

# Rhode Island Hunger Elimination Task Force

Quarter Four Meeting • Tuesday, November 14, 2023 @ 2 - 3:30pm





**HETF Goal:**

**To reduce hunger and  
increase access to healthy,  
culturally-appropriate food  
for all Rhode Island residents**

# Today's Agenda



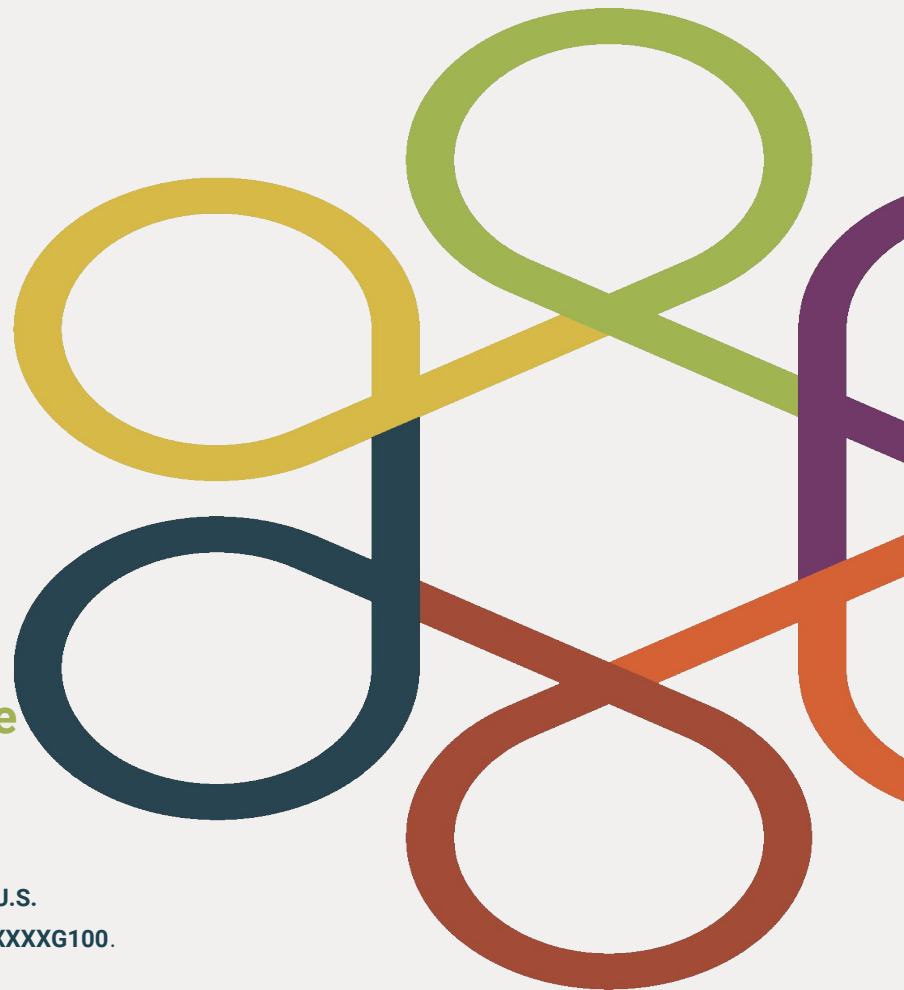
- New England Feeding New England: **Rhode Island's Role**
- Panel: **State of the State of Food Security in Rhode Island**
- Q&A
- 2023 HETF Accomplishments
- Looking Forward to 2024

**NEW ENGLAND**  
**FOOD SYSTEM**  
**PLANNERS PARTNERSHIP**

# A Regional Approach to Food System Resilience

**Rhode Island Hunger Elimination Task Force  
Quarterly Meeting  
November 14, 2023 2-3:30 pm**

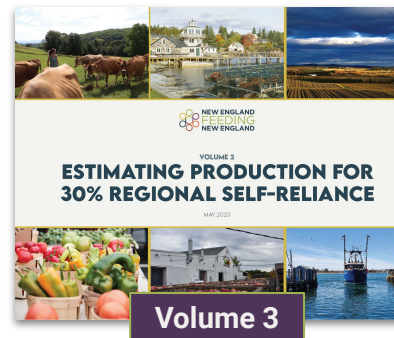
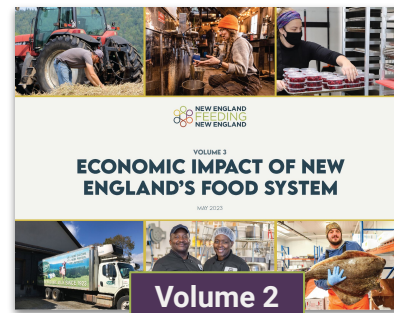
Funding made possible by the Henry P. Kendall Foundation, the John Merck Fund, and U.S.  
Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service through grant #AM200100XXXXG100.







# NEW ENGLAND FOOD SYSTEM PLANNERS PARTNERSHIP





# NEW ENGLAND FOOD SYSTEM PLANNERS PARTNERSHIP



Ellen Kahler & Jake Claro



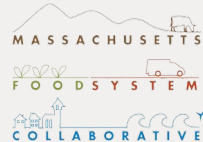
Tanya Swain



Nicole Cardwell



Meg Hourigan & Martha Page



J Harrison



Nessa Richman



In collaboration with:



Karen Nordstrom

# New Supporting Partners



Bonita Oehlke



Abbey Willard



Joshua Marshall



Michelle Webb



Julianne Stelmaszyk



Cyrena Thibodeau



# **By 2030, 30% of the food consumed in New England is produced/harvested/caught within New England.**

Our collective effort will focus on expanding and fortifying the region's food supply and distribution systems in an equitable and inclusive way that ensures the availability of adequate, affordable, socially and culturally appropriate products under a variety of rapidly changing climate, environmental, and public health conditions.





# Why is this Project Important?

New England has the capacity, ability, and ingenuity to create a food system that is more self-reliant. The current system presents several barriers to doing so.

In order to create a more self-reliant food system, food system development entities must work collaboratively **to identify policies and investments that support public and private supply chain businesses and infrastructure.**

Building a more resilient, strong regional food system would mean more jobs, a healthier populace, and greater stability of our economy, workforce, and supply chains.



# Project Timeline

2021 through 2022



**PHASE 1**  
**Research**

2023 through 2024



**PHASE 2**  
**Convening & Coordination**

2023 into 2030 and Beyond



**PHASE 3**  
**Implementation**

**By 2030, 30% of the food consumed in  
New England is produced/harvested/caught  
within New England.**





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# A REGIONAL APPROACH TO FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE

MAY 2023

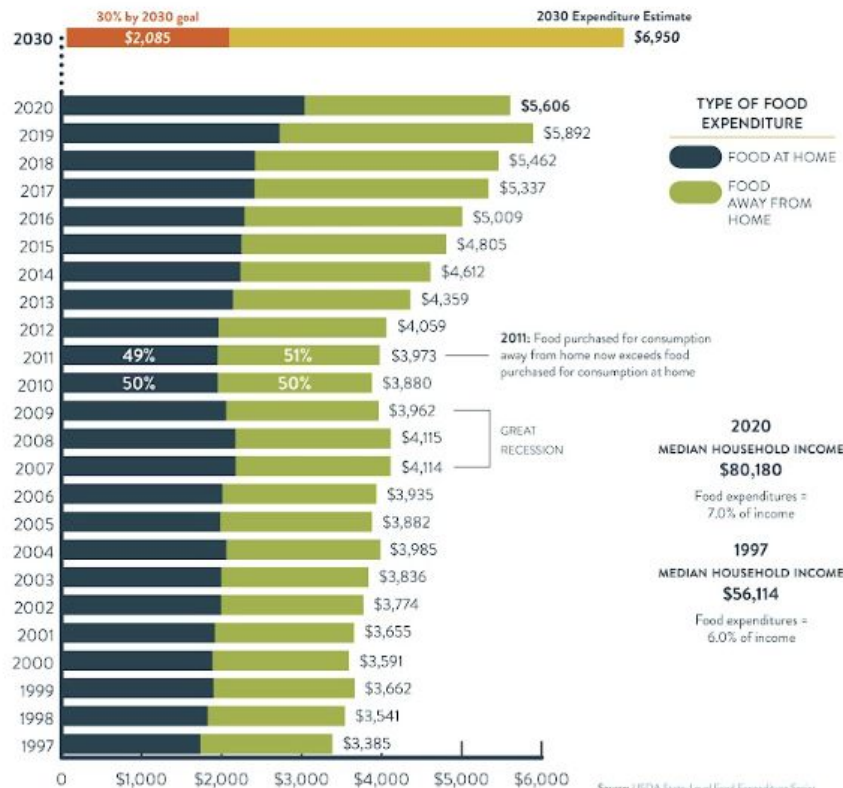


# Rhode Island Snapshot



## What would it take to meet a 30% food expenditure goal?

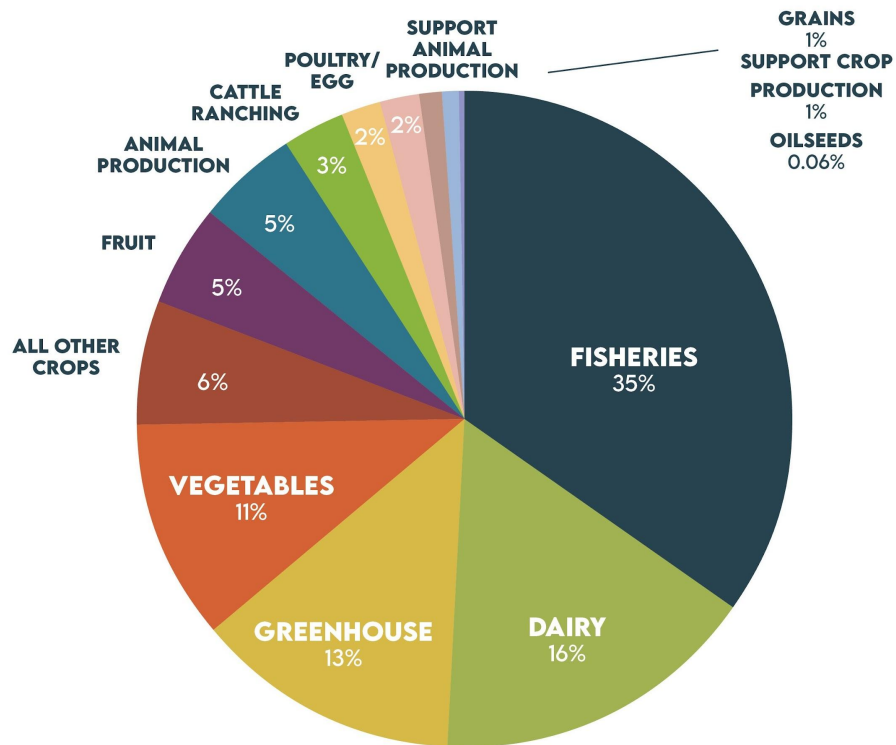
**#5** Rhode Island had the fifth highest per capita food expenditures (**\$5,606**) of any state in the country in 2020. With an average annual food expenditure growth rate of 2.7% from 1997 to 2020—and population decrease to 1,152,940 by 2030—per capita food expenditures may reach **\$6,950** by 2030. About **\$2,085** per capita would then have to be spent on regional food to meet our 30% goal.





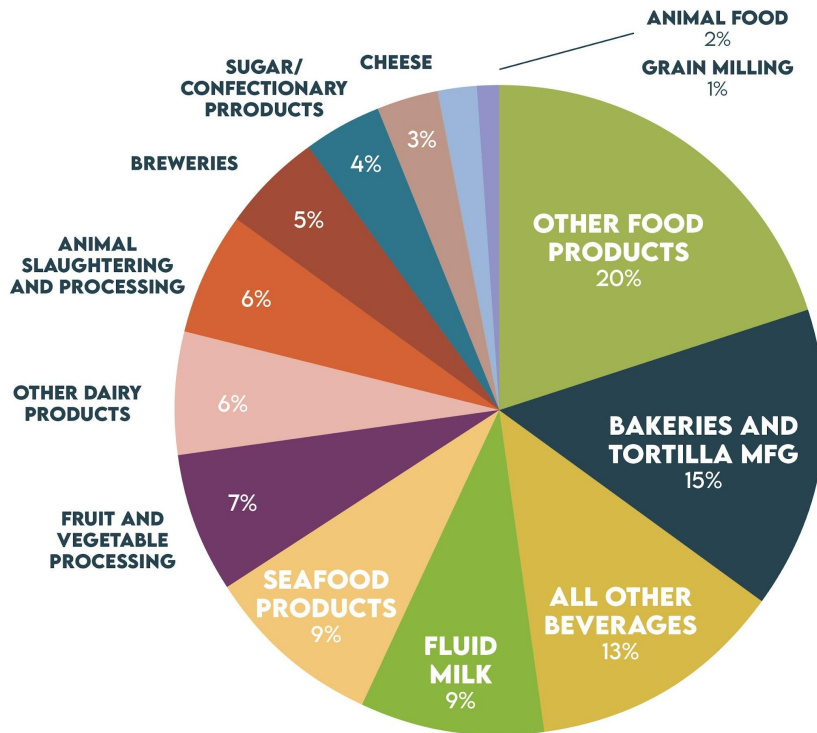
# What is Produced in New England?

**FIGURE 8:** Composition of Agricultural and Fishery Sales, 2017




# What is Produced in New England?

FIGURE 13: Composition of Food and Beverage Product Manufacturing Sales, 2017



# New England Regional Self-Reliance for Major Food Groups

## » New England Regional Self-Reliance for Major Food Groups

	 GRAINS	 VEGETABLES	 FRUITS	 DAIRY	 PROTEINS
Servings	1.6%	28.3%	8.7%	50.0%	3.2%
Calories	1.7%	41.0%	6.9%	47.4%	2.6%

Source: [Volume 2: Estimating Production for 30% Regional Self-Reliance](#). Note: vegetables consists of a significant amount of calorie-dense potatoes grown in Maine; dairy includes a significant amount of production in Vermont.



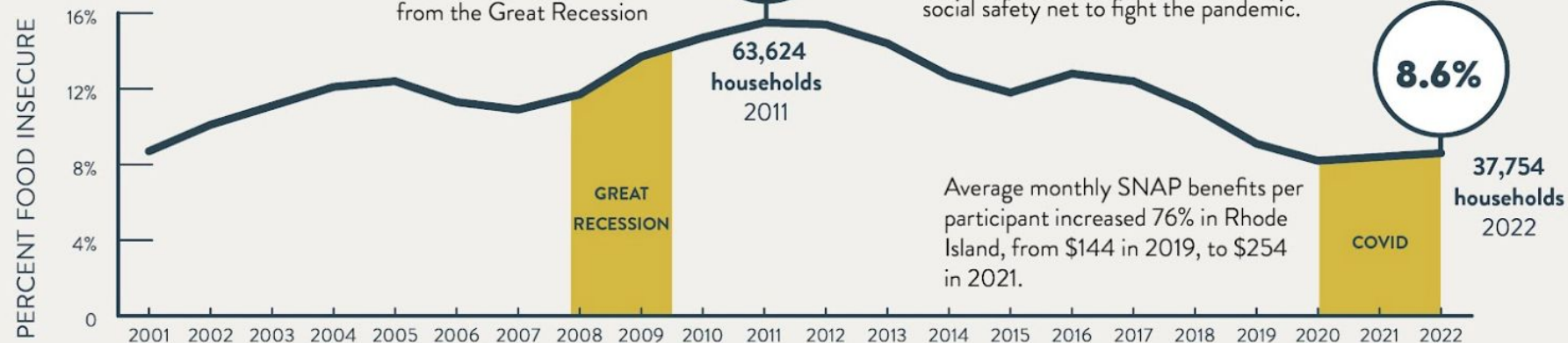
# Rhode Island Snapshot

## Food Insecurity

In the past 20 years, food insecurity was highest in 2011, as a result of a slow recovery from the Great Recession

**15.5%**

**63,624 households**  
2011



Sources: [USDA Economic Research Service](#), [KFF \(SNAP Benefits\)](#)





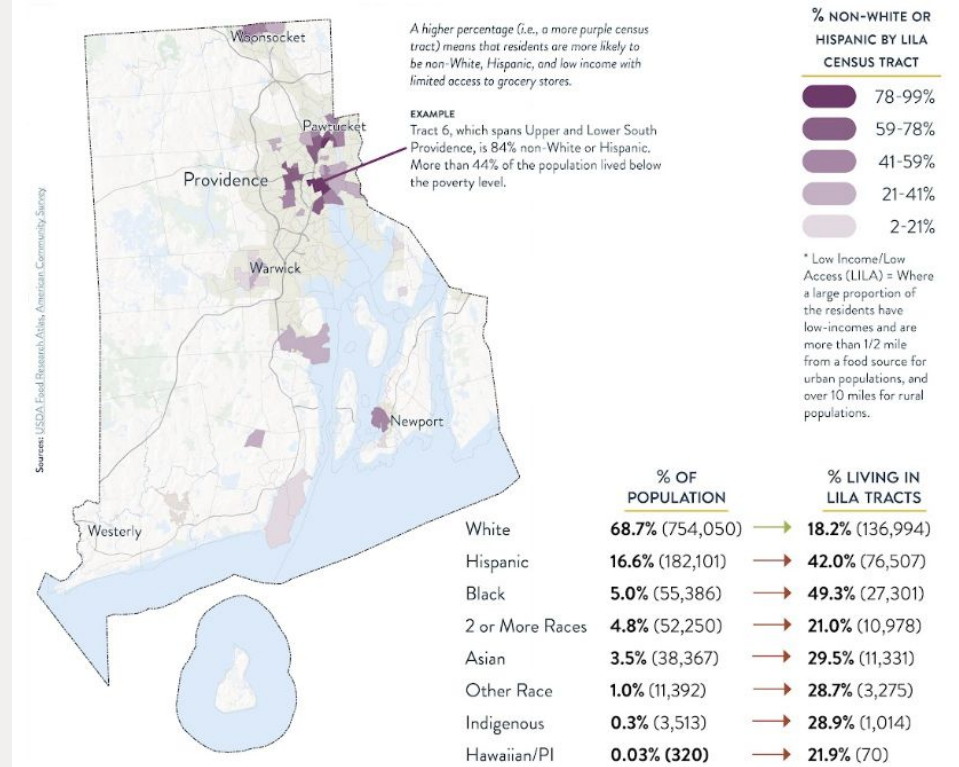
# Rhode Island Snapshot



However, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank estimated that 18.4% of Rhode Island households were food insecure in 2021, including **34.1%** of Hispanic households.

Source: [Rhode Island Community Food Bank](#)

# Rhode Island Snapshot



# Rhode Island Snapshot

## » Economic Impact of Rhode Island's Food System, 2017

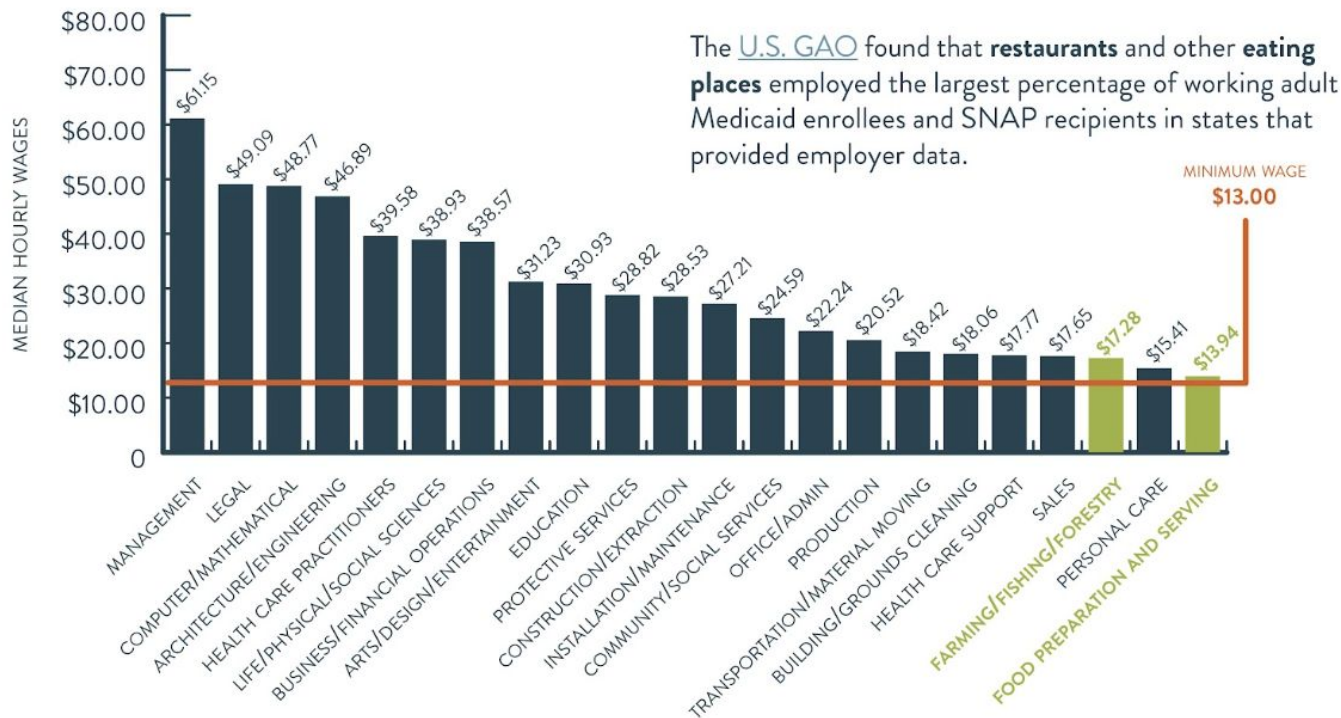
	2017 Employment	% of Total	Growth from 2007- 2017	2017 Sales	% of Total	Growth from 2007- 2017
Agriculture	3,726	5.6%	0.1%	\$62,873,200	0.5%	-3.8%
Fisheries	988	1.5%	-2.0%	\$109,856,000	0.9%	-0.6%
Food Manufacturing	2,359	3.6%	-0.5%	\$645,825,000	5.4%	1.9%
Beverage Manufacturing	367	0.6%	0.6%	\$83,628,900	0.7%	-16.1%
Wholesaling + Distributing	3,477	5.2%	2.5%	\$5,119,564,200	43.0%	8.4%
Stores	11,265	17.0%	-0.3%	\$3,118,531,100	26.2%	-0.8%
Food Services + Drinking Places	44,151	66.6%	0.9%	\$2,774,747,000	23.3%	1.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66,333</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>\$11,915,025,300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>

Source: [Volume 3: Economic Impact of New England's Food System](#). Note: Agriculture sales in this table includes support activities. Sales values are adjusted for inflation to 2020 dollars. Agricultural sales are adjusted using producer price indices for crops and livestock.



# Rhode Island Snapshot

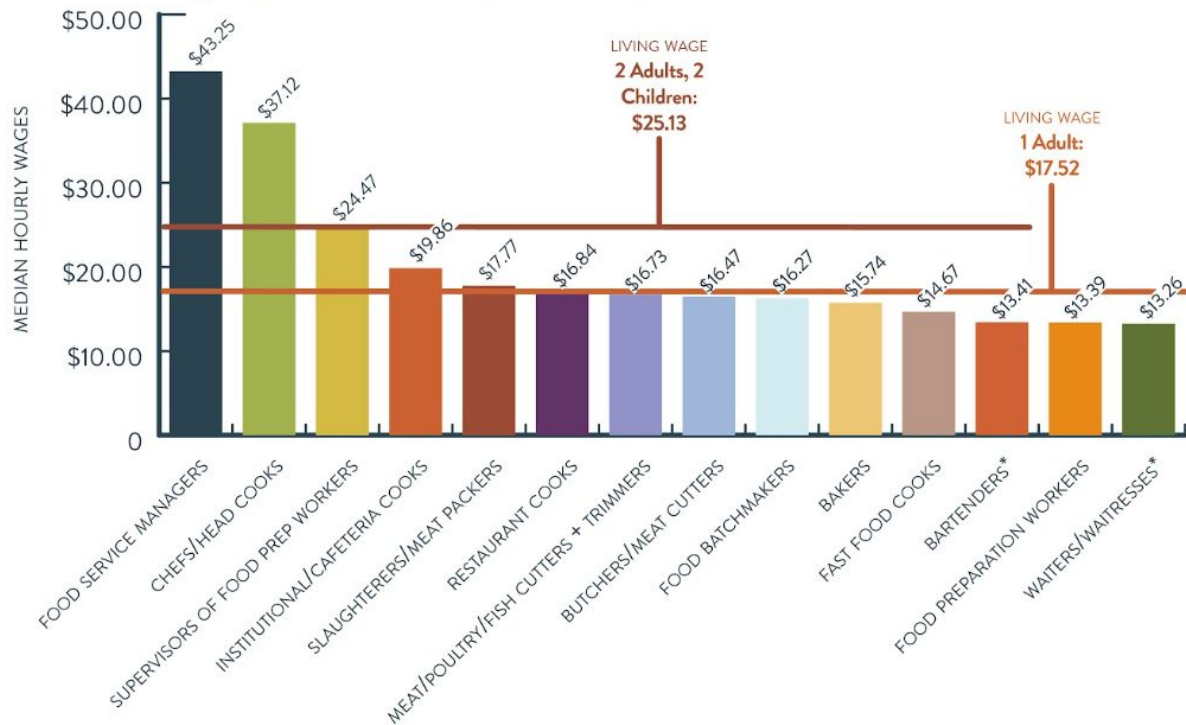
## » Median Hourly Wages by Major Occupational Category, 2022





# Rhode Island Snapshot

## » Median Hourly Wages by Selected Food System Occupations, 2022



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, MIT, Living Wage Calculator. \* wage data includes tips.





BACKGROUNDER

# COMMON FOOD SYSTEM CHALLENGES

JULY 2023



# Seven Common Challenges Across the Food System

- 1. Lack of Planning for Long-Term Food Supplies**
- 2. Ongoing Exploitation of Food System Workers**
- 3. Limited Progress Reducing Diet-Related Health Problems**
- 4. Limited Progress Reducing Food and Nutrition Insecurity**
- 5. Limited Progress Reducing Wasted Food**
- 6. Risks to Long-Term Food Production**
- 7. Challenges to Farm, Fishery, and Food Business Viability**



## Questions for Hunger Elimination Task Force Members to Consider.

- How can the number of low income/low access census tracts be reduced in urban and rural areas?
- What would need to change for people to change their dietary patterns?
- What strategies and policies can discourage consumption of ultra-processed food and beverage products?
- What additional public support is necessary to enable lower income residents to access regional food and beverage products?
- How can we institutionalize food is medicine strategies throughout the region?



**NEW ENGLAND**  
**FOOD SYSTEM**  
**PLANNERS PARTNERSHIP**

**Want to learn more about the  
New England Feeding New England project?**

Contact our Project Director,  
Leah Rovner at  
[leah@nefoodsystemplanners.org](mailto:leah@nefoodsystemplanners.org)  
or visit us at  
[www.nefoodsystemplanners.org](http://www.nefoodsystemplanners.org)



# State of the State of Hunger in Rhode Island

**ANDREW  
SCHIFF**

CEO  
Rhode Island Community Food Bank

**BETHANY  
CAPUTO**

SNAP Administrator  
RI Department of Human Services

**JESSICA  
PATROLIA**

Child Nutrition Programs Coordinator  
RI Department of Education

**MEGHAN  
GRADY**

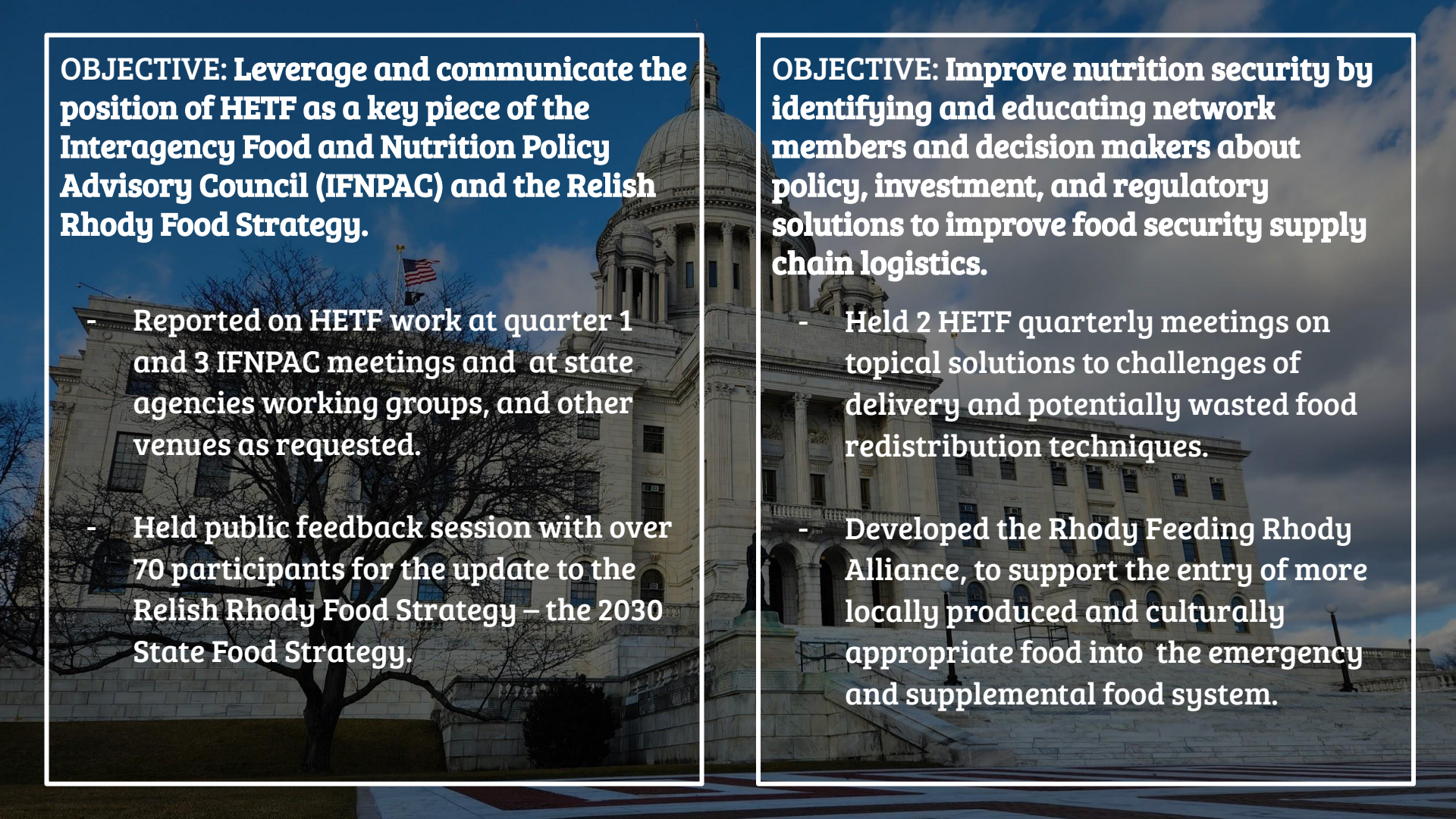
Executive Director  
Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island



A photograph of the North Carolina State Capitol building, a large, ornate, light-colored stone structure with a prominent central dome and classical columns. The building is set against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, there are bare, dark trees and a wide set of stone steps leading up to the entrance. An American flag is visible on a pole to the left of the building. The text 'Hunger Elimination Task Force 2023 Accomplishments' is overlaid in a large, white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

# Hunger Elimination Task Force 2023 Accomplishments



The background image is a photograph of the Rhode Island State Capitol building, a large, ornate, light-colored stone structure with a prominent dome and classical columns. An American flag flies on a tall pole in front of the building. Bare trees are visible in the foreground, suggesting a cooler season. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

**OBJECTIVE: Leverage and communicate the position of HETF as a key piece of the Interagency Food and Nutrition Policy Advisory Council (IFNPAC) and the Relish Rhody Food Strategy.**

- Reported on HETF work at quarter 1 and 3 IFNPAC meetings and at state agencies working groups, and other venues as requested.
- Held public feedback session with over 70 participants for the update to the Relish Rhody Food Strategy – the 2030 State Food Strategy.

**OBJECTIVE: Improve nutrition security by identifying and educating network members and decision makers about policy, investment, and regulatory solutions to improve food security supply chain logistics.**

- Held 2 HETF quarterly meetings on topical solutions to challenges of delivery and potentially wasted food redistribution techniques.
- Developed the Rhody Feeding Rhody Alliance, to support the entry of more locally produced and culturally appropriate food into the emergency and supplemental food system.



The background image is a photograph of the Rhode Island State Capitol building, a large, ornate, light-colored stone structure with a prominent central dome and classical columns. Bare trees are in the foreground, and an American flag flies on a pole to the left. The sky is blue with some clouds.

**OBJECTIVE: Reduce food insecurity by developing a centralized source for nutrition security resources for Rhode Island residents, in partnership with on-the-ground HETF members and state agencies.**

- Provided monthly updates on food assistance programs through the Rhode Island Food Access Bulletin (RIFAB).
- Increased RIFAB subscribers by 20% to 461; 38.3% open rate (average = 17%)

**OBJECTIVE: With support from a consultant, create a food security plan for Rhode Island by engaging the HETF network and resources.**

- Hired a new Program Director, Food Access & Nutrition Security to oversee development of Rhode Island Food System Preparedness and Recovery Plan.
- Released Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire consultant to assist with development of the Rhode Island Food System Preparedness and Recovery Plan.



A photograph of the North Carolina State Capitol building, a large, ornate, light-colored stone structure with a prominent central dome. The building is set against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, there are bare, dark trees on the left and a wide set of stone steps leading up to the building's entrance. An American flag is visible on a pole to the left of the dome. The text "Looking Forward to 2024" is overlaid in a large, white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

**Looking Forward to 2024**



# HETF in 2024

## *Proposed topics:*

Q1: Food Delivery

Q2: Emergency Food Plan  
Report and Input

Q3: 2030 Food Strategy

Q4: State of the State of  
Food Security

## OBJECTIVES

- Support cross-sector efforts to end hunger by lifting up effective community-based solutions and connecting smaller programs with information to overcome barriers to scale and remain sustainable.
- Create opportunities for HETF members to learn and connect with other community-based organizations, non-profits, state agency staff, and government officials regarding hunger relief efforts throughout the state.
- Broaden HETF membership through targeted outreach to build a strong network of actively engaged stakeholders and actors including engaging more representatives from community-based organizations, Healthy Equity Zones (HEZs), and community members.



# HETF in 2024

## **NEW** *Action groups!*

**Q1 Topic: Food Delivery**

**Q2-Q4 Topics: You help us  
decide!**

- Increasing access to subsidized summer meals outside urban centers
- Developing universal state benefit program applications (SNAP, WIC, other assistance programs)
- Developing school, summer and CACFP procurement alternatives to large food service management companies
- Increasing Local and culturally appropriate food in FSM-provided school meals
- Increasing food donation by reducing food waste
- Coordination between state, municipalities and local nonprofits on emergency food distribution



# THANK YOU!

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[rifoodcouncil.org/hunger-elimination-task-force](http://rifoodcouncil.org/hunger-elimination-task-force)

