



MEETING SUMMARY & NOTES:

RI Hunger Elimination Task Force Q1 Meeting

February 6, 2023 | 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Theme: Funding for Food Delivery

[Click Here to Watch the Meeting Recording!](#)

[Click Here to Access the Slide Show Presentation!](#)

OBJECTIVES

- Review the key challenges for food delivery in Rhode Island.
- Discuss how delivery organizations currently cover related costs.
- Set goals for the first 2024 HETF Action Group.

MEETING SUMMARY

The last Hunger Elimination Task Force (HETF) meeting was on February 6. Discussion focused on the funding and sustainability needs of food delivery in Rhode Island. Panelists - Meghan Grady of RI Meals on Wheels, Jeanette Nessellet of Lifespan Community Health Center, and Mariana Roa Oliva of Cartwheel - shared challenges and opportunities related to providing food delivery. Rachel Newman Greene of the RI Food Policy Council, then, introduced new HETF Action Groups, the first of which will focus on recommendations to State Agencies to improve opportunities to sustain food delivery in Rhode Island. This first HETF Action Group is meeting 3 times between now and May 5, 2024. More information on their work is to come.

AGENDA

- 2:00 pm** **Welcome**
- 2:05 pm** **Key Challenges for Funding Food Delivery**
- 2:15 pm** **Panel: Opportunities to Fund and Sustain Food Delivery**
 - Meghan Grady, Meals on Wheels RI

- Mariana Roa Oliva, CartWheel
- Jeanette Nessett, Lifespan Community Health Institute

2:45 pm Question & Answer with Panelists

3:00 pm Preparing for Action Group #1: Recommendations to Fund Food Delivery

3:10 pm Announcements

3:30 pm Close

NOTES

**2:00 pm Welcome and Introductions
(Facilitated by Rachel Newman Greene, RI Food Policy Council)**

- The Hunger Elimination Task Force is a statewide network of food access, nutrition, and public health champions that work to reduce hunger and increase access to healthy, culturally-appropriate food for all RI residents. This task force is owned by the RI State Agencies involved in food system work and is facilitated by the RI Food Policy Council.
- The goal of the Hunger Elimination Task Force is to reduce hunger and increase access to healthy, culturally-appropriate food for all Rhode Island residents.
- Today's agenda begins with a review of key challenges for funding food delivery, discussing the state of food security and hunger in Rhode Island. We'll begin by reviewing Rhode Island's role in the New England Feeding New England partnership and these regional efforts to increase local food consumption by 2030. After our panel, we will discuss goals for the Hunger Elimination Task Force in 2024.

**2:05 pm Key Challenges for Funding Food Delivery
(Overview by Max De Faria, RI Food Policy Council)**

- Last September, the [Urban Institute conducted extensive research](#) on connecting people with charitable food through home delivery models. In their study on ProjectDASH's impacts for food delivery they found:
 - 97.8% of clients reported saving money
 - 78.4% of clients receiving this charity food had chronic health conditions and/or mobility challenges

- Only 44.0% of clients had received charity food before food delivery existed
- 88% of clients used their time savings to take care of their health
- Funding is the most cited barrier to maintaining and expanding home delivery. The end of pandemic-era funding is causing organizations to lose access to critical funds for this work. Food delivery is not an engaging funding request. Funding food delivery is not “innovative” or new, so it is not as enticing to grantmakers. Moreover, grant funding is not sustainable. Organizations are looking to pivot toward more sustainable funding models that braid revenue streams to offer delivery.
- The same 2023 report by the Urban Institute mentioned before found: Many hunger relief organizations reported community need for delivery outpaces organizational capacity; the majority of hunger relief organizations reported they plan to continue offering home delivery, with the goal of expanding, despite the end of pandemic-era funding; sustained funding would enable these organization to strategically fit home delivery into their other services and broader mission.

2:15 pm

Panel: Opportunities to Fund and Sustain Food Delivery

Meghan Grady, Meals on Wheels RI | Jeanette Nessett, Lifespan Community Health Institute | Mariana Roa Oliva, Cartwheel

2:45 pm

Questions and Answers with Panelists

3:00 pm

Preparing for HETF Action Group #1

- We received feedback that the Task Force could be doing more to identify needed policy reforms - this is where you come in! New to HETF in 2024 are our Action Groups. There are 4 Action Groups per year on different topics that were voted on by HETF participants. Each Action Group entails a minimum of 5 people coming together to meet for 3 one-hour meetings over the course of 2-3 months. In meeting 1, the group works to define the problem and identify responsible state agencies. At the next gathering, members will draft recommendations for state agencies to address the identified problem. The final meeting will focus on finalizing the recommendations and preparing for public dissemination. Members of the Action Group will also be invited to present these recommendations to State Agencies at the next Interagency Food and Nutrition Policy Advisory Council (IFNPAC) meeting.
- Our first Action Group will focus on creating recommendations for

State agencies to enable and promote food delivery. We are going to put the Action Group Registration link in the chat. Please fill out the registration form to sign up. You will receive more information at the end of the week about scheduling the meeting.

3:10 pm Announcements

3:30 pm Close

- Thank you all for joining our first quarterly meeting of the Hunger Elimination Task Force. We will be resharing the Action Group registration link immediately after this meeting. Please share the form with others in your network who can provide valuable insights in developing recommendations for State agencies to support food delivery.
- We also want to remind you all that our Quarter 2 meeting will be on May 7th at 2:00pm. We will be seeking this group's feedback on the creation of the state's first ever Food System Preparedness and Recovery Plan.