

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank:): Joe Skibbens (MPIA '20)

For the past two years, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank has strived to deeply understand food insecurity in Western Pennsylvania through qualitative and quantitative research. To help assess the organization's impact and guide strategic planning, Joe Skibbens (MPIA'20) worked this summer as the Evaluation and Decision Support Department's Qualitative Feedback Intern. He worked alongside the Food Bank's qualitative feedback coordinators, and Dr. Nora Bridges (University of Pittsburgh), on the completion of the Food Bank's Community Voices Report. This report is comprised of feedback collected from 250 participants across the 11 counties in the Food Bank's area of service. The purpose of the Community Voices Report is to document lived experiences of food insecurity, dispel assumptions surround the eating habits of young adults, and refine food bank programs to better reach our community members.

Joe says, "Using semi-structured interviews, surveys, and other qualitative research activities, we created a space for young adults to share, in their own words, their experiences with food bank programming, their cooking and eating habits, and their experiences with hunger."