



Food Access Cross-Cutting Team 2019 Work Plan

The Food Access Crosscutting Team connects organizations working on food security, food access, and nutrition issues, assesses how well food access issues are being integrated into Farm to Plate Network Working Groups, and works to ensure that local food is accessible to low income Vermonters in every corner of the state. Within the numerous coalitions and organizations addressing food access across the state, the CCT has a special focus on addressing how Vermont can build a vibrant local food system that is sustainable for producers and the environment while also being accessible to all (known as the Double Bind). The team works to integrate Food Justice and Racial Equity into their discussions and in the Vermont Farm to Plate Network. The team makes a special effort to explore new opportunities for collaboration with working groups.

2019 Mission: This year the Food Access Cross-Cutting Team will focus on the implementation of three strategies: 1) identify opportunities for increasing collaboration among hunger relief/food security organizations and cross-promotion of programs; 2) increase awareness and understanding of how race, class and other socially constructed divisions create additional barriers to food access; and 3) work with the rest of the Farm to Plate Network to address food access and with the Cross Cutting Team to understand how other issues in the Farm to Plate Network impact food access.

Key Farm to Plate Goals for this Working Group:

- **Goal 15:** All Vermonters will have access to fresh, nutritionally balanced food that they can afford.
 - **Goal 3:** Vermonters will exhibit fewer food-related health problems (e.g., obesity and diabetes).

CCT Process Goals for 2019:

- Continue to help to orient and welcome new group members throughout the year by connecting with people when they join the listserv.
- Continue to incorporate full group, small group, and partner discussions into meetings when possible.
- Continue to explore ways to engage a broader geographic area through options to engage remotely.
- Continue to support subcommittee and task force work throughout the year during meeting time. Helping CCT members spend time moving projects forward is a priority this year.

Cross-Cutting Team Activity Areas:

Strategies from the Food Security chapter that will be the focus areas for 2019:

1. Strategy: *Identify opportunities for increasing collaboration among hunger relief/food security organizations and cross-promotion of programs.*

- Implementation ideas:
 - Leverage existing networks and efforts as individual organizations and as a Cross Cutting Team by bringing the discussion about the “double bind” to other groups and coalitions that are addressing food access around the state.

- Hold discussions with a special effort to highlight multiple perspectives and different experts.
 - Include time in meetings for short updates from CCT members about what their organizations are working on. Also consider including time during meetings for short presentations from group members about timely projects that increase awareness and cross-collaboration.
- 2. Strategy:** *Increase awareness and understanding of how race, class and other socially constructed divisions create additional barriers to food access.*
- Implementation ideas:
 - Finalize the Food Access tool and support implementation of usage; consider presenting tool at 2019 Network Gathering.
 - In conjunction with strategy four, partner with other members of the Network to develop and host a training in 2019 on engaging with different communities not often directly engaged with in the Network’s work, including individuals who have experienced food insecurity.
- 3. Strategy:** *Encourage Vermont’s food access advocates to partner with Regional Planning Commissions (RPC) to research and develop language for addressing food security.*
- Implementation ideas:
 - Support the Food Security Planning Resources Task Force in development and sharing of these resources.
- 4. Strategy:** *Work with the rest of the Farm to Plate Network to address food access and with the CCT to understand how other issues in the Farm to Plate Network impact food access.*
- Implementation ideas:
 - Continue to connect with the RootedInVermont campaign at a CCT and as individual organizations to make sure that the campaign is welcoming to limited-income Vermonters and explore opportunities for partnership.
 - In conjunction with strategy two, partner with other members of the Network to develop and host a training in 2019 on engaging with different communities not often directly engaged with in the Network’s work, including individuals who have experienced food insecurity.
 - Chairs to explore with the Steering Committee ways to address migrant labor as a cross-cutting issue Network-wide.
 - Develop a workshop or workshops for the F2P Gathering to continue incorporating food access into the 2019 Gathering conversation.

Timeline and Activities for 2019:

MONTH	Working Group ACTIVITIES	Tentative Details
February	Finalize work plan	Collect feedback on 2019 Work Plan developed in Dec 2018 meeting, finalize, and disseminate to the group via the listserv. Host conference call if needed.
February - April	Plan Engagement Training	Engagement Training subcommittee to work with other Network members and Curtis Ogden to develop and set date for

		training
April-May	CCT Meeting	Finalize Food Access Tool and discuss outreach plan; discuss and move forward on Engagement Training
Summer/Fall	Host Engagement Training	Likely in July-October
Fall (before the Gathering)	CCT Meeting	Meeting focus TBD; develop proposals for the F2P Gathering (if needed)
November	Farm to Plate Annual Gathering	Date TBD in Killington Suggest: workshop(s) to continue to incorporate Food Access in the conversations; workshops related to Food Access Tool, Town Planning Toolkit, and Engagement Training

Private Sector Engagement:

This group does not have a lot of overlap with the private sector, but will consider inviting private businesses to be on panels where possible.

Regional Engagement:

The CCT primarily works at a statewide level. As part of Strategy One, the group may connect with regional groups (e.g. regional Hunger Councils).

How will this group engage other Network groups?

Addressed above under the "Cross-Cutting Team Activity Areas" section; this will be a major focus of the group this year and going forward.

Performance Measures & Targets

- Cross-Cutting Team Meetings: 2-3
- Work plan complete: Yes
- # Vermont regions engaged: continue to expand our geographic region
- # private sector businesses engaged in activities: TBD
- Average # of individuals at each CCT meeting: 15
- Total # of organizations engaged in CCT meetings/activities: 35
- The WGs we work with during the year have a good understanding of how food access issues intersect with their WG and will be addressing food access in their work plans the following year.
- The projects the CCT is focused on are able to move forward and be shared with the entire Network as appropriate.