



## Chester City Community Food Security Survey

Developed by the United States Department of Agriculture

Administered by Philabundance

### Methodology

Sample: 398 randomly selected registered voters in Chester, PA

Method: Phone interview

Dates: Conducted from July 27-29, 2010 by Philabundance employees

Margin of error: +/- 4.89% in 95 out of 100 cases

### Topline

In a sample of 398 individuals living in the City of Chester:

**23.6% are very food insecure.** These individuals have “reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.” Stated simply, we estimate over 8,000 Chester residents do not have enough means to put food on the table.

**44.5% are food insecure.** These individuals have “reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet.” This often leads to consumption of unhealthy foods which lead to obesity related illnesses.

**53.8% stated it was too far to travel for nutritious food.**<sup>1</sup> This confirms that even those who have adequate income to provide healthy meals, often choose more convenient, but less nutritious options.

### Comparison<sup>2</sup>

Household Designation	Chester	Pennsylvania	United States
Very Food Insecure	23.6%	4.2%	5.7%
Food Insecure	44.5%	11.2%	14.6%

### Analysis

This survey provided overwhelming evidence that the City of Chester is a food desert, due to lack of access to food, as well as, the means to purchase healthy quantities of food. Philabundance currently serves 18 agencies over 750,000 pounds of food in the immediate Chester area. Though we consider this area “well served” by our traditional measures, this survey shows there is still a great gap in food insecurity that must be met with more comprehensive solutions.

<sup>1</sup> This additional question is not included in the USDA’s Community Food Security Assessment, but was incorporated by Philabundance staff to accurately gauge individuals’ perceived access to nutritious food.

<sup>2</sup> Comparison based on *Household Food Insecurity, 2008* by Nord, et al. Pennsylvania statistics are calculated as an average between 2006-2008