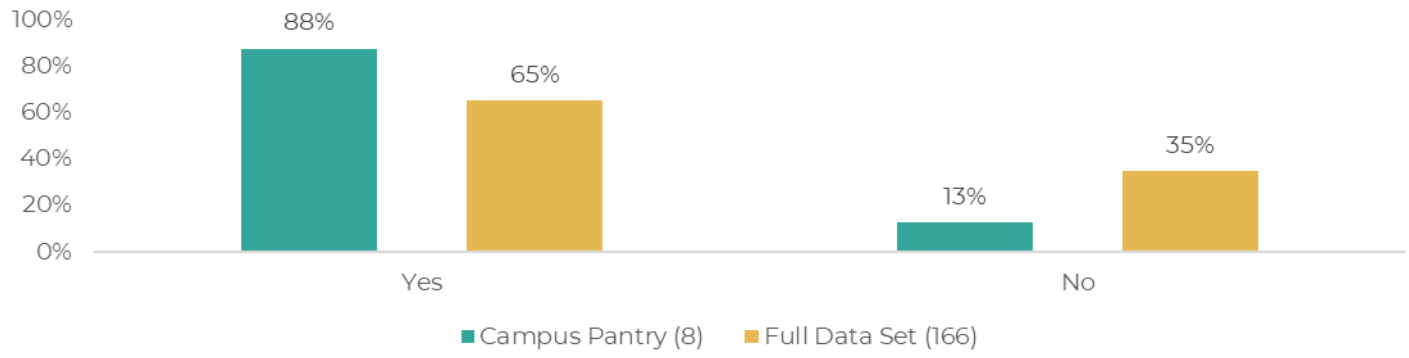
Budget for Food Purchases: Does your food shelf have an annual budget for food purchases?



Food Bank Delivery Frequency: How often did your food shelf receive deliveries from your regional food bank?

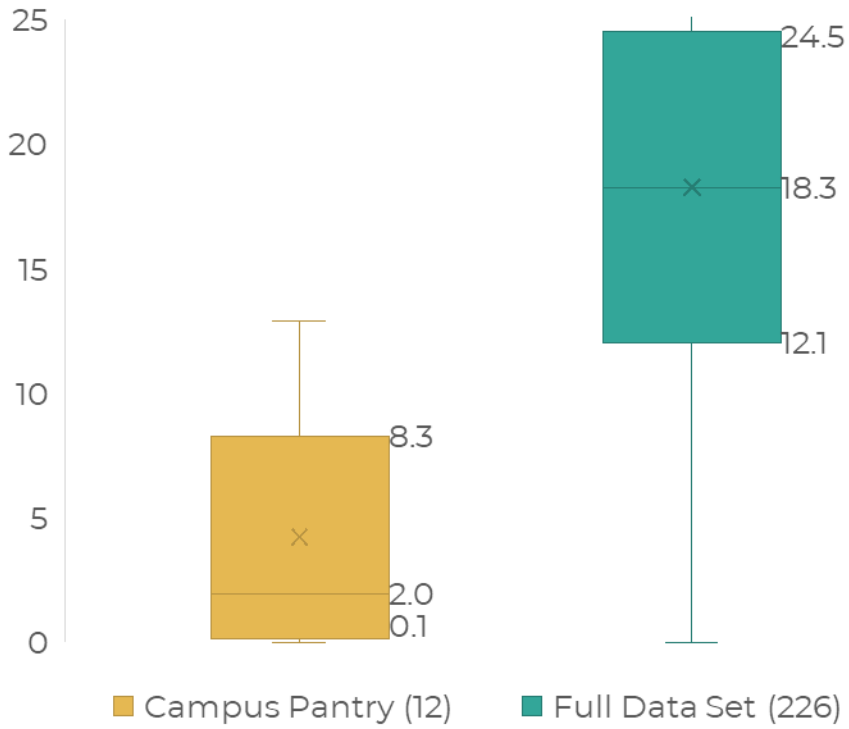


Local Purchases: Does your food program purchase food from local vendors or wholesalers outside of your regional food bank?



Program Model Food Sourcing Data Insights

Pounds Distributed Per Individual Visit: Total pounds distributed divided by total individual visits



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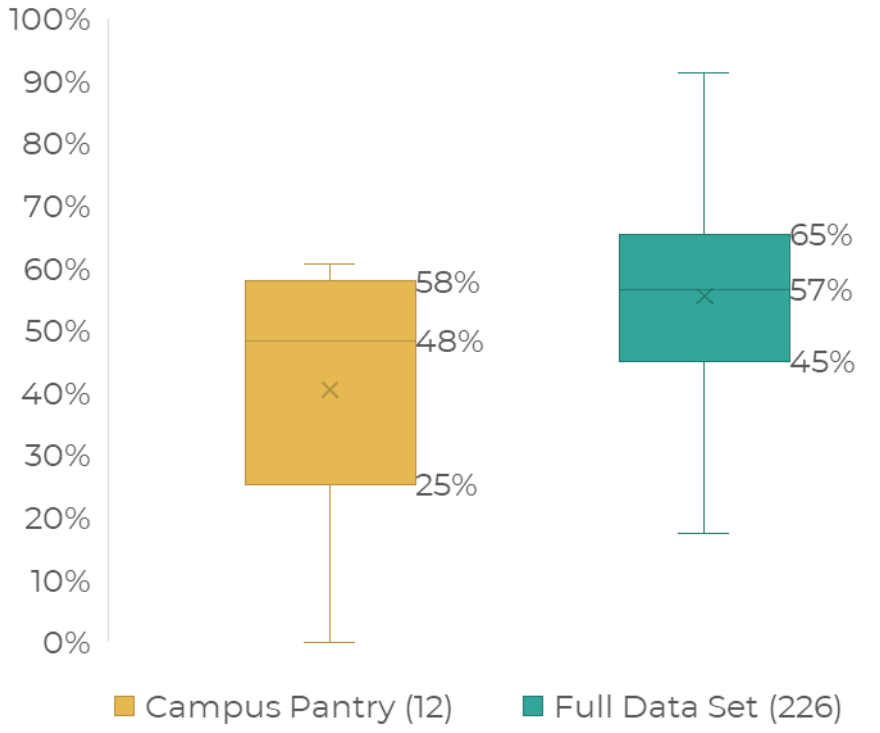
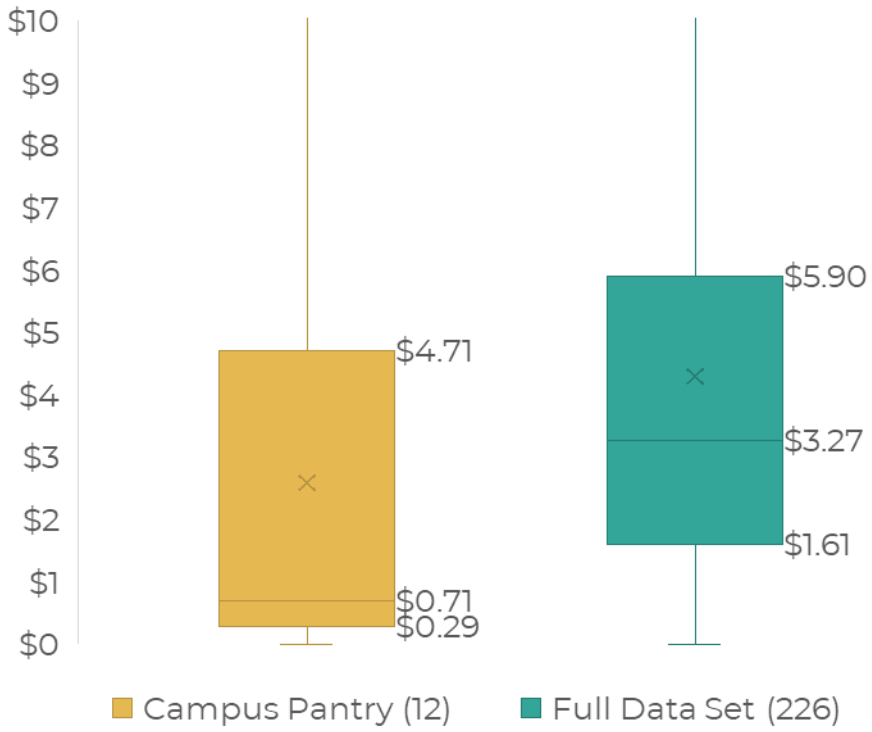
Most Important Foods: Percent of Pounds Sourced: Total pounds of fresh produce, protein, and dairy divided by total food pounds sourced



Cost per Individual Visit: Total food costs divided by total number of individual visits



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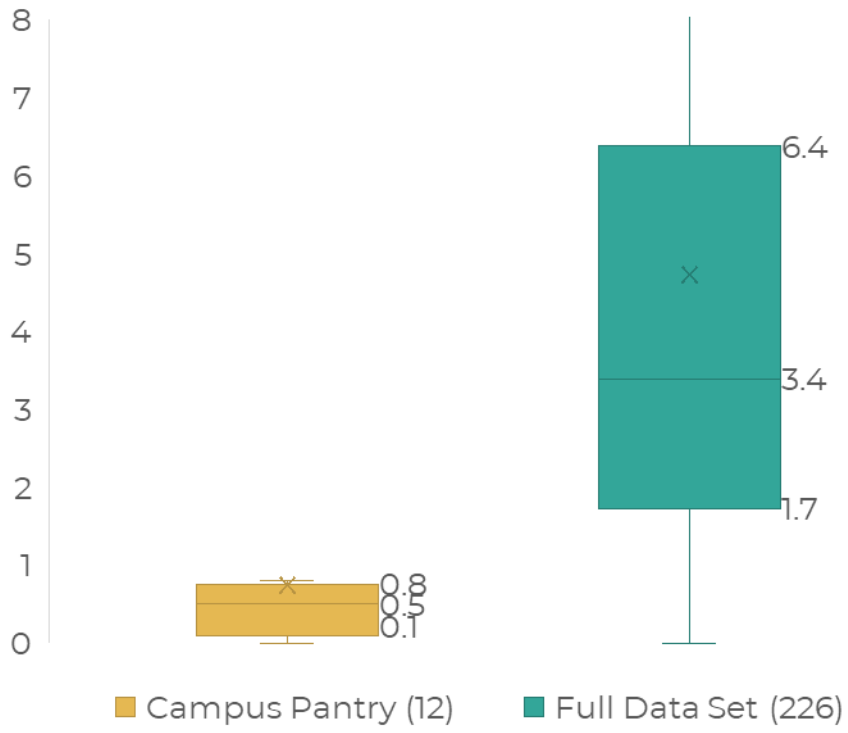
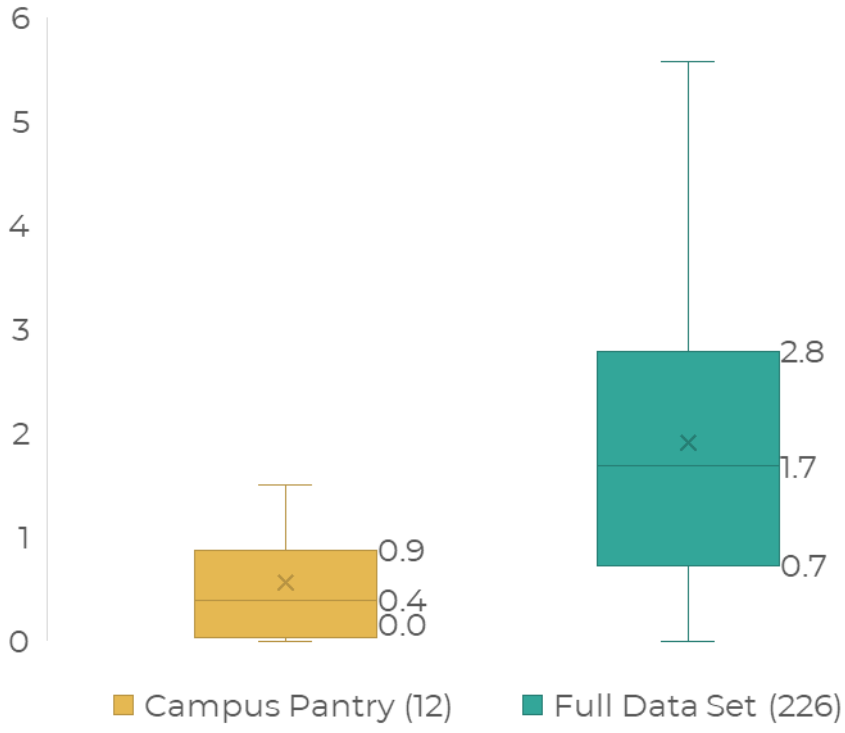
Produce Pounds Sourced per Individual per Visit: Total pounds sourced by food category divided by total number of individual visits



Dairy Pounds Sourced per Individual per Visit: Total pounds sourced by food category divided by total number of individual visits



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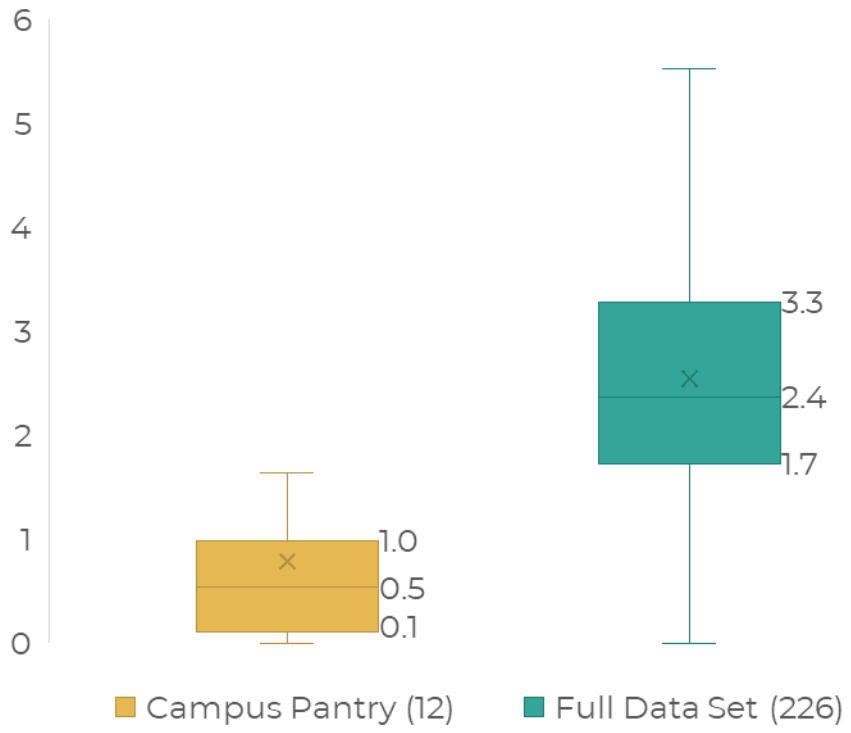
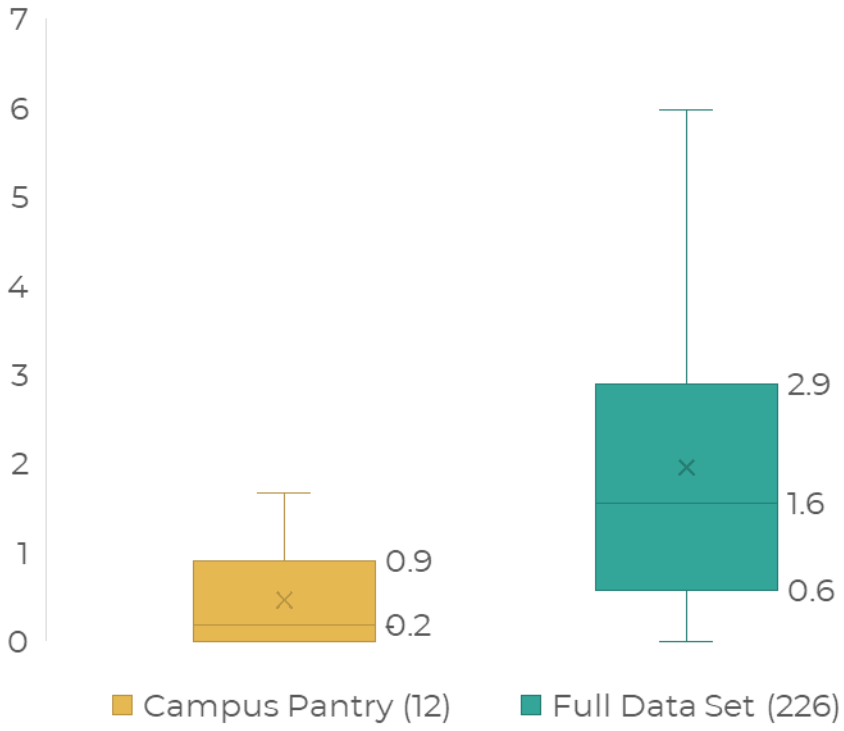
Protein Pounds Sourced per Individual per Visit: Total pounds sourced by food category divided by total number of individual visits



TEFAP Pounds Sourced per Individual Visit: Total pounds sourced by food stream divided by total number of individual visits



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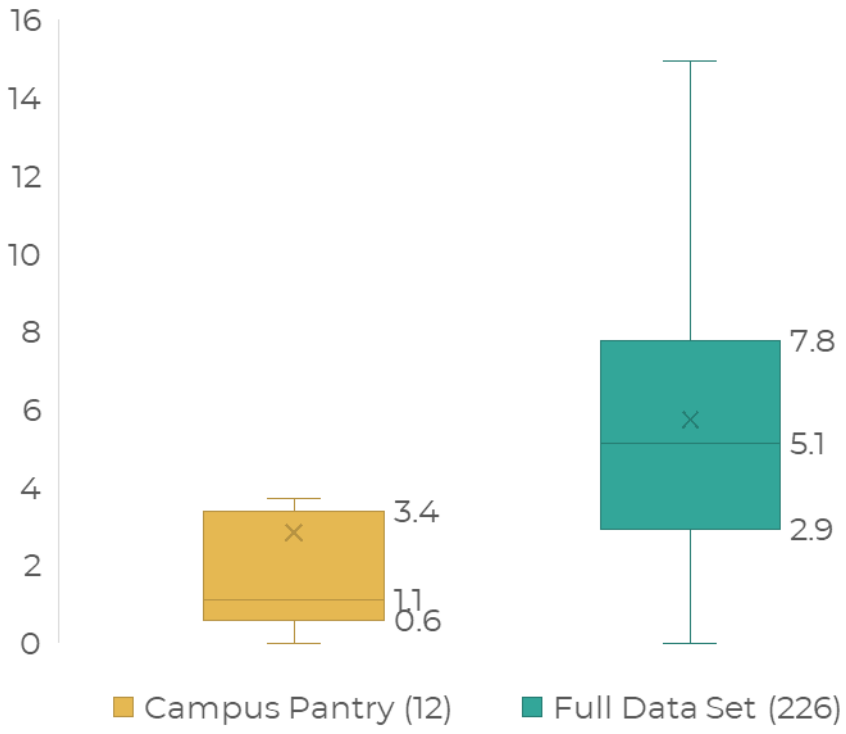
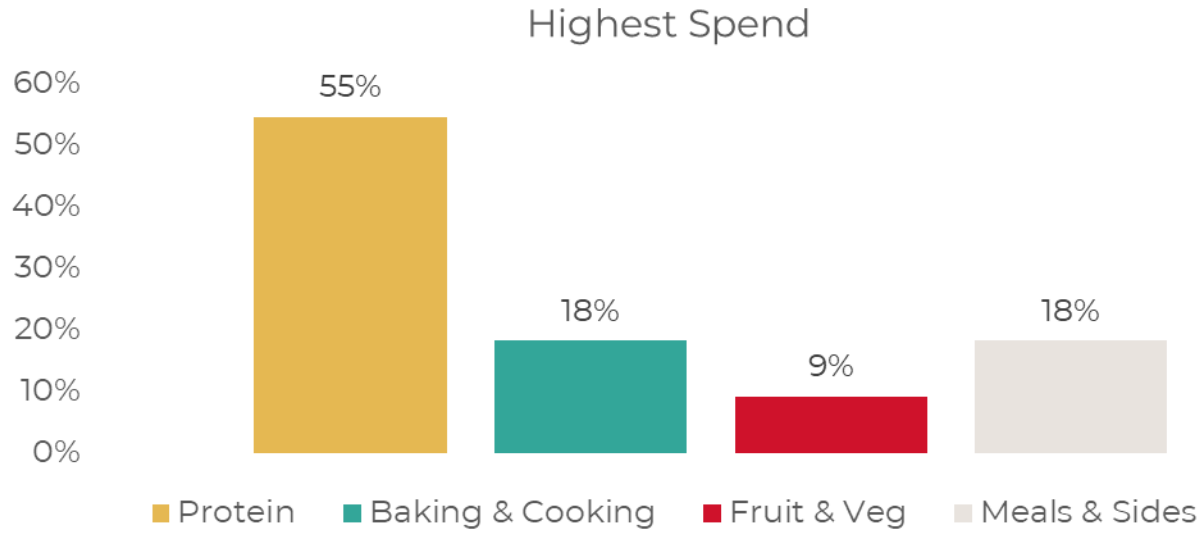
Purchased Pounds Sourced per Individual Visit: Total pounds sourced by food stream divided by total number of individual visits



Spending by Food Category: Percentage of programs with categories as highest spends.



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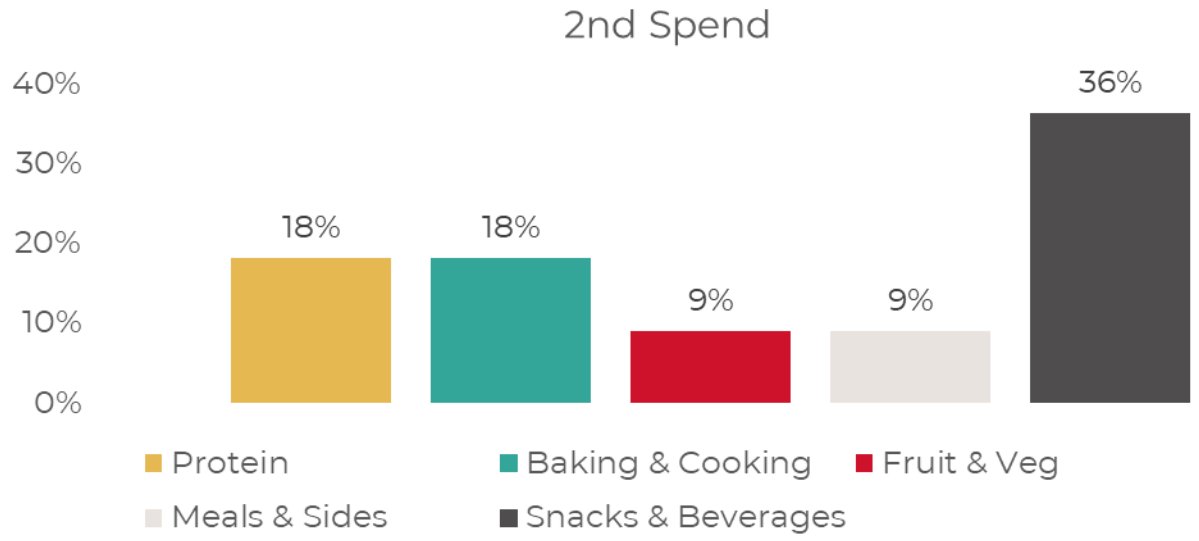

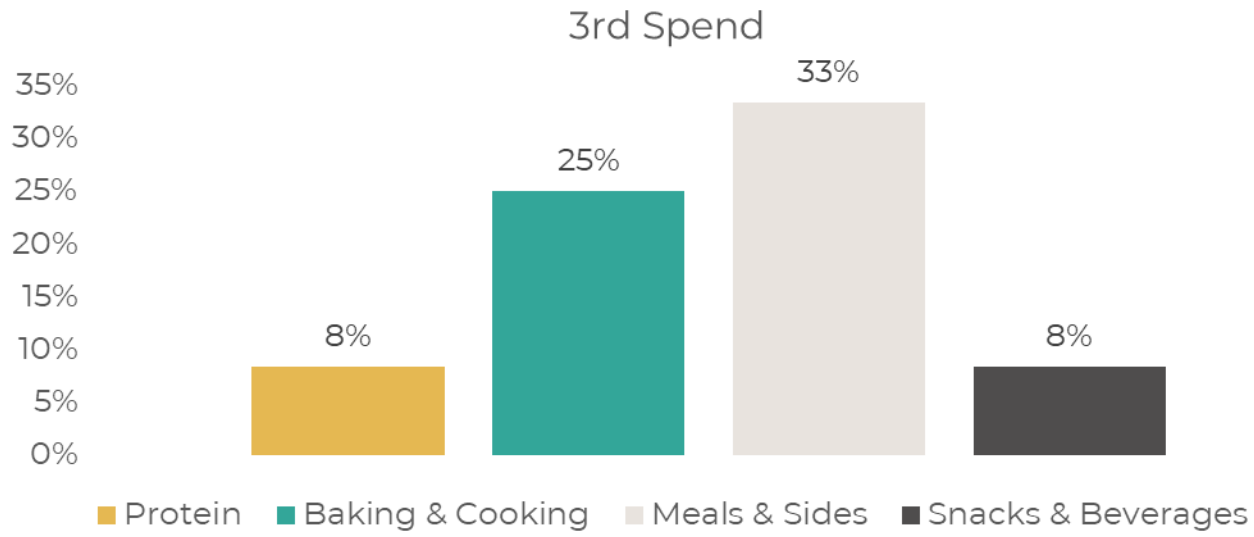

Conclusion:

FFEN's Strategic Food Sourcing Service is an ongoing resource for food shelves and food bank partners working to strengthen food sourcing practices and better serve their communities. Reports from this, and previous rounds — including program characteristics, data insights, and qualitative themes — are available at ffen.org/strategic-food-sourcing.

Food shelves interested in participating in a future round, or partners seeking additional information about the service, are encouraged to reach out to FFEN directly at programs@ffen.org or 612-524-9360.

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