

Augustana Students' Association

2023-24 Food Security Initiatives

The Augustana Students' Association (ASA) remains committed to assisting students facing food insecurity. With rising food costs and global inflation causing significant barriers, food insecurity continues to affect the financial, mental, and physical well being of many students.

During the 2023-24 academic year, the ASA conducted two main food security initiatives, Food Security Programming and the Food Pantry.

ASA Food Security Programming

Food Security Programming consisted of monthly breakfasts and lunches provided to students in a Grab n Go format. Students were able to quickly and easily get a meal on their way to or from class, and the distribution of these meals was handled by ASA volunteers.

The Food Security Programming, including estimated use, is summarized below.

2023-24 Food Security Programming	
Grab n Go Breakfast (Cold)	5
Grab n Go Breakfast (Hot)	2
Grab n Go Lunch (Hot)	5
Total Meals Served	12
Users (estimated)	
Per Cold Breakfast	50
Per Hot Breakfast	90
Per Hot Lunch	80
Total Estimated Users	830
Cost	
Total Food Programming Cost	\$ 4,067.82

ASA Food Pantry

The ASA Food Pantry consisted of a monthly food hamper program that Augustana students were able to access. Students in need filled out a digital form requesting specified non-perishable items and scheduled an appointment to pick up these pre-filled hampers paired with grocery gift cards to purchase perishable items (dairy, fruit, etc.). These hampers were not meant to replace an entire monthly food budget, but instead covered ~30% of a typical monthly food budget.

Food Pantry Use in 2023-24

The Food Pantry saw increased use from previous years and is summarized below.

ASA Food Pantry Summary		
	2023-24	2022-23
Total number of hampers distributed	122	82
Hampers distributed by month		
August	0	4
September	9	8
October	12	13
November	19	7
December	22	6
January	7	12
February	15	5
March	24	13
April	14	14
Food Pantry Clients		
New Clients (no use in previous year)	29	29
Unique Clients	45	40
Unique Client Frequency of Use		
Once	15	23
2 uses	14	7
3 uses	4	5
4 uses	2	2
5 uses	4	0
6 uses	3	1
7 uses	3	0
8 uses	0	2
Cost		
Total Food Pantry Cost	\$ 8,527.37	\$ 6,698.51

Budget

The total spending on initiatives in the 2023-24 academic year was \$12,595.19.

The budget for these initiatives came from two primary sources, the ASA's annual operating budget and funds generously contributed to the Augustana - Development office. Although the initial ASA operating budget had \$5000 contributed to food security initiatives, this amount was increased over the course of the year as increased demand and costs required additional resources.

Looking ahead to 2024-25

Both the ASA Food Security Programming and the Food Pantry are planned for the 2024-25 academic year. With continued and increased use expected, additional ASA operating funds will be dedicated to these programs.

Additional programming is being investigated, including a demonstration and information session from a registered dietician to promote healthy cooking habits.

Information on other community food security programs will be centralized on the ASA website. These programs include Augustana-specific programs like the Chaplaincy's weekly Soup Suppers and community programs like the Camrose Food Bank and weekly meal programs currently available to all community members.

Community outreach, including food drives, will also be conducted to help garner community support. This community outreach will also include information on the Augustana Reciprocity Shelf and how the shelf can receive contributions.