

**RI FOOD  
POLICY  
COUNCIL**



# Rhode Island Hunger Elimination Task Force

Quarter One Meeting | February 9, 2021 1:30 – 3:00 pm  
via Zoom



HENRY P. KENDALL FOUNDATION







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



# Proposed HETF Objectives and 2021 Activities

RIFOOD  
POLICY  
COUNCIL



# Near-term objectives (1-2 years)

- Broaden the network of actively engaged stakeholders and lift up effective community-based solutions to specific food justice and food access problems
- Create a landscape map of food delivery services and pilots and the populations they serve to understand where there are gaps, success stories, and scalable services



# Farther-term objectives (3-5 years)

- Deepen the collaborative efforts for medium/longer term problem solving across state agencies, NGOs, CBOs, industry and other stakeholders
- Increase the resilience of the emergency and supplemental food system in responding to shocks



# RIFPC role

We will coordinate 4 quarterly meetings and provide needed support for activities needed in-between quarterly meetings



# Broaden the network of actively engaged stakeholders

We will update and continually expand the invitation list, including agency staff, nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders.





# Create a statewide hunger/food delivery landscape map

- Create a resource for identifying all of the services and pilots operating in the state
- Conduct selected evaluations to explore how efficacy and quality vary
- Identify gaps and opportunities to fill them



# Deepen the collaborative environment for longer term problem solving

- Invite presenters highlighting innovative hunger elimination programs
- Use technology to engage attendees in small group conversations and ‘harvest’ learnings from those conversations
- Use evaluation data to support long term strategies and investments



# Increase the resilience of the emergency and supplemental system in responding to shocks

- Prioritize community input!
- Identify capacity constraints/bottlenecks
- Identify mechanisms needed to effectively

RI FOOD  
POLICY  
COUNCIL



and efficiently coordinate across organizations

# Small Breakout Sessions & Report Outs

RI FOOD  
POLICY  
COUNCIL



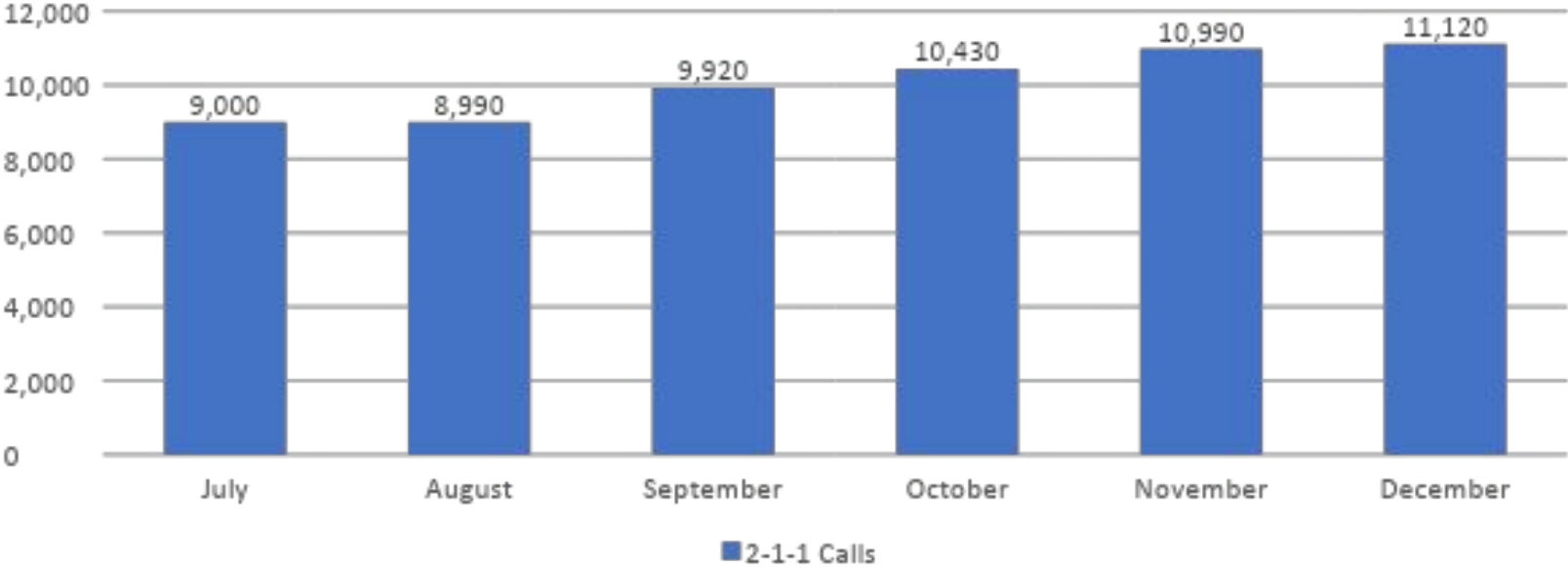
# 'State of the State' Report Hunger in RI



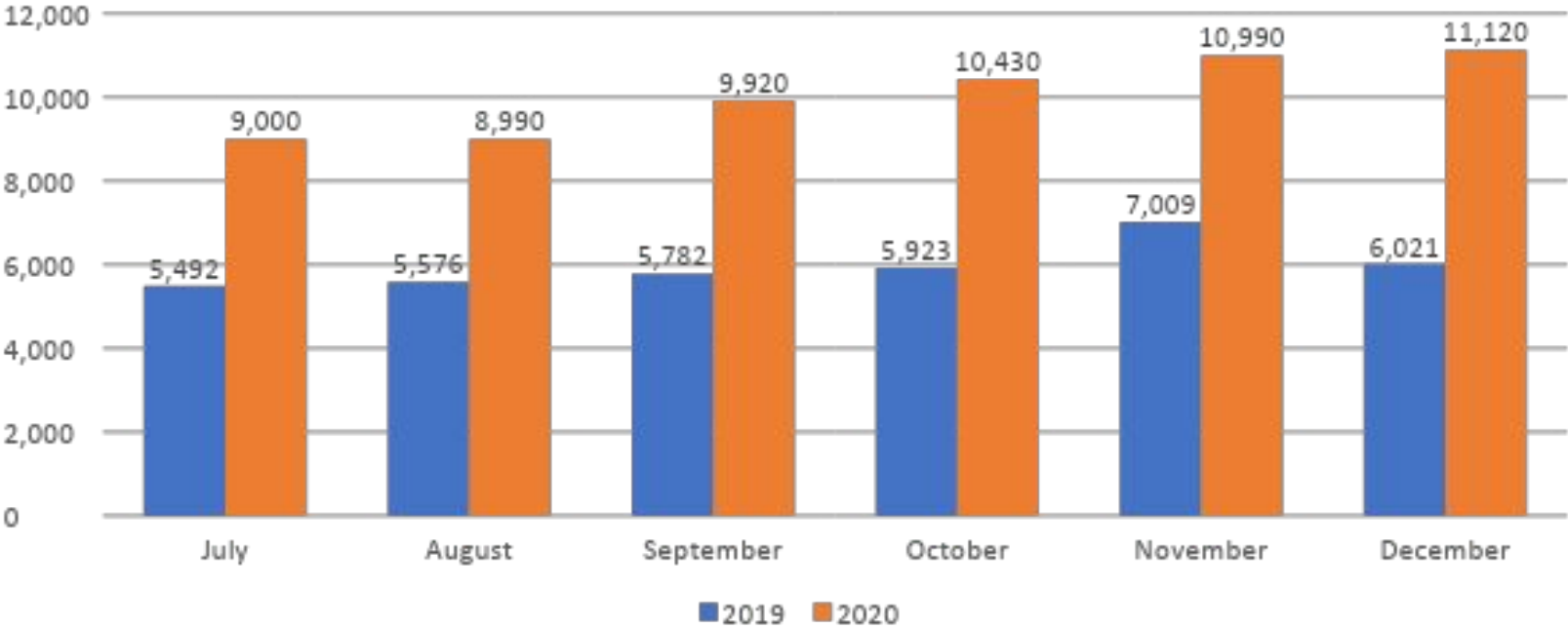
# Food Insecurity in Rhode Island

February 2021

# Calls to United Way 2-1-1 for Food Assistance

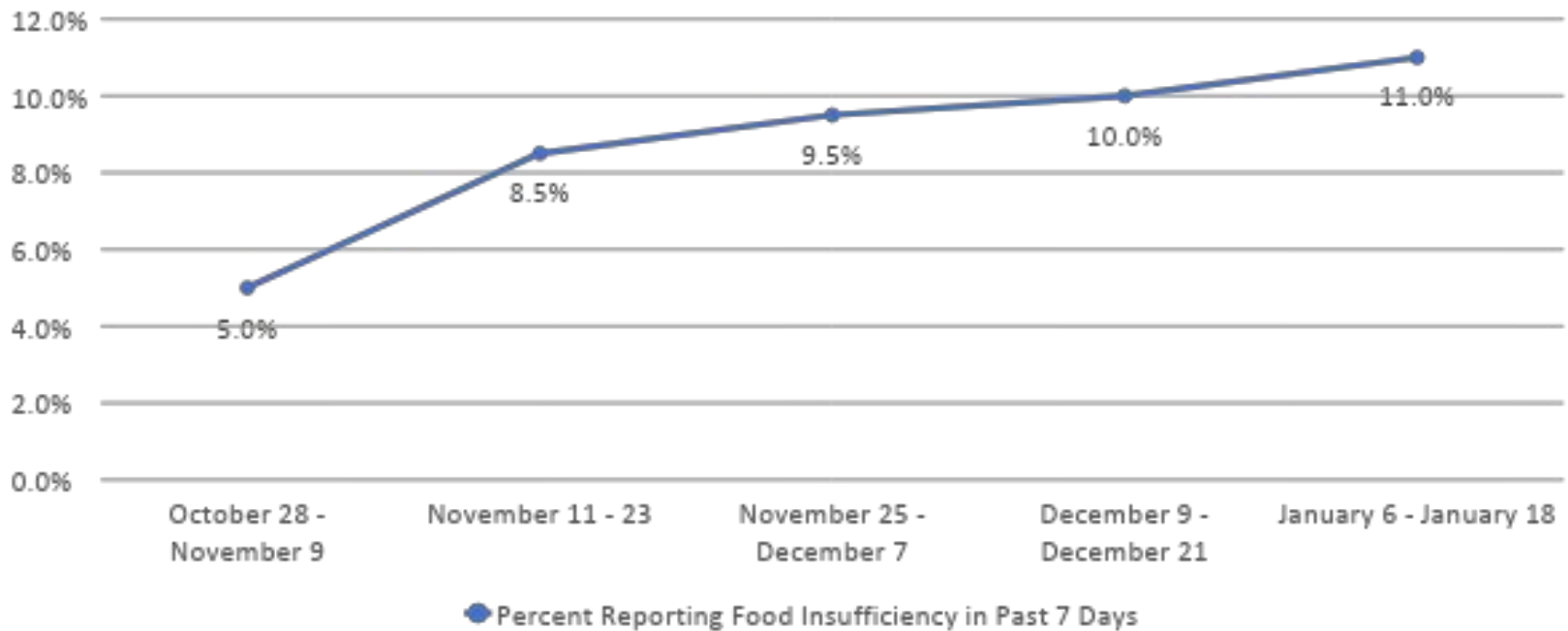


# 2-1-1 Calls for Food Assistance: 2020 v. 2019

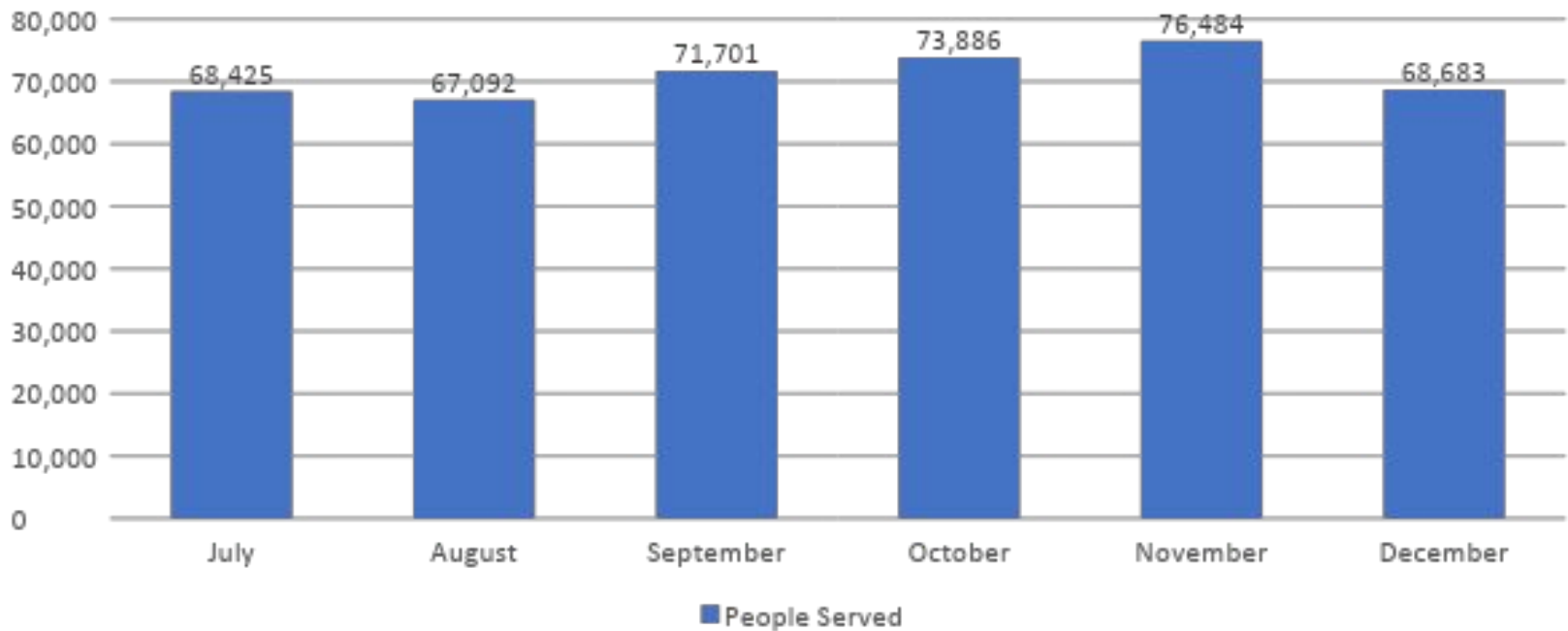




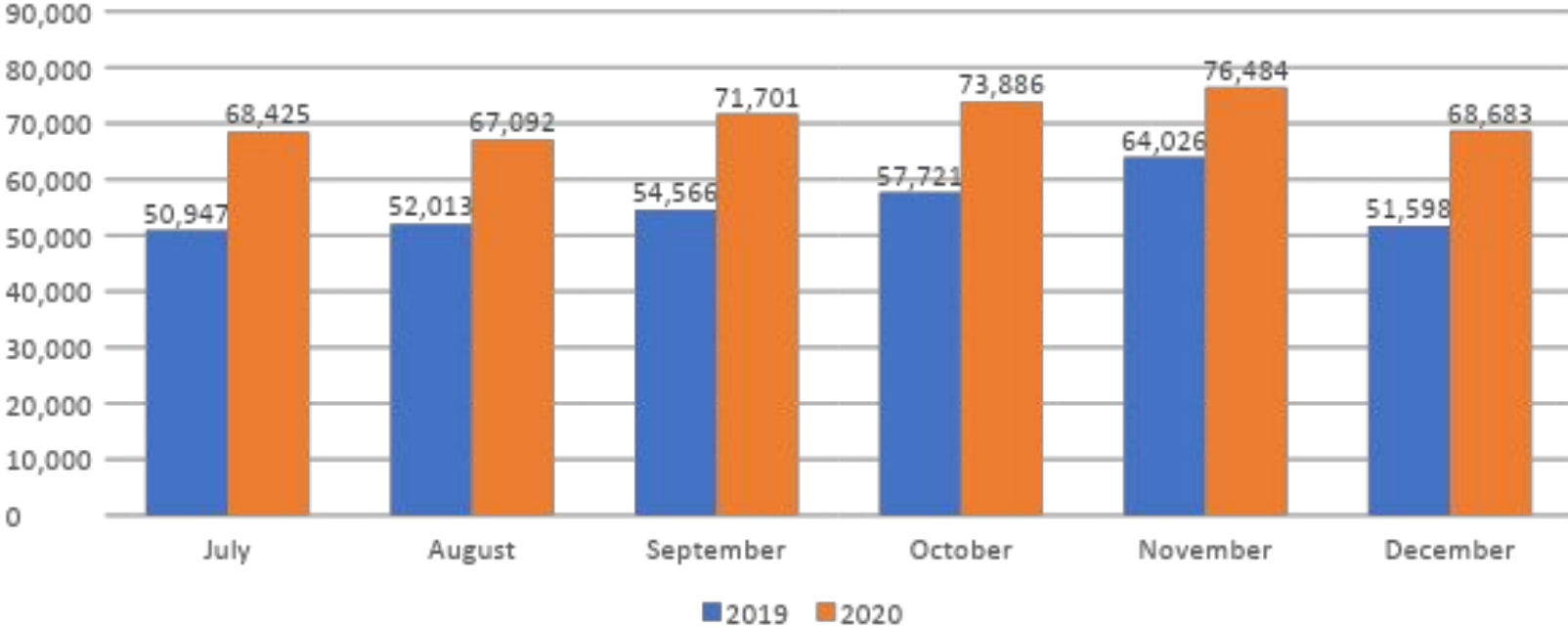
# Food Insufficiency in Rhode Island



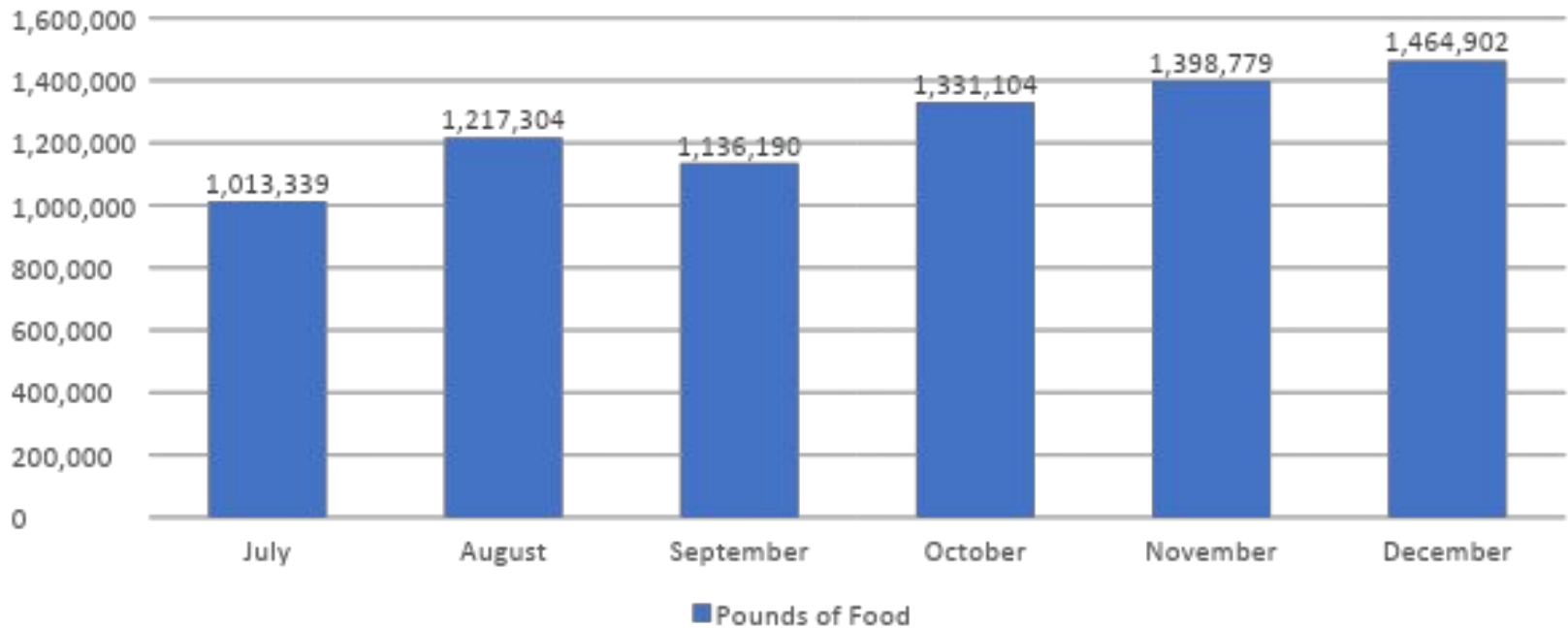
# People Served at Food Pantries in Rhode Island



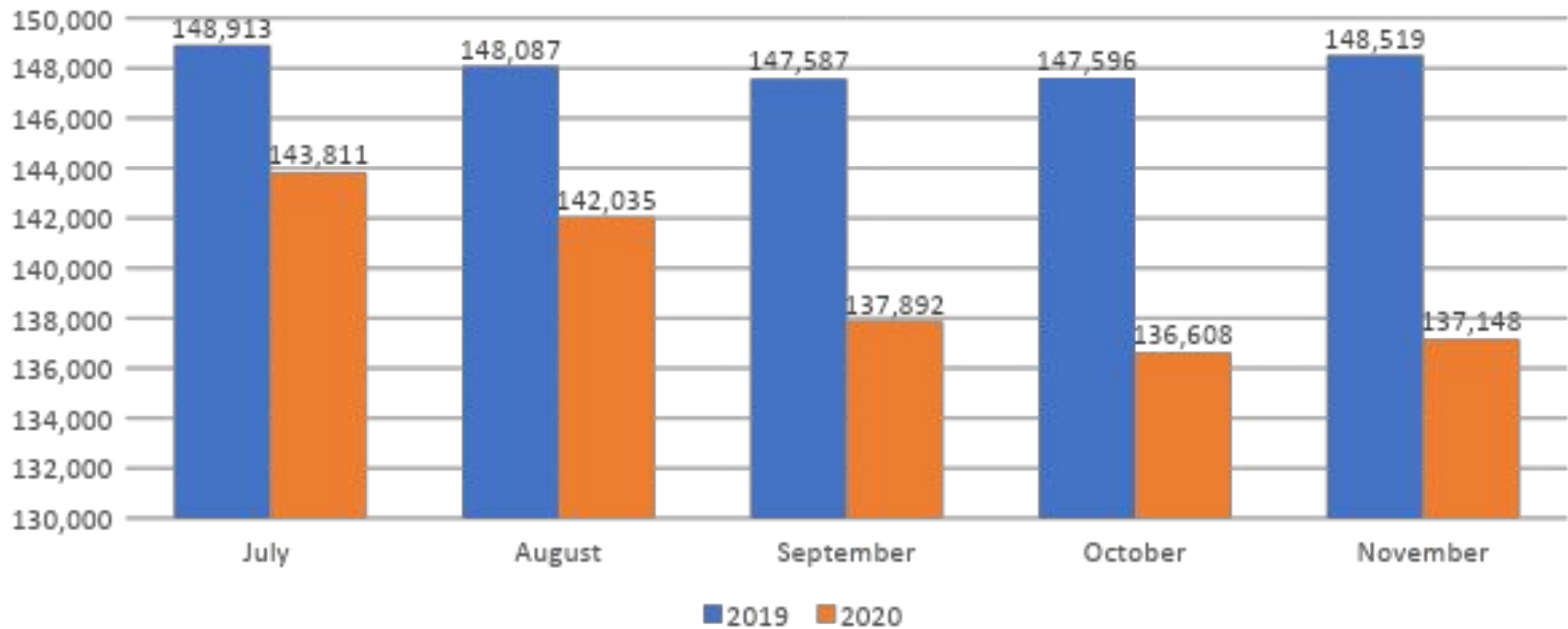
# People Served at Food Pantries: 2020 v. 2019



# Pounds of Food Distributed by the Food Bank



# SNAP Participation in Rhode Island: Individuals



**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (snap)  
uPDATE & SNAPshot**

**February 9, 2021**

# SNAP POLICY & UPDATES

## **Emergency Allotments in December 2020 and January 2021**

- Each month the Governor continues the state of emergency, we request issuance of the maximum benefit amount for all households

## **Additional SNAP Issuance**

- On 12.11.20, SNAP households with children were granted an additional SNAP payment of \$600 (paid for with State CARES Act funds)
- Funding available until 12.30.20. Households approved for SNAP after 12.11.20, but before 12.30.20 also received the additional payment.

## **Benefit Increase**

- SNAP benefits were increased by 15 percent in January 2021 and will continue through June 30, 2020.

## **P-EBT for 2020-2021 school year**

- RI submitted an implementation plan to issue P-EBT benefits ongoing through the school year. Received FNS approval in late December 2020
- Retroactive benefits (October, November and December 2020) were issued in January. Benefits will be issued monthly, on-going.
- We are working on our proposal to FNS to extend P-EBT to children under age 5 which was recently made an option.

# SNAP POLICY & UPDATES (Cont.)

## Online Purchasing Expansion

- SNAP recipients can order and pay for food on-line at Amazon, Walmart, and Aldi and either have food delivered or use curbside pick up. BJs will also accept on-line payment by end of month.

## Restaurant Meals Program Expansion

- Federal Hill Pizza, in Providence, is now actively accepting EBT. Full list can be found on DHS website (<http://www.dhs.ri.gov/Programs/SNAPFoodAccessProject.php>)

## COVID-19 Related Policies

- **Interim reports** are suspended until June 2021
- **Recertifications**
  - Recertifications that had not been previously extended have been suspended until June 2021
  - If a household had their recertification extended in the spring or summer, it was sent to the household this fall
- **Interviews**
  - Applications or recertifications that are submitted with all required documentation can be processed without an interview
- **Eligibility**
  - The Unemployment Insurance boost is excluded income for SNAP
  - The economic stimulus payment (\$600 per eligible adult and child) is excluded income for SNAP
  - The recent COVID relief package lifted the student work requirement for college students whose family contribution, as calculated by FAFSA, is \$0. We are working with our local colleges to do outreach to student to be made aware of this change.



# SNAP DATA: SNAPSHOT

Total SNAP Recipients	140,266	# of SNAP Recipients Age Infant-17	45,397
Total SNAP Households	85,464	# of SNAP Households w/at least 1 person working	11,183
# of Age 60+ Individuals	30,142	# of HHLDS w/60+ & Minor(Infant-17) in same case	382
# of Age 60+ w/Med deduction	16,025	# of Individuals Attending College	2,440
# of HHLDS w/Age 60+ Individual	28,144	Average Benefit per HHLHD	\$222
# of Age 60+ Single person households	24,958	Average Benefit for Age 60+ HHLHD	\$152
# of Recipients with Disability	51,624	Average Benefit per HHLDS w/ Infant-17	\$376
# of Recipients w/Disability & Medical Deduction	20,245	# of HHLDS w/\$50 or more in Benefits	77,012
		# of Age 60+ HHLDS w/\$50 or more in Benefits	23,642

All data are preliminary and draft. Numbers continuously change. This information is a point in time Snapshot of SNAP participation numbers from 1/1/2021 12:13:21 PM.

# Preview of Q2 – Q3 – Q4 Plans

- Second Quarter: Effective community-based food justice/public health initiatives.
- Third Quarter: Connecting local food and the emergency feeding network
- Fourth Quarter: Providing emergency prepared meals



# Opportunities for Collaboration

RIFOOD  
POLICY  
COUNCIL



# Creation of a statewide hunger/food delivery landscape map

- Discussion of need
- Discussion of goal, objectives, and uses



# What data is needed?

- Homebound, hard-to-reach and limited mobility populations
- Pilots/programs that are serving these populations
- Gaps in service
- Pending funding, we will conduct formative research to inform the HETF, (e.g., including focus groups with homebound and other hard-to-reach people; information-gathering and concept-testing interviews or surveys with state agency leaders)



# What do the optimal uses say about the optimal format?

- GIS map
- Report
- Searchable database
- Other



# Quick Task Force Evaluation

- **Positives**
- **Negatives**
- **Changes**



# Contact Information

**Diane Lynch**

RIFPC Board Chair

**Nessa Richman**

Network Director

**Rodney Solomon**

Director of Workforce Initiatives

**Michael Roles, Senior Program**  
Associate for Community Outreach

**Nina Wolff Landau, Program**  
Associate for Research and  
Evaluation

[Diane@rifoodcouncil.org](mailto:Diane@rifoodcouncil.org)

[Nessa@rifoodcouncil.org](mailto:Nessa@rifoodcouncil.org)

[Rodney@rifoodcouncil.org](mailto:Rodney@rifoodcouncil.org)

g

[Michael@rifoodcouncil.org](mailto:Michael@rifoodcouncil.org)

g

[Nina@rifoodcouncil.org](mailto:Nina@rifoodcouncil.org)

RIFOOD  
POLICY  
COUNCIL

