

Houston Food Bank actively connects with communities across our 18-county service area, ensuring culturally relevant and accessible services based on direct neighbor insights. We engage our partners and neighbors in creating programmatic solutions, leading the way to positive change.

We Empower Our Neighbors Through Direct Engagement

In 2023, we began a series of two-way conversations with our neighbors to help us collectively understand community strengths, traits and opportunities for improvement.



**Conducted 30
community listening
sessions**



**Engaged 15
neighborhoods**



**Heard 300
neighbor voices**



**Partnered with 157
community-serving
organizations**

We Leverage Community Feedback To Drive Innovation

Houston Food Bank aligns resources with community needs through qualitative data from neighbor engagements. By engaging with established coalitions and workgroups, we foster mindful conversations on health, civic engagement, equity and food insecurity. We formed partner and neighbor advisory committees in 2022 to enhance our strategic approach to impactful change.

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| 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified 52 program and service opportunities through committee work Elevated neighbor voice through Farm Bill advocacy and national speaking forums Refined goals to 4 systems-level opportunities |
| 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formed staff-led Joint Committee to integrate voices, decision-making seats Launched Cultural Response Initiative in partnership with UT School of Public Health Created interactive map identifying cultural communities within each neighborhood Developed Food and Culture Guide, highlighting food preferences and cultural practices Proposed pipeline policy, program, and service models 2024 co-implementation |
| 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harness qualitative data to demonstrate need for more multi-sector collaborative opportunities |

For more information about Community Engagement at the Houston Food Bank, contact Toral Shah at tshah@houstonfoodbank.org or Kristie Yit at kyit@houstonfoodbank.org