



Connecticut Foodshare

Our Community, Our Food Bank

**Network Forum
January 10, 2024**



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

Jason Jakubowski, President and CEO

- Update on Fees
- Possible Federal Government Shutdown
- CT-NAP Funding Request

Aubrey Roscoe, Director, Institute for Hunger Research & Solutions

- Neighbor Council

Chris O'Rourke, Chief Network and Program Officer

- New Food Bank Ordering System
- Updates: Mobile Pantry; Food Safety Training
- Grocery Purchasing Program

Miranda Muro, Senior Director of Network Relations

- Walk Against Hunger
- Community Impact Grants Timeline
- Revised Partner Agreement
- New Network Advisory Council Members

Proposed Fee Structure

July 1, 2024

to

June 30, 2025

No change in current structure

- No Membership fee
- No Shared maintenance fees on donated food (government food will also continue to have no fee)
- No Delivery fees (if eligible)
- All purchased food at 100% cost (w/no markup)

Update: Federal Government Shutdown



Connecticut Foodshare CT-NAP Request



What is CT-NAP?

Connecticut Nutrition
Assistance Program

- State funding for the purchase of Connecticut-grown and Connecticut-sourced foods.
- Distributed to participating partner programs at no cost.





What we are requesting

Increased funding in the State budget for CT-NAP food purchases.

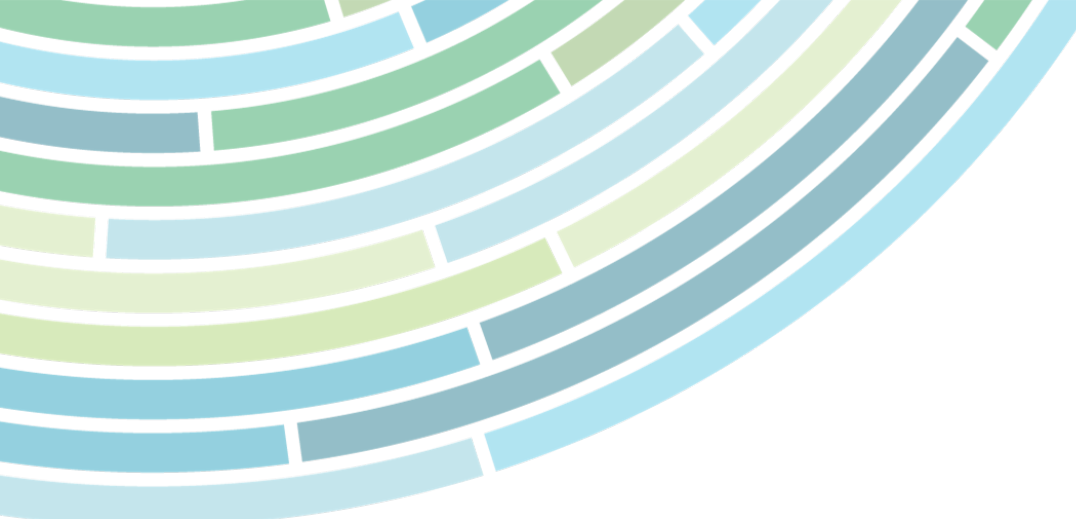
- In 2022, the state provided \$650,000
- In 2022, Connecticut Foodshare requested \$10 million
- In 2023, the state provide \$800,000
- In the 2024 legislative session, Connecticut Foodshare is requesting \$10 million

What do other states provide?

Among the states with food purchasing programs that support emergency food providers, Connecticut ranks near the bottom in spending.

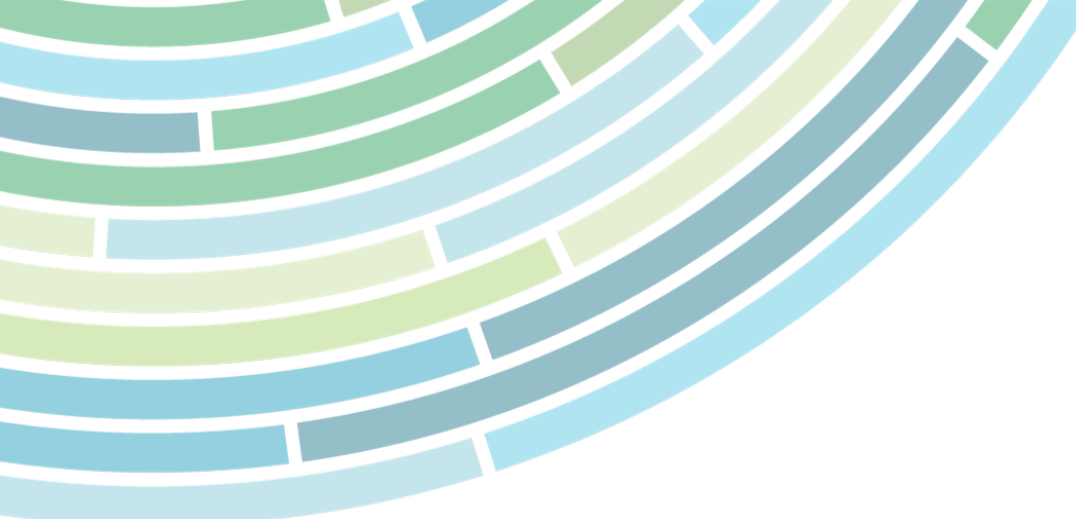
- Massachusetts spends \$35 million
- New York spends \$34 million
- Only Texas spends less per capita than Connecticut.





Building Relationships: How Your Program Can Connect with Representatives

- Get to know your local and state elected officials
 - Help them understand food insecurity in YOUR community
 - Invite them to visit
- Connect with your member of Congress
 - They want to know what's happening in the community and how they can help



Building Relationships: Why it Matters

- State and local officials can help with needs your program faces
 - Facility improvements
 - Changes in local operations that can affect traffic and neighbor safety
 - Help with other issues like signage
- Congressional Representatives and State Representatives rely on the information we share about need in our communities when they are drafting legislation and budgets

Building Relationships: Next Steps

- If you don't know your State Representative, find them at www.cga.ct.gov. Under the tab marked Representation, there are tools to locate your State and Congressional Representatives
 - Consider an invitation to your State Senator or Representative to visit your site.
 - Know your service delivery numbers: your Network Relations Representative can help you with a summary report on pounds ordered and households reported.





NEEDS YOU

APPLY TO JOIN THE

Neighbor Council

HELP

build awareness of food insecurity
use your voice to engage in policy change

REQUIREMENTS

- Live in CT and have experience using food assistance programs
- Commit 15 hours of time between March and June 2024
- Must have device (laptop/smart phone/tablet) for three virtual sessions
- Attend one in-person session (transportation costs provided)

EARN A VISA GIFT CARD EACH MONTH!

APPLY HERE



ctfoodshare.org/nc

Coming Soon: An Improved Food Ordering Experience

- PWW (Primarius Web Windows)
- Launch date – July 2024
- Multiple trainings – May and June
- Benefits of the new platform include...



PRIMARIUS

- More modern and intuitive.
- Real time inventory.
- Tools for partner programs:
 - manage inventory; neighbor intake; report stats
- Product photos, more detail, SWAP ranking visible.
- Order history

The screenshot displays the PRIMARIUS web application interface. At the top, the user is logged in as 'Connecticut Foodshare' in the 'Warehouse: Demo Buffalo Warehouse'. The main navigation menu on the left includes: Your Account, Product Resourcing, Inventory, Internal Programs, Agencies, Grants, Volunteers, Payables, Accounting, Scheduling, Reporting, and Document Management. The 'Products' section is active, showing a table of products with columns for Product Ref, Product Name, Product Cat., Product Cla., Is Mixed, Reorder Poi., Unit/Measu., Last Shipped, and Packing. Below the table, the 'Agency: (20002) - Meizer' is selected, and a 'View Order' button is visible. A search bar for products is also present.

Product Ref	Product Name	Product Cat.	Product Cla.	Is Mixed	Reorder Poi.	Unit/Measu.	Last Shipped	Packing
757178	* APPLESAUCE	Food Bank	Child Product	<input type="checkbox"/>		0 CASE		24 - 10 OZ ...
0040	* Assorted Frozen Meat	Food Bank		<input type="checkbox"/>		POUND		
0041	* Assorted Meat - 1475 LB Pallet	Food Bank		<input type="checkbox"/>		PALLET		
121614	* BEEF STEW (FBP)	Food Bank P...		<input type="checkbox"/>		0 CASE	10/13/2023	12/15 OZ
-026413	* SP WHITE RICE	School Pantry		<input type="checkbox"/>		0 CASE	8/28/2023	30 / 16 OZ ...
0018	01959 USDA Beef Stew Pouch	TEFAP Food		<input type="checkbox"/>		CASE		38 lb/cs - 2...
00019GG1	03888 Brown Lentils - 15lb box	sheri purcha...		<input type="checkbox"/>		CASE		15 lb/cs - 1...
0019	03888 USDA Brown Lentils	TEFAP Food		<input type="checkbox"/>		CASE		25 lb/cs - 2...

Agency: (20002) - Meizer

View Order

Search Products... [Q]

Product ID	Product Name	Category	Price	Limit	Action
(PP-000119)	CUT GREEN BEANS - COOP	Purchase Program	\$5.00 / CASE	60	Add
(PP-000300)	GRAPE JELLY - COOP	Purchase Program	\$0.00 / CASE	30	Add
(1-002299)	GROUND BEEF (73%-27%)	Food Bank	\$0.00 / CASE	150	Add
(PP-000310)	MAC & CHEESE - COOP	Purchase Program	\$25.00 / CASE	10	Add
(PP-000121)	NSA WHOLE KERNEL CORN - ...	Purchase Program	\$50.00 / CASE	20	Add
(1-000824)	PORK MEAT ASSORTMENT (SOR...	Food Bank	\$0.00 / VARIES	50	Add
(1-000254)	POULTRY ASSORTMENT (SORTED)	Food Bank	\$0.00 / BOX(ES)		Add



Updates:
Connecticut
Foodshare
Mobile Pantry

- Texting service now available in Spanish
 - ✓ Text **COMIDA** to 85511
 - ✓ In English text **Foodshare**
- Program Evaluation underway
 - ✓ Mobile awareness survey
 - In **February** newsletter
 - ✓ Neighbor surveys at selected sites in March & April

Updates: Food Safety

- Revised manual and quiz on website
 - Updated Allergens
 - Added Personal Hygiene section
 - Alerted when answer is incorrect
- Spanish version is NOW available!
- Reminder: Licensed food manager certification required for all meal programs
 - Email a copy of your current certification to Cynthia Sandoval: csandoval@ctfoodshare.org



Grocery Purchasing Program (GPP)

MAY 2023 Survey

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)

DECEMBER 2023 Survey

Most Requested Foods:

?????

- [Survey](#) closes on January 19
- Will determine GPP offerings through June
- Link also in January newsletter – arriving tomorrow!

Fundraising Opportunity: Connecticut Foodshare Walk Against Hunger

- May 4 at Dunkin Park in Hartford
- Fundraising opportunity for food pantries, community kitchens, emergency shelters and backpack programs
- Key Dates:
 - Application Opens: January 12 (this Friday!)
 - Informational Webinar: February 14
 - Application Due: February 21

Eligible partners will receive the application this Friday in an email from Event Manager Chevon Reid



2024 Community Impact Grant Program

- Competitive grant opportunity for partner food pantries, community kitchens, emergency shelters and backpack programs
- Key Dates:
 - Application Opens: January 17
 - Informational Webinar: January 24
 - 2023 Final Reports Due: January 30
 - 2024 Applications Due: February 28

Eligible partners will receive an email with the grant guidelines and application on January 17



Coming Soon: Updated Partnership Agreement

- Launch date – July 2024
- To align with new Feeding America contract and more clearly outline partnership standards
- More information will be shared in the months ahead, including a June webinar



2024 Network Advisory Council

Chelsea French, TEEG (North Grosvenordale)

Dona Ditrio, New Opportunities Inc. Operation Pantry (Meriden)

Duncan Lawson, Neighbor to Neighbor (Greenwich)

Isamar Rodriguez, The Ann B. Clark Co-op at Goodwin University (East Hartford)

Jenilyn Djan, Evangelical Christian Church Pantry (Waterbury)

Jill Corbin, St. Vincent de Paul Place Norwich (Norwich)

Joseph Edwards, Beulah Heights Church Helping Hands Pantry (New Haven)

Kathleen Souvigney, Enfield Food Shelf (Enfield)

Kristin Jones, Guilford Food Bank (Guilford)

Linda Hutchings, Community Action Agency of Western CT (Danbury)

New! Renee Santos, Cathedral of St. Joseph Pantry (Hartford)

Rick Wood, Bethlehem Food Bank (Bethlehem)

New! Sandy Hagan, Jewish Family Services of Greater New Haven (New Haven)

New! Tshon Cooper Davis, nOURish BRIDGEPORT (Bridgeport)

Xiomara Colon-Torres, Iglesia Fuente de Salvacion Misionera Pantry (Vernon)

Upcoming Webinars and Trainings

Wednesday Webinars

- Community Impact Grants Overview – **January 24**
- Walk Against Hunger Info Session – **February 14**
- Emotional Resiliency: Preventing Burnout -- **February 28**
 - ❖ Led by Chris Farrand, Training and Volunteer Engagement Coordinator for the Salvation Army's Eastern Territory
- Walk Against Hunger: Fundraising Strategies – **March 13**
- Finance Basics for Nonprofits – **April 24**

Register for upcoming sessions and view recordings of past sessions at ctfoodshare.org/webinars



Upcoming Webinars and Trainings

Additional Trainings

- Online Ordering In Agency Express – first Thursday of each month
- Creating a Welcoming Culture – 1:00-2:00 PM
 - February 22
 - May 23
 - July 25
 - October 24
- 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

Jason Jakubowski – jjakubowski@ctfoodshare.org

Jennie Hirsch – jhirsch@ctfoodshare.org

Aubrey Roscoe – aroscoe@ctfoodshare.org

Chris O'Rourke – corourke@ctfoodshare.org

Miranda Muro – mmuro@ctfoodshare.org

Paul Shipman – pshipman@ctfoodshare.org