

# Table of Priority Strategies with Source Reference

The priority strategies are derived from the product, issue, and market brief recommendations. In some cases a priority strategy is a recommendation that appeared multiple times across briefs, signifying its importance to multiple areas of the food system. These may be word-for-word from the briefs, or adjusted according to input from stakeholder input sessions. Other priority strategies are a synthesis of brief recommendations determined to be interrelated or thematically similar. The table provides a bridge from strategies to tactics, helping the reader explore each priority strategy in more depth and detail and identify areas of overlapping and mutual interest which in turn can inform collaboration and collective action.

Priority Strategy	Component Recommendations from Briefs
<p>1. Provide at least \$1.5 million in annual funding to the Working Lands Enterprise Fund. These grant funds are a unique and critical source of capital that accelerate innovation and sustainability in Vermont food system businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Access to Capital</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Agriculture and Food Policy</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Lightly Processed Vegetables</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Specialty Foods</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> </ul>
<p>2. Establish funding mechanisms (e.g., agricultural loan loss reserve, farm-transfer financing) to address specific food system investment gaps (e.g., for women and BIPOC-owned businesses).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agroforestry</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Access to Capital</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Access to Capital</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Access to Capital</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Access to Capital</i> Brief: Recommendation #6</li> <li>• <i>Alternative Land Ownership and Access Models</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Alternative Land Ownership and Access Models</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Alternative Land Ownership and Access Models</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Farmland Conservation</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Farmland Conservation</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Farmland Conservation</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Succession</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Succession</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Succession</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Supporting Future Farmers</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Supporting Future Farmers</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Supporting Future Farmers</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> </ul>
<p>3. Improve funding opportunities and create equitable access for BIPOC organizations and BIPOC-owned businesses by developing multi-year, unrestricted BIPOC-centered equitable grants and equitable loan programs, while removing barriers such as unnecessarily long grant application processes, and combating explicit and implicit bias against BIPOC communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Supporting Future Farmers</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Farmland Conservation</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> </ul>
<p>4. Rebuild Vermont’s restaurant industry with equitable grant programs and business assistance, and provide local purchasing incentives to support the expansion of farm-to-table relationships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Restaurants</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Restaurants</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Restaurants</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Restaurants</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> </ul>

Priority Strategy	Component Recommendations from Briefs
<p>5. Support stabilization and revitalization of the dairy industry through: (1) a comprehensive dairy products marketing program focused on quality that would assist producers with limited marketing budgets, (2) by expanding opportunities to differentiate the milk supply by supporting farms and processors to increase production capacity for higher-attribute milk, (3) with increased capital investment and funding for dairy processing, storage, and co-packing (particularly for cheese, yogurt, butter, etc.).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cheese</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Cheese</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Cheese</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Cheese</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Cheese</i> Brief: Recommendation #6</li> <li>• <i>Dairy</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Dairy</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Dairy</i> Brief: Recommendation #6</li> </ul>
<p>6. To increase the availability of local meat, improve productivity and processing capacity at Vermont meat slaughter and processing facilities through investment in plant upgrades, new facilities, technical assistance, and workforce development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Meat Slaughter, Processing, and Products</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Meat Slaughter, Processing, and Products</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Meat Slaughter, Processing, and Products</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Meat Slaughter, Processing, and Products</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Meat Slaughter, Processing, and Products</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> </ul>
<p>7. Make significant investment in storage, processing, and distribution infrastructure in order to enhance product innovation and quality across all Vermont food products, expand regional market access for businesses, and increase the resilience of local supply chains. This includes investments in new facilities, upgrades and maintenance to existing facilities, and energy efficiency and renewable energy incentives for food system infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agricultural Literacy: K-12</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Agroforestry</i> Brief: Recommendation #6</li> <li>• <i>Beer</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Beer</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Bread</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Compost</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Direct Markets</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Direct Markets</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Distribution</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Distribution</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Eggs</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Eggs</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Food Access and Farm Viability</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Food-Grade Grains</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Food-Grade Grains</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Goats</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Lightly Processed Vegetables</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Lightly Processed Vegetables</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Produce</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Restaurants</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>School Food Procurement</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Sheep</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Specialty Foods</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Spirits</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Water Quality</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Water Quality</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> </ul>

Priority Strategy	Component Recommendations from Briefs
<p>8. Support product-specific value chain development. Strategies include bringing producers, distributors, and buyers together at matchmaking events, assisting producer-driven aggregation, distribution, and marketing enterprises, and funding the development of market opportunities in the Northeast.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agritourism</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Apples</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Apples</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Bread</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Bread</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Cheese</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>College and Hospital Procurement</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>College and Hospital Procurement</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Compost</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Dairy</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Distribution</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Food-Grade Grains</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Food-Grade Grains</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Grapes</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Grapes</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Grass-Fed Beef</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Grass-Fed Beef</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Grass-Fed Beef</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Grocers</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Grocers</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Hemp</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Hemp</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Hops</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Marketing</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Meat Slaughter, Processing, and Products</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Lightly Processed Vegetables</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Lightly Processed Vegetables</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Restaurants</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>School Food Procurement</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Specialty Foods</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Spirits</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Succession</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Supporting Future Farmers</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Swine</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> </ul>
<p>9. Expand funding for existing programs dedicated to farmland access and conservation, and leverage this funding to increase land access through flexible and new ownership financing mechanisms, policies, and models. Examples include performance mortgages, shared equity models, ground leases, appropriation of \$3 million in low-cost capital to a Community Development Financial Institution or other lender, policy incentives to encourage multiple tenants or owners on larger tracts of land, and low-cost and long-term farm leasing on publicly held lands. There must be particular emphasis on the needs of beginning, socially disadvantaged, and BIPOC farmers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Access to Capital</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Alternative Land Ownership and Access Models</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Alternative Land Ownership and Access Models</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Alternative Land Ownership and Access Models</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Alternative Land Ownership and Access Models</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Alternative Land Ownership and Access Models</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Dairy</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Dairy</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Farmland Conservation</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Farmland Conservation</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Farmland Conservation</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Farmland Conservation</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Farmland Conservation</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Succession</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Succession</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Succession</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Succession</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Succession</i> Brief: Recommendation #6</li> <li>• <i>Supporting Future Farmers</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Supporting Future Farmers</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Supporting Future Farmers</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> </ul>

Priority Strategy	Component Recommendations from Briefs
<p>10. Fully fund VHCBC through the Property Transfer Tax Fund, and allocate \$3 million annually to their Farm &amp; Forest Viability program, expanding their capacity to provide critical business and technical assistance services to farms and forest product businesses of all types across Vermont.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Business and Technical Assistance</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Farmland Conservation</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Farmland Conservation</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Supporting Future Farmers</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Tax and Legal Services</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> </ul>
<p>11. Fund at least eight FTE additional business assistance provider positions to assist farmers with transfer and succession planning, access to capital, farm management, planning for transition or diversification to other products, and sales and marketing. This estimate includes four FTEs needed to work with dairy farms and two FTEs needed to work with other types of farms, specifically on succession planning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agriculture and Food Policy</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Business and Technical Assistance</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Farmland Conservation</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Farmland Conservation</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Produce</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Succession</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Succession</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Supporting Future Farmers</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> </ul>
<p>12. Fund at least 25 FTE additional technical assistance provider positions to assist farmers and other food producers with product-specific needs (e.g., goats, grains) and other forms of technical support (e.g., food safety plans, grazing methods, permitting, marketing, mediation, and crisis management).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Apples</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Bees and Honey</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Bread</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Business and Technical Assistance</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Consumer Demand</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Eggs</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Goats</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Grapes</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Grass-Fed Beef</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Grocers</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Food Access and Farm Viability</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Food-Grade Grains</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Hemp</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Hops</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Land Use Planning</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Land Use Planning</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Maple</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Meat Processing, Slaughter, and Products</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Meat Processing, Slaughter, and Products</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Poultry</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Swine</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Water Quality</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> </ul>
<p>13. Increase professional development opportunities for technical and business assistance providers, as well as support service provider organizations, to enable them to better assist clients in addressing issues such as marketing, climate change, racial equity, health care, labor, and accessing capital.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agritourism</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Business and Technical Assistance</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Child Care</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Climate Change</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Health Care</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Labor and Workforce</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Marketing</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> </ul>
<p>14. Increase usage of and funding for cohort-based training, mentorships, and other forms of farmer-to-farmer/business-to-business education which are proven to be successful, including dairy farmer learning cohorts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Business and Technical Assistance</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Dairy</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Dairy</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Direct Markets</i> Brief: Recommendation #6</li> <li>• <i>Distribution</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Grass-Fed Beef</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Major Metropolitan Markets</i> Brief: Recommendation #6</li> <li>• <i>Marketing</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Produce</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Specialty Foods</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Swine</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Water Quality</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> </ul>

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<p>15. Increase funding and technical support for Vermont producer associations to expand and improve their membership services, and determine how services could be shared across associations. Potential services include marketing technical assistance, collaborative marketing initiatives, product-specific training, and connections to associations in other states.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Beer Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Bees and Honey Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>Bread Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Cheese Brief: Recommendation #5</i></li> <li>• <i>Direct Markets Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Food-Grade Grains Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>Grapes Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>Hemp Brief: Recommendation #5</i></li> <li>• <i>Labor and Workforce Brief: Recommendation #1</i></li> <li>• <i>Major Metropolitan Markets Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Major Metropolitan Markets Brief: Recommendation #5</i></li> <li>• <i>Poultry Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>Produce Brief: Recommendation #5</i></li> <li>• <i>Specialty Foods Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> </ul>
<p>16. Fund coordinated marketing efforts, such as a statewide marketing campaign for local agricultural products, marketing support in emerging metropolitan markets, shared marketing broker positions, a shared communications and content creator position between the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and/or marketing materials for specific products or associations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agricultural and Food Literacy Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>Apples Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>College and Hospital Procurement Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Compost Brief: Recommendation #5</i></li> <li>• <i>Consumer Demand Brief: Recommendation #1</i></li> <li>• <i>Consumer Demand Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Consumer Demand Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Consumer Demand Brief: Recommendation #5</i></li> <li>• <i>Direct Markets Brief: Recommendation #1</i></li> <li>• <i>Goats Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Grocers Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>Major Metropolitan Markets Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Major Metropolitan Markets Brief: Recommendation #5</i></li> <li>• <i>Marketing Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Marketing Brief: Recommendation #5</i></li> <li>• <i>Meat Slaughter, Processing, and Products Brief: Recommendation #5</i></li> <li>• <i>Spirits Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Supporting Future Farmers Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Swine Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> </ul>
<p>17. Help individual farms and food businesses reach new customers by developing tailored marketing assistance services and programs specific to various market channels. Funding could go to individual farm and food businesses to improve their branding via graphic design consultants, grants to attend national sales and marketing industry events, and creating a marketing technical assistance and mentorship program focused on the seven P's of marketing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>College and Hospital Procurement Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>College and Hospital Procurement Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>College and Hospital Procurement Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Consumer Demand Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>Direct Markets Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Direct Markets Brief: Recommendation #6</i></li> <li>• <i>Grocers Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Grocers Brief: Recommendation #5</i></li> <li>• <i>Major Metropolitan Markets Brief: Recommendation #1</i></li> <li>• <i>Major Metropolitan Markets Brief: Recommendation #6</i></li> <li>• <i>Marketing Brief: Recommendation #1</i></li> <li>• <i>Marketing Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>Marketing Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Supporting Future Farmers Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Swine Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> </ul>
<p>18. Redesign the state education funding model so that Career and Technical Education centers have independent funding streams and budgets, and create and fund legislation to support other educational programs that strengthen the workforce pipeline, including a range of accessible postsecondary educational models such as apprenticeships, concurrent enrollment, and stackable credentials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agricultural Literacy: K-12 Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Agricultural Literacy: K-12 Brief: Recommendation #5</i></li> <li>• <i>College and Hospital Procurement Brief: Recommendation #1</i></li> <li>• <i>Dairy Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>Labor and Workforce Brief: Recommendation #1</i></li> <li>• <i>Labor and Workforce Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Lightly Processed Vegetables Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Maple Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>Spirits Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> </ul>

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<p>19. Support and expand existing farm and food educational programming, and convene partners and conduct research to: identify the distinct audiences and goals for various initiatives; determine what types of programming, experiences, or information result in greater levels of behavioral change for those audiences and initiatives; and strategically coordinate efforts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agricultural and Food Literacy</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Agricultural and Food Literacy</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Agricultural and Food Literacy</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Agricultural Literacy: K-12</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Agricultural Literacy: K-12</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Agricultural Literacy: K-12</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>School Food Procurement</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> </ul>
<p>20. Incentivize local purchasing by reimbursing K-12 schools on a per-meal basis for purchasing local products above a certain percentage threshold. For example, New York provides \$0.25 per lunch to schools incorporating at least 30% New York-grown product in their meal program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>School Food Procurement</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> </ul>
<p>21. Create a Local Food Access Funding Program with an appropriation of at least \$250,000 a year, available for programs that support low-income consumers in purchasing local food. Eligible program activities could include funding benefits which increase consumer purchasing power for local food, making wireless EBT machines available at no cost to producers and farmers markets, and outreach about any of these services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Direct Markets</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Food Access and Farm Viability</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief Recommendation #3</li> </ul>
<p>22. Increase funding for proven ways to alleviate food insecurity, and support these programs in incorporating more local food. Specific known solutions include providing universal breakfast and lunch programs for every Vermont student and increasing local procurement within each school cafeteria, increasing investment in and utilization of public food assistance programs—including efforts to connect these programs with local farmers—and supporting charitable food system efforts to purchase directly from local farms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Food Access and Farm Viability</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Food Security</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>School Food Procurement</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>School Food Procurement</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>School Food Procurement</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> </ul>
<p>23. Build cross-sector coalitions to address issues affecting the quality of life and prosperity of employees in all sectors, including livable wages, child care, health care, student loans, immigration law, worker rights, transportation, and housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Access to Capital</i> Brief: Recommendation #7</li> <li>• <i>Child Care</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Child Care</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Child Care</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Child Care</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Health Care</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Health Care</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Health Care</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Health Care</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Health Care</i> Brief: Recommendation #6</li> <li>• <i>Labor and Workforce</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> </ul>

Priority Strategy	Component Recommendations from Briefs
<p>24. Develop a Vermont food security plan, centered around a thriving food system and inspired by community-based responses to food insecurity and disruptive events. Involve food insecure individuals as well as farmers in the planning, and investigate questions including, but not limited to, affordable housing, health care, transportation, siting of retail grocery stores, food distribution, and ensuring the continued production of food in Vermont. Work to adopt state and regional level policies, procedures, and plans to ensure that the Vermont food supply is sufficient to withstand global or national food supply chain disruptions caused by climate change and other disasters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Food Security Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Food Security Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System Brief: Recommendation #5</i></li> </ul>
<p>25. Map Vermont’s agricultural land base and production capacity, including geographic data about predicted climate change impacts, aggregation and distribution infrastructure, and regional dietary needs. This information will help inform community land use decisions and the use of state funding and incentives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Land Use Planning Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Water Quality Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> </ul>
<p>26. To better prepare and respond to climate change-related events, investigate innovative funding mechanisms for climate change adaptation practices (e.g., cover crops, building organic matter in soil), crop insurance for diversified Vermont-scale farms, and emergency recovery following extreme weather events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agroforestry Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Agroforestry Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>Bees and Honey Brief: Recommendation #5</i></li> <li>• <i>Climate Change Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Climate Change Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>Climate Change Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Maple Brief: Recommendation #6</i></li> <li>• <i>Payment for Ecosystem Services Brief: Recommendation #6</i></li> <li>• <i>Water Quality Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> </ul>
<p>27. Continue to support the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Working Group, which is poised to be a central point of coordination and connection among the many needed PES research and design efforts. These efforts should focus on PES approaches that regrow or sustain Vermont’s natural resource base so that it provides at least three ecosystem services: water quality, flood resilience, and climate stability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agriculture and Food Policy Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Agroforestry Brief: Recommendation #5</i></li> <li>• <i>Bees and Honey Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Payment for Ecosystem Services Brief: Recommendation #1</i></li> <li>• <i>Water Quality Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> </ul>
<p>28. Fund scientific research into how various agricultural practices affect soil and water quality, and how the impacts of these practices can be measured and valued in a Payment for Ecosystem Services program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agroforestry Brief: Recommendation #5</i></li> <li>• <i>Climate Change Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Climate Change Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Compost Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Payment for Ecosystem Services Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Payment for Ecosystem Services Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>Payment for Ecosystem Services Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Water Quality Brief: Recommendation #2</i></li> <li>• <i>Water Quality Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> </ul>
<p>29. Assist food and farm businesses with navigation of municipal and state permit requirements and regulations. This will create a more supportive environment for business growth and diversification, especially as it relates to on-farm accessory businesses, farm employee housing, and development of off-farm processing, distribution, and storage infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agritourism Brief: Recommendation #5</i></li> <li>• <i>Agroforestry Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>Land Use Planning Brief: Recommendation #3</i></li> <li>• <i>Produce Brief: Recommendation #4</i></li> <li>• <i>Water Quality Brief: Recommendation #1</i></li> </ul>

Priority Strategy	Component Recommendations from Briefs
<p>30. Build a comprehensive and fully aligned state-level agricultural policy roadmap, with public participation throughout the process. Implementation of the roadmap could include an annual review of existing and proposed policy objectives before each state legislative session to ensure policy requests complement each other, align with strategic priorities, and balance reactive and proactive policy needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agriculture and Food Policy</i> Brief: Recommendation #6</li> <li>• <i>Agritourism</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Agroforestry</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Beer</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Beer</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Beer</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Bees and Honey</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Bees and Honey</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Cheese</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Cheese</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Grapes</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Grapes</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Hemp</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Maple</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Poultry</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Produce</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Restaurants</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Spirits</i> Brief: Recommendation #4</li> <li>• <i>Spirits</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> </ul>
<p>31. Provide livable wages and improve workplace conditions for all food system employees, especially BIPOC, by developing policies, shared workforce programs, market incentive programs (e.g., Milk With Dignity), and relevant technical assistance for farm and food businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Child Care</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>College and Hospital Procurement</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Health Care</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Labor and Workforce</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> <li>• <i>Labor and Workforce</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> </ul>
<p>32. Work with Vermont’s congressional delegation on reforming U.S. immigration and labor laws and rules.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Apples</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> <li>• <i>Labor and Workforce</i> Brief: Recommendation # 5</li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> </ul>
<p>33. Plan, commit to, and prioritize actions—within the Farm to Plate Network and at all food system organizations—to begin eradicating structural racism in the food system, including uplifting and financially compensating the leadership, participation, and representation of BIPOC. It is imperative that initiatives focused on BIPOC be developed with paid partnership and input from the BIPOC community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Health Care</i> Brief: Recommendation #3</li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #2</li> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #5</li> </ul>
<p>34. Allocate significant resources to support more in-depth research, data collection, and investigation of racial equity in the Vermont food system, leading to a comprehensive plan of action. It is crucial that this work and resulting initiatives include BIPOC leaders who are compensated for their contributions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System</i> Brief: Recommendation #1</li> </ul>