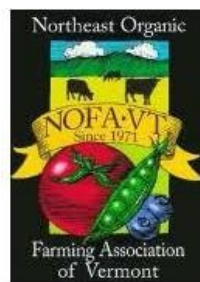


Food Security initiatives and budget requests 2022

rev. November 21, 2021

Bill/Request	Summary	Status
Universal School Meals – S.100	Goal: every Vermont student offered 2 meals free of charge every school day. The program would be paid for with categorical aid from the Education Fund.	Senate passed a version with only breakfast in 2021. Bill is in House Education Committee.
Fully fund Farm to School & Early Childhood Grant Program at \$500,000 for FY2023	Current base funding is \$171,000. Additional funding would meet demand, and also allow for greater technical assistance as schools are getting ready to participate in the Local Purchasing Incentive program.	Request has been made to the administration.
Local Purchasing Incentive – base funding of \$500,000 for FY2023	In 2021, the Local Purchasing Incentive program was enacted, and one year of funding was provided (one-time money). However, the bill that was enacted creates an ongoing program, so funding is needed to implement the program. (Act 67, section 7 – now 16 VSA § 1264a)	Request has been made to the Agency of Education to continue funding.
Immediate FY2022 funding for the Vermont Foodbank to continue pandemic response - \$6million.	The Foodbank has not seen any decrease in demand. Recent data published by the food systems researchers at the University of Vermont confirm what we are seeing across the state – increased levels of food insecurity among people in Vermont as compared to levels before the pandemic began: food insecurity is 27% higher now than in 2019.	Request has been made to the administration.
Continued FY2023 funding for the Vermont Foodbank to continue pandemic response.	Trends in food insecurity are not decreasing, and the cost of food is rising. Additional need is expected to continue into the coming year.	Request has been made to the administration



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