

Beginning a Student Food Pantry at Eastern Michigan University

School of Social Work
in partnership with
College of Health and Human Service,
Student Affairs and Campus Services

March 2015

Food Pantry Objectives

Mission Statement:

The Eastern Michigan University Student Food Pantry is intended to provide temporary assistance for enrolled EMU students in need.

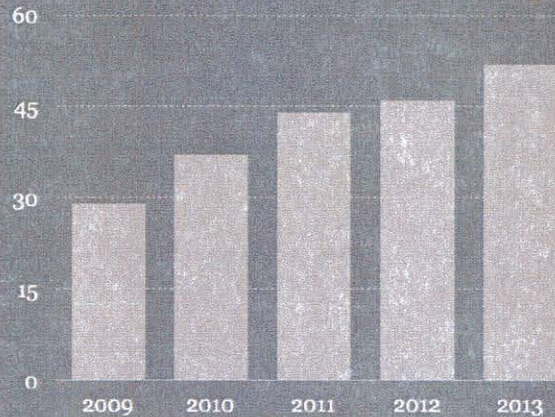
Objectives:

- Create a sustainable resource to temporarily help meet food needs of students
- Provide referrals to campus and community resources to meet emergency, non-food needs
- Distribute food discreetly in easily accessible and safe environments on campus
- Provide students with additional resources to assist them in accessing services in the area
- Involve additional resources and community partners to assure the sustainability of the pantry

Student Need at EMU

Percentages of undergraduate students who received Pell grants for the past five academic years

According to the EMU Financial Aid Office, based on the federal definition of low income, the number of low income students has increased dramatically over the years at EMU.



Response of Other Universities to Student Food Needs

- **MSU, 1993**, Founders of MSU pantry realized students faced food insecurity on a regular basis and needed food assistance so they could focus on their studies, families, and work.
- **Grand Valley State University**, April 2009
- **U of M Dearborn**, 2012
- **Wayne State University**, Campus Kitchen
- **University of Detroit Mercy**, Campus Kitchen



Removing Barriers from Being in School

According to EMU's Degree and Retention Plan, "Eastern Michigan University is recognized as one of the most culturally diverse institutions in the Midwest. In the past 20 years, the cultural demographics of our student population have changed dramatically, especially among Black and Latino students."

Eastern recognizes that we have one of the most culturally diverse student bodies in the Midwest -- this means we also have students from all different types of socioeconomic backgrounds.

How can we expect our students to succeed in school if they can't afford a meal?

Community Response

Many community leaders have offered support in beginning and sustaining a food pantry for EMU students, including:

- Food Gatherers
- Earthworks Urban Farm
- Gleaners Food Bank
- Growing Hope
- Hope Clinic Food Pantry



Proposed University Response

A willingness to meet urgent student need by creating a **Food Pantry** based on:

- Collaboration between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs
- University-Community partnerships
- Opportunities for students to serve
- Potential for inter-professional service projects

Donations Expected

- Food (donated or purchased through funds raised by EMU Foundation)
- Workers (CHHS work-study students)
- Volunteers (recruited through VISION and CHHS)
- Space (donated by CHHS)
- Shelving or other equipment (through University surplus)
- Financial and programmatic accountability (provided by the School of Social Work)

References

The Campus Kitchens Project. (n.d.). Retrieved February 17, 2015, from <http://www.campuskitchens.org/>

Degree Completion & Retention Plan. (2014, January 1). Retrieved February 17, 2015, from <http://www.emich.edu/dcr/plan/factor6.php>

Grand Valley State University Women's Center. (2015, February 11). Retrieved February 13, 2015, from http://www.gvsu.edu/women_cen/student-food-pantry-95.htm

Student Engagement: Student Food Pantry. (n.d.). Retrieved February 17, 2015, from <http://umdearborn.edu/695804/>

MSU Food Bank. (2014, January 1). Retrieved February 13, 2015, from <http://foodbank.msu.edu/>