



# IFNPAC Q2 Meeting

Interagency Food and Nutrition Policy Advisory Council

*Thursday, July 11, 2024  
9:00 – 10:30am  
Rhode Island Commerce*

**RHODE  
ISLAND**

# Agenda

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1. Welcome & Introductions (Chair)
2. Approve Q1 Meeting Minutes (Chair)
3. Welcome DCYF to the Council **(postponed until Q3)**
4. Proposed Sub-committee on Local & Healthy State Food Procurement (RIDOH)
5. RI Food Systems Planning for 2030 Update (RI Commerce)
6. Food Preparedness and Recovery Plan Updates (RI Food Policy Council)
7. Hunger Elimination Taskforce (HETF) Workgroup Recommendations presentation (HETF Workgroup members)

# Welcome & Introductions

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**RHODE  
ISLAND**

# Approval of Q1 Meeting Minutes

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# Proposal for Local and Health State Food Procurement Subcommittee

Sarah Blau, RIDOH

# Review: Recommendations and Next Steps

| Perceived Challenges   | Recommendations<br>Centering values-based purchasing  | Next Steps  |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Farmers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🍏 Limited Supply of Local Products</li> <li>🍏 Shortage of available farmland</li> <li>🍏 Bidding process and outreach</li> </ul> <p><b>State Agencies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🍏 Limited interest in purchasing products on a constrained budget</li> </ul> <p><b>71% of respondents reported price constraints (FINE, 2015)</b></p> | <div data-bbox="963 339 1498 606" style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Collaborating with state agencies on baseline assessments and review of contracts</p> </div> <div data-bbox="963 635 1498 1029" style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Tracking policies and improved data systems</p> <p>Revised local MPA</p> <p>Incorporate existing partners at the state level</p> </div> <div data-bbox="963 1072 1498 1246" style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Price preference</b></p> <p><b>Revised food-stuffs law</b></p> </div> | <p><b>Statewide:</b> Convening the institutional procurement working group, what are our opportunities to implement <b>statewide</b> changes in procurement practice, centering values-based purchasing?</p> <p><b>State level:</b> Continue to work with state partners to update their food service guidelines to be in line with the FSG (“little p” policies/practices)</p> |

RI Farm to Institution Survey Report.pdf, FLPC-RI-Local-Procurement-Nov-2014.pdf (chfpi.org), <https://goodfoodcities.org/>





# Proposal

**R.I. Gen. Laws § 21-36-4** directs the council to:

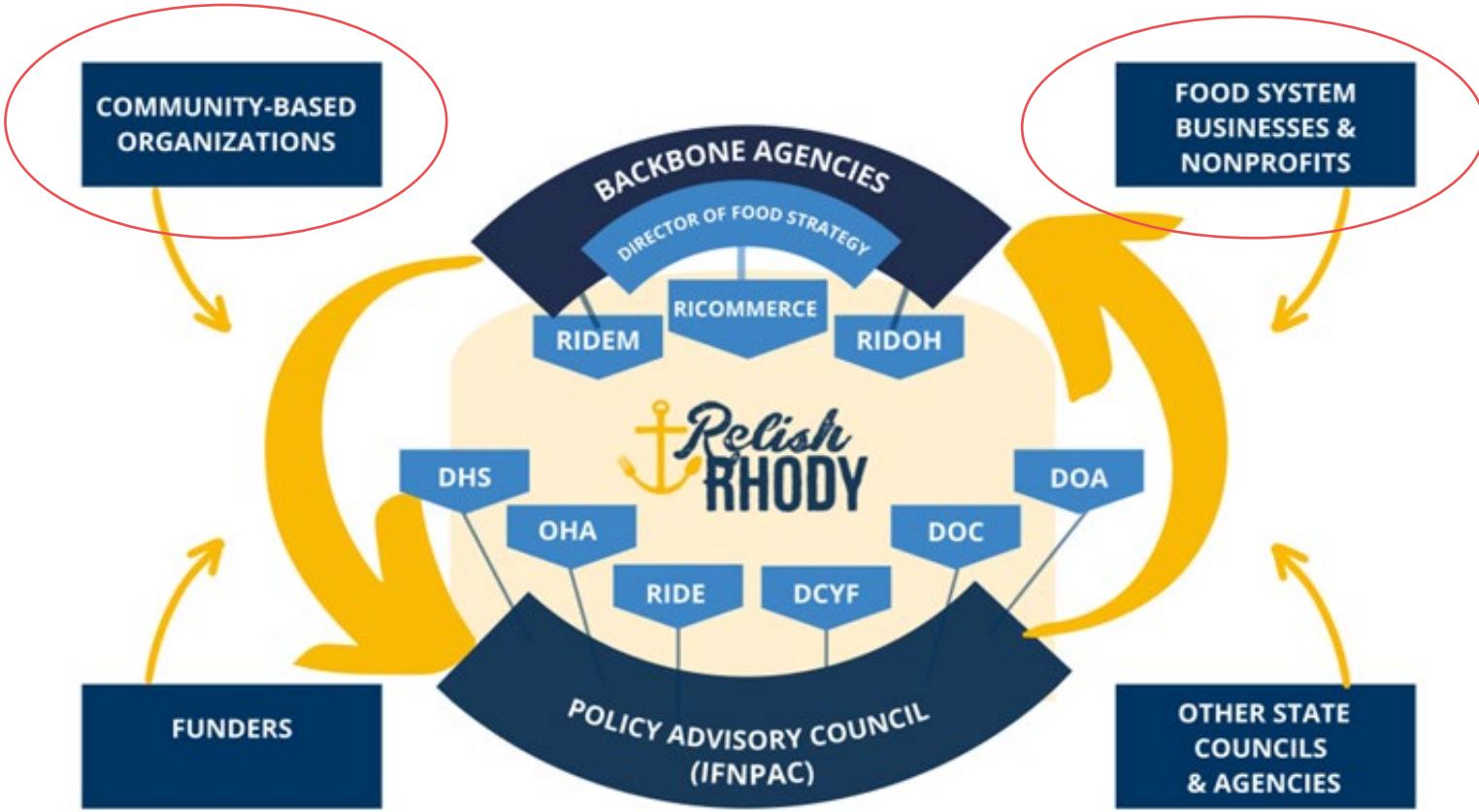
- a) *"Examine issues regarding the identification and development of solutions to regulatory and policy barriers to developing a strong sustainable food economy and healthful nutrition practices"*
- b) *Collaborate with other task forces, committees, or organizations that are pursuing initiatives or studies similar to the purposes and duties outlined in this chapter."*

In accordance with the powers and duties of the council, The Healthy Eating, Active Living Program proposes a values-based state food procurement sub-committee, including IFNPAC members, or designees, community representatives and organizations involved in state food purchasing, to study, report on and advance the adoption of Good Food Purchasing principles.

# Members

**CBOs + Food System  
Businesses and Nonprofits**

- 🍏 Farm Fresh RI & SCLT
- 🍏 Farm Bureau
- 🍏 Animal welfare
- 🍏 FINE
- 🍏 RIFPC
- 🍏 Interested constituents/members of the public
- 🍏 Any interested parties, groups or individuals



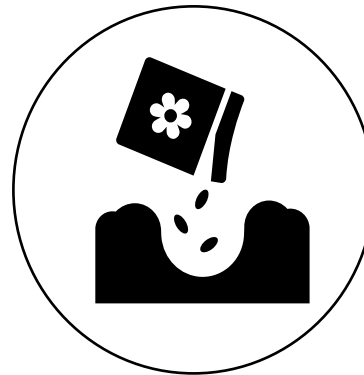


# Scope and Goals

- 🍏 Three primary objectives
- 🍏 Align with GFPP standards



*Research  
and Report  
Writing*



*Contract  
Revision  
([Local MPA](#))*



*Review  
Existing  
Legislation*



# Update on RI Food System Planning for 2030

(RI Food Strategy 2.0)

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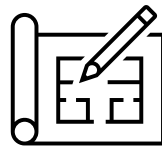
Juli Stelmaszyk, RI Commerce

# PLANNING FOR 2030



AN ACTIONABLE VISION FOR FOOD IN RHODE ISLAND

## WHAT'S NEXT?



2024

**UNDERSTANDING**  
research, interviews  
focus groups

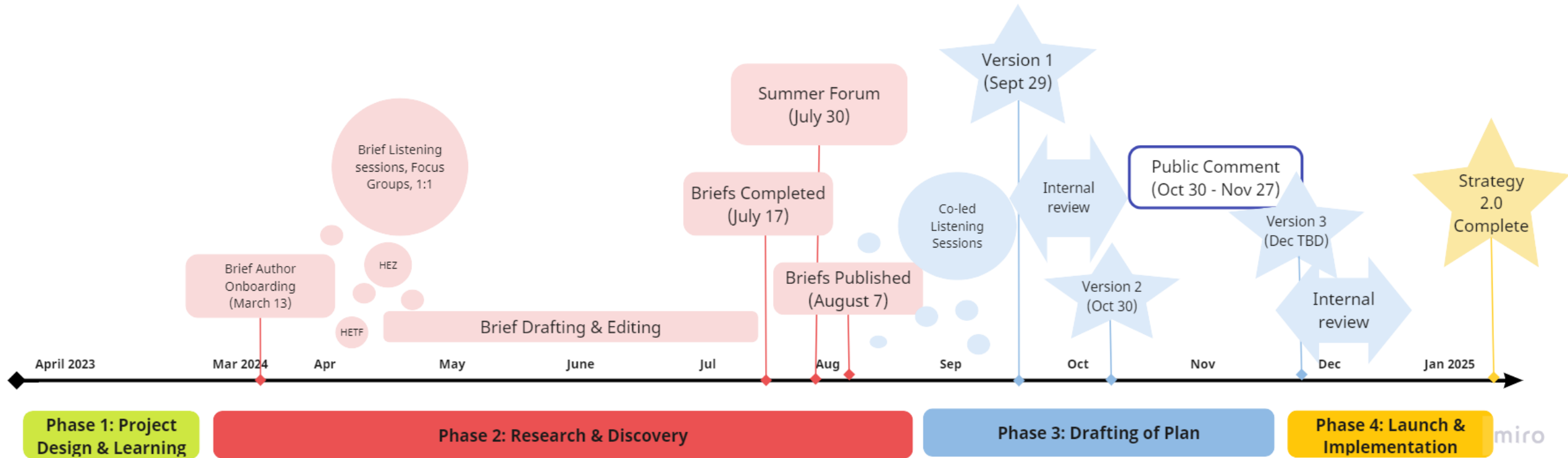
**PLANNING**  
Identify priorities  
strategy sessions

**CO-CREATING**  
Public comment  
statewide summit

2025

**IMPLEMENTATION**

# Project Timeline



# Brief Process Development

Inspired by VT Farm to Plate 2.0 which developed 54 Product, Market and Issue Briefs to inform strategic priorities, metrics and goals

Lead Authors  
Contributing Authors

*EXAMPLE →  
Farmland Conservation*



**VERMONT FOOD SYSTEM PLAN ISSUE BRIEF**

**ISSUE:**  
*Farmland Conservation*

**What's At Stake?**

Over the past 40 years, Vermont made substantial investment and progress in farmland conservation, permanently conserving 15-20% of the state's farmland.<sup>1</sup> Farmers have greatly benefited from ongoing, coordinated conservation efforts, yet threats to farm viability in the state continue to loom large. At least 3,000 Vermont farms and many more acres of high-quality agricultural soils are not conserved.<sup>2</sup> Over the next five years, as many as 300 Vermont farms (conserved and not-conserved) may change hands as existing farmers retire. If managed strategically, these transfers could lead to the next generation of vital farms and strengthen Vermont's rural economies. If not, land farmed for generations could sit fallow, become less productive, or be lost to development. The COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on the urgency of securing our agricultural land base in order to support a more localized food supply.

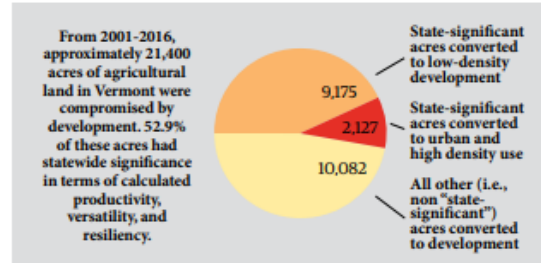
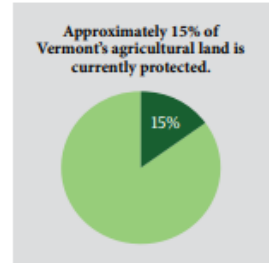
**Current Conditions**

Farmland conservation is one of the best ways to protect Vermont farmland from development, keep it in production, ensure localized food production capacity in case of emergencies, and maintain an economically viable agricultural sector.

Land is conserved with a legal document called a conservation easement (typically held by a land trust) which permanently limits development, restricts subdivision, and protects natural resources. This is also known as "sale of development rights," as landowners are usually compensated for the loss of the potential income from development (though some donate or partially donate this value). Conservation easements generally reduce the land's appraised value and can impact a future sale price. In Vermont, the Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value (OPAV) tool is typically part of the conservation easement, to keep land affordable for farmers with commercial agricultural operations and discourage conversion of good farmland into estate-type properties.

Selling development rights is a critical economic tool for Vermont farmers, allowing them to sell a legal asset while still retaining ownership of the land, and use sale proceeds to expand, diversify, invest in new infrastructure, buy more land, and/or facilitate a family transfer. Despite its social, agricultural, and economic benefits, land conservation is also challenging. Not all farmers want or are able to conserve their land. The demand for funding to purchase development rights far exceeds the supply, despite years of relatively stable federal and state funding for farm easements.

Permanent farmland protection plays a critical role in the economic transformation and ownership transitions that Vermont agriculture is facing, but conservation alone will not ensure the survival of Vermont's agriculture sector. Fortunately, Vermont's farmers, land trusts, agricultural lenders, and service providers are well-coordinated, and share key goals around the successful transition of Vermont's agricultural economy to the next generation, responsible land stewardship, and the importance of farm viability.





## Conservation of Farmland

### Current Conditions

Funders and land trusts use established criteria to assess a land parcel's resources (e.g., soils, water, special ecological attributes), development threat, and proximity to other conserved parcels, as well as the plans for the farm operation. The land is appraised to determine the current value with full development rights and the value after conservation with limited development rights. The easement value, and financial compensation to the landowner, is the difference between the two.

### Bottlenecks & Gaps

- An easement's value may not offer sufficient financial return for certain landowners.
- Criteria from funders does not always match the available land.
- Easement restrictions may not accommodate a landowner's plans.
- The volume of land that could transfer over the next five years will create bottlenecks for scarce resources and staff capacity at Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB), land trusts, and agricultural service providers.

- For the past several years, the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (Vermont's primary funder of farm easements) has typically funded **20 to 22** farm projects each year, protecting about **3,000 acres**.
- **\$2.7 million** in state funding each year (on average) leverages **\$3 million** in federal dollars through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and **\$1 million** per year in philanthropic and local funds, as well as landowner bargain sales.
- VHCB's current conservation pipeline has **40** projects waiting to be funded with a value of over **\$9 million** of easement funding.

### Opportunities

- Securing more land for food production through farmland conservation can be an effective strategy to address threats posed by climate change and global pandemics.
- The Vermont conservation community is coordinated and skilled at working together ([see Business and Technical Assistance brief](#)).
- Vermont farmers continue to have a strong interest in selling development rights, and understand the importance of securing their land base.

## Summary

Vermont has a long and successful track record of protecting farmland. Although Vermont ranks in the top 25% of American Farmland Trust's Agricultural Land Protection Scorecard of States,<sup>3</sup> more resources and new tools are needed to keep up with the current and anticipated demand, and to ensure that conserved farms stay in active agriculture and remain economically viable. As the pace of farm transitions intensifies, new opportunities and tools are emerging to help farmers access land. Vermont needs well-funded, coordinated programs, including land conservation, to support the transition of farmland and farm businesses in Vermont. Ultimately, successful farmland conservation strengthens both community vitality and farm viability.

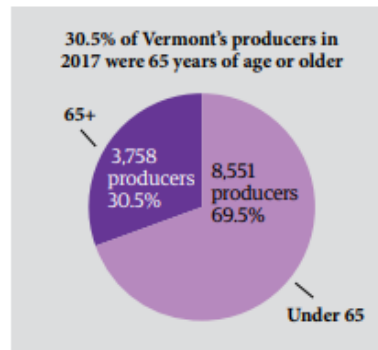
### Recommendations

- Support the development of additional tools that can be applied to already-conserved properties to ensure affordability and access for the next generation. Some examples include performance mortgages, shared equity models, ground leases, and more. To support this, create a lending vehicle specifically set up to provide low-cost capital to alternative ownership models that may be challenging to finance through traditional farm loan programs.
- Fully fund the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board through the Property Transfer Tax Fund. This funding is essential in order to capture the opportunity to protect farmland now as successions accelerate and the risk of losing farmland increases.
- Allocate \$3 million annually to VHCB's Farm & Forest Viability program in order to expand their capacity to provide critical business and technical assistance services to farms and forest products businesses of all types across Vermont. ([see Business and Technical Assistance brief](#))
- Appropriate \$3 million of flexible, low-cost financing to a Community Development Financial Institution or other lender, to support new farmers in purchasing farmland. This could be leveraged by VLT's \$15 million Farmland Futures Fund. These funds would be used in coordination with VHCB's Farm and Forest Viability Program as well as the Working Lands Enterprise Fund.
- Enhance equitable access to farmland, as VLT has done with the Pine Island Community Farm in Colchester. Partner with and support organizations that assist Black, Indigenous, and People of Color farmers gain access to viable farmland.

## Conservation and Land Transfers

### Current Conditions

The amount of farmland expected to transfer creates a tremendous opportunity to conserve more acres, add ecological protections and affordability options to already-conserved land, help new or beginning farmers gain access to the transferring land, or expand existing businesses. Conservation during a sale process can be a powerful tool to make land more affordable for a new owner, and if the property is already conserved, it may be more affordable than non-conserved parcels.



Farm to Plate is Vermont's food system plan being implemented statewide to increase economic development and jobs in the farm and food sector and improve access to healthy local food for all Vermonters.

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAF) facilitates, supports, and encourages the growth and viability of agriculture in Vermont while protecting the working landscape, human health, animal health, plant health, consumers, and the environment.

**This brief was prepared by:**  
**Lead Authors:** Abby White and Maggie Donin, *Vermont Land Trust*  
**Contributing Authors:** Mike Ghia, *Land for Good* | Holly Rippon-Butler, *Young Farmers Coalition* | Peg Merrens, *Upper Valley Land Trust* | Nancy Everhart, *Vermont Housing & Conservation Board*  
Tyler Miller and Tracy Zschau, *Vermont Land Trust*.

To read other food system briefs, visit:  
[vtfarmtoplate.com/plan](http://vtfarmtoplate.com/plan)

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# Brief Topics

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**CROSS-CUTTING BRIEFS – intersectional topics that provide a lens to understand issues facing RI’s food system**

| #  | TOPIC   |
|----|---|
| #1 | Climate Change & Environmental Sustainability |
| #2 | Policy & Regulations                          |
| #3 | Equity, Food Justice & Community Well-Being   |
| #4 | Economic Development                          |

# Brief Topics

## ISSUE BRIEFS

| #   | TOPIC  |
|-----|--|
| #5  | Stewardship of Food Producing Lands                        |
| #6  | Stewardship of Working Waters & Waterfront                 |
| #7  | Urban Agriculture & Community-Based Food Production        |
| #8  | Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Fisheries Business Viability |
| #9  | Supply Chain Infrastructure and Resilience                 |
| #10 | Food & Beverage Business Viability and Market Access       |

| #   | TOPIC  |
|-----|--|
| #11 | Labor & Workforce Development                  |
| #12 | Food Innovation & Technology*                  |
| #13 | Water Quality & Soil Health                    |
| #14 | Food Systems & Nutrition Education             |
| #15 | Wasted Food Source Reduction & Recovery        |
| #16 | Consumer Demand, Eating Behaviors & Foodways   |
| #17 | Food Access & Nutrition Security               |
| #18 | Food Assistance & Hunger Relief                |
| #19 | Composting and Downstream Food Waste Diversion |

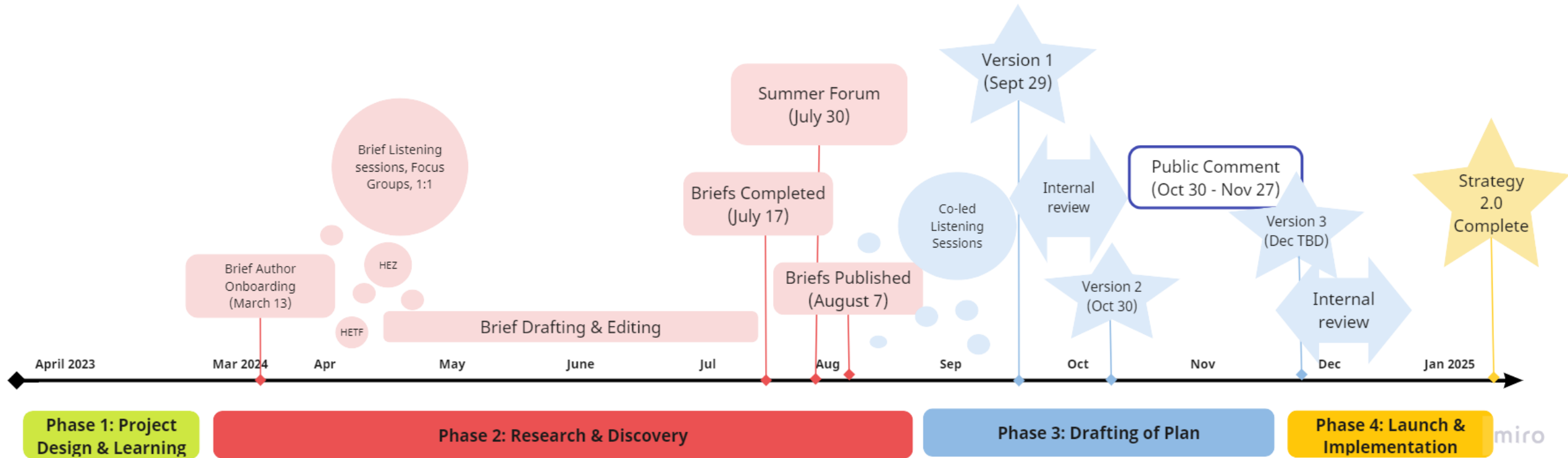
# Brief Topics



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## MARKET BRIEFS

| #   | TOPIC                     |
|-----|---------------------------|
| #20 | Direct to Consumer        |
| #21 | Distribution & Wholesale  |
| #22 | Restaurants & Hospitality |
| #23 | Grocery & Retail          |
| #24 | Institutional Markets     |

# Project Timeline





# Update on RI Food System Preparedness and Recovery Plan

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Rachel Newman Greene, RI Food  
Policy Council



# Food System Preparedness & Recovery Plan

IFNPAC Update  
July 11, 2024



[www.spartinaconsulting.com](http://www.spartinaconsulting.com)



At its best, strategic planning not only produces a way forward, but  
**creates shared understanding**  
**for coordinated action.**



## Core Planning Team

Juli Stelmaszyk, Commerce RI

Nessa Richman, RIFPC

Rachel Newman Greene, RIFPC

Max Mason-De Faria, RIFPC

Roberta Groch, DOA

Tara Cimini, Thundermist

Jen Tomassini, RI Community  
Food Bank

Al Whitaker, Commission for  
Health Advocacy and Equity

Deb Golding, DOH, HEZ

Ken Ayars, DEM

Maria Cimini, OHA

Randi Belhumeur, RIDOH

Diane Lynch, RIFPC Board

## ADVISORY

Liz Moreira, HEZ PCF

Rose Jones, Aquidneck  
Island Community Table

Dinalyn Spears,  
Narragansett Tribe

Alan Perlman, Ocean State  
Job Lot

Ray Roch, Rochs

Mark Jeffrey, Sodexo

David Macchioni, Stop &  
Shop

Jesse Rye, Farm Fresh RI

Tammy Kim, Southside CLT

George Ortiz, Elisha Project

Mariana Roa Oliva, Cartwheel

Bill O'Donnell, DHS SNAP

Ernie Almonte, League of  
Cities & Towns

Emily Freedman, City of  
Providence

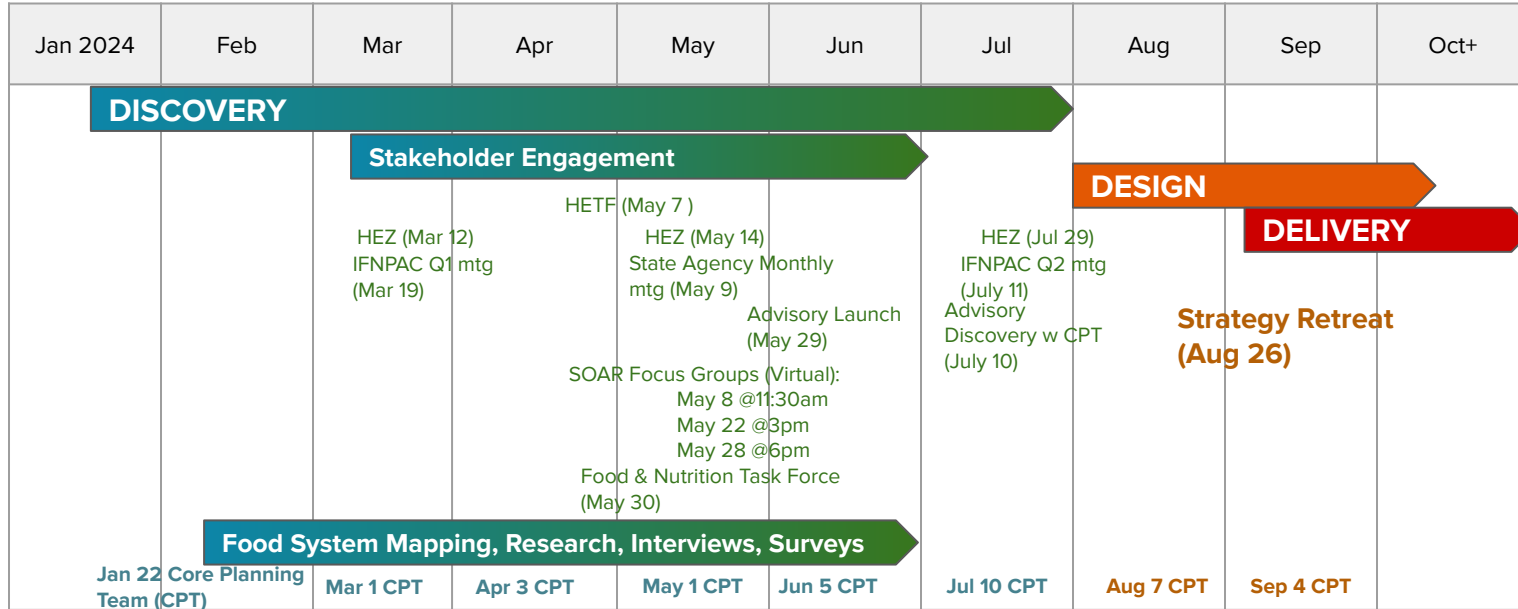
Major Gen. Callahan, RI  
National Guard

Marc Pappas, RI Emergency  
Management





# RIFPC Process - V.4



- Project launch
- Project plan
- Stakeholder mapping
- Engagement schedule
- Review background data
- Research

- Identify Advisory
- Assessment + mapping of infrastructure
- Summary of research and assessment findings

- Stakeholder interviews
- SOAR Focus groups
- Convene Core Team and Advisory to review preliminary findings + identify strategic priorities

- Convene Strategy Retreat
- Develop Strategic Plan
- Develop 4-8 Policy briefs
- Develop Visual Playbook
- Develop Governance plan + Implementation roadmap

- Core Team Review Sessions
- Finalize strategic plan/framework, visual playbook and implementation roadmap

# DISCOVERY (250+ people engaged to date)



## Focus Groups (136)

- HEZ (3/12)
- HETF (5/7)
- State Agencies (5/9)
- Open to all (remote):
  - 5/8
  - 5/22
  - 5/28
- Advisory (5/29)
- Food & Nutrition Task Force (5/30)

## Interviews (14)

- Mario Bueno, Progreso Latino
- Eileen Hayes, Amos House
- Catherine Taylor, RI AARP
- Kathy Cloutier, Dorcas International Institute of RI
- Rilwan Feyitsan, East Bay Community Action Program
- Tom DiPaolo, RI Superintendents Association
- Andy Taubman and Katie Tennett, Youth Pride
- Elizabeth Lynch, Thundermist Health Center
- Heather Singleton, RI Hospitality Association
- Jen Tommassini, RI Food Bank
- Jim Vincent, Past Chair of the RI NAACP
- Clara DeCerbo, RI Association of Emergency Managers
- Channavy Chhay, Center for Southeast Asians
- Margaret Devos, Southside Community Land Trust

## Surveys (69)

- English
- Spanish
- Print @ HEZ Learning Community May 14

## 5 Phases of Emergency Management

### Prevention

Preventing human hazards, primarily from potential natural disasters or terrorist attacks.

Designed to provide more permanent protection from disasters, limiting risk of loss of life and injury.

Source:  
<https://www.bexar.org/694/Five-Phases>

### Preparedness

Continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action.

Training and exercising plans is the cornerstone of preparedness, which focuses on readiness to respond to all-hazards incidents and emergencies.

### Response

Comprised of the coordination and management of resources (personnel, equipment, supplies) utilizing the Incident Command System in an all-hazards approach; measures taken for life, property, environmental safety.

A reaction to the occurrence of a catastrophic disaster or emergency.

### Recovery

Those activities that continue beyond the emergency period to restore critical community functions and begin to manage stabilization efforts.

Begins immediately after the threat to human life has subsided.

Goal: bring the affected area back to some degree of normalcy.

### Mitigation

Effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening impact of disasters and emergencies.

Involves structural (buildings and environment) and non-structural (adopting, changing code/regs) measures taken to limit the impact of disasters and emergencies.





# DISCOVERY Themes

## Preparation

- Infrastructure + logistics (sourcing, storage, distribution)
- Leadership, coordination and communication
- Resources and Finances
- Worker Training and Capacity Building
- Safety and Protection
- Policy

## Recovery

- Infrastructure + logistics (sourcing, storage, distribution)
- Leadership, Coordination, and Communication
- Resources and Finances
- Policy



# You're Invited: Aug 26



## Food System Preparedness & Recovery Planning

# In-Person Strategy Retreat

### RETREAT PURPOSE:

- Harness DISCOVERY insights to create a shared systemic VISION for future Preparedness & Recovery
- Identify and PRIORITIZE key strategies for Preparedness & Recovery
- DESIGN key processes + handoffs for recovery
- Map immediate next steps to finalize strategy

**August 26, 2024**  
**9am - 4pm**

**RIDEM**

235 Promenade Street



Room 300

Providence, RI

# Hunger Elimination Task force Workgroup Recommendations

# HETF Recommendations

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## Food Delivery to Vulnerable, Homebound, Elder or Food Insecure Populations

- **IFNPAC/RIDOH:** Conduct a landscape review of food delivery activities serving medically vulnerable, homebound, elder, or food insecure populations. This review should include an assessment of local and national best practices and recommendations for the development of a coordinated, statewide food delivery system.
- **IFNPAC/RIDOH/Commerce:** Develop and fund a pilot, coordinated, statewide food delivery system, based on recommendations from the landscape review, to connect food delivery services with organizations serving medically vulnerable, homebound, elder, or food insecure clients in need of food delivery.

# Public Comment

