

## How Virginia Mason Franciscan Health Can Support Cultural Relevance in Food Banks

While the list of best practices for cultural relevance in food banks may seem overwhelming, your Virginia Mason Franciscan Health Food Systems team is here to help! We understand that not every intervention is feasible for each food pantry, but we can help strategize an attainable and sustainable approach to improving cultural relevance at your food pantry. Below are some examples of how we can support you:

- Accessing and interpreting demographic data.
- Client survey development.
- Assistance with building a client advisory board.
- Referrals and introductions to vendors that specialize in fresh produce and local farms.
- Provide an example of a multicultural holiday calendar.
- Provide examples of food preferences by culture.
- Referrals and introductions to neighboring food banks with similar purchasing goals to help leverage economies of scale.
- Assistance with implementing a choice model and/or SWAP program from the Washington Food Coalition.
- Development of a nutrition policy to include cultural awareness.
- Monetary support for translating important documents, recipes, signage, etc.
- Printing and distribution of translated materials.

Virginia Mason Franciscan Health may be able to support cultural relevance work in other ways not listed above. Please share your ideas and requests with the Virginia Mason Franciscan Health Food Systems team by emailing [VMFHCommunityHealth@vmfh.org](mailto:VMFHCommunityHealth@vmfh.org).



\$5,000 mini-grants, known as Mission Based Initiative Grants, are also available on a rolling basis for specialty projects related to the Virginia Mason Franciscan Health priorities. More information about these grants are available on the Virginia Mason Franciscan Health Community Impact website, under the funding request tab.

