



IFNPAC Q1 Meeting

Interagency Food and Nutrition Policy Advisory Council

*Tuesday March 21, 2023
10:00– 11:30am
Rhode Island Commerce*

**RHODE
ISLAND**

Welcome and Introductions

Department of Environmental Management (DEM)

Terry Gray (Chair), Acting Director

Ken Ayars, Chief of Agriculture

Department of Health (RIDOH)

Randi Belhumeur, Health Program Administrator

RI Commerce Corporation (RICC)

Julianne Stelmaszyk, Director of Food Strategy

Department of Education (RIDE)

Jessica Patroliia, Child Nutrition Programs Coordinator

Department of Administration (DOA)

Libby Kimzey, Chief of Staff

Governor's Office

Christopher Abhulime, Deputy Chief of Staff

Office of Healthy Aging (OHA)

Maria Cimini, Director

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Jenna Simeone, Assistant SNAP Administrator

Department of Corrections (DOC)

Terrence McNamara, Administrator Physical Resources

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approve Q4, 2022 Meeting Minutes
3. Finish discussion on 2023 priorities and duties
4. Approve IFNPAC Report to General Assembly
5. Legislative update from RI Food Policy Council
6. Overview of Relish Rhody 2.0 Update
7. Overview of RIDOH's State Physical Activity & Nutrition Grant workplan
8. Public Comment

Proposed 2023 Council Priorities

1. Improving food waste diversion and composting infrastructure

- food waste ban of 2017 has significantly helped divert food waste
- insufficient business supports and infrastructure to handle the approx. 500 tons of food waste generated in Rhode Island every day
- barriers include:
 - lack of clarity around composting regulations and permitting
 - insufficient access to capital for processors and a lack of technical assistance supports to help more food businesses divert organics
 - Lack of awareness of 2017 Food Waste Ban
- IFNPAC could examine barriers and identify wasted food solutions

2. Increasing healthy and local foods in institutions (K-12 schools, universities and hospitals)

- Institutional food service facilities feed thousands of people a day and have significant purchasing power
- it is challenging for food service operators to purchase local and healthy foods due to cost, labor and supply chain limitations. IFNPAC could convene stakeholders across institutional markets and identify solutions to increasing the amount of local and healthy foods served
- IFNPAC could examine state purchasing regulations and convene key stakeholders to identify solutions

Proposed 2023 Council Priorities

3. Relish Rhody 2.0 Food Strategy Update

- There is high interest among non-profit, industry and state government stakeholders who rely on *Relish Rhody* to assess the impact of the last five years since the 2017 strategy was launched and develop a roadmap towards collective impact.
- The IFNPAC should play an important role in supporting both planning and implementation of the new plan over the next 14-16 months.
- The Council could select a few representatives to sit on the planning Advisory Board and/or set up a temporary working group to advise on behalf of the IFNPAC which might include participating in stakeholder engagement and reviewing draft and final versions of the plan.

4. Examine connections between food systems and climate change.

- Climate change is impacting our ability to produce food in Rhode Island and the food system also contributes to Rhode Island's greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Council could identify opportunities for the greatest impact in GHG reductions (e.g. carbon sequestration potential of farmland or food waste diversion and composting).



RI FOOD
POLICY
COUNCIL



IFNPAC 2023 Q1 Meeting LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 21, 2023 • 10:00am

RI FOOD
POLICY
COUNCIL



Our mission is to promote an
**equitable, accessible,
economically vibrant, and
environmentally sustainable food
system** for all Rhode Islanders.

Legislative Update

- 1800 bills introduced within the RI General Assembly since January
- We have identified 135 thus far that we categorize as relevant to food systems.
 - We categorize these and post them on our [RI Food System Bill Tracker](#) which we update weekly on Mondays

Key Legislation

- **HB5171/SB201:** Introduced by Rep. Cortvriend and Sen. Valverde respectively, these two bills would expand Rhode Island's current **Food Waste Ban**.
- **HB5803/SB517:** These two bills were Introduced by Rep. McGaw and Sen. DiMario respectively. HB5803 and SB517 would provide a **tax credit for food donation** by qualified taxpayers to nonprofit organizations.
- **HB6007/SB71:** These two pieces of legislation introduced by Rep. Tanzi and Sen. Acosta, respectively, would provide **free breakfast and lunch to be provided for all elementary school and secondary school students** attending public schools in the state.
- **HJR6018/SJR560:** Introduced just last week by Rep. McGaw and Sen. DiPalma respectively, these joint resolutions would appropriate \$5 million dollars for farmland preservation, protection, and conservation to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

RIFPC Role

“When policy and regulatory change are called for, the RI Food Policy Council acts as both a forum for issues and a platform for coordinated action. Our policy work is grounded in our vision of a just and resilient food system — one in which all Rhode Islanders have enough to eat and our local farm, fish, and food businesses are thriving.”

- First annual legislative farm visit (October)
- Met with Governor’s staff and state agency staff (November)
- Held 3 Legislative Roundtables (March, ~24 attendees (some repeat))
- Moderated legislator panel at the RI Compost Conference (March)
- Sent targeted letters to the Governor (2 so far)
- Held numerous 1:1 calls and meetings with legislators

- Under consideration: Food Systems ‘Advocacy Day’ at the Statehouse

Resources



POLICY ADVOCACY

WHY IS ADVOCACY IMPORTANT?
Because public policy can play a powerful positive role in making the world a better place. But can also be a destructive force - we need to make sure it's playing that powerful positive role.

ADVOCACY = LOBBYING
Advocacy is any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or stands in opposition of others. Lobbying only refers to specific communications with decision makers about winning or potential opposition and urging a vote for or against.

ADVOCACY DEFINED:
"Public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy"

IT ISN'T EASY... BUT IT MATTERS!
Influencing public policy change can be difficult and complex, especially for those with limited power and resources. **That is why RI FPC exists** - to gain focus and direction around policy. It is **passion, will & determination** - advocacy is a long-term commitment that requires persistence and dedication.

Engaging in advocacy is an opportunity for Council members to share priorities, establish connections, advance policies, and promote funding of meaningful objectives.

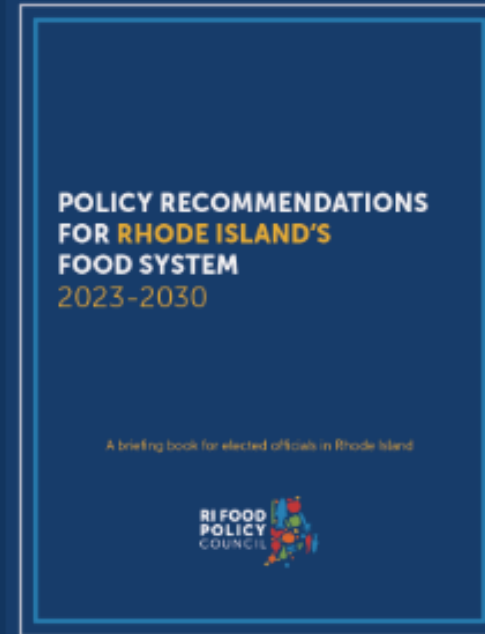
Together Council members can bring benefits to the local food system, and to the communities, organizations, and businesses we represent by attracting greater attention and creating broader impact.

#FoodForward.org RI FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

[Advocacy 101 One-Pager](#)



[How Laws Are Passed In RI](#)



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RHODE ISLAND'S FOOD SYSTEM 2023-2030

A briefing book for elected officials in Rhode Island

RI FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

[Recommendations for Elected Officials](#)



2023 Legislative Priorities

Food systems are complex. Good food policy is everyone's business.

- PRESERVE OUR FARMS**
Support land access for farming across Rhode Island, in both urban and rural environments, by ensuring consistent, adequate funding for the Agriculture Land Preservation Commission, increased and sustained funding for the Farmstead Access Program, and by creating a funded "Urban Farmstead Access Program"
- DIVERT FOOD FROM LANDFILLS**
Develop a comprehensive strategy for increasing and streamlining wasted food from business going into the compost that includes tax incentives for waste food donation as well as urban farmsteads and increased support for residential and commercial organic waste composting.
- ENSURE FOOD ACCESS**
Strengthen and enhance new and sustainable avenues for local farmers, urban farmers and food entrepreneurs (e.g. manufacturers and restaurants) to sell, sell and deliver nutritious, affordable food via direct-to-consumer and indirect-to-consumer and institutional markets that serve food insecure communities and residents.
- SUPPORT OUR BUSINESSES**
Support second stage food businesses with shared-use infrastructure, marketing and technical assistance, grants, tax incentives, and low-cost loans. Ensure that all participants of selected incentives and grants go to historically underrepresented business owners.

The Rhode Island Food Policy Council is an independent network creating a more just and resilient food system in Rhode Island.

We are a diverse group of food systems stakeholders working together to bring benefits to the local food system, and to the communities, organizations, and businesses we represent.

We engage in advocacy to share our network's priorities and represent our communities at the State House.

RI FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

[2023 Legislative Priorities](#)



Nessa Richman, Network Director
nessa@rifoodcouncil.org

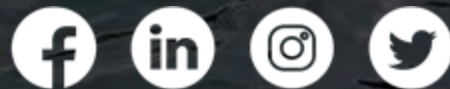
Josh Daly, Associate Director
josh@rifoodcouncil.org

Caitlin Mandel, Food Access & Equity
Program Manager
caitlin@rifoodcouncil.org

Allison Montagnon, Communications
Manager
allison@rifoodcouncil.org

Max De Faria Program
Associate
max@rifoodcouncil.org

www.rifoodcouncil.org
Interact & advocate with us [@rifoodcouncil](https://twitter.com/rifoodcouncil)





RELISH RHODY 2.0

Developing a Rhode Island Food Vision for 2030

Q1 IFNPAC Meeting

Julianne Stelmaszyk, Director of Food Strategy



Rhode Island's 1st Statewide Food Strategy 2017



AN ACTIONABLE VISION FOR FOOD IN RHODE ISLAND

INTEGRATED FOCUS AREAS

1. PRESERVE & GROW AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES INDUSTRIES
2. ENHANCE THE CLIMATE FOR FOOD & BEVERAGE BUSINESSES
3. SUSTAIN & CREATE MARKETS FOR RI FOOD PRODUCTS
4. ENSURE FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL
5. MINIMIZE & DIVERT WASTED FOOD



Led by the Director of Food Strategy through an inter-agency partnership





A Brief History of Relish Rhody

In 2016 efforts were made under former Governor Raimondo's administration to establish a State food strategy, creating a five-year vision for a more resilient, sustainable and equitable local food system.

2016:

- Brooking's Institute report includes economic opportunities for food & beverage sector in Rhode Island
- Public-private partnership with support from RI Foundation, Kendall Foundation, Merck Foundation helps fund development of **first statewide Food Strategy** and **first Director of Food Strategy**, to be based at the Governor's Office

2017:

- Innovative **Local Ag & Seafood Grant (LASA) program** is funded at \$250,000 through State and philanthropic funding to invest in local food system
- **Relish Rhody**, a comprehensive food strategy for the State, is published
- **First RI Food System Summit** is hosted at URI

2018:

- **Hunger Elimination Task Force (HETF)** is established to implement short and long term strategies to reduce food insecurity in RI
- Director of Food Strategy relocates from RIDEM to RI Commerce

2021: 2nd Director of Food Strategy is hired at RI Commerce

2022: LASA grant program funding is tripled to \$700,000 thanks to Governor McKee and the General Assembly

Measuring Impact to Date (2017-2022)



STRONGER INTERAGENCY, NGO & REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM COLLABORATION

- Hunger Elimination Taskforce established with 500+ member engaged
- Interagency Food Nutrition & Policy Advisory Council (IFNPAC) actively engaged on important food system issues

REGULATORY & POLICY CHANGES

- Reduction of industry fees and streamlined regulations for food industry
- 2017 Food Waste Ban expands requirements for food waste diversion
- 2022 passage of Cottage Food Law removed barriers for home-based entrepreneurs

CATALYTIC INVESTMENTS IN LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY

\$5 million + federal funding and covid relief funding leveraged by State to support food access and supports for food producers

Over \$25 million state funding invested in local food, farm and seafood businesses including support for important food system infrastructure such as:

- Farm Fresh RI's Providence Food Hub
- Southside Community Land Trust's Farm-to-Market Center
- Gotham Greens indoor farm, Cargill's food processing center



Farm Fresh RI Providence Food Hub



Southside Community Land Trust's Farm to Market Center



Launched a new RI Farm to School Network



Launched new campaign of RI Seafood to Rhode Islanders



More than doubled funding for LASA grants to farmers and fishers



RELISH RHODY 2.0

Developing a renewed food vision for Rhode Island towards 2030

Why now?



- Lessons from the pandemic are fresh
- Focus areas have shifted since 2017, time to set new priorities and targets
- Moment to reflect on last 5-6 years of impact and build momentum towards collective impact in 2030
- Strong interest among stakeholders who rely on Relish Rhody to assess impact and develop a new roadmap for collective impact
- Aligns with parallel planning initiatives:
 - RI Climate Strategy 2025
 - RI Farm to School Network Action Planning
 - Governor's 'RI 2030 Plan'
 - New England Feeding New England 30 x 30% Food Vision
 - RIDOH's Health Eating & Active Living Program

Who will lead the planning process?

Steering Committee

Oversees process including fundraising, communication and accountability

- Dir. of Food Strategy, RI Commerce - Julianne Stelmaszyk
- RI Commerce – Daniela Fairchild
- RI Executive Office of Health & Human Services - Chris Ausura
- RI Department of Health - Randi Belhumeur
- RI Department of Environmental Management - Ken Ayars
- RI Food Policy Council - Diane Lynch

Advisory Board

- 15-20 RI food system stakeholders, leaders and representatives will contribute to develop priority food system briefs, strategies, metrics and outcomes

IFNPAC

- Provides subject matter expertise, ongoing input and review final draft
- New strategy will set priorities for the Council in 2024 and beyond

Director of Food
Strategy

Interagency Food Nutrition
& Policy Advisory Council



Advisory Board

Our Approach to Strategic Planning



Strategies used to develop plans



Process Development

We looked at other state and municipal food system planning models for inspiration



VERMONT FOOD SYSTEM PLAN ISSUE BRIEF



ISSUE: Farmland Conservation

What's At Stake?

Over the past 40 years, Vermont made substantial investment and progress in farmland conservation, permanently conserving 15-20% of the state's farmland.¹ Farmers have greatly benefited from ongoing, coordinated conservation efforts, yet threats to farm viability in the state continue to loom large. At least 3,000 Vermont farms and many more acres of high-quality agricultural soils are not conserved.² Over the next five years, as many as 300 Vermont farms (conserved and not-conserved) may change hands as existing farmers retire. If managed strategically, those transfers could lead to the next generation of vital farms and strengthen Vermont's rural economies. If not, land farmed for generations could sit fallow, become less productive, or be lost to development. The COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on the urgency of securing our agricultural land base in order to support a more localized food supply.

Current Conditions

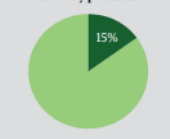
Farmland conservation is one of the best ways to protect Vermont farmland from development, keep it in production, ensure localized food production capacity in case of emergencies, and maintain an economically viable agricultural sector.

Land is conserved with a legal document called a conservation easement (typically held by a land trust) which permanently limits development, restricts subdivision, and protects natural resources. This is also known as "sale of development rights," as landowners are usually compensated for the loss of the potential income from development (though some donate or partially donate this value). Conservation easements generally reduce the land's appraised value and can impact a future sale price. In Vermont, the Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value (OPAV) tool is typically part of the conservation easement, to keep land affordable for farmers with commercial agricultural operations and discourage conversion of good farmland into estate-type properties.

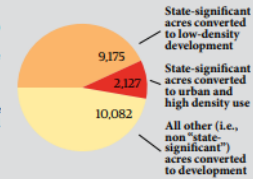
Selling development rights is a critical economic tool for Vermont farmers, allowing them to sell a legal asset while still retaining ownership of the land, and use sale proceeds to expand, diversify, invest in new infrastructure, buy more land, and/or facilitate a family transfer. Despite its social, agricultural, and economic benefits, land conservation is also challenging. Not all farmers want or are able to conserve their land. The demand for funding to purchase development rights far exceeds the supply, despite years of relatively stable federal and state funding for farm easements.

Permanent farmland protection plays a critical role in the economic transformation and ownership transitions that Vermont agriculture is facing, but conservation alone will not ensure the survival of Vermont's agriculture sector. Fortunately, Vermont's farmers, land trusts, agricultural lenders, and service providers are well-coordinated, and share key goals around the successful transition of Vermont's agricultural economy to the next generation, responsible land stewardship, and the importance of farm viability.

Approximately 15% of Vermont's agricultural land is currently protected.



From 2001-2016, approximately 21,400 acres of agricultural land in Vermont were compromised by development. 52.9% of these acres had statewide significance in terms of calculated productivity, versatility, and resiliency.



Conservation of Farmland

Current Conditions

Funders and land trusts use established criteria to assess a land parcel's resources (e.g., soils, water, special ecological attributes), development threat, and proximity to other conserved parcels, as well as the plans for the farm operation. The land is appraised to determine the current value with full development rights and the value after conservation with limited development rights. The easement value, and financial compensation to the landowner, is the difference between the two.

- For the past several years, the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (Vermont's primary funder of farm easements) has typically funded 20 to 22 farm projects each year, protecting about 3,000 acres.
- \$2.7 million in state funding each year (on average) leverages \$3 million in federal dollars through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and \$1 million per year in philanthropic and local funds, as well as landowner bargain sales.
- VHCB's current conservation pipeline has 40 projects waiting to be funded with a value of over \$9 million of easement funding.

Bottlenecks & Gaps

- An easement's value may not offer sufficient financial return for certain landowners.
- Criteria from funders does not always match the available land.
- Easement restrictions may not accommodate a landowner's plans.
- The volume of land that could transfer over the next five years will create bottlenecks for scarce resources and staff capacity at Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB), land trusts, and agricultural service providers.

Opportunities

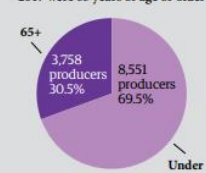
- Securing more land for food production through farmland conservation can be an effective strategy to address threats posed by climate change and global pandemics.
- The Vermont conservation community is coordinated and skilled at working together (see *Business and Technical Assistance* brief).
- Vermont farmers continue to have a strong interest in selling development rights, and understand the importance of securing their land base.

Conservation and Land Transfers

Current Conditions

The amount of farmland expected to transfer creates a tremendous opportunity to conserve more acres, add ecological protections and affordability options to already-conserved land, help new or beginning farmers gain access to the transferring land, or expand existing businesses. Conservation during a sale process can be a powerful tool to make land more affordable for a new owner, and if the property is already conserved, it may be more affordable than non-conserved parcels.

30.5% of Vermont's producers in 2017 were 65 years of age or older



Summary

Vermont has a long and successful track record of protecting farmland. Although Vermont ranks in the top 25% of American Farmland Trust's Agricultural Land Protection Scorecard of States,³ more resources and new tools are needed to keep up with the current and anticipated demand, and to ensure that conserved farms stay in active agriculture and remain economically viable. As the pace of farm transitions intensifies, new opportunities and tools are emerging to help farmers access land. Vermont needs well-funded, coordinated programs, including land conservation, to support the transition of farmland and farm businesses in Vermont. Ultimately, successful farmland conservation strengthens both community vitality and farm viability.

Recommendations

- Support the development of additional tools that can be applied to already-conserved properties to ensure affordability and access for the next generation. Some examples include performance mortgages, shared equity models, ground leases, and more. To support this, create a lending vehicle specifically set up to provide low-cost capital to alternative ownership models that may be challenging to finance through traditional farm loan programs.
- Fully fund the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board through the Property Transfer Tax Fund. This funding is essential in order to capture the opportunity to protect farmland now as successions accelerate and the risk of losing farmland increases.
- Allocate \$3 million annually to VHCB's Farm & Forest Viability program in order to expand their capacity to provide critical business and technical assistance services to farms and forest products businesses of all types across Vermont. (see *Business and Technical Assistance* brief)
- Appropriate \$3 million of flexible, low-cost financing to a Community Development Financial Institution or other lender, to support new farmers in purchasing farmland. This could be leveraged by VLT's \$15 million Farmland Futures Fund. These funds would be used in coordination with VHCB's Farm and Forest Viability Program as well as the Working Lands Enterprise Fund.
- Enhance equitable access to farmland, as VLT has done with the Pine Island Community Farm in Colchester. Partner with and support organizations that assist Black, Indigenous, and People of Color farmers gain access to viable farmland.



Farm to Plate is Vermont's food system plan being implemented statewide to increase economic development and jobs in the farm and food sector and improve access to healthy local food for all Vermonters.

This brief was prepared by:
Lead Authors: Abby White and Maggie Davin, *Vermont Land Trust*
Contributing Authors: Mike Ghis, *Land for Good* | Holly Rippon-Butler, *Young Farmers Coalition* | Peg Merrrens, *Upper Valley Land Trust* | Nancy Everhart, *Vermont Housing & Conservation Board*
Tyler Miller and Tracy Zschau, *Vermont Land Trust*.

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAF) facilitates, supports, and encourages the growth and viability of agriculture in Vermont while protecting the working landscape, human health, animal health, plant health, consumers, and the environment.

To read other food system briefs, visit: vtfarmtoplate.com/plan

VT Farm to Plate 2.0 developed 54 Product, Market and Issue Briefs to inform strategic priorities, metrics and goals

Planned Activities

14-16 month planning process January 2023 through March/April 2024



Phase 0: Process Development & Fundraising - COMPLETE

Establish Steering Committee

Develop workplan and budget

Secure funding and hire consultants

Phase 1: Initial Outreach & Early Stakeholder Engagement – IN PROGRESS

Establish Advisory Board

Complete "Five Year Impact Report" on Relish Rhody 2017*

Develop 25-30 topics for food system "issue briefs" to inform 2.0 strategic goals

Draft plan and host Fall Food Summit for stakeholder input

Phase 2: Research & Development of 2.0 Food Strategy*

Develop 25-30 topics for food system "issue briefs" to inform 2.0 strategic goals

Draft food strategy 2.0 complete

Fall Food Summit for stakeholder input/public comment

Phase 3: Public Launch, Outreach & Implementation

Launch and widely distribute Relish Rhody 2.0 Food Strategy for 2030

Parallel Food System Research & Planning Efforts

- Local Food Counts Study (Spring/Summer 2023)
 - Food supply chain analysis will determine economic impact of RI food produced and consumed in state (funded by EDA via Commerce)
- RI Farm to School Network Action Plan (Fall 2023, funded by USDA via RIDEM)
- Second-stage Food Business Cluster Analysis and Economic Impact study (Summer 2023, EDA application in progress)
- LASA Grant Program Impact Evaluation (TBD, funded by 2023 LASA grant)
- RI Emergency Food Plan (Summer/Fall 2023, partially funded by RI Foundation via RIFPC)

**activity will involve an external consultant*

Priorities & Opportunities

**THINK
REGIONALLY**



**CENTER
EQUITY**



**CENTER
FOOD &
CLIMATE**

Visit [RelishRhody.com](https://www.relishrhody.com) for more details about the planning process



**LEVERAGE OUR
STRENGTHS &
EXISTING
ASSETS**



Timeline



JAN 2022

MAR 2024

2024 - 2030

DESIGN

REFLECT

ENGAGE/RESEARCH

PLAN

IMPLEMENT/EVALUATE

2023

2024

JANUARY – APRIL

MAY – SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

FEBRUARY - MARCH

Establish Advisory Board

Conduct *Five Year Relish Rhody Impact Report 2017 – 2022*

Stakeholder engagement:

- Interviews/focus groups
- 25-30 “food system issue briefs”
- Fall statewide gathering

Publish Draft Strategy for public comment

Launch final Strategy and begin implementation



Survey on impact since 2017
<https://bit.ly/relish-rhody-impact-study>

Contact Juli Stelmaszyk for any questions, comments or suggestions

Julianne.Stelmaszyk@CommerceRI.com



CDC State Physical Activity & Nutrition Program (SPAN) NOFO

2023 Q1 IFNPAC Meeting

Randi Belhumeur, HEALTH Program Administrator, RI Dept. of Health



What is the SPAN Cooperative Agreement?



- The State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program (SPAN) funds entities who work with state level partners to implement evidence-based nutrition and physical activity strategies that address health disparities related to poor nutrition, physical inactivity, and/or obesity
- SPAN strategies support chronic disease prevention

What is RIDOH's approach?



- RIDOH has been working with state agencies and community partners for the past several months to understand current gaps in the physical activity and nutrition landscape, and propose creative, strategic responses to these challenges in our application
- We want to leverage the excellent work already being done in Rhode Island and utilize existing networks for outreach and engagement
- Our strategies will focus on the following areas:
 - ✓ Nutrition
 - ✓ Early Care Education/ Farm to ECE
 - ✓ Physical Activity
 - ✓ Breastfeeding

RIDOH's SPAN Application: Key Nutrition Strategies



Local Food at Lincoln High School



Local apples on the menu during Apple Crunch Week

- **Strategy:** Implement state level policies and activities that promote food service and nutrition guidelines and associated healthy food procurement in facilities, programs or organizations where food is sold, served, and distributed.
- **Partners:** *Director of Food Strategy, Farm Fresh RI, RI Dept. Of Education, RI Food Policy Council, Farm to Institution New England, IFNPAC Members*
- **Proposed Activities:**
 - ✓ Convene a multisectoral Institutional Procurement Working Group to update RIDOH's Healthy and Local Procurement Guidelines
 - ✓ Conduct needs assessment and feasibility analysis to increase healthy and local food procurement in high-priority foodservice operations across RI
 - ✓ Public awareness, education and support for local and healthy food

RIDOH's SPAN Application: Key Nutrition Strategies



Farm Fresh RI's Bonus Bucks Program



Produce Prescription share grown by SCLT Farmers

- Strategy: Implement state level policies and activities that coordinate the uptake and expansion of 1) existing fruit and vegetable voucher incentive and 2) produce prescription programs.
- Partners: *RI Public Health Institute, Dept. Of Human Services, Farm Fresh RI, RI Food Policy Council, RIDOH WIC Office, Director of Food Strategy*
- Proposed Activities:
 - ✓ Develop a policy brief on the ‘State of Fruit and Vegetable Incentive Programs’ that considers return on investment, reach in targeted geographic areas, current barriers to scaling, and suggested next steps for scaling.
 - ✓ Develop and execute an introductory summit with health care partners and community organizations (such as Health Equity Zones) to discuss challenges and opportunities, funding needs, sustainability plans and to develop an action plan to support expansion of fruit and vegetable voucher incentive and produce prescription programs

RIDOH's SPAN Application: Key Early Care & Education (ECE) Strategies



Planting seeds at MLK Elementary School



Family-Friendly **Fruit** and **Veggie** Recipes!

Joanna Raymond MS, RDN, LDN

URI SNAP-Ed Community Nutrition Educator



URI SNAP Ed's Nutrition Education Resources

- **Strategy:** Implement state level policies and activities that integrate national standards related to nutrition, physical activity, and breastfeeding, and advance Farm to ECE
- **Partners:** *Dept. Of Human Services, RI Dept. Of Education, RI Food Policy Council, Farm Fresh RI, URI SNAP-Ed, Brown University*
- **Sample Activities:**
 - ✓ Form a working group under IFNPAC and HEAL to collaborate with key ECE leaders to prioritize the CDC's Spectrum of Opportunity levers for updating the nutrition, physical activity, breastfeeding, Farm to ECE and obesity prevention standards within the DHS licensing regulations
 - ✓ Work with ECE leaders to identify ECE early adopters to assess, implement/train, communicate and evaluate wellness policies using Go NAPSACC to create healthier childcare environments; assessment to include Farm to ECE

Additional Updates & Public Comment

**Next Meeting:
Q2 IFNPAC
Tuesday May 23, 2023
9:30am-11:00am**

**RHODE
ISLAND**

New series on RI food systems adaptive capacity to climate change

ADAPTIVE CAPACITY

Adaptation of food production in Rhode Island in response to climate change. **MORE**

+ My List

American Mussel Harvesters | Rhody Wild Gardens
Ep1 | 14m

Big Train Farm
Ep2 | 13m 49s

Earth Care Farm
Ep3 | 13m 58s



<https://watch.ripbs.org/show/adaptive-capacity/>

FYI - Upcoming RI Food System Events

- **FOOD SUMMIT FOLLOW-ON SESSIONS - TODAY at Farm Fresh RI!**
 - Preserving & Growing Agriculture @ 2pm
 - Local Food for Local Kids: Understanding Farm to School Markets @4pm
- **RHODE ISLAND LAND & WATER CONSERVATION MINI-SUMMIT** – April 8th
- **FOOD SUMMIT FOLLOW-ON SESSION** – April 11th
 - Cultivating Food Innovation & Entrepreneurship, hosted by JWU & Branchfood
- **NORTHEAST FARM TO INSTITUTION SUMMIT** – April 18/19 (virtual) April 27/28 in Providence
- **RI TABLETOP FOOD SHOW** – April 25th at Farm Fresh RI