

Interagency Food and Nutrition Policy Advisory Council Meeting (IFNPAC)

November 16, 2021

9:30am – 11:00am

Location: RI Commerce

**RHODE
ISLAND**

Welcome and Introductions

AGENDA

- 9:30am **Welcome & Introductions** – Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, Director, RIDOH
- 9:35am **Review and approve August 2021 Minutes** – Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, Director, RIDOH
- 9:40am **State of Food Insecurity/Hunger Elimination Task Force update** - Nessa Richman, RIFPC
- 9:50am **RI Food Strategy Updates** - Julianne Stelmaszyk and Partner Agencies
- 10:00am **State of Food Economy** – Julianne Stelmaszyk, Commerce
- 10:15am **Guest Panel** - Past LASA Grant recipients
- 10:30am **Open Discussion/Comment**

Review and Approve August 2021 Meeting Minutes

Hunger Elimination Task Force Update



FOURTH QUARTER MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2021



HETF GOAL & 2021 OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE A:

Broaden the network of actively engaged stakeholders

OBJECTIVE B:

Deepen the collaborative environment for medium/longer-term problem solving

OBJECTIVE C:

Collect data for the creation of a statewide hunger/food delivery landscape resource

A photograph of a woman in a light blue shirt and tan shorts loading a Dunkin' box into the trunk of a red car. The car is parked in front of a white building with a pedimented entrance. The building has a sign that reads "Providence Rescue Mission 39". A black metal fence is in the foreground. To the right, a white truck with a cage is visible. The scene is set outdoors during the day.

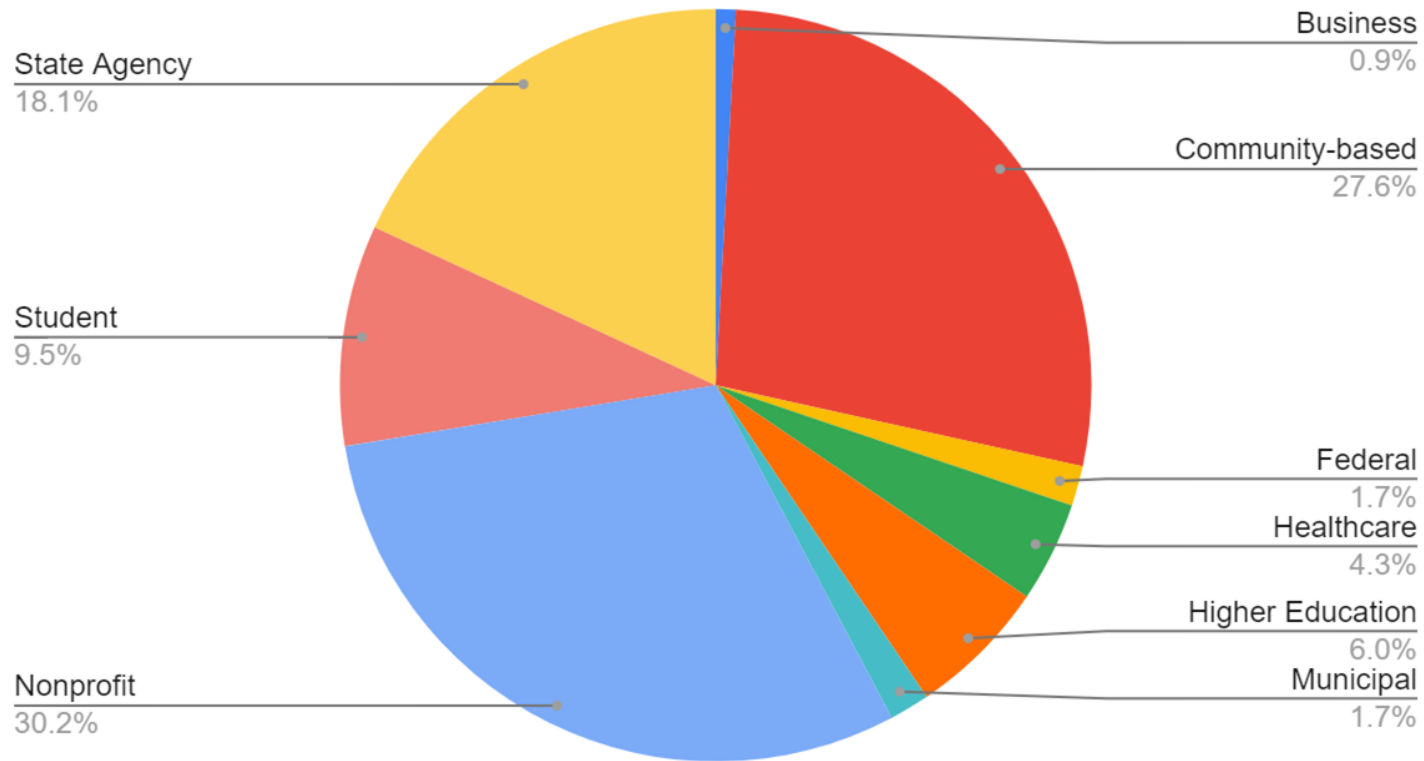
HUNGER ELIMINATION TASK FORCE

2021 OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

BROADEN THE NETWORK: 2021 HUNGER ELIMINATION TASK FORCE Q1-Q3 PARTICIPANTS

TOTAL MEETING ATTENDEES: **116 INDIVIDUALS**

Count of Organization Type



ENHANCE MEDIUM/LONGER-TERM PLANNING: **APPROACH**

- Facilitate communication and consensus-building
- Educate/broaden everyone's knowledge base
- Ensure community input into medium/longer-term plans

COMMUNITY INPUT **INTO** **MEDIUM/LONGER-TERM PLANS**

- DEM & RIFPC ARPA recommendations:
 - 1. Invest in urban and rural ag land**
 - 2. Increase support for emergency food providers**
 - 3. Support local Farm-to-School**
- Long term investment in **Food Access/Equity staff**



**EMERGENCY &
SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD
DELIVERY WORK
GROUP**

WORK GROUP **OBJECTIVES**

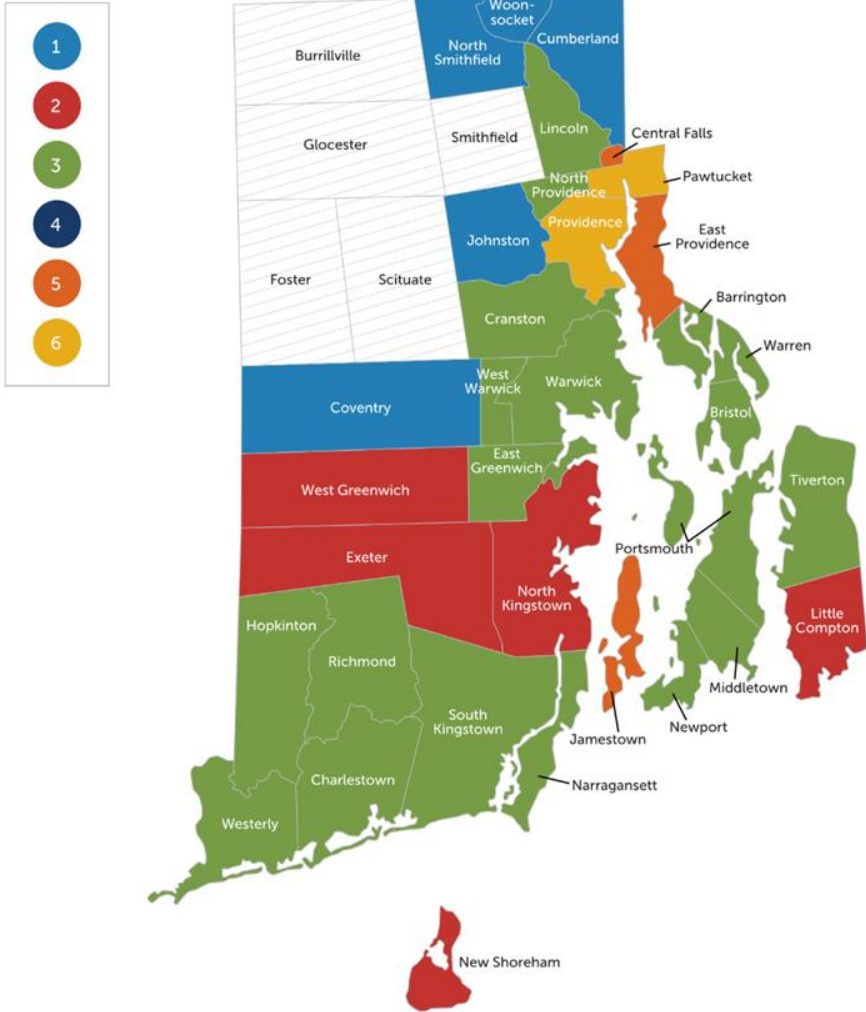
- Improve access to delivery services by building an up-to-date database/landscape map and identifying ways to share as widely as possible with communities in need
- Identify gaps and potential areas for increased state/non-profit support, short or longer term

KEY FINDINGS: **COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS**





Number of emergency and supplemental home delivery food providers active in each town (excluding providers that are active throughout the whole state)



Providers that operate statewide (not included in the map)

Family Service of RI • Meals on Wheels RI • The Elisha Project • Lasagna Love • Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation • Be Kind RI • RI Office of Healthy Aging • Mom’s Meals and Neighborhood Health Plan of RI Joint Program

RECOMMENDED **NEXT STEPS**

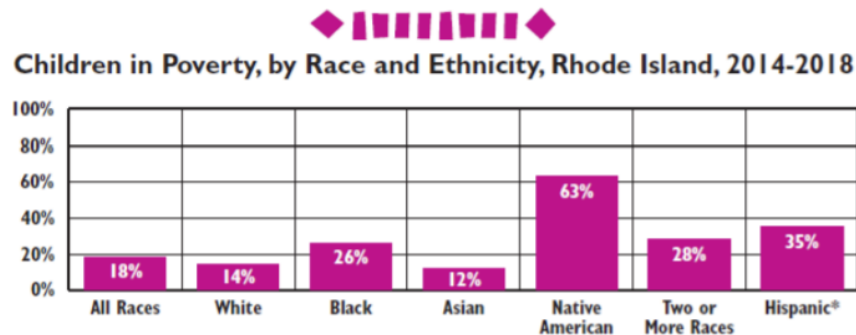
- Share data with food access platform developers
- Provide a publicly-available database of delivery service providers for social service organizations
- Share key findings broadly for organizational use (e.g., for grant applications, partnership development)
- Use results to inform investments and policy (state and municipal)

A photograph of two young people, a woman on the left and a man on the right, in a garden. The woman is wearing a dark blue t-shirt and has curly hair. She is holding a bunch of green leafy vegetables. The man is wearing a white t-shirt and is looking down at a small red object, possibly a tomato, held in his palm. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with buildings and greenery.

**PRIMARY
FOOD SECURITY
INDICATORS**

FOOD SECURITY: STATEWIDE PERCENTAGES OF POVERTY

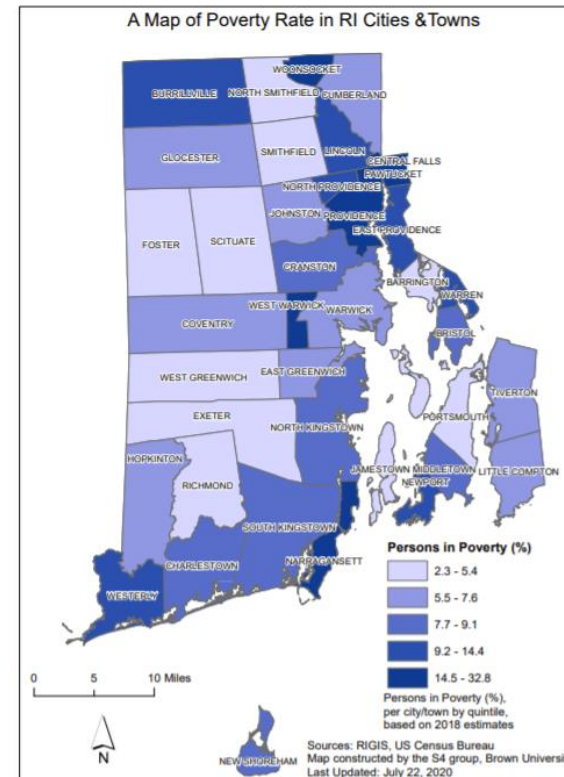
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY, BY RACE



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. Tables S1701, B17020A, B17020B, B17020C, B17020D, B17020G and B17020I. *Hispanic children may be included in any race category.

Average number of children living in poverty:
14%

PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY, BY RACE & MUNICIPALITY



Racial disparities in poverty rates:

African American
22.2%

Latino
22.1%

Asian American
8.2%

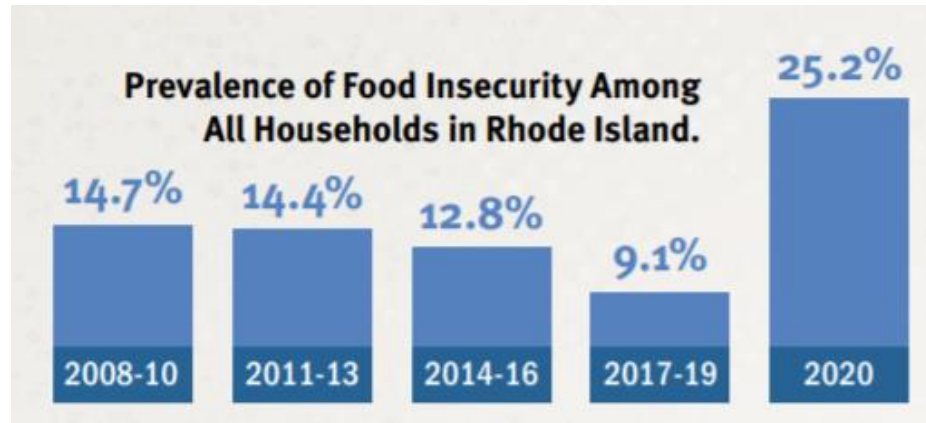
White
7.0%



SOURCES: Rhode Island Kids Count using American Communities Survey data
US Census Bureau, American Communities Survey

FOOD SECURITY: STATEWIDE PERCENTAGES OF FOOD INSECURITY

RESIDENTS FACING FOOD INSECURITY, OVER TIME AND BY RACE



Racial disparities in food insecurity rates:

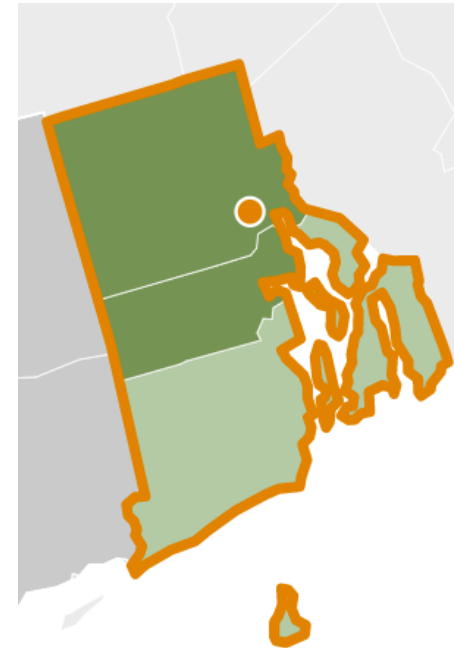
Black: 36%

Latinx: 40%

White: 21%



CHILDREN FACING FOOD INSECURITY, BY COUNTY



Food Insecurity Rates:

4-14%

15-19%

FOOD SECURITY: STATEWIDE PERCENTAGES OF SENIORS STRUGGLING WITH HUNGER

RHODE ISLAND'S SENIOR POPULATION STRUGGLES WITH HUNGER AND ISOLATION					
Senior population ¹	254,438 (24%)		Rank: 12 th in U.S.		
Seniors threatened by hunger (marginally food insecure)	47,834 (19%)		Rank: 18 th in U.S.		
Seniors at risk of hunger (food insecure)	15,521 (6%)		Rank: 33 rd in U.S.		
Seniors facing hunger (very low food secure)	6,107 (2%)		Rank: 30 th in U.S.		
State ranking for risk of social isolation ²	9 th in U.S.				
MANY FACTORS CAN CREATE DISPARITIES AND MAKE SENIORS EVEN MORE VULNERABLE					
Black or African American	3%	Hispanic or Latino	6%	Native American/Alaskan or Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<1%
Seniors self-reporting "fair to poor" health	24%	Seniors with a disability	28%		
Seniors living alone	28%	Seniors living below the poverty line	10%		
Seniors who lack income to pay for basic living needs	Singles: 54%		Couples: 22%		





**PRIMARY
FOOD ACCESS
INDICATORS**

FOOD ACCESS INDICATORS: US FOOD ACCESS PROGRAMS

Acronym	Full Name	Brief Description	Moms & Kids	Fostering Nutrition	Senior Hunger	Supplying Foodbanks
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	Provides timely, targeted, and temporary benefits to low-income Americans to buy groceries.	✓	✓	✓	
TEFAP	The Emergency Food Assistance Program	Provides USDA commodities to families in need of short-term hunger relief through emergency food providers like food banks.	✓	✓	✓	✓
CSFP	The Commodity Supplemental Food Program	Provides food assistance for low-income seniors with a monthly package of healthy USDA commodities.		✓	✓	✓
CACFP	The Child and Adult Care Food Program	Provides nutritious meals and snacks to children and adults in designated child and adult care centers.	✓	✓	✓	

FOOD ACCESS INDICATORS: US FOOD ACCESS PROGRAMS (CONT.)

Acronym	Full Name	Brief Description	Moms & Kids	Fostering Nutrition	Senior Hunger	Supplying Foodbanks
NSLP	The National School Lunch Program	Provides nutritionally balanced lunch to qualified children each school day.	✓	✓		
SBP	The School Breakfast Program	Provides nutritionally balanced breakfast to qualified children each school day.	✓	✓		
SFSP	The Summer Food Service Program	Provides free meals and snacks to low-income children during the summer months.	✓	✓		
WIC	Women, Infants, and Children	Provides nutritious foods and nutrition education for low-income, at risk women, infants.	✓			



FOOD ACCESS INDICATORS: SNAP PARTICIPANTS, BY MUNICIPALITY

SNAP CASELOAD BY CITY OF RESIDENCE

City/Town	2020 Cases	2021 Cases	Percent increase/decrease
Barrington	248	265	6.85%
Bristol	858	844	-1.63%
Burrillville	725	782	7.86%
Central Falls	3,411	3,314	-2.84%
Charlestown	313	293	-6.39%
Coventry	1,736	1,814	4.49%
Cranston	5,413	5,679	4.91%
Cumberland	1,366	1,428	4.54%
East Greenwich	430	444	3.26%
East Providence	3,510	3,599	2.54%
Exeter	187	220	17.65%
Foster	177	192	8.47%
Glocester	298	337	13.09%
Hopkinton	331	358	8.16%
Jamestown	115	120	4.35%
Johnston	2,348	2,386	1.62%
Lincoln	985	1,019	3.45%
Little Compton	66	73	10.61%
Middletown	682	712	4.40%
Narragansett	395	435	10.13%
New Shoreham	11	18	63.64%

City/Town	2020 Cases	2021 Cases	Percent increase/decrease
Newport	1,751	1,797	2.63%
North Kingstown	1,095	1,134	3.56%
North Providence	2,668	2,803	5.06%
North Smithfield	420	437	4.05%
Pawtucket	10,228	10,018	-2.05%
Portsmouth	499	495	-0.80%
Providence	28,525	27,712	-2.85%
Richmond	245	267	8.98%
Scituate	293	294	0.34%
Smithfield	588	610	3.74%
South Kingstown	857	858	0.12%
Tiverton	657	657	0.00%
Warren	693	736	6.20%
Warwick	4,907	5,030	2.51%
West Greenwich	155	167	7.74%
West Warwick	3,160	3,250	2.85%
Westerly	1,344	1,322	-1.64%
Woonsocket	7,341	7,181	-2.18%
Total	89,031	89,209	.001%

HIGHEST
LOWEST



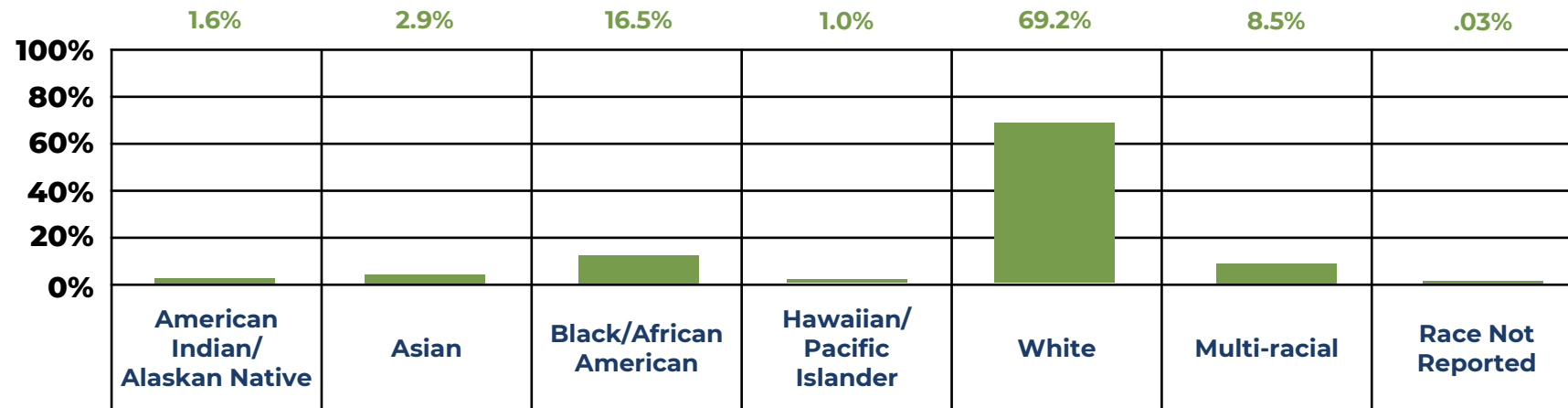
FOOD ACCESS INDICATORS: CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (SCHOOL YEAR 2018–2019)		VALUE
Average Daily Student Participation		77,102
Free and Reduced-Price Students		51,860
Paid Students		25,242
SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (SCHOOL YEAR 2018–2019)		VALUE
Average Daily Student Participation		34,322
Free and Reduced-Price Students		27,927
Paid Students		6,395
SUMMER NUTRITION PARTICIPATION (JULY 2019)		VALUE
Average Daily Summer Nutrition Participation in July		8,047
July Summer Food Service Participation		7,570
July National School Lunch Participation in Free and Reduced-Price Lunch		477



FOOD ACCESS INDICATORS: RHODE ISLAND WIC PARTICIPANTS, OVER TIME AND BY RACE

FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
20,375	19,501	18,950	17,962	16,866



FOOD ACCESS INDICATORS: **SERVING SENIORS CONGREGATE & HOME DELIVERED MEALS**

OLDER AMERICANS ACT (OAA) NUTRITION PROGRAMS IN RHODE ISLAND ARE DELIVERING NUTRITIOUS MEALS, FRIENDLY VISITS AND SAFETY CHECKS TO SENIORS AT RISK OF HUNGER AND ISOLATION					
	Title III-C Nutrition Program		Title VI Grants for Native Americans		
	Seniors served	Meals served	Seniors served	Meals served	
Congregate meals	5,449	310,216	55	3,867	
Home-delivered meals	2,136	236,768	0	0	
Total	7,585	546,984	55	3,867	
PROFILE OF SENIORS RECEIVING OAA TITLE III SERVICES ⁴					
Live alone	47%		Live below the poverty line		13%
Live in a rural area	3%		Women		66%
Black or African American	3%	Hispanic or Latino	3%	Native American or Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	1%





Thank you!

ANY QUESTIONS?

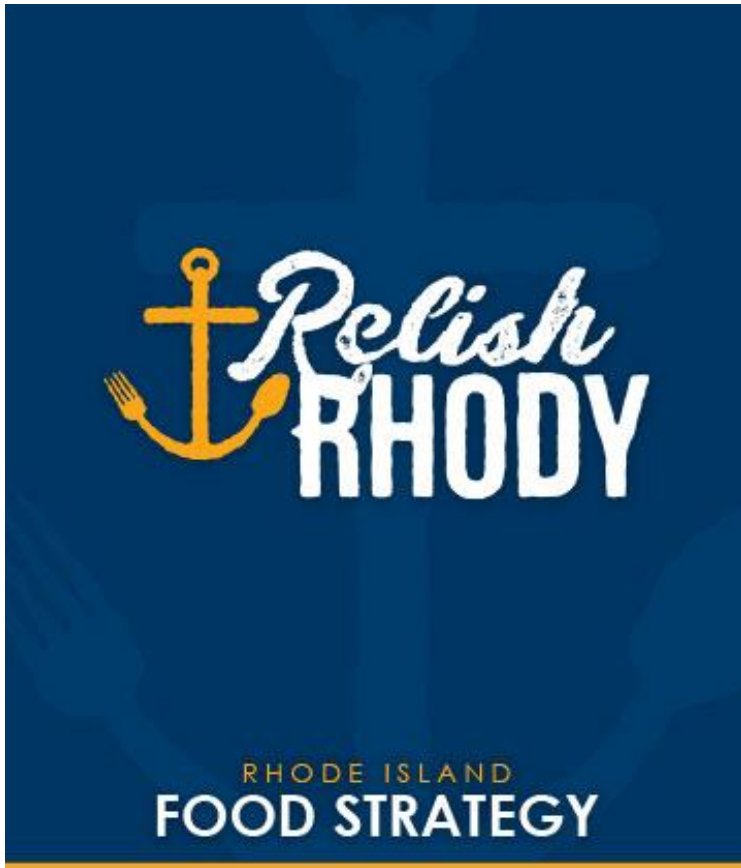
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HENRY P. KENDALL FOUNDATION



Relish Rhody Food Strategy Update



AN ACTIONABLE VISION FOR FOOD IN RHODE ISLAND

INTEGRATED FOCUS AREAS:

Preserve & Grow Agriculture, Fisheries Industries in Rhode Island

Enhance the Climate for Food & Beverage Businesses

Minimize Food Waste & Divert It from the Waste Stream

Sustain & Create Markets for Rhode Island Food, Beverage Products

Ensure Food Security for all Rhode Islanders

Food Strategy Updates



- School food updates (RIDE)
- Funding for local food system infrastructure (DEM)
- Supporting local seafood and fisheries (DEM/Commerce)
- Growing markets for food businesses (Commerce)
- Nutritional assistance programs (DHS/RIDOH)
- Minimizing food waste (Center for Eco Technology)
- Food access stakeholder coordination (RIDOH)
- Relish Rhody 2.0 (Dir Food Strategy)
- Other updates?

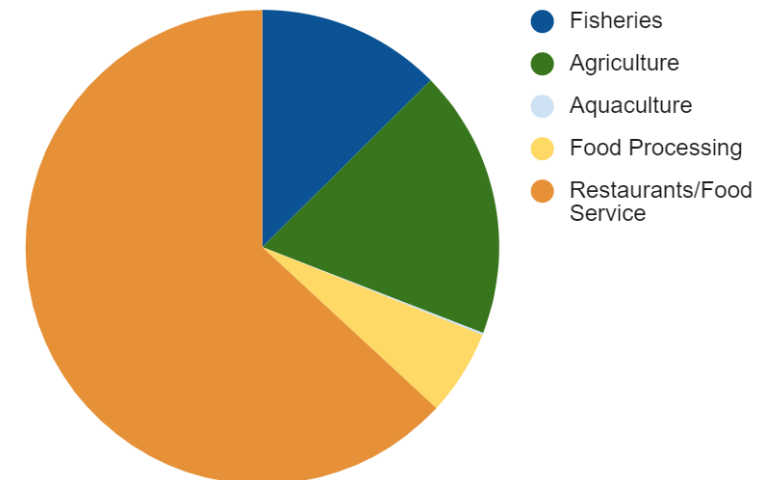
Rhode Island's Food Economy



AT A GLANCE:

- 6.9% of GDP
- Largest industry employer
- 15% of all jobs
- 2,176 current food & beverage jobs postings

RI Food Economy Sales by Sector



Food Sector Jobs & Establishments

2021

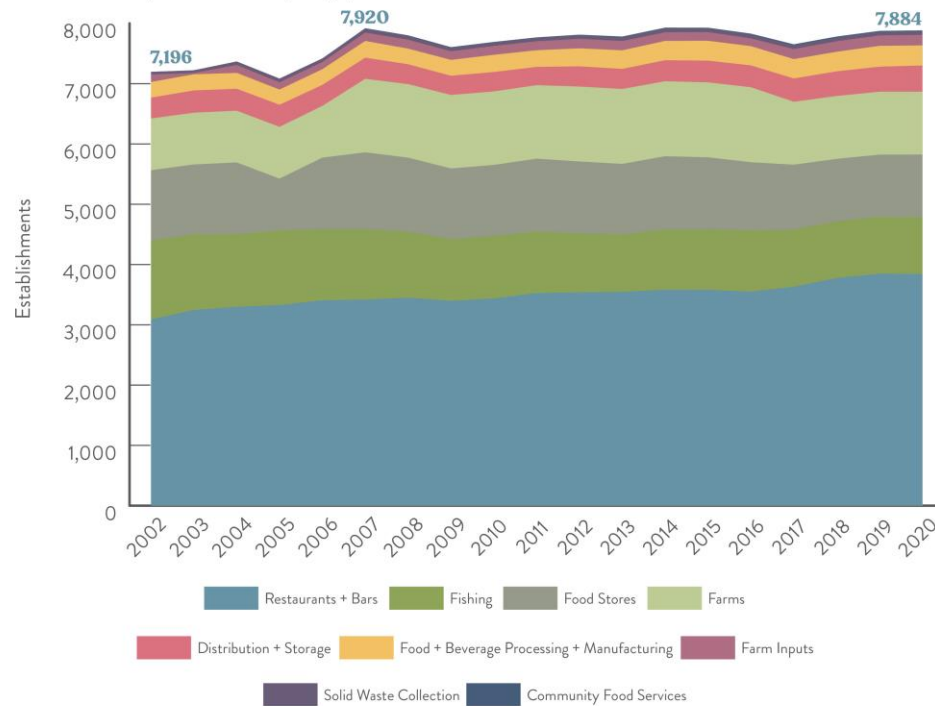
4% growth Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing businesses

7% growth Farms GDP

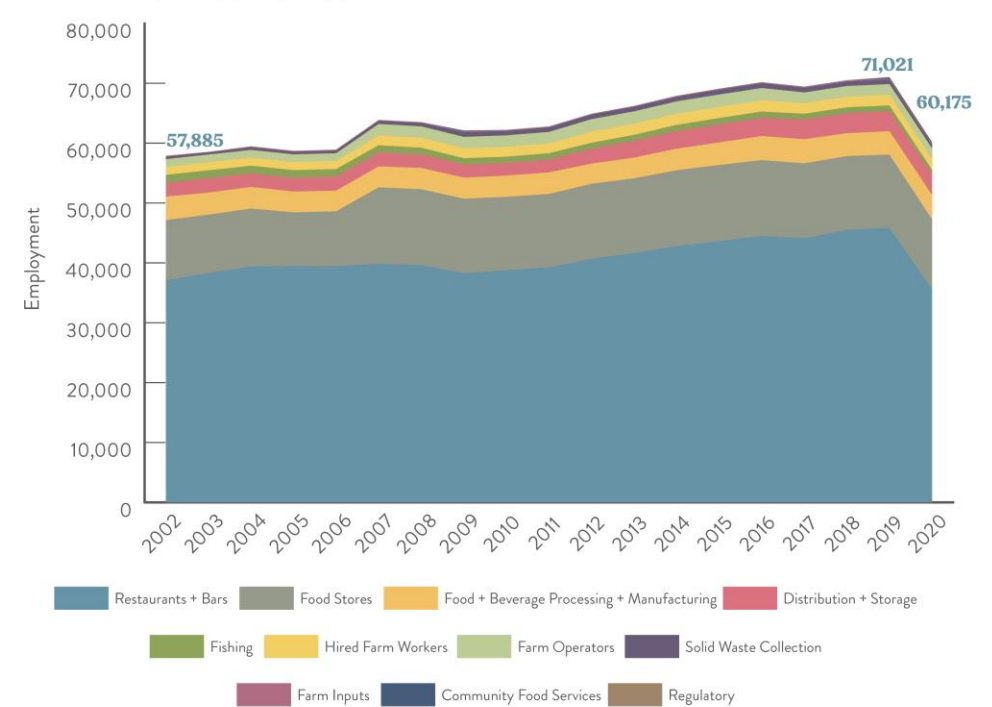
3.7% growth food & beverage manufacturing

24% decrease food services and restaurants

Rhode Island Food System Establishments by Category



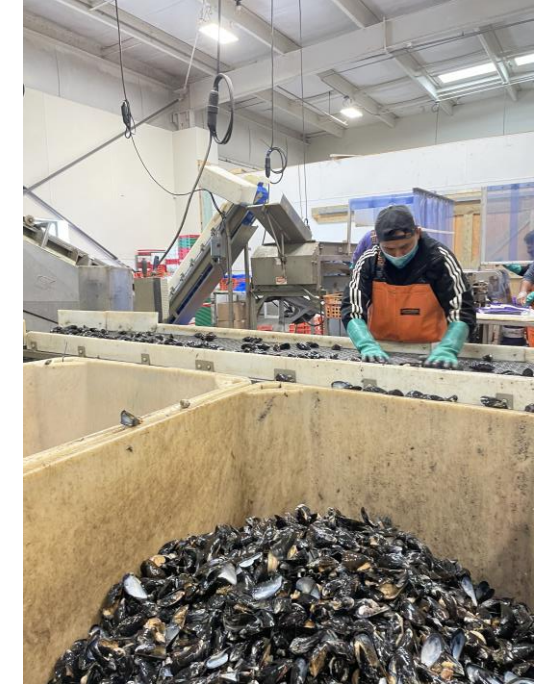
Rhode Island Food System Employment by Category



Source: New England Feeding New England (2021), US Bureau of Economic Analysis (Oct 1, 2021)

Food Sector Wages

Rhode Island Food Sector Jobs (2020)		
Industry	NAICS	Average Annual Wages per Worker
Crop Production	111	\$29,076
Aquaculture	1125	\$30,297
Fishing	1141	\$41,409
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	115	\$38,271
Food Manufacturing	311	\$42,506
Restaurants and Other Eating Places	7225	\$22,043
Grocery Stores	4451	\$30,053
<i>Source: JobsEQ®, RI DLT</i>		



**Higher wages in
management and tech**

\$101,000/yr Agricultural Engineer
\$77,000 – 110,000/yr Food Manufacturing Manager

Snapshot: Direct-to-Consumer Sales

2019 vs.
2021

Farm Fresh RI:
150% growth local food sales
10X increase in K - 12 local school purchases

Trends:

- Consumers are buying more local food
- More home delivery and e-commerce purchases
- Restaurants and institutions slow recovery
- Connecting local food producers with emergency food delivery

Challenges:

- Supply chain disruptions, high price of transportation/distribution, labor shortage
- need funding for equipment and infrastructure



Snapshot: Aquaculture & Fisheries

Trends

Farm gate value \$5.7 million (2019)
16% sector growth past 5 yrs

2019-
2020

\$19 million frozen squid exported (2020)
100+ species landed valued at \$109 million (2019)

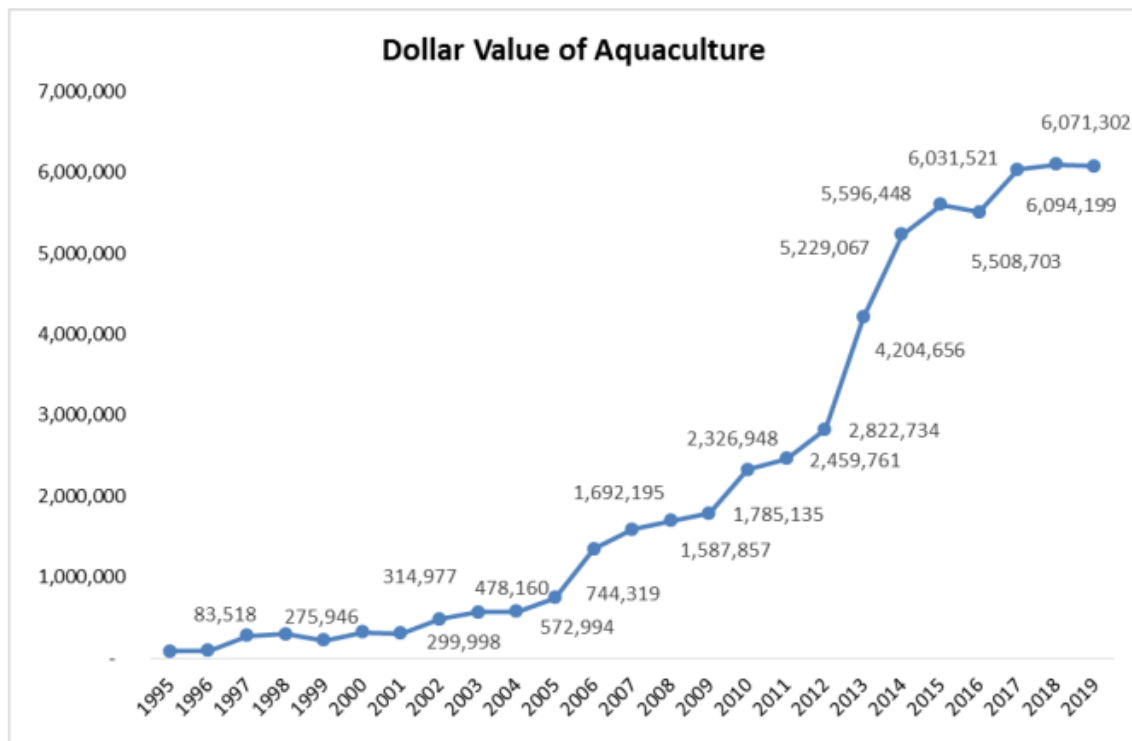


Figure 4. Total dollar value of aquaculture



Challenges:

- Dependent on foreign markets and restaurants, 2020 price to fisherman dropped 20-30%
- Most squid shipped to China for processing due to lack of labor supply and wastewater processing capacity

Snapshot: SNAP Bonus Bucks

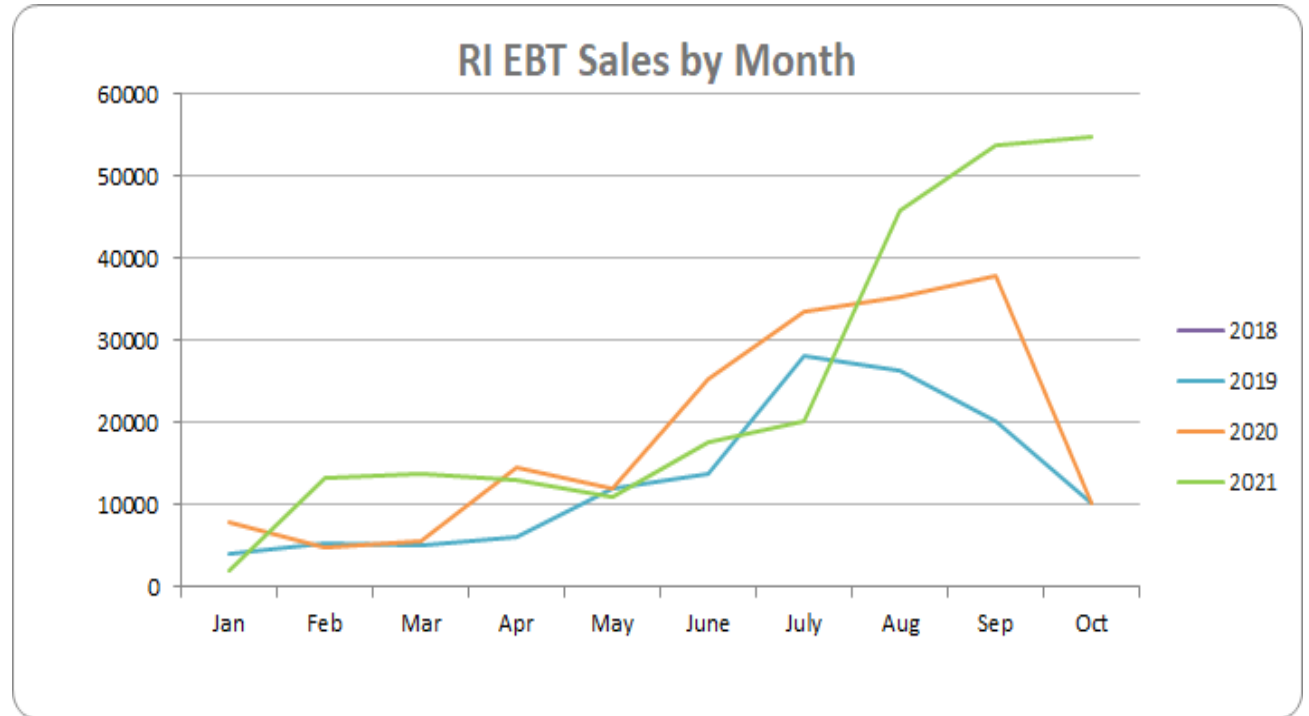
2021 vs. 2021

70% increased sales

37% increase in new customers

SNAP Bonus Bucks spending is up, but redemption for Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program and WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program are significantly down.

EBT Sales by Month			
	2019	2020	2021
Jan	\$7,049	\$5,177	\$13,328
Feb	\$4,197	\$7,932	\$13,712
Mar	\$5,410	\$4,871	\$12,986
Apr	\$5,055	\$5,722	\$10,892
May	\$6,020	\$14,472	\$17,569
June	\$12,080	\$12,128	\$20,102
July	\$13,714	\$25,422	\$45,721
Aug	\$28,266	\$33,406	\$53,828
Sep	\$26,270	\$35,322	\$54,818
Oct	\$20,212	\$37,892	
Nov	\$10,130	\$10,208	
Dec	\$5,199	\$6,825	
Total	\$143,601	\$199,376	\$242,957



Overall Food System Challenges

- Labor and supply chain shortages, food costs are up 10-30%
- Limited access to funding for new and emerging food producers, farmers and fishers
- High cost of land, Rhode Island has highest cost of farmland in the country
- Public resistance to ag technology on RI farmland
- Coordinated technical assistance for food sector businesses
- Heavy reliance on long and distant supply chains – over 90% of food consumed is imported to Rhode Island

Food Funding for Small & Beginning Food Producers

The Local Agriculture and Seafood Act (LASA) Grant Program is designed to strengthen the state's food economy and food security by investing in small and beginning food producers, helping to grow their businesses.

5 Year Impact

- \$1.13 million awarded
- 101 grant awards
- \$5 million increased sales revenue
- \$2.5 million follow-on financing leveraged
- Highest need is equipment and infrastructure



Guest Panel: LASA Grant Program

East Greenwich (established 2002)

- Family owned and operated meat and poultry farm located on 150 acres of green pasture, dedicated to providing grass-fed, high-quality pastured meats.
- Funding used to expand mobile poultry processing and marketing new food products.



Guest Panel: LASA Grant Program

Providence (established 1981)

- Urban farm providing fresh, affordable, and locally grown food in more congested neighborhoods.
- owns/directly manages 21 different community gardens spread out through Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls.
- With the LASA funding, SCLT increased tillable acreage at the farms as well as providing additional infrastructure and expanded cold storage, constructing a second wash station for produce preparation, and assisting with field preparation.



Open Discussion and Comment



Next Meeting:

2022 Meeting Schedule TBD
