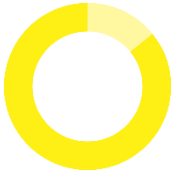


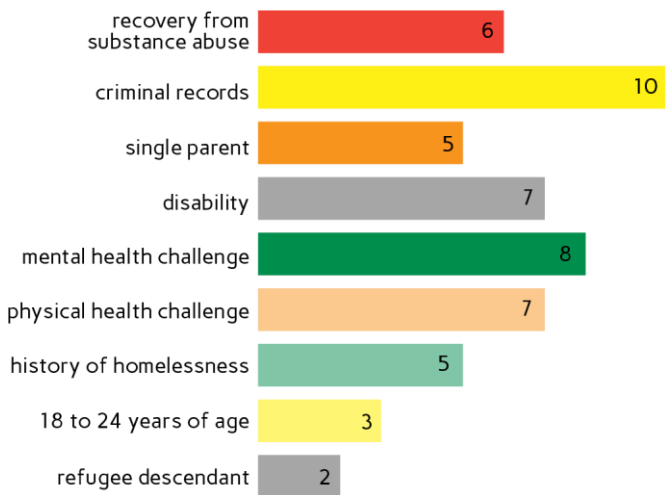
Workforce Development at Salvation Farms' Vermont Commodity Program



Twenty-one (21) individuals have completed a 16-week job readiness training in food handling and light manufacturing at Salvation Farms' food hub in Winooski. Eighteen (18) individuals secured full- or part-time employment post training, a rate of 86%. In the **last year**, Salvation Farms' workforce development trainee rate of employment increased to **91%**, 10 out of 11.



The individuals who completed Salvation Farms' job readiness program confronted diverse barriers to employment.



87% of trainees report changes in food system knowledge and food choices.



73% report an increase in self-esteem and confidence.

Cost savings to Vermont when someone remains out of jail is roughly \$70,000 per year.

Salvation Farms seeks a one-time appropriation for planning and buildout of infrastructure needed to move the job-training program and food hub into a new and permanent location.

Additionally, Salvation Farms seeks an annual appropriation to support the job-training components of the food hub's operation. Salvation Farms will report annually the program's impact to the Legislature; how many individuals receive training, move into employment, and report changes in their self-esteem and diet-related behaviors.

Salvation Farms' workforce development efforts are **in partnership with** the VT Department of Labor, Community Action, VocRehab, Creative Workforce Solutions, Probation & Parole, Community Justice, Pathways VT, among others.

Salvation Farms' Vermont Commodity Program has distributed more than 1,845,330 servings of local food to Vermont's food insecure since 2012. Through distributing wholesome food and providing job training in its food hub, Salvation Farms serves an individual's whole person. This fosters self-worth and affects physical and mental health. Salvation Farms prepares people for employment, helping them support themselves and contribute to the local economy. **A win-win-win.**

Watch this brief video to learn more: <https://youtu.be/bC7QvE1fw7w>

Salvation Farms is a federally recognized, 501c3 non-profit with more than fifteen years of experience providing experiential education opportunities to Vermont communities. Salvation Farms' founder serves as its Executive Director.