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## Improving Accessibility of Food Resources in Polk County

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# Improving Accessibility of Food Resources in Polk County

Authors: Katie Helyer, Courtney Roth, Patrick Stone, Kailee King, Sophia Tolento, Mario Rodriguez, Daniella Back

## Aim & Goals

- Increase awareness of food resources in Polk County
- Improve collaboration between food resource organizations
- Optimize food resource distribution in Polk County

## Background

Food resources in Polk County have not coordinated with each other as a system to provide comprehensive availability.

7 Food banks/pantries

1:10 adults  
1:5 children  
Are food insecure

18% of children felt they didn't have enough to eat

(Marion-Polk County Community Health Assessment, 2019) (Marion-Polk County Community Health Assessment, 2019)

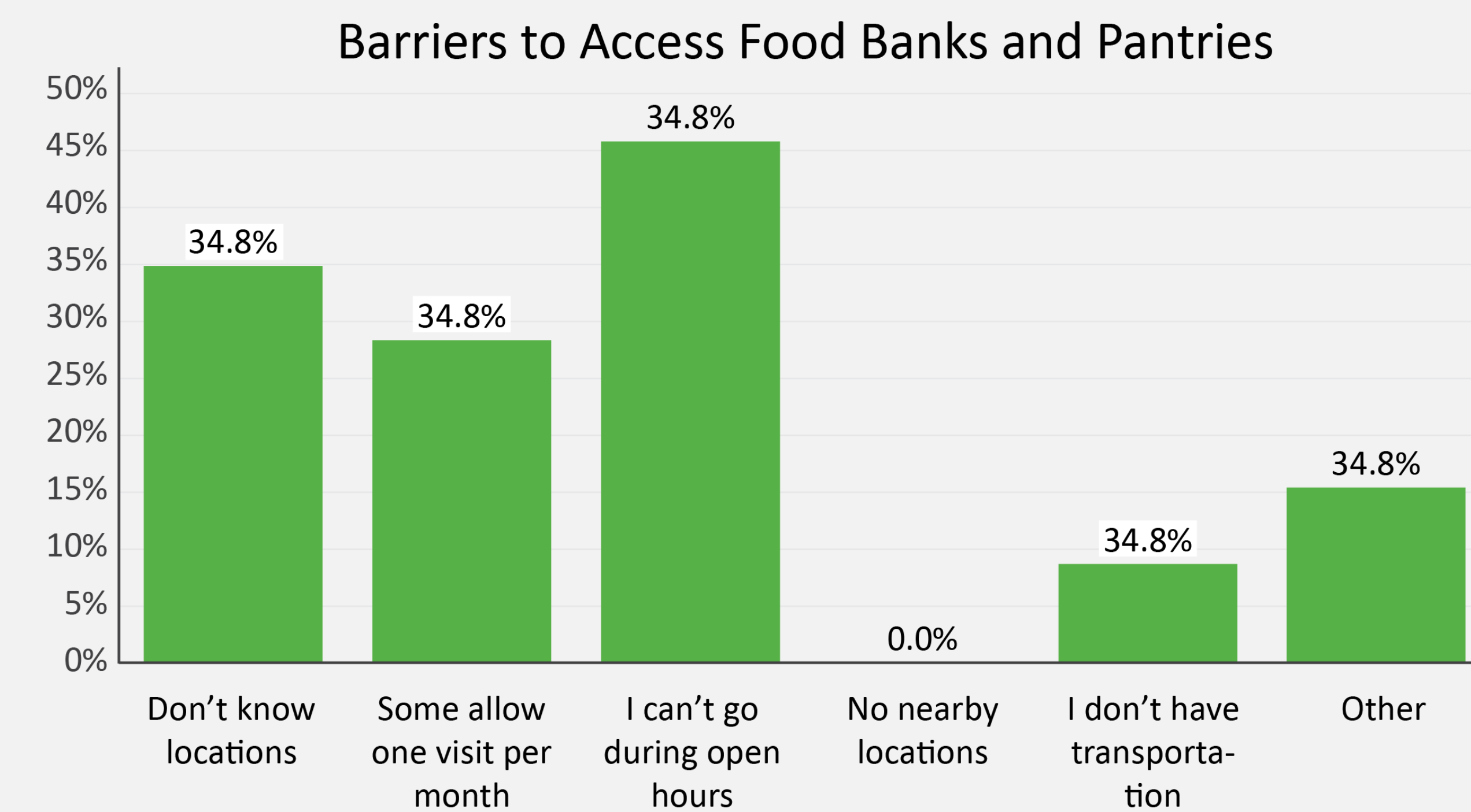
## Methodology

- This project utilized the SOAR process improvement model:



- Assessed current resources for:
  - Hours of operation
  - Clear and updated information
  - Ease of access
  - Barriers and limitations
- Surveyed residents of Polk County about their needs and past experiences.

## Survey Responses

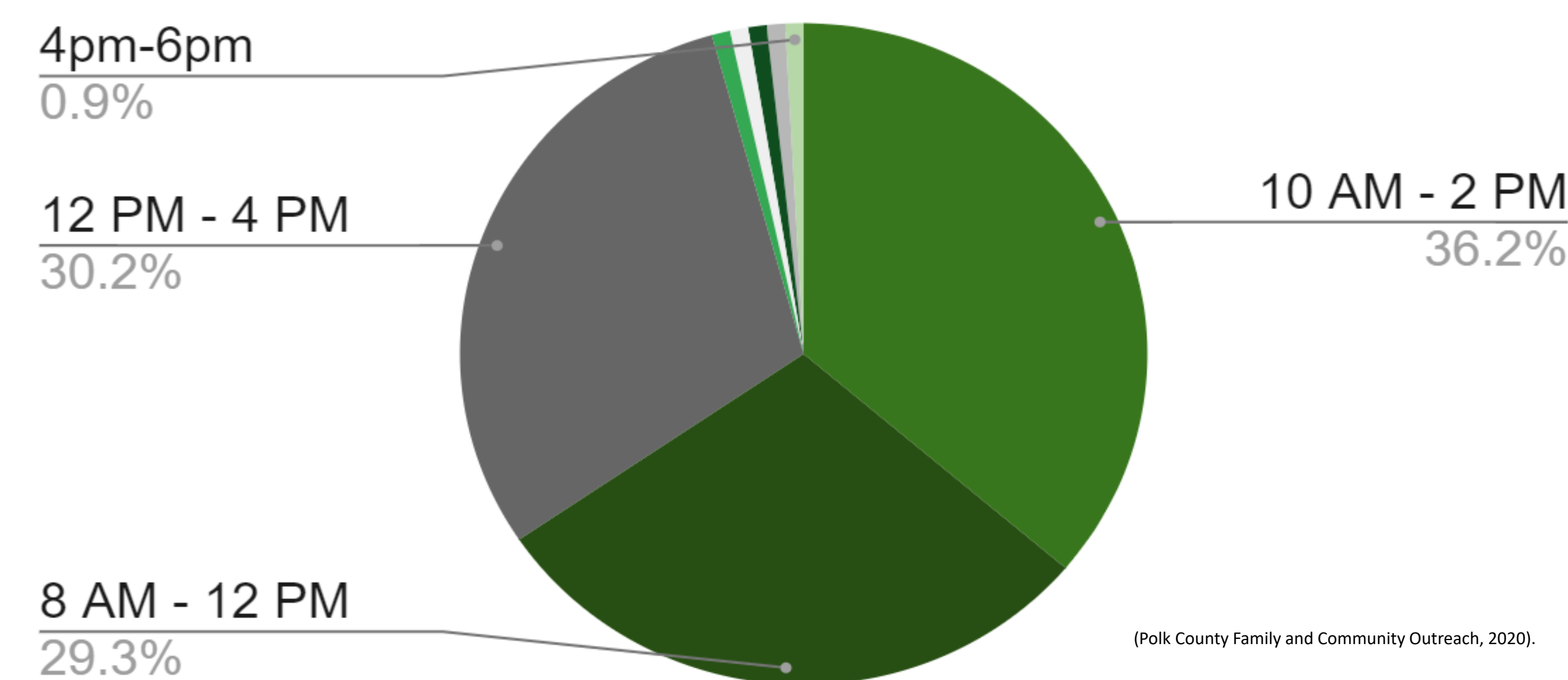


"...for a struggling working family it's hard to access"

"Hard to find the local resources. No return call."

"Unfortunately I couldn't go back because I don't have transportation."

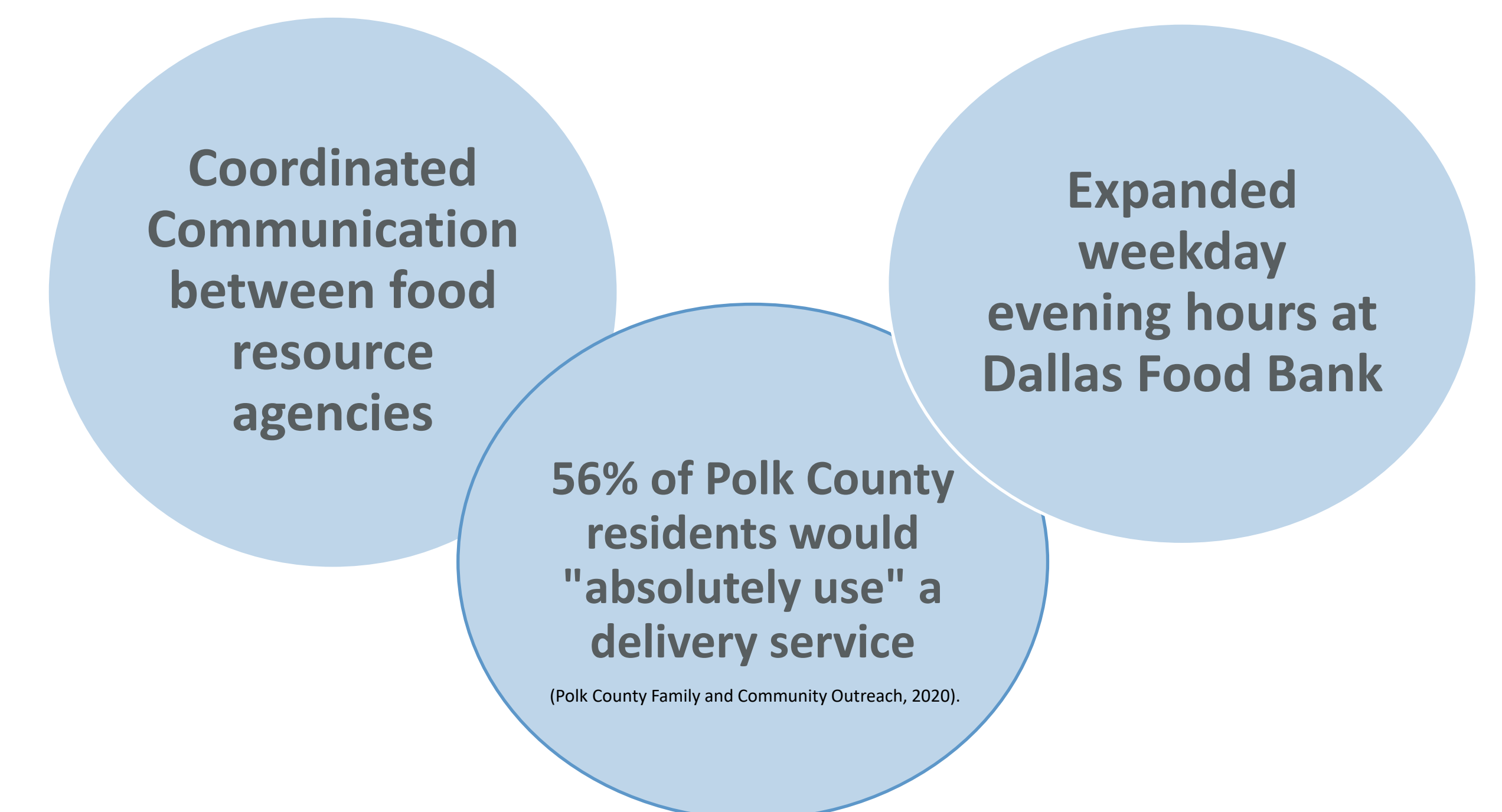
On a weekend, what time frame would work best to access food at a food bank or food pantry?



## Limitations & Discussion

- Pandemic restrictions on in-person activities.
- Financial expenditure
- Communication limited between food banks and CALs
- Many organizations are exclusively or partially volunteer-run, limiting hours available.

## Results



## Looking Forward

- More volunteers will be utilized
- Food box delivery will be expanded
- Weekend and evening hours will be available
- Dallas Family and Community Outreach (FCO) has become a satellite distributor for the Dallas Food Bank

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