



# **Creating a Farm to Food Secure Future for All Vermont's Children**

**A project led by Hunger Free  
Vermont, in collaboration  
with Feeding Champlain  
Valley and the Vermont  
Foodbank**

# Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Presentation of the Strategic Plan**
- **Small Group Discussion**
- **Share Out**
- **Goodbye!**





# Child Food Insecurity Data in VT

**Most children in Vermont live in households that struggle to meet their basic needs.**

- **65,000 kids are eligible & enrolled in Dr Dynasaur (Medicaid)**
- **20,000 kids live in households that receive 3SquaresVT**
  - just over half of income-eligible kids receive benefits

**Meeting basic needs means more than qualifying for federal food assistance programs like 3SquaresVT.**

- **25,000 children are in the “missing middle”**
  - the missing middle includes households that earn too much to qualify for 3SquaresVT, but within the income qualification for Medicaid for kids.

**Many eligible children don't eat free meals.**

- **2 in 3 school children eat school lunch & half eat breakfast**
- **54.5 kids eat summer lunch for every 100 free school lunches**
- **Only 12 kids eat afterschool suppers for every 100 free lunches**
- **Only 1 in 3 eligible child care providers in VT participate in the federal meal program**

# Creating a Food Secure Future for All Vermont's Children

## Phase 1:

*Planning for the Effort*

- Orgs & backbone funders develop an initial vision and approach.
- Backbone funders commit initial investment to free up staff capacity at HFVT to lead Phase 2.

## Phase 2:

*The Collaborative Initiative*

- HFVT convene anti-hunger partners and organizations
- HFVT creates first draft of a collaborative initiative for eliminating child hunger in VT
- 'Feedback loop'

## Phase 3:

*Convening and Aligning Funders*

- Backbone funders convene group of funders, including Community Foundation of Vermont
- Advocate for shared, flexible funds for roadmap development

## Phase 4:

*Guiding Principles and Messaging*

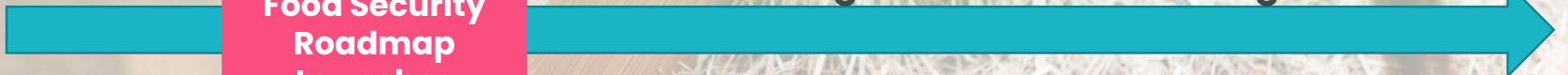
- Small group of dedicated partners convenes with consultant Amy Shollenberger
- Define guiding principles
- Develop "Message frames"
- Launch the work

**2023 Work**

**Start of 2024;  
Food Security  
Roadmap  
Launches**

**2024 Phasing**

**2025 Phasing**





# Relationship to the Vermont Food Security Roadmap to 2035

- **Fulfilling the Vermont Food Security Roadmap and Creating a Food Secure Future for All Vermont's Children will both require sustained effort over time, and are deeply intertwined.**
- **Creating a Strategic Plan to Create a Food Secure Future for All Vermont's Children – and then the building of coalitions to carry out these strategies – is one of the first, critical actions emerging to fulfill the vision of the Roadmap.**
- **Each of the 14 strategies detailed in this Strategic Plan is deliberately aligned with one or more of the broader objectives of the Vermont Food Security Roadmap.**
- **The Roadmap Objectives directly aligned with this Strategic Plan include, but are not limited to Objectives G1, G2, G5, G7, G8, C2 & C3**

**WE CANNOT END CHILDHOOD HUNGER WITHOUT ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO  
FOOD ACCESS FOR ALL VERMONTERS**

**[link to the FOOD SECURITY IN VERMONT: ROADMAP TO 2035](#)**

# ***Data and Methods – Collaboration is Key***

- **We conducted focus groups with 30 childcare providers of all sizes from all regions of the state, and hosted informational interviews with over 25 organizational and institutional stakeholders** (including many members of the Food Security Roadmap Coalition!).
- **The set of effective strategies that emerged from our stakeholder engagement process align along two parallel pathways–**
  1. We can ensure youth food security by **growing, improving, and expanding upon existing child nutrition and food access programs** to serve more meals to more children.
  2. We can ensure youth food security by **engaging in innovative and novel approaches to make food more accessible**, including removing barriers to what is already available.



# **Food Access for Children where they Live, Learn & Play**

## **Programmatic Expansions to Feed More Kids**

- **Universal approaches to meal programs.**
- **Expand efforts to reach Vermont's lowest-income families with dignified and convenient access to food through the charitable food system.**
- **Expand afterschool and summer meals.**
- **Restore basic functionality to CACFP.**
- **Eliminate structural barriers to school meal programs.**
- **Pass legislation to improve the adequacy of Reach-Up payments to the lowest-income single parent households.**
- **Build a successful, permanent Summer EBT program.**

## **Innovations to Make Food More Accessible**

- **Connect more low-income families with 3SquaresVT.**
- **Expand non-congregate summer meals.**
- **Expand food access through healthcare.**
- **Build robust training and education for child nutrition programs.**
- **Invest in the child nutrition program workforce and professional development networks.**
- **Provide accessible and culturally responsive meals in child nutrition programs.**
- **Invest in farm to school and early childhood.**

# **Strategies for Creating a Food Secure Future for Vermont Children – Today's Focus**

- **Strategy 2.2: Make CACFP fully functional for early childhood education programs.**
- **Strategy 2.3: Expand afterschool and summer meals.**
- **Strategy 2.7: Provide accessible, culturally and religiously responsive meals in Child Nutrition Programs.**
- **Strategy 2.8: Invest in Farm to School & Early Childhood.**



# Questions to consider:

- **What stands out to you?**
- **What is missing?**
- **What do you see as next steps to move this strategy forward?**
- **Who should be engaged next in moving this strategy forward?**

# Questions to consider:

- **How could you see you or your organization being involved in 2026 in this strategy?**
- **What factors would enable this strategy to move forward effectively?**
- **What are potential barriers to this strategy moving forward?**



# Takeaways & Collaborative Opportunities



# Thank you! Reach out to Us!

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