

NH Roadmap to End Childhood Hunger Progress Report

2014

This report presents a snapshot of progress on the goals established in the *New Hampshire Roadmap to End Childhood Hunger*. The *Roadmap*, developed in 2012, is a strategic plan focused on three goals: increasing access to food, strengthening food systems and ensuring economic security for all families.

The *Roadmap* was created by the partners of New Hampshire Hunger Solutions, a coalition of NH Kids Count, comprised of public and private leaders working to eradicate childhood hunger.



Feeding Kids Outside School

Goal 1: Increase Access to Food

By expanding outreach, the NH Department of Education created greater awareness and increased meals served at child care and afterschool programs through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Additionally, to increase CACFP participation by afterschool providers, the NH Hunger Solutions team added an AmeriCorps VISTA. ▶ ***In 2013, CACFP sponsors served 695,747 more meals and snacks than the previous year to New Hampshire children, a 20.7% increase.***

School Starts with Breakfast

Goal 1: Increase Access to Food

In 2013, a team launched the NH School Breakfast Challenge. The team, comprised of NH Kids Count, NH Department of Education, the School Nutrition Association of NH and the New England Dairy & Food Council, called on all schools to boost school breakfast participation by 25% by October 2015. ▶ ***As of February 2014, 53% of NH schools - 204 total - increased student breakfast participation.***

204 SCHOOLS INCREASED
BREAKFAST PROGRAM
PARTICIPATION

Women, Infants and Children

Goal 1: Increase Access to Food

The federally-funded WIC Nutrition Program, which provides nutrition benefits for New Hampshire's pregnant women, infants and young children, expanded outreach by partnering with health care providers, town welfare offices, child care centers and Head Start programs, SNAP education and CACFP. To modernize the system and make it easier for families, WIC will move from paper vouchers to an EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) system in 2016.

Summer Meals for Kids

Goal 1: Increase Access to Food

Feeding kids when school is out is challenging. Outreach to engage more children includes efforts by NH Kids Count, the NH Department of Education, WIC, food pantries, SNAP, WhyHunger, 211, USDA Farm Service and USDA Rural Development. ▶ ***Average daily summer nutrition participation in NH increased 275% from 2011 to 2013.***

Signing up Families for SNAP

Goal 1: Increase Access to Food

To enroll more eligible families for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the NH Food Bank added a second Outreach Coordinator and a VISTA volunteer focused solely on the North Country. ▶ ***New Hampshire Food Bank SNAP Outreach secured an estimated \$667,644 in SNAP benefits supporting an additional 252,895 meals for families.***

NH Fresh Produce

Goal 2: Strengthen Food Systems

To improve NH's food policies the state needs timely, accurate and accessible food system data. The National Agricultural Statistics Service compiles production and price information on New Hampshire crops which can be used to inform and target policy improvement efforts.

Tracking Federal Nutrition Programs

Goal 2: Strengthen Food Systems

NH Kids Count collated and compiled information from NH Hunger Solutions partners to track the number of eligible children using federal nutrition programs. These data, soon available on nhkidscount.org, will help inform strategies to amplify use of nutrition programs.

300 NH SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED IN FARM TO SCHOOL

Gardens in Schools & Communities

Goal 2: Strengthen Food Systems

The Youth School Garden Network and its soon to be live website are hubs bringing together school, youth and community garden resources including garden locations and agricultural best practices. The Network is a collaboration of NH Farm to School, the Northeast Organic Farming Association and UNH Cooperative Extension. ▶ ***In 2013, more than 1,300 youth and adult volunteers grew fruit, vegetables and other food as part of UNH Cooperative Extension's garden projects.***

Food Systems Policy Primer

Goal 2: Strengthen Food Systems

New England Food Policy: Building a Sustainable Food System is a resource for public officials and advocates. The 2014 report, a joint publication of the Conservation Law Foundation, the American Farmland Trust and Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, identifies current food policies, gaps in the policy framework and opportunities to strengthen food systems policy in the New England states, including New Hampshire.

Farm to School

Goal 2: Strengthen Food Systems

The Farm to School program helps schools use locally grown foods. In 2013, approximately 300 schools participated in Farm to School and reported an increased number of activities, such as integrating farm foods into their reimbursable meal programs.

Online Food Systems Clearinghouse

Goal 2: Strengthen Food Systems

Food Solutions New England created a section of its website that serves as both a resource for accessing information on the New Hampshire food system and for sharing best practices to strengthen food policies and practices.

NH Farmers Markets Outreach

Goal 2: Strengthen Food Systems

The New Hampshire Food Bank is the lead network partner in the newly created NH Incentive Program Network. In partnership with Wholesome Wave, the network increases access to affordable, locally grown food for low-income families. The program doubles the value of SNAP benefits for fruit and vegetable purchases at participating network markets. Additionally, more farmers markets are accepting SNAP benefits and many individual farmers now accept SNAP at their farms.

▶ ***12 farmers markets across the state currently participate in the NH Incentive Program Network.***

12 FARMERS MARKETS PARTICIPATE IN THE INCENTIVE NETWORK

Creating the NH Food Strategy

Goal 2: Strengthen Food Systems

Statewide partners and members of the UNH Sustainability Institute serve as members of the NH Food System process and strategy teams, working to develop a state plan for a robust, equitable and healthy food system. Using input gathered through statewide listening sessions, the network hopes to synthesize and finalize a NH Food Strategy by the end of 2014.

Redistributing Excess Food

Goal 2: Strengthen Food Systems

Various organizations work to reduce food waste by redistributing excess food including the NH Food Bank, Willing Hands, Veggie Volunteer Program and NH Gleans, newly formed in 2013. ▶ **In 2013, these organizations distributed 1,271,740 pounds of food to emergency food providers.**

Improving Temporary Assistance

Goal 3: Ensure Economic Security

In 2013, advocates successfully reinstated the Unemployed Parent Program which provided cash assistance to two-parent families where one working parent was unemployed. Funding for this critical program will be requested in the 2015 budget.

EITC Helps Families

Goal 3: Ensure Economic Security

Low to moderate income working families can retain more of their income through a tax credit known as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which leaves more money in their budgets for purchasing healthy foods. ▶ **During the 2014 filing season, the CA\$H Coalition of New Hampshire assisted nearly 5,000 individuals and families file tax returns resulting in more than \$2 million refunded through the EITC.**

NH Hunger Solutions

Partners

Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield NH, **B**rookside Congregational Church: Manchester, **C**enter for Rural Partnerships: Plymouth State University, Child & Family Services, Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Conservation Law Foundation, **E**very Child Matters, **F**ood Solutions New England, **G**ranite United Way, **H**ealthy Eating Active Living NH (HEAL NH), **K**eene State College: Dietetics Internship Program, **M**errimack Valley Daycare Services, **N**ashua Regional Planning Commission, Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, New England Farmers Union, NH Charitable Foundation, NH Community Loan Fund, NH Department of Agriculture Markets and Food, NH Department of Education, Division of Program Support: Bureau of Nutrition,

Helping Families Save

Goal 3: Ensure Economic Security

The New Hampshire Community Loan Fund manages an Individual Development Account (IDA) matched-saving program for low-income workers and their families. The IDA program was redesigned in 2013 to encourage more working parents to participate. ▶ **Through 2013, IDA participants saved more than \$2.3 million, purchased assets valued at more than \$56 million, and received financial training.**

\$2.3 M **SAVED BY IDA PARTICIPANTS**

Raise the NH Minimum Wage

Goal 3: Ensure Economic Security

In 2014, a coalition of businesses, advocates, and community members proposed raising the NH minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$9.00 by 2016 and then tying the wage increase to federal cost-of-living adjustments thereafter. Although the legislation was not successful, it is a critical strategy for raising the living standard of low-income wage earners and will be revisited.