

- As reported by Association of Arizona Food Banks, 41% of those surveyed had to choose between buying food and paying utilities.
- The May 2008 Governor's Survey of Arizona Nonprofits assessed the experiences of Arizona nonprofit organizations over the past year in light of the economic slowdown.
 - Providers responded to a questionnaire between March 4 and April 8, 2008.
 - The survey focused on requests for services, actual services provided, revenue over the past fiscal year, and projections for the next year.
 - Nearly 80% of respondents (77%) said that demand for their services increased since last year. The areas most likely to show increased requests were employment, health and mental health/substance abuse treatment, transportation and domestic abuse. Providers continue to note that demand for transitional housing and shelter services have never kept pace with available resources. Some providers noted that decreases in service provision are more likely due to the provider communities inability to keep up with requests due to lack of space or funding, rather than a lack of need from the community.
 - Over 75% of respondents noted stagnation or a decline in revenues/donations since last year. Providers noting the largest decreases in revenue/donations were from mental health/substance abuse treatment, food and advocacy/case management organizations. They commented that individual donations were down both in quantity and in size of donation.
 - Many providers commented on their solutions for addressing the current economic situation. Some have created waiting lists for services, placed capitations on programs, recruited additional volunteers to replace paid staff or are partnering with similar organizations to share resources and reduce overhead.
 - Looking ahead toward the next year 76% of respondents expect an increase in demand for services. They also noted specific challenges in keeping up with technology improvements, attracting and maintaining qualified staff and expanding services to keep up with the demand.
 - The survey confirms what many in the non-profit, human services delivery system already know: Families in this current economic environment are struggling to meet their basic needs and at the same time, the human services provider community is struggling to meet the needs of families. The responses from this survey clearly show that demand for services is up; and resources and donations are down.
- Community Information & Referral Services Data that became available after the first quarter of fiscal year 2008/2009 reports the following information regarding requests for referral to services indicating that calls from the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2007/2008 to the first quarter of 2008/2009 increased by 37.7% for a total of 23,767 more calls. The top two remain the same with Rent Payment Assistance and Utility Assistance being one and two for both months with Childhood Immunizations third for the first quarter and Emergency Food third for the fourth quarter. They did, however, increase in the number of calls: Rent Payment assistance increased 4% with an additional request of 1140; Utility Assistance increased by 2586 calls for a .2% increase Emergency Food increased by 339 calls for a 2% increase.
- More than 747,058 Arizona residents lived in households that struggled with hunger during the 2005 – 2007 time period, according to the U.S. Department of agriculture's (USDA) annual report on Household Food Security.
 - Even more troubling, the report shows that the number of individuals considered at very low food security in Arizona increased by 31% to 246,372 Arizonans from the previous report, ranking Arizona as the 14th most food insecure state in the nation.
 - Rising joblessness, falling wages and rapidly rising food costs mean that more families are stretched to the limit and beyond.
- Families and individuals facing food insecurity may also be eligible for SNAP (SNAP is the acronym for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the new national name for the Food Stamp Program.)
 - About 57% of the potentially eligible population are currently enrolled in SNAP.
- Boys and Girls Clubs are seeing a 1000 more kids each week.