



TURNING THE TABLES ON FOOD INSECURITY



Too many of AtlantiCare's patients had to choose between health care services and food and housing.

The COVID-19 pandemic only made the problem worse. People were out of work in the hospitality-based community in and around Atlantic City, N.J., where the health system has 100 sites of care.

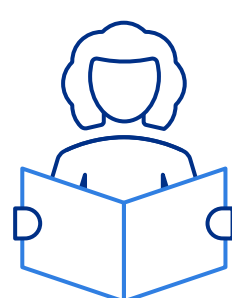


AtlantiCare partnered with the Community FoodBank of New Jersey on an immediate and long-term solution:

Provide food assistance to strengthen financial stability.

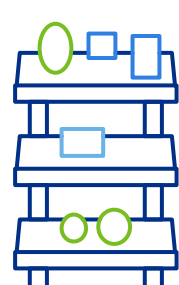


The largest emergency food provider in New Jersey, CFBNJ helps feed more than half a million people across 15 counties, including 130,000 children.



Using the HCC as its guide, the partnership created a plan to:

Break down food barriers and waste.



When the partnership realized that community members were discarding items from prepacked groceries because their bags were too heavy to carry when commuting on public transportation, it implemented a choice model at food pantries that reduced food insecurity and eliminated waste.

Gain community insights from food pantry use.



AtlantiCare furthered its efforts to better understand and support local health needs by using the opportunity of food pantry visits to interview community members, conduct medical screenings, schedule doctors' appointments and provide education about health insurance options.

Adapt research and data.



AtlantiCare implemented software to better understand who was and wasn't visiting the food pantry and added surveys on the back of pantry menus to learn more about community members' needs. In addition, the partnership researched and monitored ever-changing factors like food requests and trends.

Moving Forward

The partnership's future goals include:



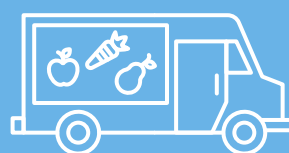
Increasing SNAP enrollment by having on-site program educators help with applications.



Creating disease-specific community programs on diabetes, nutrition and more.



Setting up an after-school and summer food program that supports families when schools are not in session and regular access to meals is lost.



Helping people maximize SNAP dollars with a new mobile market offering subsidies for healthy food.