

Rhode Island Hunger Elimination Task Force

Quarter Three Meeting • Tuesday, July 9, 2024 @ 2 - 3:30pm



A photograph of a person in a grocery store aisle, seen from behind, wearing a white shirt and a dark vest. They are standing near a shelf stocked with various food items, including jars of Heinz ketchup and bottles of oil. The store has wooden floors and a large glass entrance door with an 'EXIT' sign above it. Outside the door, a 'CLOSED' sign is visible on the window. The text 'HETF Goal: To reduce hunger and increase access to healthy, culturally-appropriate food for all Rhode Island residents' is overlaid in large, bold, blue font across the center of the image.

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



**Hunger Elimination Task Force
Action Group**



Hunger Elimination Task Force

Action Group #3

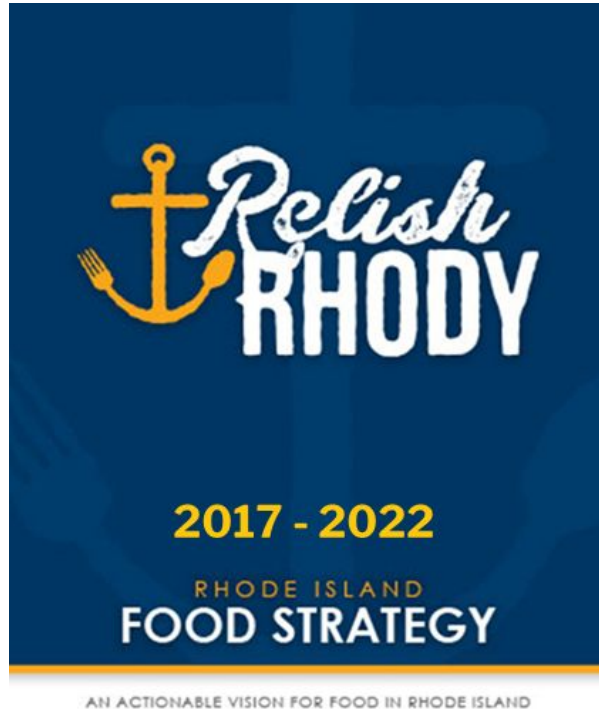
FOCUS:

Policy recommendations for State agencies to increase local + culturally-relevant school meals in FSM public schools

GETTING INVOLVED

- At least 5 people need to commit
- 3 one-hour meetings over the course of 2-3 months
- Present these recommendations at the Q4 Inter-Agency Food and Nutrition Policy Advisory Committee Meeting

RI STATEWIDE FOOD SYSTEM PLANNING FOR 2030

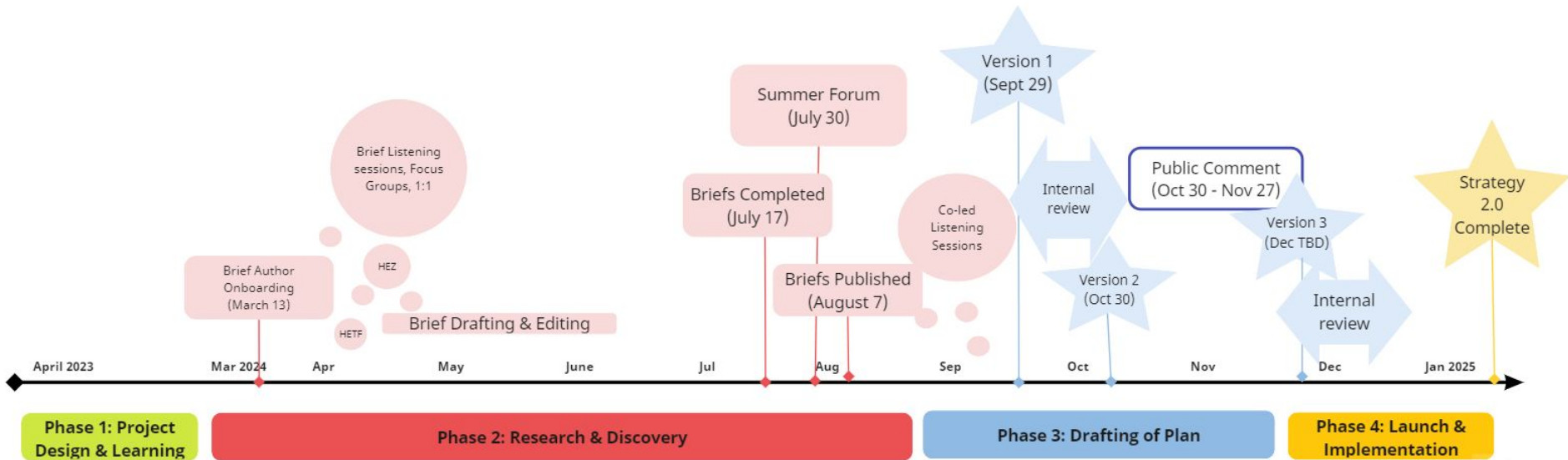


Why do state level food plans matter?

- Identify common goals and connect partners for collective impact
- Establish shared metrics for strategic action and greater impact
- Inform policymakers of statewide and local priorities
- Catalyze collective actions across the food system



PLANNING TIMELINE & MILESTONES



INFORMING THE PLAN: FOOD SYSTEM “BRIEFS”

Understanding the issues...

- 23 Food System Briefs were written by 40+ subject matter experts across the state
- Briefs will...
 - establish a base of understanding on “issues” and “market channels”
 - identify 2030 priorities, challenges and opportunities to shape the future strategy





Brief 17: Food Access, Nutrition Security and Food Assistance

Sarah Amin, Sarah Blau, Chrystal Mars-Baker, Alison Tovar

Process

Community Engagement

- Focus groups with co-authors
- Interviews with Parent Leaderboard (Spanish)
- Interviews with members of the Narragansett Indian Tribe

Writing

- Collaborative process
- Relied on focus group findings

What's At Stake

8.1%

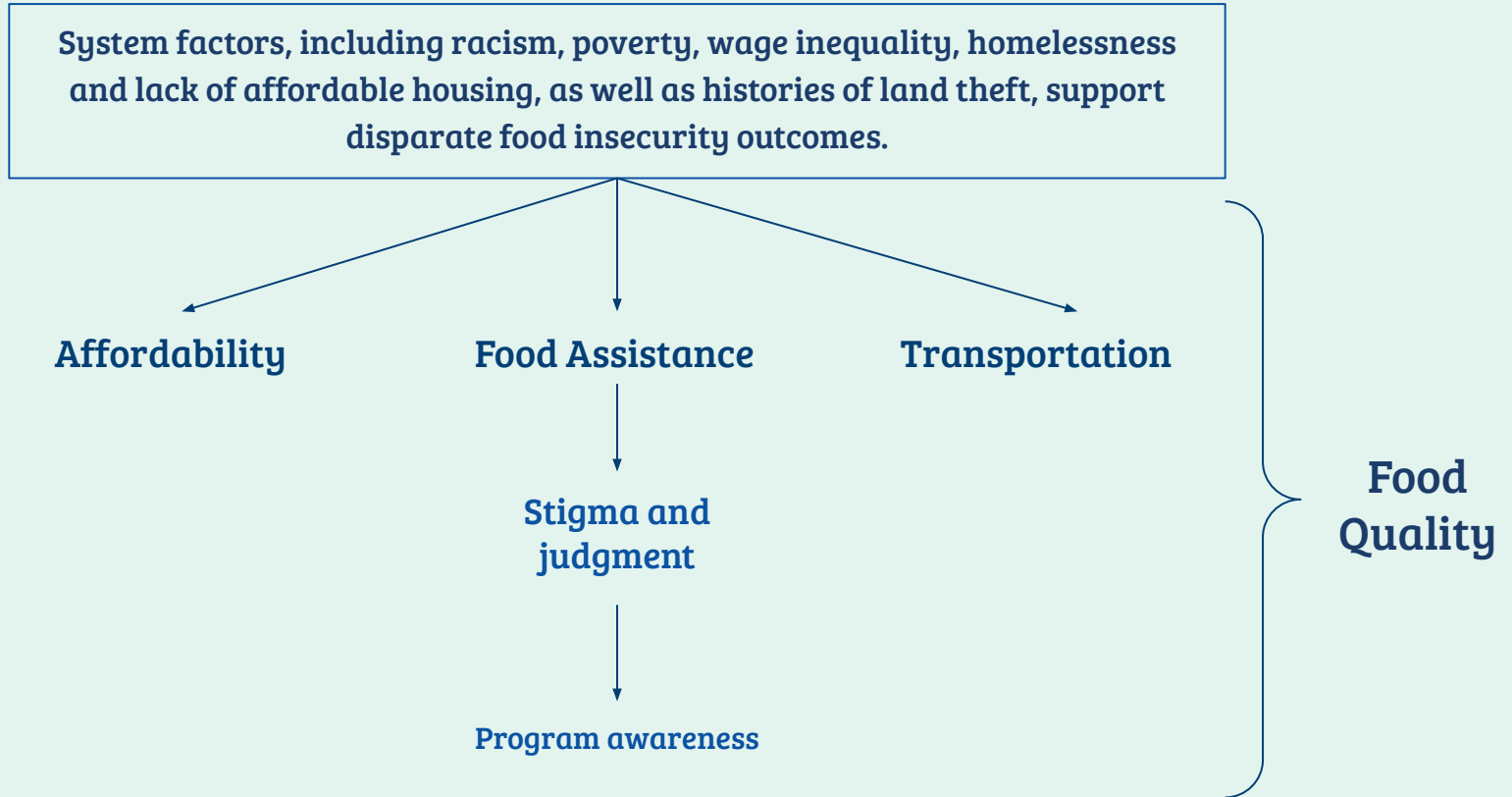
of households experienced
food insecurity

45%

of households had to choose
between paying for housing
or food at least once in the
last 12 months

Many Rhode Islanders are grappling to meet their basic needs including being able to access and afford high quality, culturally relevant nutritious foods. Food insecurity, together with the lack of other social, health and economic needs, is leading to alarming rates of cancer, cardiometabolic and other chronic diseases, particularly among marginalized groups.

Challenges



Opportunities

1

Expand outreach efforts
for federal nutrition
program participation

2

Incorporate RI-grown
produce into food
assistance programs

3

Strengthen advocacy
networks

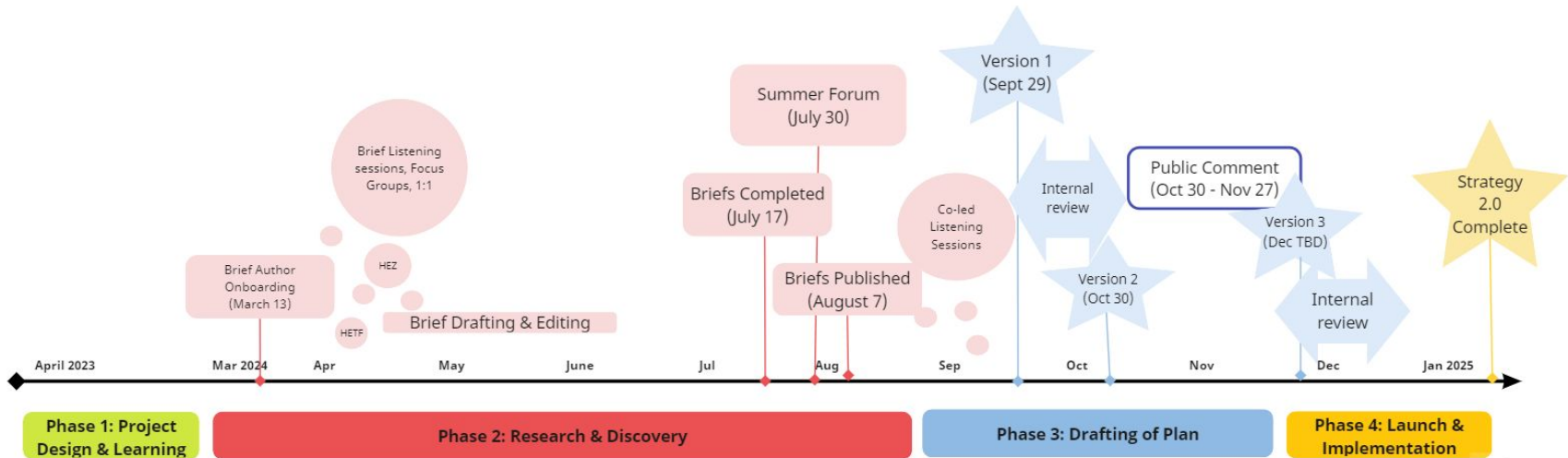
4

Expand grassroots food
sovereignty efforts

Recommendations

01	Food Sovereignty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land/water access is food access. Foraging should be encouraged on all open access lands/waters.
02	Food Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create food hubs by partnering with schools, community colleges, and other food business to provide storage and distribution capacity
03	Food Assistance and Voucher Incentive Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand income eligibility for SNAP• Align SNAP and Medicaid recertification• Strengthen WIC FMNP communication• Integrate Eat Well, Be Well and Bonus Bucks• Incentivize grower participation in FVVI
04	Emergency Food System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transition all food pantries to a client-choice model to provide autonomy, decrease food waste and stigma associated with going to a food pantry

WHAT'S NEXT for RI FOOD STRATEGY 2030



- **JUL - Synthesize briefs and co-create strategy for 2030**
- **SEP - Co-facilitated Listening Sessions to fill in gaps and validate strategies**
- **OCT - Draft available for Public Comment**
- **JAN 2025 - Final Plan complete - the work begins (or continues...!)**

THANK YOU!

Rachel Newman Greene , RIFPC
rachel@rifoodcouncil.org

Max De Faria , RIFPC
max@rifoodcouncil.org

Sarah Blau , RIDOH
sarah.blau@health.ri.gov

Randi Belhumeur , RIDOH
randi.belhumeur@health.ri.gov

Juli Stelmaszyk , Commerce RI
julianne.stelmaszyk@commerceri.com

Alison Macbeth , Commerce RI
alison.macbeth@commerceri.com

rifoodcouncil.org/hunger-elimination-task-force

