

2. Basic Needs

Why is this broad determinant important to a thriving community?

Basic needs are important to the survival of individuals, families and communities. Basic needs include food, clothing, housing, child care, and healthcare. Communities cannot thrive when families live in poverty or below the self-sufficiency level and have to go without basic essentials. This can have short and long-term consequences such as stress, chronic illness, lack of trust in the community, and reduced social cohesion.

In low income, food insecure families, hunger, and obesity may be causally related—a phenomenon known as the “hunger-obesity paradox.” This term describes the situation in which families that have to endure hunger episodically and overeat high calorie fat-laden foods when they can afford food. Calorie dense foods are often cheaper and more affordable to low income families who frequently live in areas without access to grocery stores and other health food outlets.

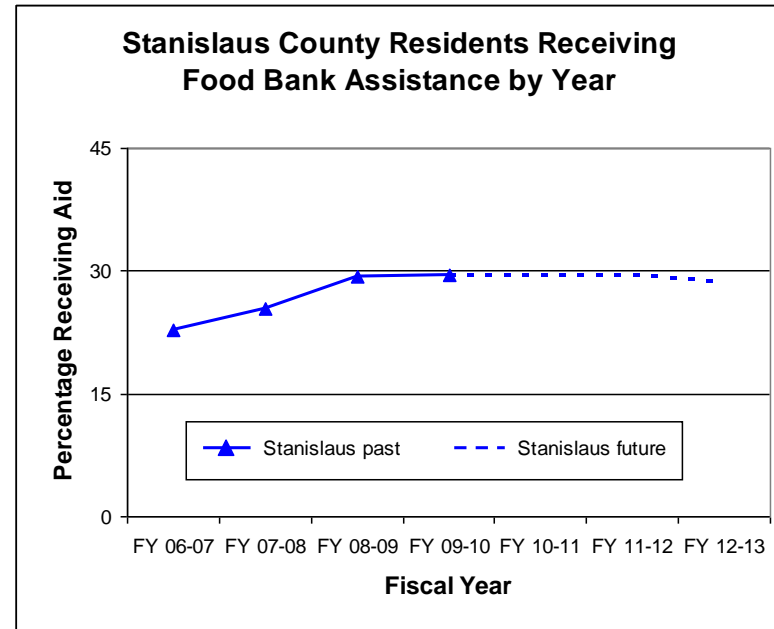
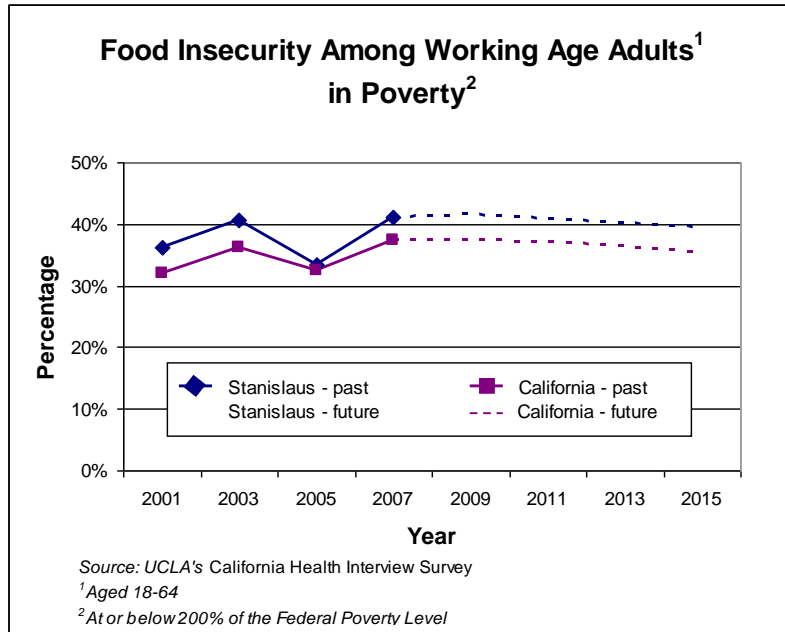


After food and housing, child care is often the next most expensive item in a family’s household budget. For low-income families, child care can take up half or more of a household’s income. In many situations, families have found it to be more economical to have one adult member stay home and take care of children rather than work because their potential salary would not or would barely cover the costs of child care. The resulting loss of income and productivity often creates a financial burden on the family, including making it difficult to meet their basic needs in other areas, such as food, housing and health care. Lost family income may also place a burden on society if the family is no longer self-sufficient and relies on public assistance programs to make ends meet.

Community Result 1: All residents will have access to sufficient and affordable healthy food.

Population Outcome Measures:

- ✓ Percentage of (working age) adults who are food insecure – Goal 1
- ✓ Percentage of residents fed at food banks and soup kitchens – Goal 2



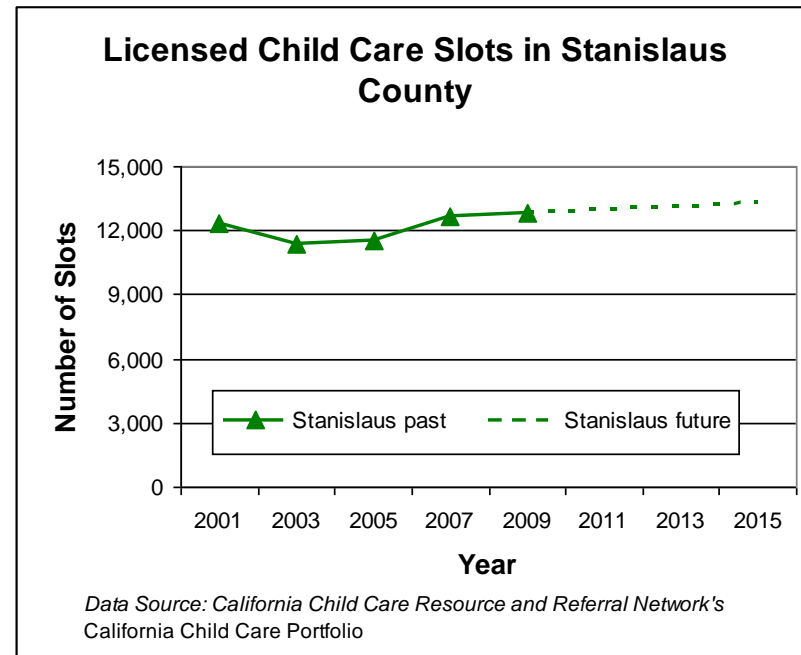
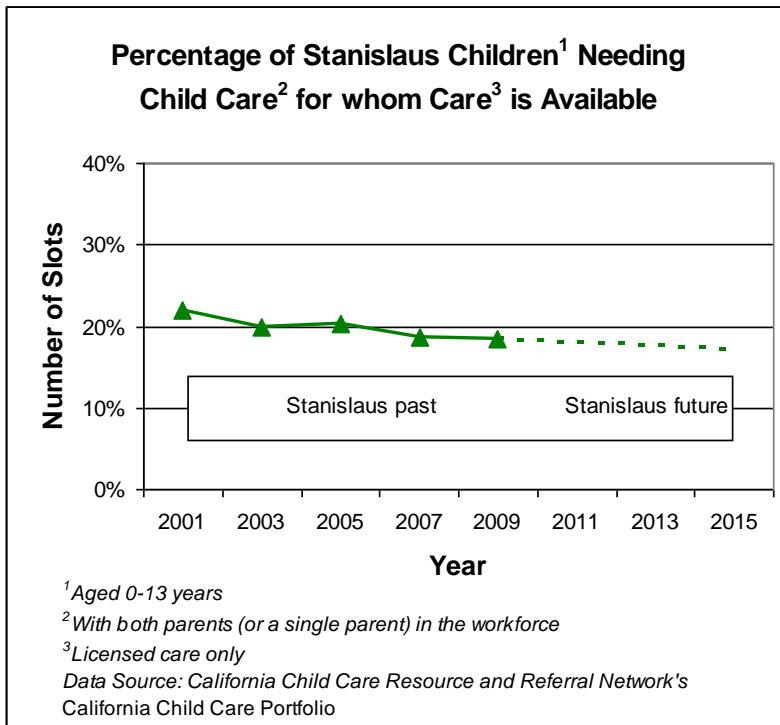
Goal 1-1: Reduce hunger among Stanislaus County residents.

Planned Activities	Participating Organizations
Increase enrollment of eligible individuals into federal food assistance programs	CNAP partnership
Expand availability of fresh produce by maintaining farmers markets and increasing the number of produce stands at schools	Ceres Partnership for Healthy Children , UC Cooperative Extension / Stanislaus County , West Modesto King Kennedy Neighborhood Collaborative (WMKKNC)
Establish and implement a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program in West Modesto to increase residents' access to affordable healthy foods	WMKKNC, City Ministries Network, UC Cooperative Extension / Stanislaus County , USDA / Modesto Service Center, Kaiser Permanente of Northern California , East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District
Coordinate the provision of crisis and emergency food to needy families through food banks and soup kitchens	United Way , Interfaith Ministries

Community Result 2: All Stanislaus County families with children will have access to quality affordable childcare.

Population Outcome Measures:

- ✓ Number of waiting lists for child care in county – Goal 1
- ✓ Percentage of children needing child care for whom licensed care is available – Goals 1 and 2
- ✓ Number of child care slots in the county – Goal 2



Goal 2-1: Make identifying existing child care openings easier for parents.

Planned Activities	Participating Organizations
Consolidate waiting lists and referral systems and develop a single website to help parents identify existing subsidized and unsubsidized child care openings	Stanislaus Local Child Development Planning Council , Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) / Children and Families Division
Incorporate information about child care facilities and slots into the 211 system	United Way

Goal 2-2: Increase the number of child care slots available in the county.

Planned Activities	Participating Organizations
Work with ROP (Regional Occupational Program) programs and colleges to expand child care education programs as a strategy to increase the number of child care slots available in the county	The Alliance , Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) , Waterford Unified School District

Community Result 3: All Stanislaus County residents will have access to affordable housing and utilities.

TBD

Community Result 4: Recruit and support employers who offer a living-wage.

TBD