Network Forum
September 13, 2023
Welcome!

• Please enter your name, organization and town in chat

• **Enter questions in the Q&A** and we will answer at the end of each presenter’s section

• To view captions for the presentation, click “show captions” in the meeting controls of your Zoom screen.

• Recording and slides will be sent out after the webinar.
Today’s Agenda

1. Farm Bill and Legislative Update – Jennie Hirsch
2. Listening Sessions Results – Aubrey Roscoe
3. New! Welcome Poster – Miranda Muro
4. Order Ahead Opportunity – Kristen Skulte
5. Neighbor Resources Overview – Chris O’Rourke
6. Community Impact Grants Timeline – Miranda Muro
7. Network Advisory Council— Miranda Muro
8. Thanksgiving Timeline – Chris O’Rourke
9. Grocery Purchasing Program Update – Chris O’Rourke
COMMUNITY IMPACT PLAN 2023 - 2025

PILLAR A
INCREASE ACCESS
We will increase access to food assistance across the state and provide our neighbors with more fresh, nutritious, and culturally preferred food.

PILLAR B
INVEST IN PARTNERS
We will make a historic investment in our network of community hunger-relief partners to bolster operations, improve the experience of obtaining food assistance, and increase our collective impact.

PILLAR C
CREATE LASTING FOOD SECURITY
To reduce food insecurity for good, we will connect our partners and neighbors with resources that build economic security while pursuing public support to address root causes of hunger.

PILLAR D
EMBODY EQUITY
We will apply the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion to all aspects of our work. We will keep neighbors at the heart of what we do, tapping into the expertise of their lived experience.

Photo: Feeding America
Community Impact Plan Initiatives: Year 1 Progress

• Grant opportunity for partner programs
  • $1.5M provided to 59 partner programs

• Growing the Network Relations team
  • Complete! Smaller service areas = more support

• Network Advisory Council
  • Formed and meeting since January, 2023
Community Impact Plan Initiatives:
Year 1 Progress

• Expanded Mobile Pantry reach
  • 113 sites, set schedule, every two weeks
  • Mobile texting service available state-wide

• Expanded SNAP application assistance
  • Addition of FT, bilingual position
  • Grant to increase use by seniors

• Expanded AmeriCorps/VISTA resources
  • Six positions approved – 1 hired so far
Community Impact Plan Initiatives:  
Year 1 Progress

- Walk Against Hunger
  - Partner programs now get 100% of funds raised
- Expanded Trainings and Meetings
  - Monthly calendar of webinars
  - First annual state-wide convening held in June
- Expanded Resource Offerings
  - Mansfield Paper Company partnership
  - Community Resources monthly newsletter
Connecticut Foodshare
Legislative Advocacy

Jennie Hirsch
Chief of Staff
September 13, 2023
How Are We Advocating?

- Direct engagement with elected officials
  - Press events
  - Regular quarterly outreach, issue-specific outreach
  - Site visits
- Social media & newsletter education pieces
  - Farm Bill 2023
- Elevating voices of those with lived experience
  - White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health
  - Feeding America's Elevating Voices Power Summit
  - Story collection
- Feeding America's PEAC & Feeding America Grantee Cohorts
2023 Farm Bill Activations

- Round table and Town Hall style events
- Social media educational campaign
- Press Conferences
- Legislative Outreach
- Feeding America DC Fly-In
2023 Farm Bill Priorities

- Enhancing TEFAP impact
- Streamline CSFP
- Strengthen SNAP
- Empower local agriculture
What's Next?
Thank You!

Any Questions? Jhirsch@ctfoodshare.org
Listening to Our Neighbors: Barriers to Accessing Charitable Food

“Once you’ve had a bad experience at a pantry, it makes you not want to go to any pantry. It’s like a bad apple... once you’ve had a bad bite, you don’t want to come back for more.” – Listening session participant

“Key Barriers to Accessing Charitable Food

- Awareness
- Stigma
- Physical Access
- Individual Experience

“It’s the feeling you have when you need help that day and can’t get it.” – Listening session participant

“I am a PCA and I used to get 60-70 hours a week and now it’s down to 12 hours a week. We barely make enough a week. My family says, “why aren’t you working harder.” I can’t afford daycare, so the husband takes care of the kids and can’t work. They are on a waiting list for daycare. It can get really upsetting when people are throwing it in your face.” – Listening session participant

“I can attest to the embarrassment part. I have a neighbor and his dad is well known in town. He’s afraid that someone will see him asking for help.” – Listening session participant
**WELCOME**

As a Connecticut Foodshare partner, this is our commitment to everyone seeking food assistance.

**We will:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treat you with dignity and respect.</th>
<th>Welcome people from all backgrounds, experiences, and abilities.</th>
<th>Respect your privacy; we do not share your personal information.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not turn you away because of lack of identification.</td>
<td>Provide food free of charge on a consistent, reliable schedule.</td>
<td>Not require you to participate in religious or other activities for food.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide a clean, comfortable, and safe environment.</td>
<td>Offer food that meets local, state, and federal safety standards.</td>
<td>Accept your right to refuse any food offered.</td>
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</tbody>
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Questions or Concerns? Talk to staff at this location. We are here to help.
OrderAhead

Table of Contents
- Want to learn more about OrderAhead? Start Here!
- More Information and Resources
- Ready to talk to us?

Want to learn more about OrderAhead? Start Here!

An introduction to OrderAhead

More Information and Resources

View a recording of our February presentation on OrderAhead, featuring Connecticut Foodshare Partner Program Caring for Bethlehem Food Bank and review the slides from that presentation.

View an online video demonstration of the OrderAhead app.

Visit OrderAhead.org, home of the OrderAhead program.
Neighbor Resources

Available on Partner Programs page of our website at: https://ctfoodshare.org/partner-resources/neighbor-resources/

- SNAP assistance: (860) 856-HELP
- Mobile Pantry: text Foodshare to 85511
- Food Resource guide
- Budget stretching non-food resources
- And more…!
Community Impact Grants – Key Dates

- Year 2 Funding will be available
- Year 2 Application Opens: January 17, 2024
- Year 1 Final Reports Due: January 30, 2024
- Year 2 Applications Due: February 28, 2024
Openings for Network Advisory Council (NAC)

The NAC includes 15 partner program representatives that meet quarterly to offer insight to Connecticut Foodshare staff

Recent topics: online ordering improvements, annual network conference, online platform for agency networking, and more

We are recruiting new members to start in January!

- Application Released: September 14th Network Newsletter
- Application Due: October 31st
- Decisions Announced: Early December
Thanksgiving 2023

- Eligible: pantries, community meals, emergency shelters
- Provided 8+ months of program statistics
- Email sent today (September 13)
- Responses due by October 4
- Email sent week of October 23 w/final allocations and delivery or pick-up date/time
- Please respond to the survey-do not email!
Grocery Purchasing Program (GPP) Update

Most Requested Foods:
1. Frozen chicken
2. Frozen ground beef
3. Frozen fish
4. Cold breakfast cereal (low sugar)
5. Cooking oil
6. Canned fruit (low sugar)
7. Fresh eggs
8. Canned tuna
9. Shelf stable milk
10. Canned chicken
11. Mac and Cheese
12. Pasta (white)

Phasing out - slow movers:
• Canned beans - pinto, black, kidney
• Reduce variety of canned vegetables

Next GPP survey – December
• Will determine GPP offerings for 1st half of 2024
Upcoming Network Partner Webinars and Info Sessions

• Food Bank Fundamentals:
  o Online Ordering In Agency Express – first Thursday of each month
  o Creating a Welcoming Culture – fourth Thursday of each month
• Wednesday Webinars – third Wednesday of each month
• SWAP Office Hours – fourth Friday of each month

Register for upcoming sessions and view recordings of past sessions at ctfoodshare.org/webinars
Connecticut Foodshare Partner Newsletter

Network Partner Updates
Monthly updates to inform, connect, and inspire Connecticut Foodshare network and program partners.
Community Resources Newsletter

Community Resource Updates
Monthly updates to share resources beyond food and help connect people with additional resources to meet basic needs
Today’s Presenters

- Jennie Hirsch – jhirsch@ctfoodshare.org, 860-856-4336
- Aubrey Roscoe – aroscoe@ctfoodshare.org, 203-741-9070
- Miranda Muro – mmuro@ctfoodshare.org, 860-856-4345
- Kristen Skulte – kskulte@ctfoodshare.org, 203-741-9081
- Chris O’Rourke – corourke@ctfoodshare.org, 860-856-4318