



The Food Crisis in Our Valleys

MAY 2025

Agenda

- Who is LIFT-UP?
- What is the current state of food Insecurity?
- How is LIFT-UP responding?
- How can you help?





LIFT-UP Our Mission

LIFT-UP is the leader in providing **equitable food security** for individuals and families: educating, building understanding, and support to **end hunger from Parachute to Aspen.**

We serve anyone experiencing food insecurity in Garfield, Eagle, and Pitkin Counties from Parachute to Aspen.



LIFT-UP Programs

Fill bellies from Parachute to Aspen through:

- + **Pantries of Choice:** 6 pantry locations: Parachute, Silt, Rifle, New Castle, Glenwood Springs, Carbondale
- + **New for 2025:** Mobile Pantry
- + **3 Soup Kitchens:** Extended Table
- + **72-Hour Bags:** Emergency food
- + **Current Federal Programming:** CFSP, TEFAP



NEW Mobile Pantry



Farm 2 Food Pantry

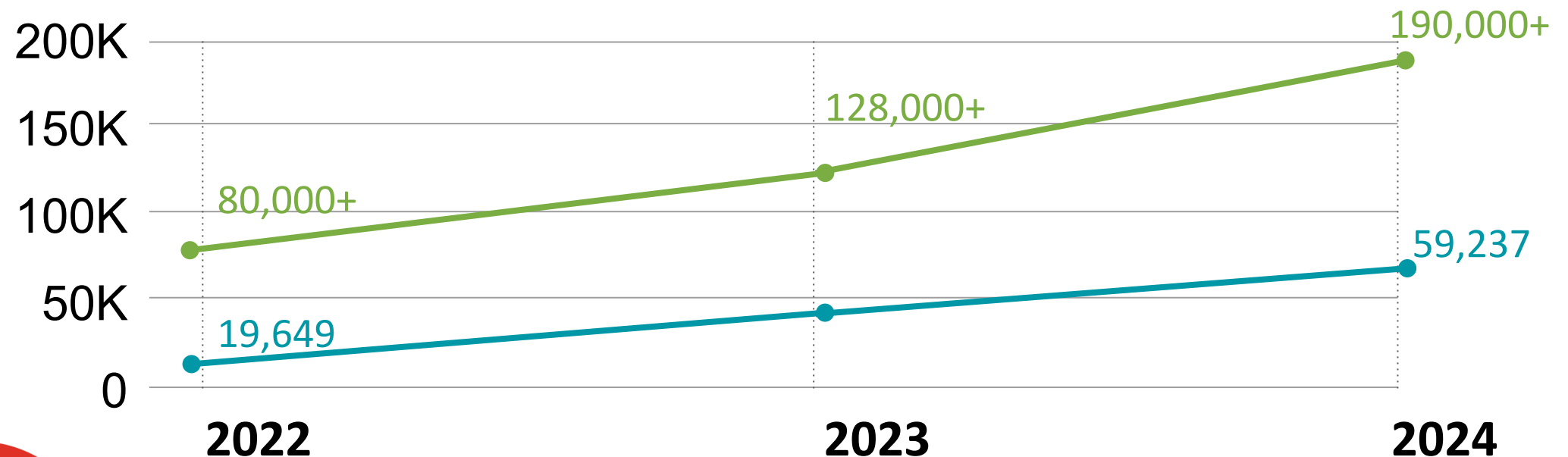
Partnering with local farms, ranches, and small businesses for healthy and nutritious food!

- Early Morning Orchard
- Two Roots
- Up Root
- Wild Mountain Seeds
- Rancho Duranzo
- Green Junction
- Highwater Farm
- ACES Rock Bottom Ranch
- Marigold Farms
- Mountain Meat Packaging



Skyrocketing Demand

LIFT-UP has experienced a 138% growth in visits.



VISITS

GUESTS

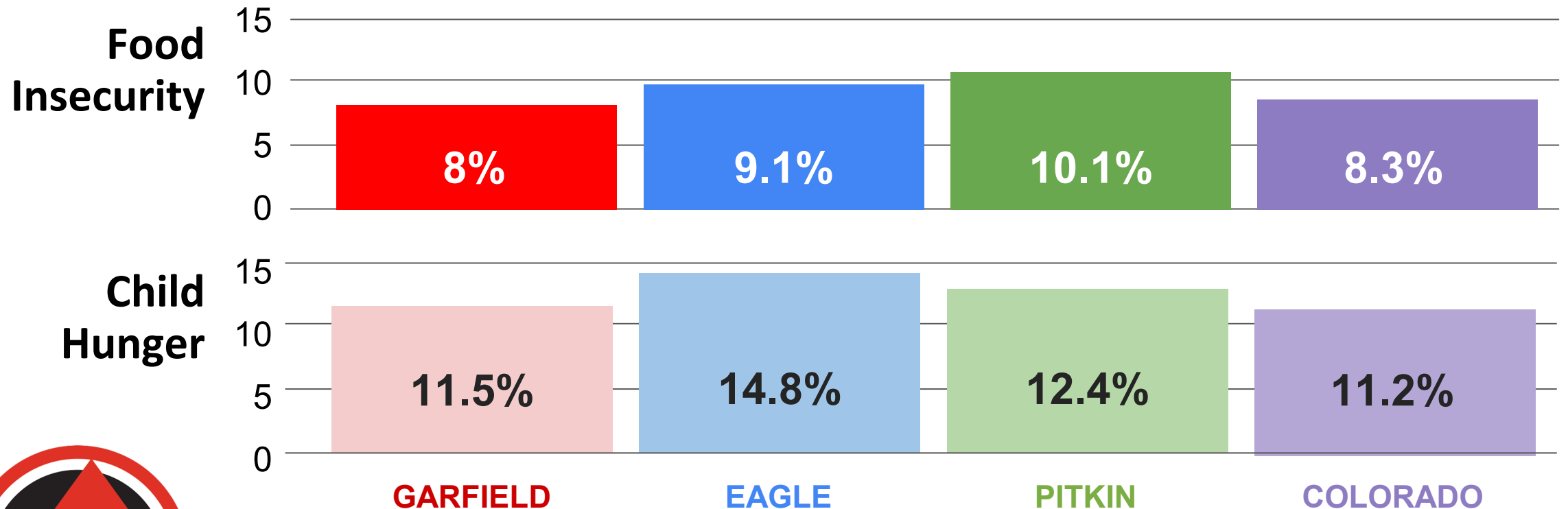
Current Economic Reality - The Perfect Storm

- Federal Nutrition Cuts
 - Post-Covid Reductions in Medicaid, SNAP & TANF eligibility
 - Proposed \$1 billion cut in federal aid for food support in 2025
- Colorado has \$1B budget shortfall
- Locally cost of living continues to:
 - Rent - 8.3 %
 - Food - 10.4 %
 - Gas - 15 %
 - Utilities - 50%
- Post-Covid = no financial cushion



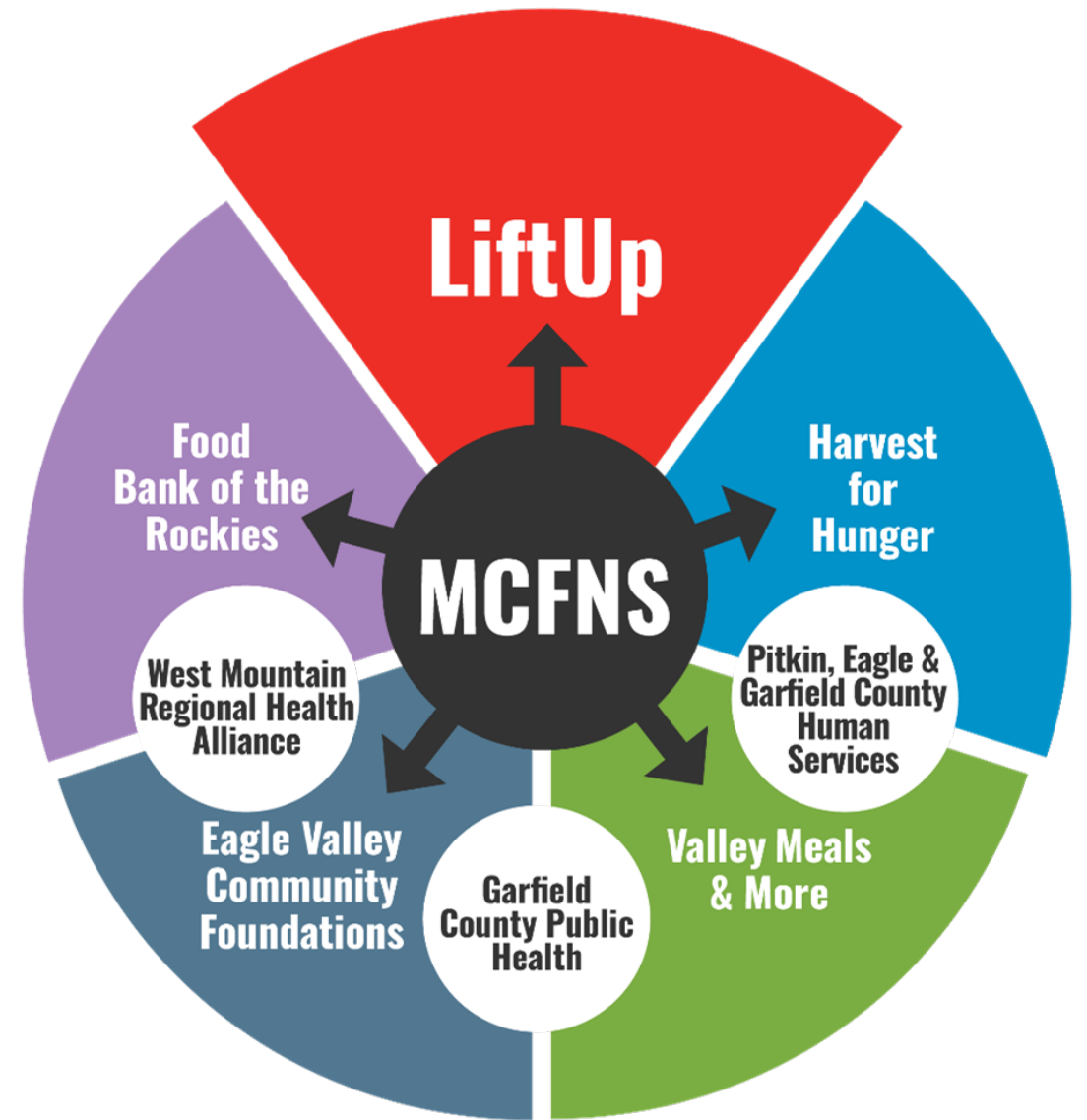
The Existing Food Insecurity Crisis

Food Insecurity in Colorado is 8.3% and 11.2% for children



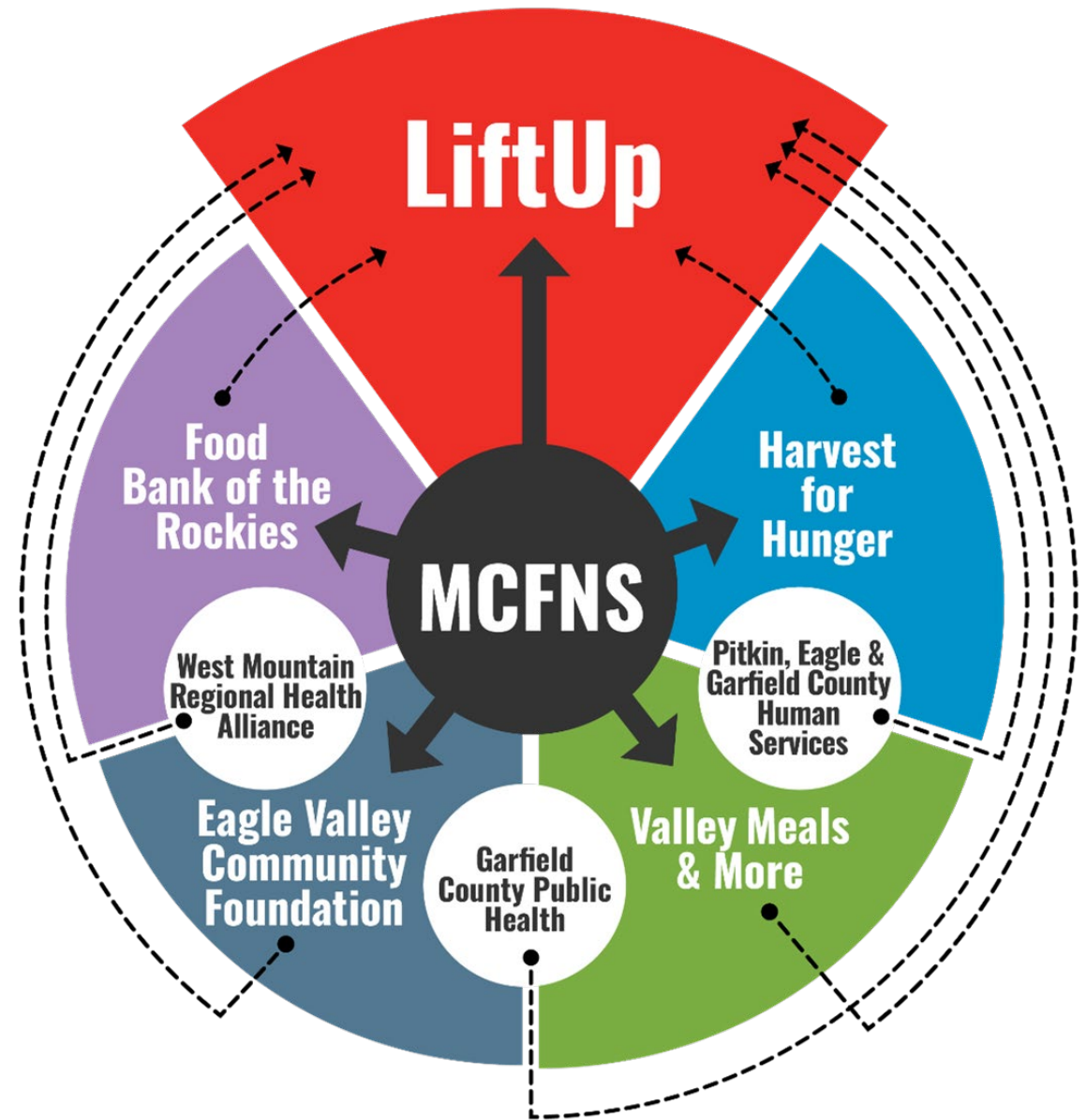
The Mountain Coalition for Food and Nutrition Security

A Regional Systems Approach to End Hunger



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LIFT-UP Investments to Support Regional Efforts

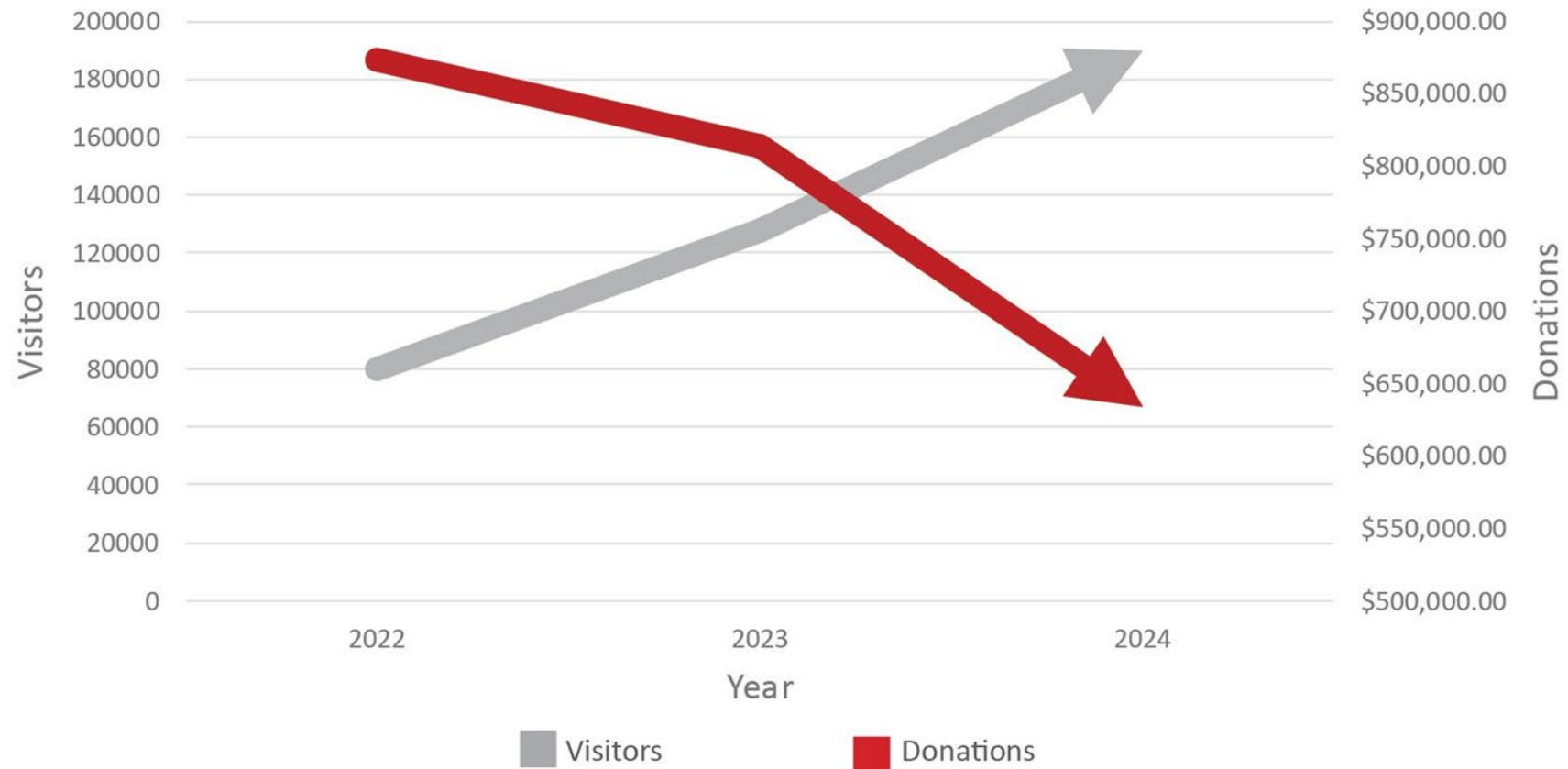
2023-26 Strategic Plan

MCFNS Strategic Plan Items	LIFT UPs Implementation
> 25 miles between food distribution sites	Purchased and staffed mobile pantry, funding and executing on 72-hour bags at partner human service organizations
Shared Food Hub - More accessible/robust warehousing + distribution	Purchased regional warehouse for food hub creation
Nutrition that aligns with ethnic food preference and personal choice	Expanded foods purchased and implemented “pantry of choice” model in all current distributions
More fresh, locally sourced food	Launched and continued to expand the Farm 2 Food Pantry program through forward funded contracts to farmers and ranchers



The Widening Gap - Operating in the RED

Comparison: Visitors vs. Donations



Heading Towards an Iceberg



Chain Reaction



Ripple Effect



Cutting Back

- Eliminated drive-thru pantries —
Decrease food waste + staff time
- Mortgage payment hold - 6 months
- Offset cost with more local/regional food drives
- Delayed hiring of ED, Program and Operations directors
- Implementing electronic inventory tracking system
- Closed the GWS thrift store
- Implemented guest visit limits



Fundraising Push

2025 Development Tactics:

- The LIFT-UP Board of Directors collectively contributed to a \$63,500 matching gift donation that was achieved in April
- Actively grant writing
- Hired development director - starting this month
- Targeting high-net-worth donors



What is at Stake?

- Partner Programs - 72-hour bags
- Extended Table that serves XXX
- Diaper Program - provides XX diapers
- Close Parachute and Rifle Thrift Stores
- Close distributions locations where property is not owned
- Turn away **ONE** in **THREE** pantry guests



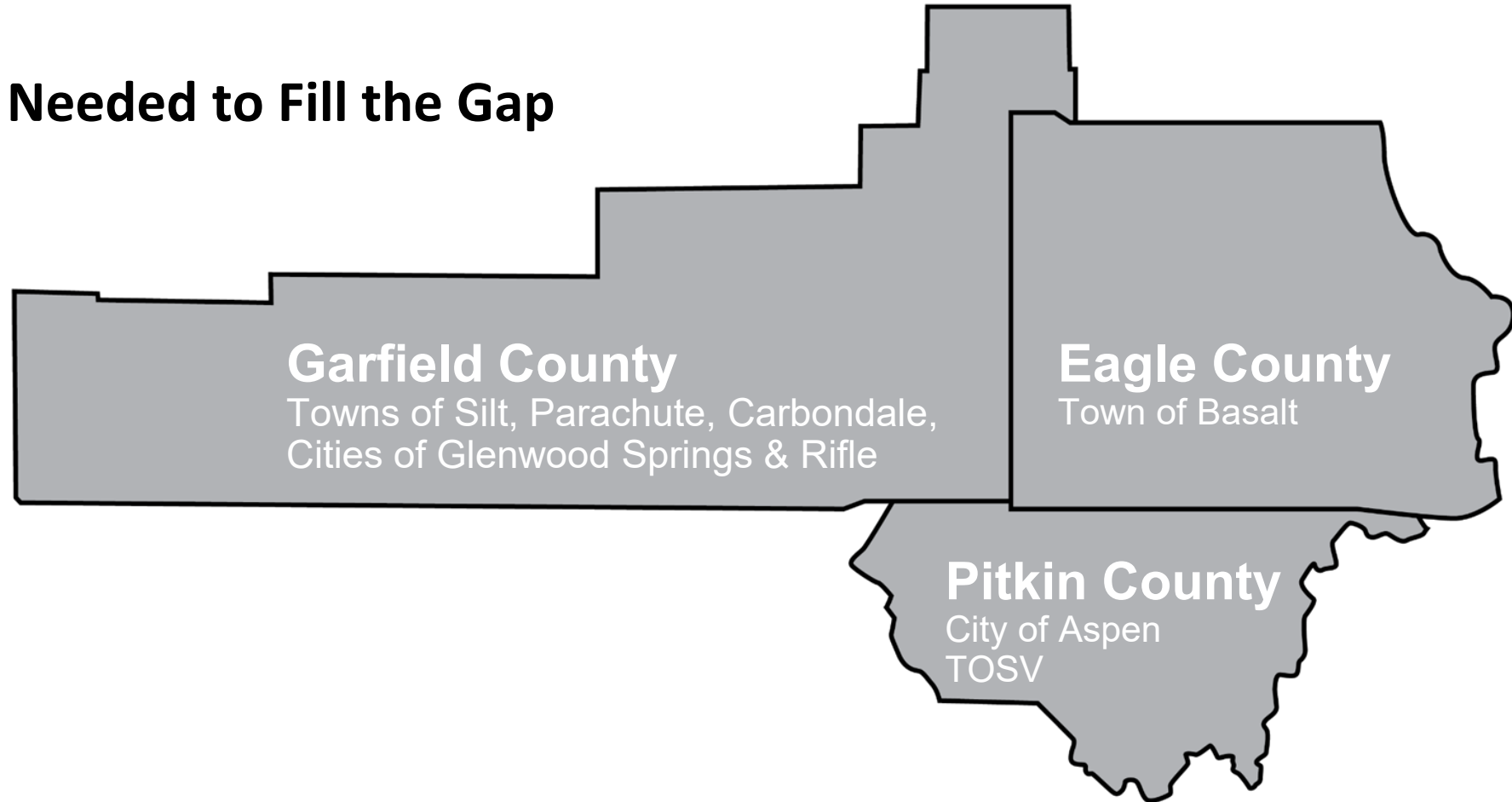
The Pickle

- Went into \$1.5M debt to expand our food distribution infrastructure in 2023
 - Support MCFNS goals
 - Respond to community need
 - Support local farmers
- Unprecedented growth in demand
- Reduction of donations
- Previous and pending fallout of federal and state funding



Investing Together in Food Security

\$2.5 Million Needed to Fill the Gap



One-Time Funding Request

Get LIFT-UP back in the “black”

- Pay off capital debt needed to expand infrastructure for food access
- Have funds to put more food in bellies!



THANK YOU!

“Charitable food assistance is critical for bridging the gap between federal food assistance and meeting basic needs.”

Colorado State University

Food Insecurity in the Parachute to Aspen Corridor Study 2024

