



Developing a Vermont Food Security *Action Plan*

Strategic Priority 24



Develop a Vermont food security plan, centered around a thriving food system and inspired by community-based responses to food insecurity and disruptive events.



Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The four pillars of food security are availability, access, utilization and stability.

Definition from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Food Insecurity



in Vermont

- Nearly 30% of Vermont households were food insecure in 2020
- Some are at higher risk:
 - People of color, those without a college degree, those with a job loss, households with children, women, and younger people had greater odds of experiencing food insecurity





- **Federal Nutrition Programs**
3SquaresVT-- Meals on Wheels & Congregate Meal Sites-- School Meals-- WIC
 - **Innovative Community Responses**
Vermont Everyone Eats, Abenaki Helping Abenaki, Mutual Aid
 - **State Emergency Operations**
Collaborations across the state within and outside of SEOC
 - **Charitable and Emergency Food Assistance:**
Food shelves, food banks, food cupboards, Farmers to Families Food Boxes
 - **Vermont Farms**
Participating in all of the above
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Develop a Vermont food security plan, centered around a thriving food system and inspired by community-based responses to food insecurity and disruptive events.

Involve food insecure individuals as well as farmers in the planning, and investigate questions including, but not limited to, affordable housing, health care, transportation, siting of retail grocery stores, food distribution, and ensuring the continued production of food in Vermont.

Work to adopt state and regional level policies, procedures, and plans to ensure that the Vermont food supply is sufficient to withstand global or national food supply chain disruptions caused by climate change and other disasters.



The Food Security Strategy Team:

- Farmers, Business owners, Grocers
- Charitable & Emergency Food Organizations
- Academics, Extension, Agricultural groups
- State Agencies, including Emergency Operations
- Community activists and volunteers, VEE Hubs
- Regional Planners
- Climate Action Plan committee members
- Members of high risk communities

Food Security Plan



Hearing from
Vermonters

- At-Risk Vermonters guiding the Plan
- Robust public engagement

Research

- Gathering what is already known
- Additional research as needed

Food Security
Plan Document:

- A roadmap to food security in Vermont
- Accessible to all



The Plan will be guided by the expertise of food insecure individuals, racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, farmers, migrant farmworkers, and these groups at highest risk for food insecurity:

Black

Indigenous

People of Color

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer

people with disabilities

people living in poverty

people living in rural areas



The Action Plan will

- **Overview** the current status and barriers to food security as well as how these elements will be affected by climate change
- **Document** of the wide array of food security organizations and initiatives existing statewide
- **Recommend actions** for increasing food security prioritized by the stakeholder experts.
- **Be accessible** for many different Vermonters to understand their role and what strategies fit them.