

1. Access That Actually Works

Participants consistently highlighted that supports exist, but **navigation, timing, and fit** remain barriers.

What was heard

- Systems are fragmented; people often don't know where to start or get bounced between services
- Seniors, families, and people with mobility or transportation barriers face added strain
- Food access points, income supports, and eligibility rules are not always clearly communicated

Planning implications

- Reinforces the value of **low-barrier, one-stop pop-ups**
 - Strong case for shared intake, co-location, and clearer hand-offs between services
 - Navigation support remains a cross-cutting need across all Thrive pillars
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2. Food Security Is About Infrastructure, Not Just Food

Food insecurity was framed less as a lack of programs and more as a **capacity and coordination issue**.

What was heard

- Limited storage, prep, and processing space restricts the ability to use available food
- Underused kitchens (schools, churches, community spaces) are an untapped asset
- Seniors face access challenges tied to transportation, safety, and food suitability
- Liability concerns and unclear donation rules still limit food recovery

Planning implications

- Aligns with Food Hub expansion and partnership-based infrastructure solutions
 - Points toward shared-use kitchens, education-based programming, and donation education
 - Food efforts are strongest when paired with learning, connection, and dignity
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3. Economic Pressure Is Showing Up Everywhere

Participants named **cost of living**, especially housing, as a growing driver of strain — even for people who are employed.

What was heard

- Rising rent directly reduces food security and financial stability
- Increasing number of working individuals and families accessing food programs
- Short-term crises (missed pay, illness, paperwork delays) have outsized impacts

Planning implications

- Supports the continued focus on **income access, tax filing, and benefit navigation**
 - Reinforces the need for crisis-responsive supports built into pop-ups
 - Strengthens the case for upstream prevention rather than emergency response alone
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4. Education as a Practical Stress Reducer

Learning was framed as **confidence-building**, not academic.

What was heard

- People want simple, usable information (e.g., cooking basics, budgeting, meal planning)
- Interest in short, practical formats: videos, handouts, demonstrations
- Nutrition education is most effective when paired with access to food
- Literacy and skills support remain foundational, especially for families

Planning implications

- Education works best when embedded into service delivery, not separated
 - Pop-ups that combine help + learning reduce stigma and increase uptake
 - Reinforces Revive Thrive's education-and-access model
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5. Connection Is a Protective Factor

Across activities, participants emphasized that **belonging and trust** matter as much as services.

What was heard

- Low-pressure, welcoming spaces reduce isolation and fear of asking for help
- Peer support (buddy systems, shared learning, intergenerational spaces) builds confidence
- Families with young children and young parents benefit most from relational approaches
- Quiet reflection activities created space for voices that don't always speak up

Planning implications

- Validates use of mixed engagement tools (conversation tables, reflection spaces)
 - Supports designing pop-ups as **community spaces**, not just service sites
 - Highlights non-tangible outcomes (trust, confidence, connection) as real impact
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6. Strong Desire for Collaboration That's Practical

Participants weren't asking for new tables — they were asking for **better alignment**.

What was heard

- Interest in pairing existing programs rather than creating new ones

- Desire for quick, testable actions that partners can pilot together
- Recognition that no single organization can address pressure points alone

Planning implications

- Reinforces Revive Thrive's coordination role
- Supports using forum outputs to seed **small, partner-ready pilots**
- Aligns with Tamarack-style collective impact without adding process burden

What This Means for Revive Thrive (Plain-Language Takeaways)

- The forum **validated the direction** Revive Thrive is already taking
- Community pressure points are **interconnected**, not siloed
- Pop-ups that combine access, education, and connection directly relate to what was shared
- Impact is showing up both **tangibly** (access, referrals, food) and **intangibly** (confidence, trust, reduced isolation)

Acknowledgment

The Revive Thrive Forum was made possible through the support of the Cariboo Regional District, the Prince George & Region Prosperity Fund, and Community Futures Cariboo Chilcotin. Their investment supports community-led collaboration and sustained poverty-reduction efforts in Williams Lake and area.

