



# PROJECT GREEN CHALLENGE

## DAY 15 - 2020

Team Name: SEACORPS

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### Is this a problem you are aware of at your school?

Yes. Not on a large scale level, but it is an issue nonetheless. My school population is much less than that of a typical American high school, however, food insecurity remains an issue. Many students do not have enough food to eat and a lot of the food provided by the district is not nutritious or fulfilling. Although this issue is prevalent, faculty often fails to notice as it is difficult to keep track of students' habits, especially when it comes to eating.

Our school provides free breakfasts and paid/reduced cost/free lunches, which depend on the students' household income. However, even though food is available, most of these meals are small and fail to consider special diets and nutritional value.

### How does food insecurity interact with identities such as race, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status? What does this reveal about the intersection between food and justice?

Food insecurity is known to affect vulnerable and at-risk populations the most. BIPOC (Black and Indigenous People of Color) as well as minorities, the LGBT, and low-income individuals are affected most and often face the most struggles when it comes to food and safety. According to Move For Hunger, African-American households face hunger at 2x the rate of white non-Hispanic households. This raises the question of... why are minority groups predominantly the population affected by hunger and food insecurity? The answer is not simple, and rather very complex.

Food insecurity rates and poverty are a direct result of systemic racial, gender, and sexual orientation discrimination that directly correlate with the wealth gap.

Most minorities are forced to work minimum wage jobs to maintain their families, living costs, and the high cost of food around the world. A lack of financial stability forces these groups into areas that lack access to fresh and nutritious food, which poses yet another issue. All these factors, in addition to mass incarceration, the criminalization of poverty, and lack of equity and equal opportunity, just further illustrate the disparity in justice and food security.



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**Research an organization in your state, county, or even campus that is working to address food insecurity. Tell us about this organization and how it supports students. What can you do as an individual to support that work?**

Feeding South Florida is one of the largest organizations in the South Florida area that targets food insecurity and provides hundreds of thousands of meals to those who need them. With several warehouses and donation partners, Feeding South Florida is able to provide meals every day of the year including holidays. Whether it is students, the youth, families, or the elderly, this organization ensures as many people as possible have meals to keep them safe. In terms of students, Feeding South Florida partners with several college campuses and provides food distribution events.

In the last year, Feeding South Florida has provided over 140 million meals. Their mission ever since their founding has been to end hunger in South Florida by providing immediate access to healthy, safe, nutritious meals, as well as by leading poverty and food insecurity efforts and providing innovative programs and education to the general public.

As the biggest food bank in South FL, Feeding South Florida attempts to rescue food from farmers, grocers, retailers, stores, wholesalers, and anyone in the food industry. They value food security as much as they do combating food waste.

Further, as a member of Feeding America, FSF has established an association that supports advocacy efforts and administers education programs that aim to bring awareness to poverty, hunger, and racial inequities.

Over the course of 4 years, Feeding South Florida has attempted to connect with students throughout the areas it serves, to establish programs that aim to provide food and resources to those in need. By recruiting these students as volunteers, raising awareness has been made easier.

I have been a student volunteer for the past 3 years and educated myself on waste and sustainable living and aided in providing over 300,000 pounds of food to my community and neighbouring counties. But my efforts won't stop here. There is more work to be done.