



FOOD SECURITY WEEK 2022

STATUS OF HUNGER IN ALASKA: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH | 12:00PM



FOOD ACCESS FOR ALL ALASKANS

Education | Advocacy | Collaboration



WHAT IS FOOD SECURITY WEEK?





The Alaska Food Coalition (AFC) aims to **alleviate hunger, build healthy communities, and promote access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food.** By cultivating a strong anti-hunger network for Alaskans, the Alaska Food Coalition's mission is to **create systems change to end hunger in Alaska.**

Areas of Focus:

Advocacy and Education

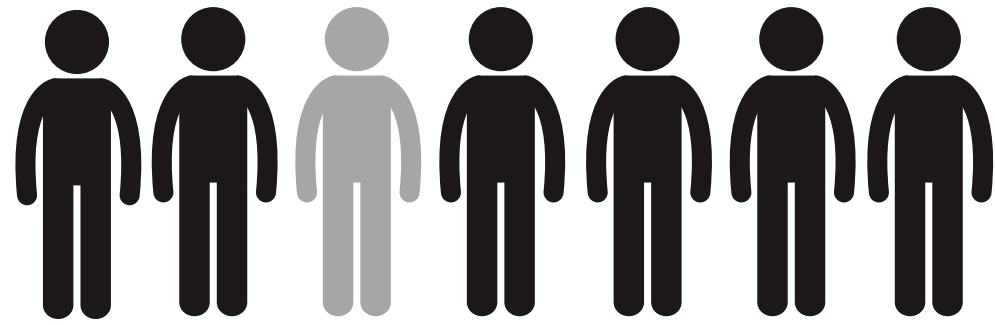
Research

Coalition Building



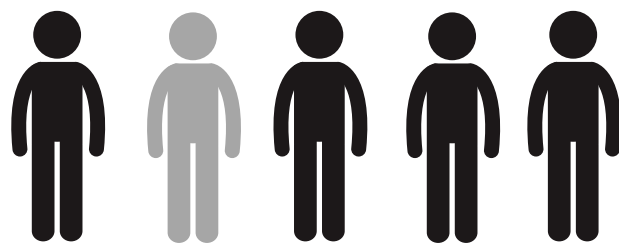
COVID IMPACT ON HUNGER

1 in 7 Alaskans



may have gone hungry

1 in 5 Alaskan Kids



may have gone hungry



FOOD INSECURITY
RATES (OVERALL)

4-10%

10-16%

16-22%

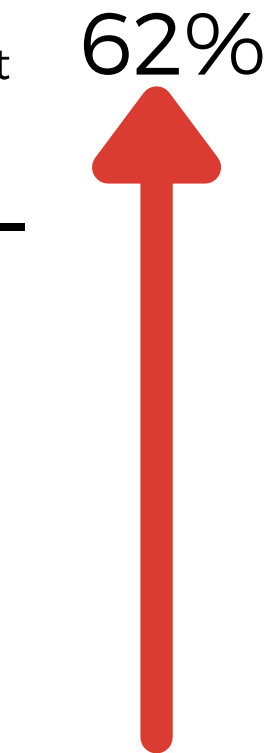
22-28%

28% +

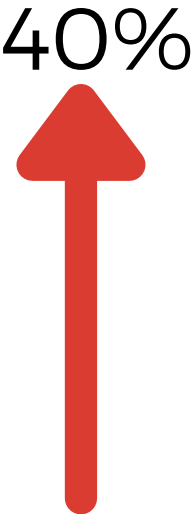
DATA FROM ALASKA FOOD COALITION PARTNERS

Alaska Food Coalition (AFC) members who distribute food shared data on the number of clients served through October, 2021, compared to their pre-pandemic levels. After experiencing a 75% increase at the height of the pandemic, here is a snapshot of what is being seen on the ground around the state now.

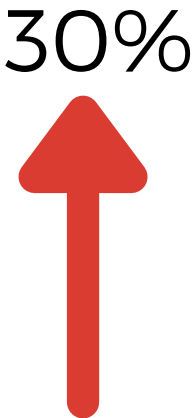
“Through 2020, Kenai peninsula food bank distributed 110% increase over 2019. Overall, we saw about a 40% increase in services.”
-Kenai Peninsula Food Bank



Anchor Point Food Pantry



Kenai Peninsula Food Bank



Nenana Tortella Council on Aging



Bread Line, Fairbanks



Ninilchik Senior Center



Love in Action, Ketckikan



Upper Susitna Food Pantry

“Our numbers have really been a roller coaster based on what services we have available.”
-Love in Action

“Initially we saw a 96% increase in the number of meals we provided. Since we have reopened to congregate meals with limitations -we have seen about 30% increase compared to pre pandemic numbers.”
-Nenana Tortella Council on Aging

Pounds of Food Distributed by FBA 2019-2021

Food Bank of Alaska (FBA) is a critical source of food for AFC partners and agencies across the state. FBA also utilizes Mobile Food Pantries in Anchorage to distribute directly to clients.





KENAI PENINSULA
Food Bank



THE NIKISKI SHELTER OF HOPE: EMERGENCY SHELTER OPEN AND SERVING CLIENTS IN NIKISKI

Opened to clients just
after Christmas

Nikiski homeless shelter
has been years in the
making is now taking in
new clients

Love INC is the nonprofit
taking point on the shelter
10 people currently using
the new facility



EMERGENCY FOOD DRIVES

- Volunteers and staff providing:
 - On-site services
 - Food boxes
 - Soup kitchen
 - Off-site services
 - Delivery to other organizations
 - Emergency food bags
- Servicing:
 - Individuals
 - Shelter in Nikiski
 - Soup kitchens
 - Other organizations





- Five in-person events:
 - Interactive booths
 - Informational pamphlets and surveys
 - Activities and demonstrations

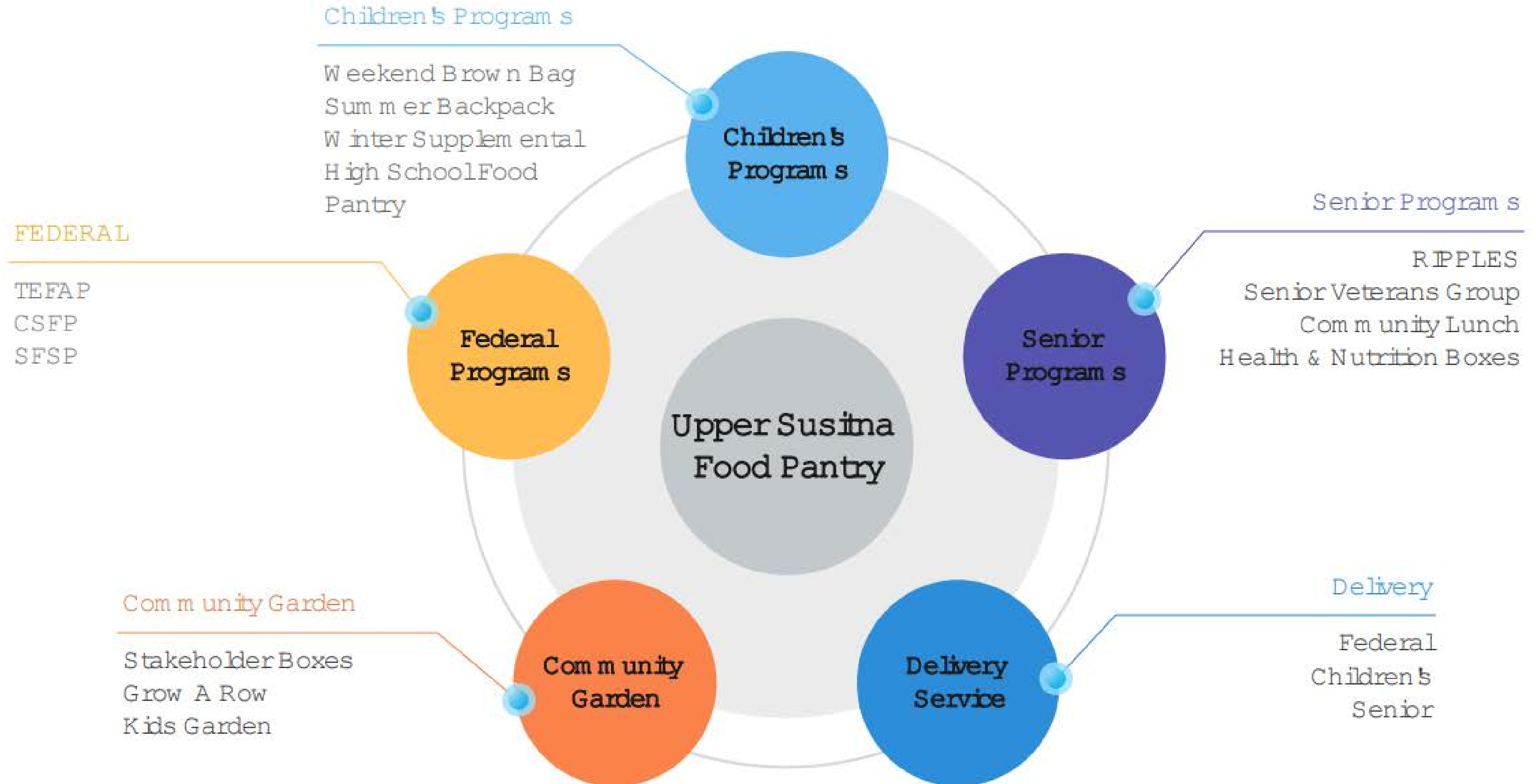
- Social media campaign:
 - Food and health tips
 - Recipes and surveys
 - Videos

- Results:
 - Increased knowledge by over 15%
 - Hundreds of participants
 - Increased use of and participation on KPFB Facebook page and website

HEALTHY EATING LIFESTYLE PROMOTION PROGRAM

- Addressed food insecurity and nutrition knowledge

Upper Susitna Food Pantry



THE BREAD LINE

Feed People & Affirm Lives

- In 2020, the Bread Line's soup kitchen, the Stone Soup Cafe, served record-breaking 48,819 free meals to Fairbanks' neighbors in need. At the same time, a dramatic pandemic-related decrease of in-kind donations meant we received just 32,721lbs of donated food that year.
- In 2021, we took in 48,669lbs of food & served 47,115 meals.



An orange silhouette of the state of Alaska, including its major islands and the Aleutian chain, serves as a background for the text.

ALASKANS SHARE THEIR STORIES



ERIKA

- Newly single working mother of three and full-time student in Palmer.
- She juggled work and school closures during the pandemic.
- Support from her local food pantry as well as SNAP came at a critical moment:

“I went from wondering how I was going to piece together dinner to a fully stocked fridge and pantry. I can pick foods I know my kids will eat and are good for them. Now if my kids say they’re hungry, it doesn’t make me feel bad. I know I have food to feed them. It just means I lost track of time.”



AIRIS

- In March of 2020, Airis and her husband lost their jobs connected to the oil industry.
- Their son has autism, attends school online, and needs therapeutic support; her husband needs to stay home with him.
- They turned to food pantries for the first time during this period.

“We’re these people who make too much to get help, but don’t make enough to survive. We go to the food pantry to make ends meet. Outside of a natural disaster or a pandemic, we’ve never had trouble providing food for our family.”



KAMELIA

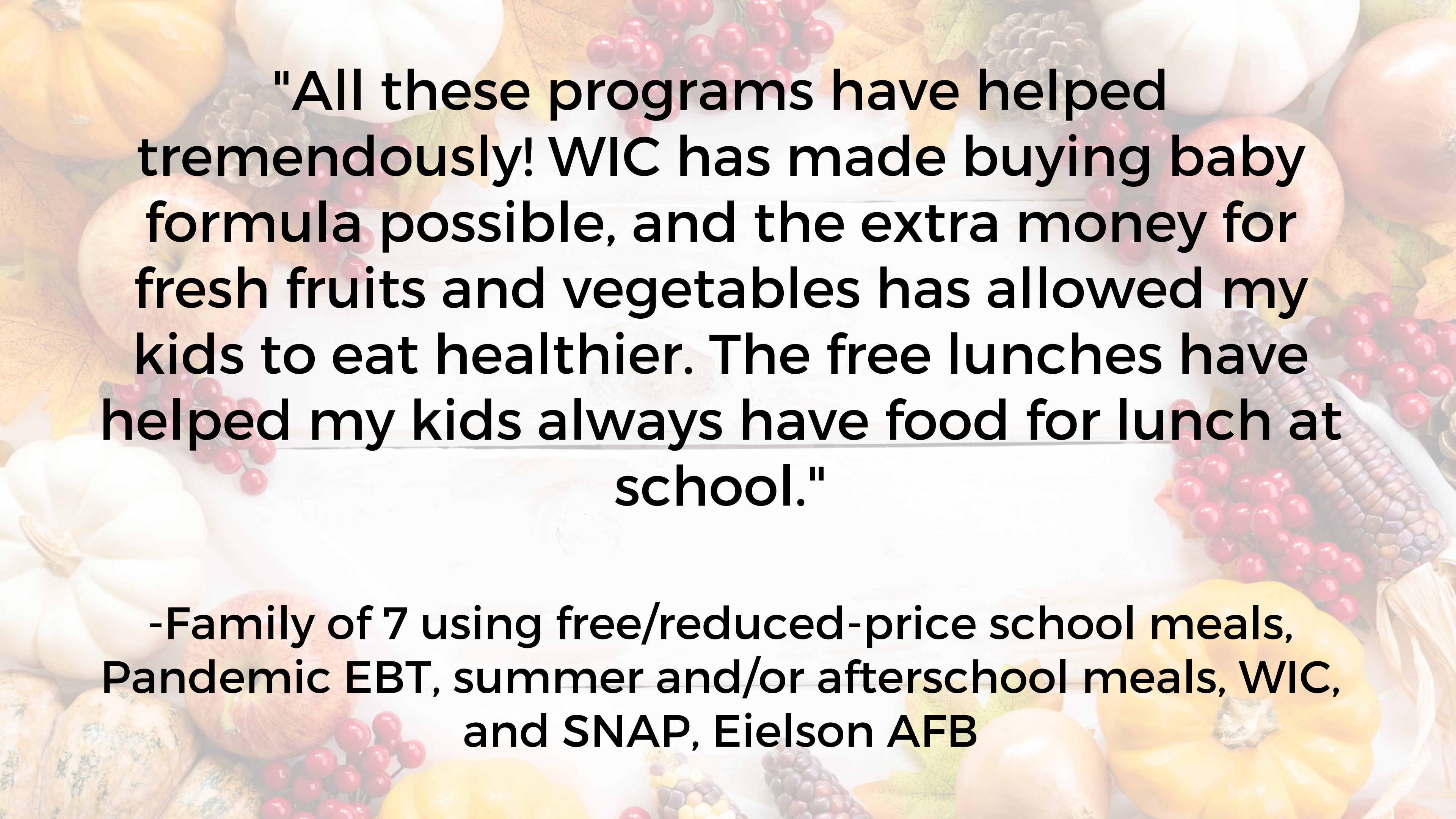
- Kamelia was a married, employed, healthy mother with 5 children under her care.
- When the pandemic hit, she caught the virus and suffered a heart attack as a result of her illness, leaving her unable to work for several months.
- Then she found out she was pregnant. Her husband left before their baby boy was born in the spring of 2021.
- To get through this rough time, she turned to federal food assistance programs and local food pantries to help put food on the table.

***“Once my kids are fed and comfortable, I’m comfortableys.
The worst thing is a child who is hungry.”***



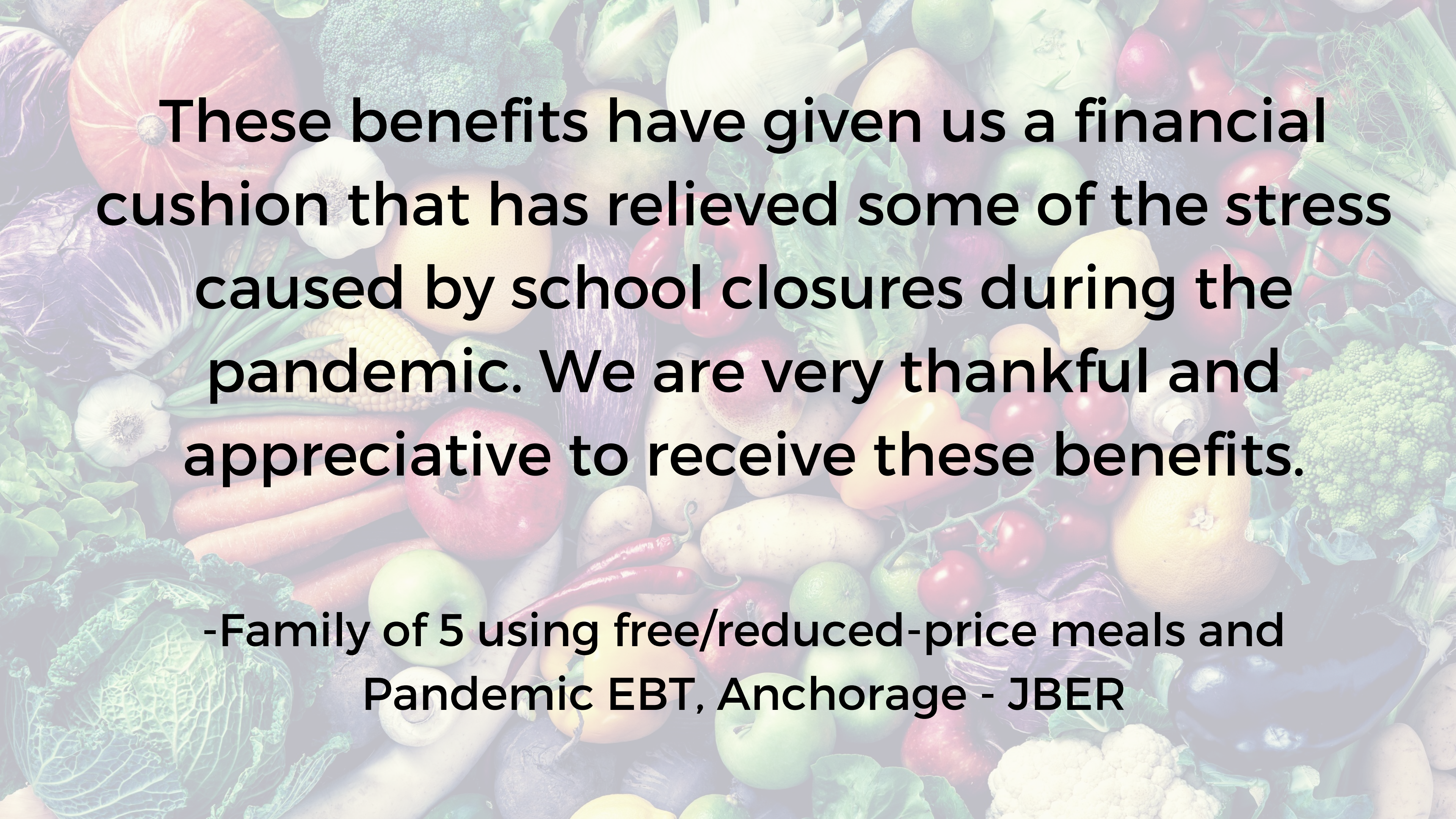
FEDERAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS HELP PUT FOOD ON ALASKANS' TABLES



The background of the slide is a soft-focus collage of autumn-themed items. It includes several pumpkins in shades of orange and white, clusters of red berries, and some dried corn cobs. The overall color palette is warm, with oranges, yellows, and reds, creating a seasonal and comforting atmosphere.


"All these programs have helped tremendously! WIC has made buying baby formula possible, and the extra money for fresh fruits and vegetables has allowed my kids to eat healthier. The free lunches have helped my kids always have food for lunch at school."

-Family of 7 using free/reduced-price school meals, Pandemic EBT, summer and/or afterschool meals, WIC, and SNAP, Eielson AFB



These benefits have given us a financial cushion that has relieved some of the stress caused by school closures during the pandemic. We are very thankful and appreciative to receive these benefits.

**-Family of 5 using free/reduced-price meals and
Pandemic EBT, Anchorage - JBER**



"We are a disabled veteran family. Limited income, these programs helped during the school year for lunches and last year helped bring food to my children during the summer."

**-Family of 7 using free/reduced-price school meals and
Pandemic EBT, Wasilla**