

## Case Study: Using CODI to Expand Reach and Impact at Weld Food Bank

### Background

The Weld Food Bank is experiencing an increase in demand, now serving twice the number of individuals compared to prior years. With a grant from the Colorado Energy Foundation and technical assistance from the Colorado Futures Center, the organization sought a comprehensive view of the county using the Colorado Disproportional Impact Indicator (CODI) to inform and prioritize its resources.

### The Challenge

With food insecurity across Weld County growing, the Food Bank needed to answer a critical question: **“What parts of the community are we not currently serving?”**

### The CODI-Informed Approach

By leveraging CODI’s data, the Food Bank was able to identify two key underserved populations:

- **Seniors:** CODI revealed high concentrations of food insecurity among senior citizens, particularly in rural pockets of the county.
- **Temporary workers:** Data highlighted the geographic distribution of populations associated with a large local employer.

### Implementation of Solutions

Once these gaps were identified:

- Seniors: information and staff were deployed directly to these areas to raise awareness about the *Senior Box Program*. As a result, usage of the senior boxes increased by **14%**, particularly in areas outside of the City of Greeley. Each box contains one month’s worth of food—non-perishables provided by the USDA and perishables sourced from the local community. The boxes are delivered to clients by:
  - Home delivery via volunteers
  - DoorDash-style services
  - In-person pickup at the food bank
- Temporary Workers – identified areas of need to boost the food bank’s mobile food pantries in areas across the county.

### Community Impact and Reaction

At this time, representatives from the Weld Food Bank have made over 30 presentations to local funders, elected officials, city managers, other non-profit organizations and opinion leaders.

- The Weld Trust and other philanthropies learned that CODI effectively visualizes community needs across 12 dimensions—including food insecurity, early childhood education (ECE), and health care access.



- CODI enabled the Trust and other organizations to see how Weld County's priorities differ from other parts of the state.
  - While the state focuses on the transition from housing, and environmental concerns, Weld County faces:
    - 30% of children reading below grade level by 3rd grade
    - Limited access to health care in rural areas
    - Housing issues, though present, are secondary to food insecurity, education and health gaps

## Why Use CODI

- **Credibility:** CODI provides reliable third-party data source to back up answering frequent questions about data origins.
- **Comprehensiveness:** The 12 community dimensions within CODI provide a broad view of community needs including and beyond food insecurity.
- **Accessibility:** The visual, map-based format makes insights easy to understand and act upon.

## Key Insight (Aha Moment!)

The team's biggest realization came when CODI exposed the critical gap in early childhood education access and reading proficiency among children. Some areas where 30% of children were not reading at a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level.

## Conclusion

The Weld County Food Bank's partnership with CODI has reshaped how the organization identifies need, deploys resources, and engages funders. With clearer data and broader awareness, the Food Bank is now better equipped to serve its community where it is needed most.

