

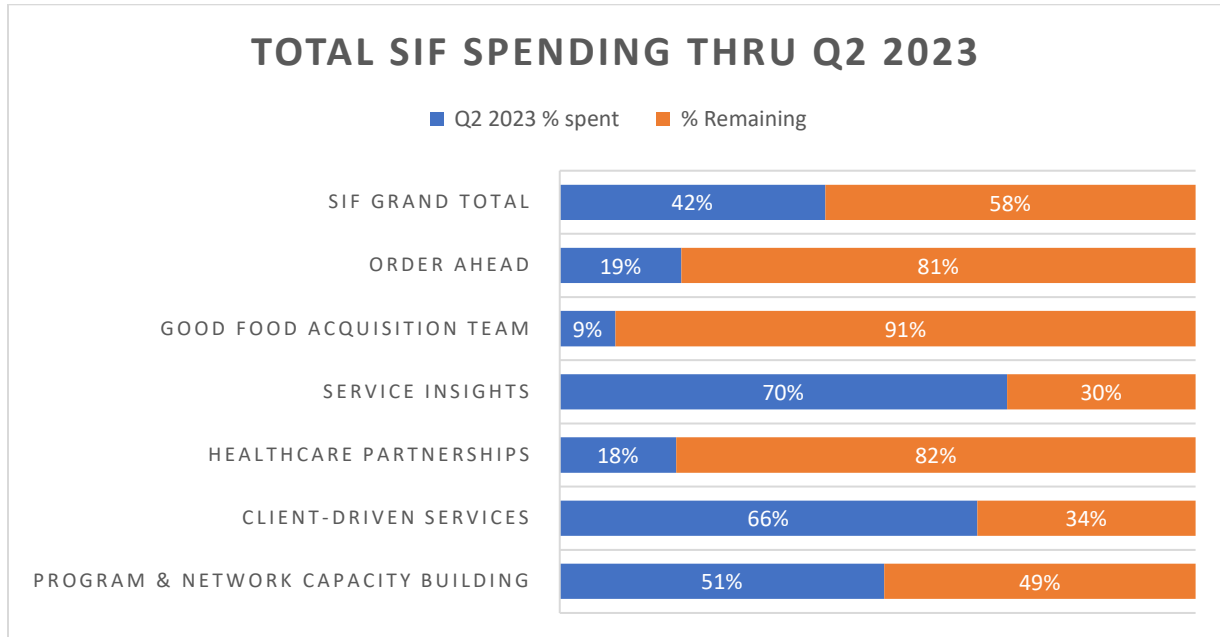


Food Bank of the Southern Tier Strategic Investment Fund 2023 Q2 Progress Report

Full SIF project budget: \$3,610,327

SIF funds spent through June 2023: \$1,507,7792

SIF Balance: \$2,102,535



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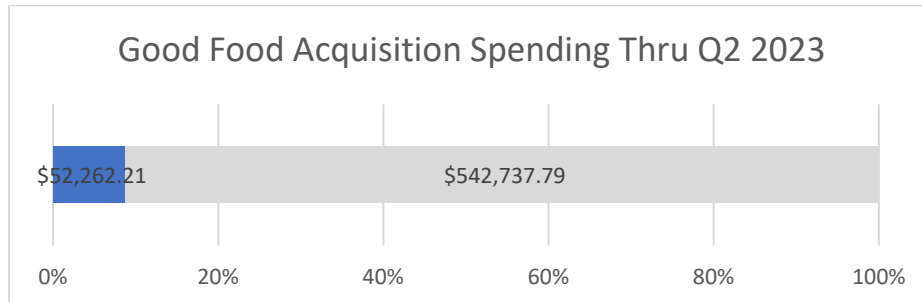
Good Food Acquisition

Original project budget: \$595,000

Money spent thru June 2023 \$52,262

Project balance \$542,738

Project Timeframe: April 2022-March 2025



Q2 Progress:

- 631,927 pounds of produce distributed, which is 128,092 more pounds than this time last year
- 4 different IQF vegetables, 2 Tuna packs/Pouches with rice or quinoa, Broth, Orange Juice Blend
- Sourcing from 2 new local farms: Reeves Farms, Wandercreek Farm
- 11 Kids Farmers' Market sites, 28 distributions, 22,687 pounds of produce distributed to 2364 duplicated children
- 33 schools participated in the School Snack program



Strawberries from Reeves Farms – a new local sourcing partner

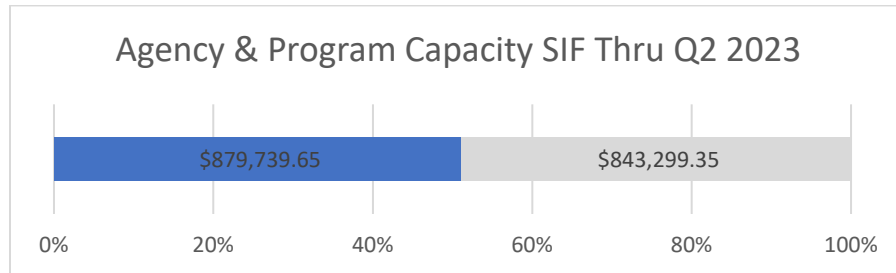
Agency & Program Capacity

Original project budget: \$1,723,039

Money spent thru June 2023: \$879,740

Project balance: \$843,299

Project Timeframe: July 2021-June 2024



Q2 progress:

Programs:

- Onboarded 8 new School Food Center sites: Elmira City, Elmira Heights, Watkins Glen High School, Ithaca High School, Groton, Susquehanna Valley, Binghamton High School, West Learning Center
- Distributed 296,051 total diapers: 266,075 child & 29,976 adult
52 partner agencies (36%) are part of the Diaper Bank and 39 of these partners ordered diapers in Q2.
17 FBST programs also provide diapers: 11 MFP Senior, 5 SFC & Kitchen Stork

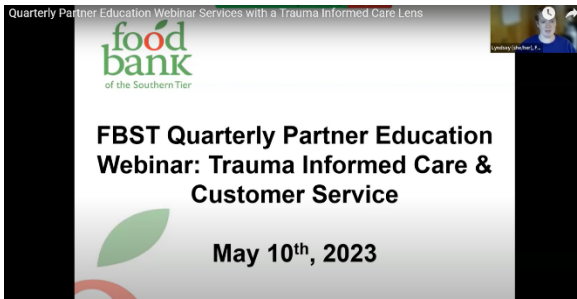
Agency Trainings

- Quarterly Partner Education Webinar in May on Trauma Informed Care ([recording here](#))
- Partners have begun taking Leah's Pantry training

Agency Capacity Initiatives

- 15 Impact Grants requests, 14 awarded for \$102,061
- 19 Emergency Cold Storage Grant requests, 19 awarded for total of \$108,976
- \$5713 distributed in agency incentives (agencies going above and beyond to reach our outcome goals), \$3550 awarded in Leadership Funds (agency partners serving in a leadership role)

Photos / Stories of Impact:



May Partner Education Webinar on Trauma Informed Care ([YouTube link](#))



Turning Point - Hornell about their recent Emergency Cold Storage Award: "Thank you for the opportunity to help expand our cold storage. This refrigerator will help us keep the refrigerated items cold that we hand out on Mondays and Fridays. This will ensure proper temperatures for cold items, and with the see-through doors shoppers will be allowed to see what they want before opening to help conserve energy. The application process was extremely easy, and all the employees at the Food Bank are quick to respond if there are any questions."



Note from St. Michael's Community Meal about their recent Emergency Cold Storage Repair Award: "We are so grateful to have this cooler up and running again! It is used for cold storage for our Community Meal program for fruits, vegetables, dairy, etc. Having it back up and running means we can house more of these items from week to week for our meals and for our clients. Thank you The picture is the brand new compressor!"



Delivering to Union-Endicott School Food Center



Elmira City School Food Center opened and offered online ordering

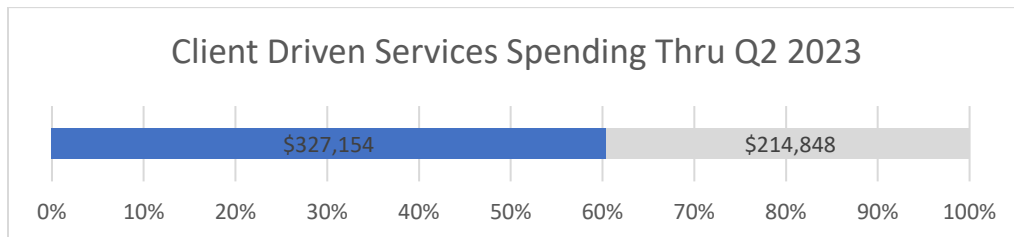
Client Driven Services

Original project budget: \$327,154

Money spent thru June 2023: \$214,848

Project balance: \$112,306

Project Timeframe: July 2021-June 2026 (project extended for 2 years to allow for full development and evaluation)



Q2 updates:

Community Advocates Program

- 2 cohorts of Community Advocates Training (CAT) finished, one online and one in person. Began with 14 members, 9 CAT members officially finished the program
- 2 Community Advocates attended Anti-Hunger Policy Conference in DC in May, met with 2 Senate and 2 House offices
- Congressman Molinaro attended CAT Celebration and [shared his story](#)
- 5 mentors engaged with new CAT cohort

Client Communications and Engagement

- New [Find Food](#) page launched on website
- Myth busting document finalized and added to website (link)
- What to expect when visiting a pantry video progress
- 245 clients completed client survey, 12 participated in interviews
- 12 client stories published

Public Education

- 1 Advocacy 101 workshop with 12 participants trained
- 2 Hunger 101 workshops with 30 participants
- Racial Wealth Gap Simulation on Juneteenth with 12 participants

Community Advocates lobbying during the national Anti-Hunger Policy Conference in DC in May.



In person Community Advocates Training with mentors



[Community Advocates Training Celebration Media Coverage](#)

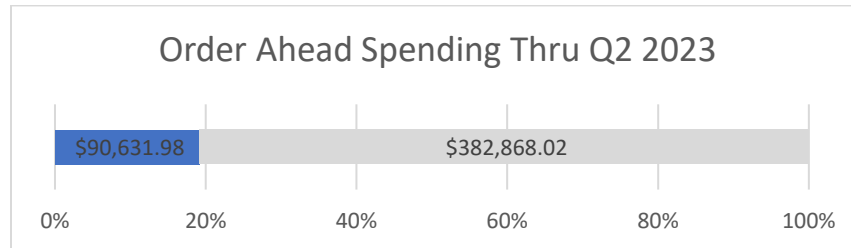
Order Ahead

Original project budget: \$473,500

Money spent thru June 2023: \$90,632

Project balance: \$382,868

Project timeframe: April 2022-March 2025



Q2 Updates:

- Hired Order Ahead Specialist, Skyler Carlson, who has fully transitioned to making all deliveries being made by OrderAhead for Kitchen Stork
- 53 Kitchen Stork participants, increased capacity to 60 participants in Q3
- Very positive feedback on delivery interactions. Conducting optional interview sessions that participants are reimbursed for providing in-depth feedback.

Program Feedback and Impact:

From April data (n=14):

- 100% reported increased ability to make healthy food choices
- 67% reported setting healthy eating goals for themselves
- 90% reported making meals at home 5 or more times per week
- Participants reported that Kitchen Stork removed the following barriers: transportation, financial barriers, access to healthy foods, and increased knowledge of healthy recipes
- Participants reported additional recipes as an additional support that would be helpful
- 92% reported that their needs were completely or mostly met by the freshness of perishable foods offered
- 100% reported that their needs were completely or mostly met by the taste/texture of nonperishable foods offered
- "Kitchen Stork has been a savior to our family. Has lessened the financial burden of food and baby items, delivery has been so helpful as we do not have a vehicle"
- "Have been learning to make new healthy recipes. helped a lot since I had gestational diabetes"
- "Relived so much stress. helped me because I'm now better able to manage finances"



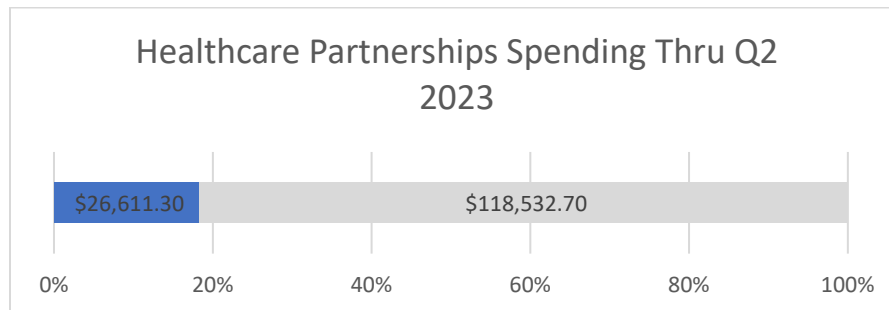
Skyler Carlson, new Order Ahead Specialist hired



Kitchen Stork volunteers treated to lunch

Healthcare Partnerships

Original project budget: \$145,144
Money spent thru June 2023: \$26,611
Project balance \$118,533
Project Timeframe: July 2021-June 2024



- 4 Active Healthcare Partnerships / Programs: Health Meets Home, Kitchen Stork, Care Compass Network Social Impact Pilot Project, and Meals While You Heal

5 In Development:

- Eastside Clinic and Cayuga Health Systems – accepted Strategic Partnership applications, working on next steps
- CASA Trinity – submitted application in June for a pantry
- St. James Mercy Hospital - interested in opening nonperishable pantry, working with them on next steps and encouraging perishables/delivery/etc. before they apply
- UHS submitted application, has been working for quite a while on adjusting plan to expand their proposed services beyond just staff

Service Insights (Retired SIF)

Original project budget: \$346,490
Money spent thru June 2023 \$250,868
Project balance \$95,622 to be rolled into other projects
Project Timeframe: July 2021-December 2022

- 74% of service visits recorded in FreshTrak as of May 2023

Impact of Using Text 'Em All Technology:

A broadcast sent to 146 textable numbers for anyone who attended Hector FP in June '22 - June 20, 2023; plus Burdett, Hector, T-burg, etc. residents who attended Watkins MFP or Reynoldsville FP

during that time period. Agency response: "Kathryn, Your text was awesome! And Beth was able to collect a lot more textable phone numbers today so next month will be better! **With your texting, and our new extended hours, and our reach out to local migrant workers, we fed 100 families today(our normal is between 40-50)!** Our volunteers are exhausted, our stores are really low and need replenishment, but we are so excited to have served such an awesome group of families! Thanks so much for your help!"

Evaluation Progress

Emergency Cold Storage Grant (ECSG) evaluation findings: Initial findings show that pantries that receive ECSG specifically to expand their cold storage capacity – rather than simply replacing old or non-functioning ones – have nearly doubled the amount of perishables distributed per person. During the same time frame, pantries that did not receive ECSG saw only a 3.5% increase in perishable pounds.

To date, the primary use of ECSG has been to replace refrigeration units that have stopped working or are in poor working order. The Good Food Acquisition Team recently identified minimum and preferred goals for perishable pounds per person at pantries. Going forward, the evaluation team recommends identifying a strategy to increase perishable pounds per person across the pantries and using ECSG to support these increases, including through outreach to agencies that may not take the initiative to apply for ECSG otherwise.

School Food Center evaluation completed for the year: We faced two main challenges in the SFC evaluation. 1) Although 100% of site coordinators answered the survey, only a small number of clients responded to it. It is difficult to make any firm conclusions based on the small client sample size. 2) We also identified discrepancies in the way schools are reporting service statistics, which made it difficult to analyze the cost of SFCs versus their impact.

Overall, the SFCs are providing more meals per distribution as well as more perishable pounds of food per request compared to the Backpack Program. These were identified as weaknesses of the Backpack Program in past evaluations. Additionally, SFCs are meeting goals related to our strategy of increasing client-centered services like home delivery, weekly hours of operation, providing services beyond food and actively checking in with participating families about their needs and satisfaction with services.

Site Coordinators are also reporting that the benefits of the SFCs go beyond just food. As one Coordinator shared, *"It's obvious that food has been placed on the tables of many of our families that otherwise would be empty. But the distribution of food has done far more than feed people. It has brought together a school community. Friendships and connections that otherwise wouldn't have existed have been made. We've learned information about our kids and their home life that we might never have known. Students are feeling pride in helping others and making accomplishments. And the school food center has made us aware of our families' needs, such as furniture and clothing, and even employment."*



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We plan to reevaluate the SFCs in 2024, by which point we should have more accurate statistics and will also aim for a better response rate from clients. This year's evaluation provided FBST staff with constructive feedback and ideas about areas where more support is needed in the coming year, such as statistics tracking, staying within budget, and supporting special diet needs.

School Snack Program evaluation is in process and very close to wrapping up.

Diaper Bank evaluation is in process and will be shared with the FBST Strategy Committee in August.

Community Advocates Training evaluation is in process.

Agency Survey is in process.

Impact Grants evaluation is in process.