

# April 2024 VT Foodbank Update



**Vermont Foodbank**  
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# FY 2025 Request

**The Vermont Foodbank (VF) is seeking a total of \$5 million dollars in ongoing funding, starting in FY25 to address the sustained, increased need for access to food in communities throughout Vermont.**

For FY24 The Vermont Foodbank received \$3 million dollars in one-time funding

In the House version of the budget and the Governor's recommended budget there is no money for the Vermont Foodbank network.

# Why is this support needed?

**In the past year, several issues have impacted the food security of people in Vermont and the financial security of Vermont farms**

- **The end of SNAP Emergency Allotments** means that many people with low incomes have lost benefits that were helping them close their food security gap and to better afford local food.
  - **In turn, put additional pressure on the charitable food system**
- **Flooding exacerbated difficult conditions** for many neighbors who were already struggling after pandemic disruptions to their lives
  - ◆ **Flooding also drastically impacted farms**
- **Many of the support systems** that were in place during and following the pandemic **have ended**

**The Foodbank and our partners need support now to address the immediate needs of our neighbors, while working to create longer term paths to food and economic security**

# What we know - pounds distributed

In August, The Vermont Foodbank distributed 1.42 million pounds of food - a 40% increase over the previous months.

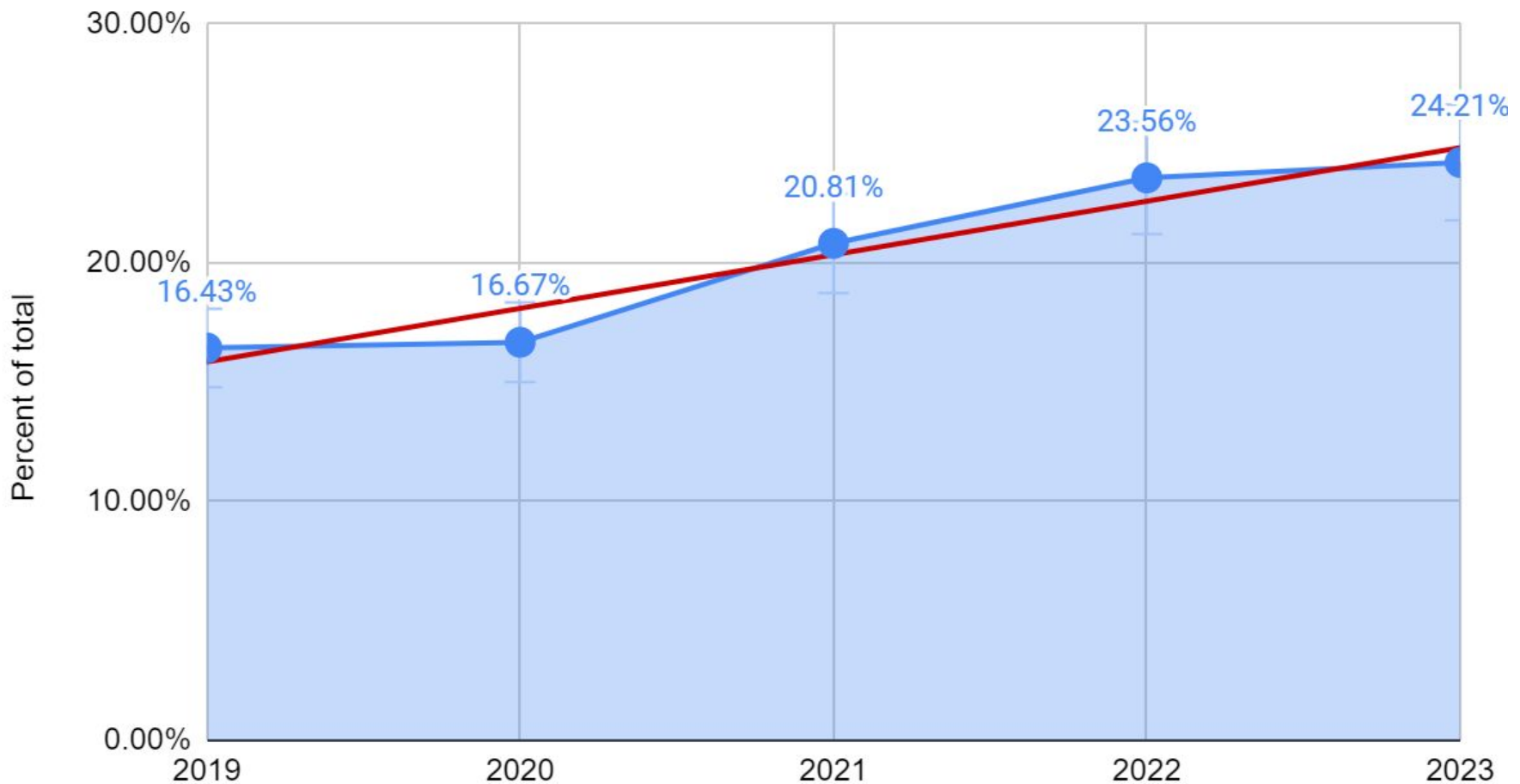
Demand has stayed high, averaging 1.29 million pound a month since August. The last time monthly numbers were that high was in 2021.

## Pounds Distributed Pre & Post Floods



# % of Purchased Food has Increased

Purchased pounds as % of total pounds distributed

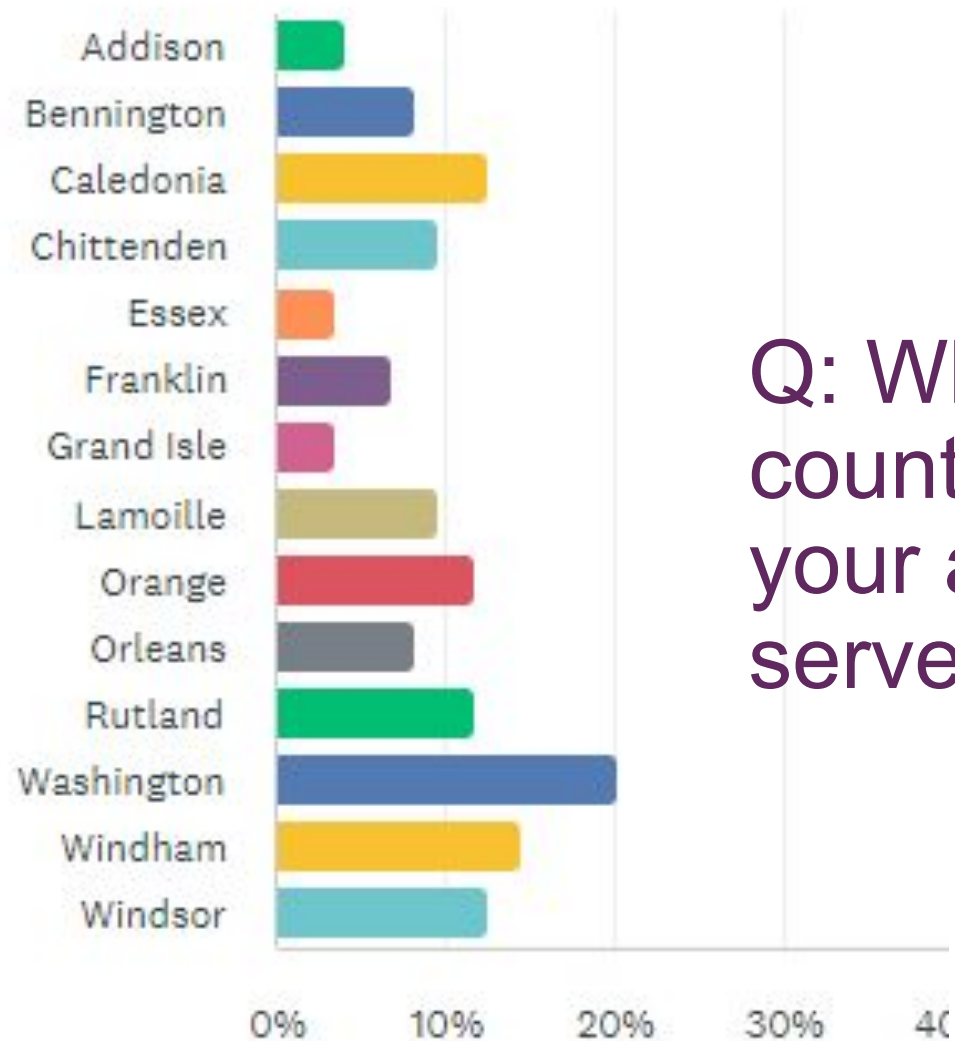


2024

# Vermont Foodbank Pulse Survey

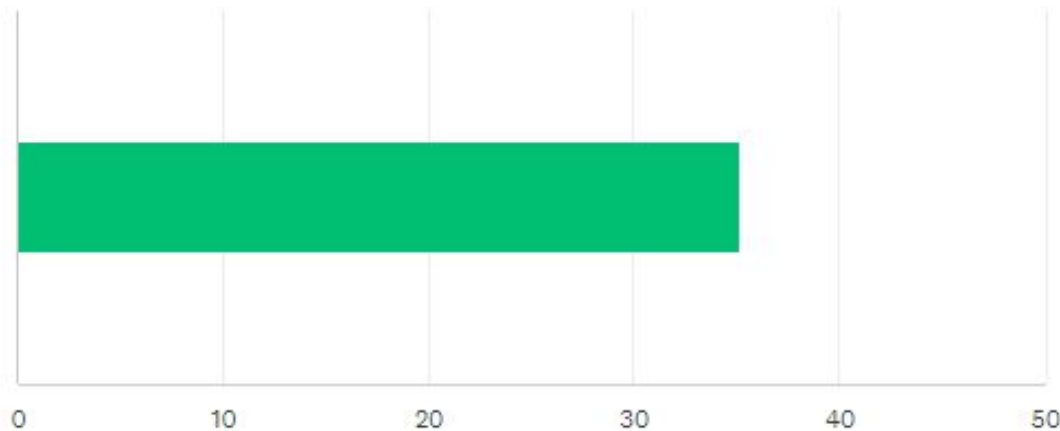
67% of Network Partners  
responded to the survey  
- 147 out of 220 partners.

# All 14 Vermont Counties Represented



Q: What counties does your agency serve?

Q: Overall, has the number of guests to your agency increased or decreased compared to this time last year?



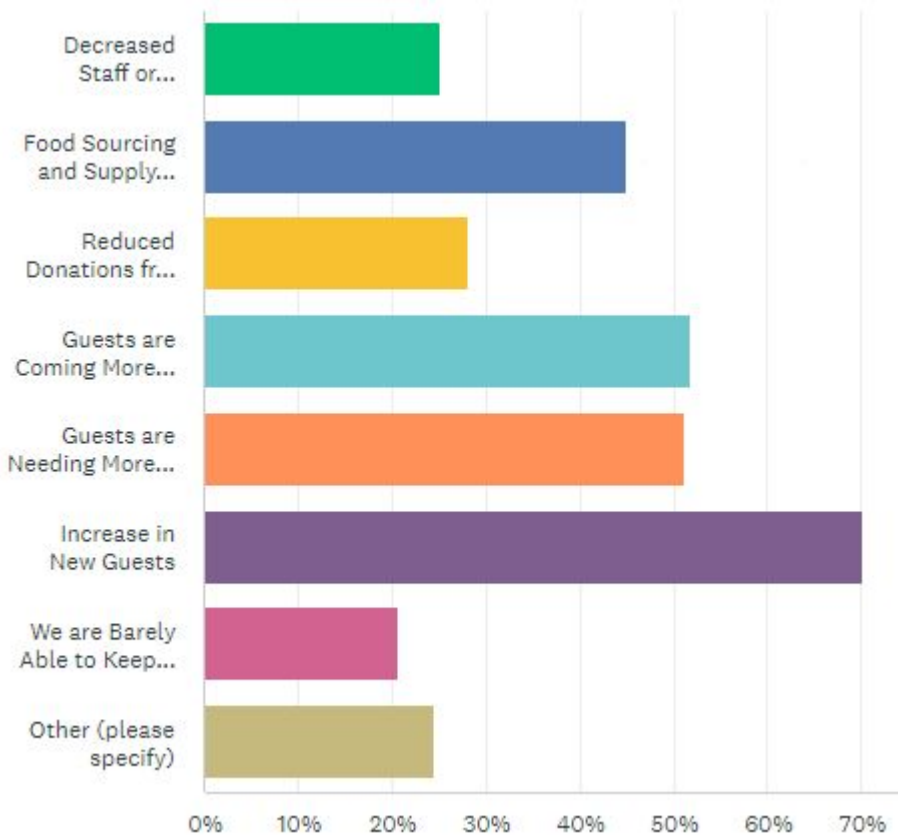
On average, our network is seeing a 35% average increase in guests (answered yes to this question)

MANY partners were reporting higher increase in the 50-75% range

Few were reporting a 100% Increase

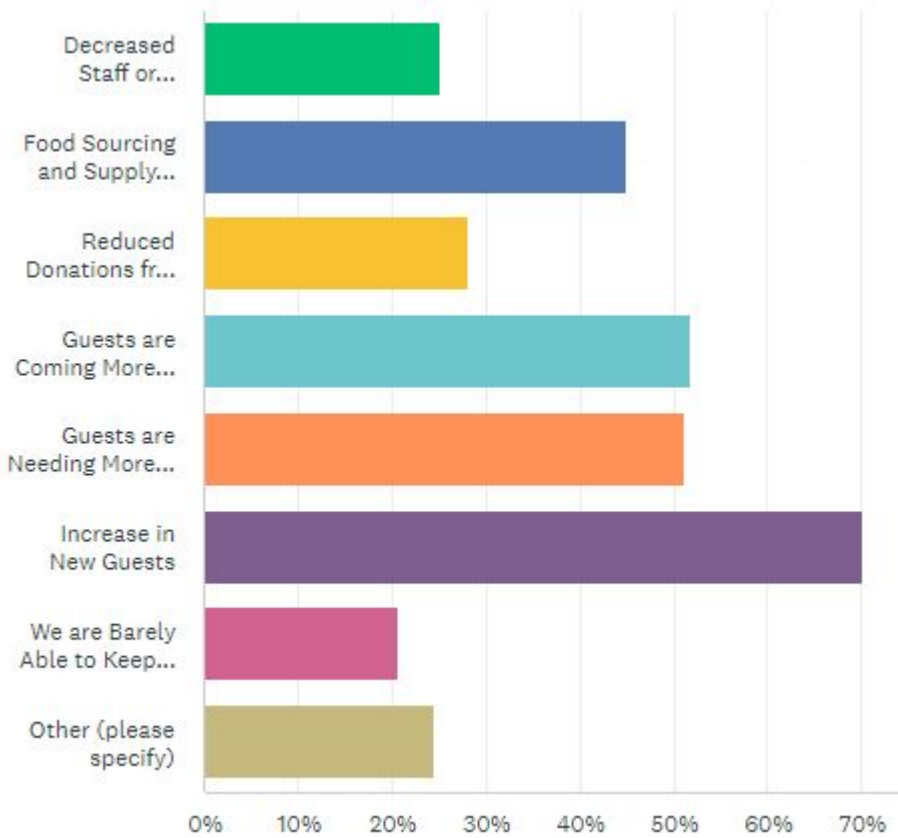


# Q: What additional changes or challenges have you experienced this last year?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Decreased Staff or Volunteers	25.19%
▼ Food Sourcing and Supply Chain Issues	45.04%
▼ Reduced Donations from our Community	28.24%
▼ Guests are Coming More Often	51.91%
▼ Guests are Needing More Food per Visit	51.15%
▼ Increase in New Guests	70.23%
▼ We are Barely Able to Keep up with Demand	20.61%
▼ Other (please specify)	24.43%

# Q: What additional changes or challenges have you experienced this last year?



Other (please specify)

24.43%

## Other (please specify):

- Flood
- Maximized Capacity
- Increased hours of operation
- Increased food costs
- Decrease in free items from VF
- Aging staff/board members/volunteers

# Year over Year Comparison

<b>Partner</b>	<b>2023 Households Served</b>	<b>2022 Households Served</b>	<b>% increase over 2022</b>
Foodworks	4343	3851	13%
Colchester Community Food Shelf	4664	3561	31%
Capstone	1284	850	51%
NEKCA North	1054	407	159%

# Year over Year comparison

This week we reached out to a sample of partners across Vermont to understand how the period of January – March has changed over the past 3 years.

## **How has this time-period changed each year?**

**In 2022** there were still pandemic-era benefits supporting people including boosted SNAP benefits, as well as other programs.

# Quarter 1 (January – March) Data

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## **How has this time-period changed each year?**

In 2022 there were still pandemic-era benefits supporting people including boosted SNAP benefits, as well as other programs.

**In 2023**, we had just learned that boosted SNAP benefits would end in March and Foodbank network partners reported that folks were beginning to use more charitable food supports to extend their benefits as long as possible.

# Year over Year comparison

This week we reached out to a sample of partners across Vermont to understand how the number of households served has changed between 2022 and 2023.

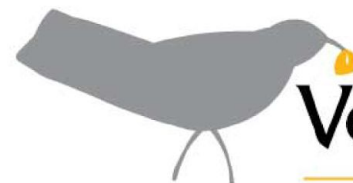
## How has this time-period changed each year?

In 2022 there were still pandemic-era benefits supporting people including boosted SNAP benefits, as well as other programs.

In 2023, we had just learned that boosted SNAP benefits would end in March and Foodbank network partners reported that folks were beginning to use more charitable food supports to extend their benefits as long as possible.

**Now, in 2024**, all those supports are gone, and have been for several months, floods deeply impacted over 100 communities across the state, and economic conditions are still challenging for our lowest-income neighbors

**Thank  
you**



**Vermont Foodbank**  
— [vtfoodbank.org](http://vtfoodbank.org)