

Governing in Crisis Teaching Guide

Lisa Scales

President and CEO of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Battling Hunger in our Home Region

Interview Summary

Among the most troubling images of COVID-19's impact are those capturing long lines of people, sometimes in cars and sometimes on foot, waiting for the food they need, for themselves and their families, to be provided by their local food bank. As a result of the pandemic, more than 50 million Americans, including one in every four children, are battling hunger. Food banks across the country have faced daunting challenges as demand has grown, food supplies have diminished, and social distancing has reduced volunteers. Lisa Scales, President and CEO of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, which serves eleven counties and is one of the largest in the country, discusses how the Food Bank and its community partners have adapted to meet the needs of the Pittsburgh region through expanded service, innovative programming, and more holistic services. She also offers perspectives on the evolving mission of food banks and policy changes that will be required if current and anticipated challenges to our country's food safety net are to be effectively met.

To watch the video interview please visit: <https://youtu.be/5leXmZI09mM>

The Governing in Crisis series videos, podcasts, and resource materials are available at:
www.iop.pitt.edu/governing-crisis

Potential Uses:

- Post a governance series video on Canvas and ask students to respond to a discussion question about the video, as well as comment on 1-2 of their classmates' posts.
- Show a clip of the video during class to enrich learning, emphasize a point, and/or contextualize a topic.
- Create a resource folder on Canvas that includes governance series videos, accompanied by "learn and do more" documents, as well as other links to support student growth related to current events.
- Incorporate a governance series video into pre-class readings for a live discussion using or adapting the questions below.

Suggested Written Reflection Questions

- What state and federal policies support that work of food banks? What additional policy reforms could further improve and/or expand the food security safety net? How would these policies improve food security in your community?
- Read *College Student Hunger Statistics and Research*. Were you aware of the high prevalence of food insecurity amongst college students? How can you take action to reduce food insecurity among college students? What resources are available for students at your college?
- What did you find interesting in the interview? What is something that you disagreed with?

Suggested Classroom Discussion Questions

- What lessons can we learn from responding to natural disasters that we can apply to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic? How is responding to natural disasters different than responding to the current pandemic?
- How did the COVID-19 pandemic impact food pantries' supplies and operations? What changes have they made to adapt to new challenges?

Related Reading

- Read the Pittsburgh Post Gazette's *Food pantries have adjusted to increased need, but they anticipate a surge*.
- Check out Public Source's *Pittsburgh Food Policy Council working to create a regional food economy that benefits all*.
- Visit the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank *website* to learn more about their impact.
- Check out a *segment featuring Lisa Scales on CNN with Anderson Cooper*.
- Read a short history of the *federal supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP)*.

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