

Interagency Food and Nutrition Policy Advisory Council Meeting (IFNPAC)

August 25, 2021

1:00pm-2:30pm

Location: Rhode Island Department of Health
Room 401

**RHODE
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Welcome and Introductions

Review and Approve May 2021 Meeting Minutes

IFNPAC Purpose, Mission and Membership

- <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE21/21-36/INDEX.HTM>

State of Hunger in Rhode Island

- Andrew Schiff, Chief Executive Officer, Rhode Island Community Food Bank

RI Food Strategy Update

1. Addressing Hunger with Covid-19 Relief Funding
2. Food Strategy Focus Areas
3. Food Access Updates
 - Hunger Elimination Task Force (HETF) update

Addressing Hunger with COVID-19 relief funding

American Rescue Act Funding proposal: Food Security & Supply Chain Resilience \$36million

- Submitted by DEM, still under review by state and federal agencies
- Funding through FY2024
- Competitive Grant structure → \$15M for-profit enterprises and \$15M nonprofit entities
- \$1.5M to sustain SNAP-match “Bonus Bucks” through 2024

COVID Impacts on Hunger & Food Security:

- Food insecurity increase 3X, disproportionately among communities of color
- RICFB distribution increased 45% in 2020
- Food costs have risen 30-50%

FOUR CRITICAL AREAS FOR FOOD SYSTEM INVESTMENT

01

Emergency food system x local food economy

Examples:

- Sustain “bonus bucks” through 2024 (\$400k annual economic impact to local food economy; serves 24 farmers markets)
- Senior farmers market program
- Food recovery & surplus purchasing program (RICFP/Hope’s Harvest)

02

Urban agriculture & land access

\$3M proposed for urban ag and farmland access programs

Examples:

- Subsidize purchase of land for food production
- Fund urban agriculture initiatives
- Fund local/state plan for Urban Ag

03

Food/Farm business infrastructure supports

- Capital investments in small to mid sized enterprises (e.g. working capital to scale, equipment to increase distribution and market access)
- Workforce development initiatives to support good food jobs
- Expanded processing and IQF facility

04

Farm to School

- Sustain funding for Farm to School coordinator to increase local procurement and healthy food in schools
- Expand Farm-to-School Network activities across state

NOTE: this proposal is still under review by state and federal agencies, no funds have been approved at this time

Covid-19 Pandemic Discussion

1. What are 1-2 key learnings from the pandemic regarding your agency's food-related work?
2. What are on-going pain points that you are experiencing, either from the economic fall out of COVID and/or managing the Delta variant and how is your agency/organization preparing for future COVID surges?
3. How can the Council can best serve to support your agency's core priorities within the five Relish Rhody focus areas?

Open Discussion and Comment



Next Meeting:
Tuesday, November 16th
9:30am - 11:00am
Location TBD

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