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Vermonters Feeding Vermonters is a Vermont Foodbank program that provides fresh, local, nutritious food to people facing hunger, strengthens the state economy, provides security to Vermont farmers, and reduces our environmental footprint.

Program Guiding Principles

- Everyone in Vermont deserves equitable access to fresh, local, nutritious, and culturally meaningful food.
- Neighbors may see better health outcomes if they have access to and eat fresh, local food.
- Farmers have more financial security when they can count on purchases of food through this program.
- Our food system is strengthened, and our economy benefits when we keep our food dollars in-state, rather than purchasing food elsewhere.
- Our environmental footprint is reduced because the food is sourced and served locally.

Program Goals and Strategies

- Purchase a diversity of fresh, nutritious, locally produced food.
- Work with a variety of farms of different scales and across many regions of Vermont.
- Pay a fair price to farmers.
- Provide farmers with large-scale contracts that provide them increased security of predictable sales, volumes, and prices.
- Be a committed partner that is flexible and responsive to the needs of Vermont farmers.
- Provide grant funding to Vermont Foodbank partnering agencies to build relationships and purchase fresh, local food directly from small to midsized Vermont farmers.
- Seek out creative partnerships with BIPOC communities, farmers, and other communities that may be disadvantaged or underserved.

Statistics from Vermonters Feeding Vermonters program

- \$9.5 Million Dollars spent on local fresh foods between 2018-2025
- Over 300 Farmer participating annually.
- 80-100 different types of crops annually

Need for State Funding

- Our current budget for 2025 is \$2.3 Million Dollars. Without state funding we are anticipating a significant cut to the program in FY2026. State funding will help Vermont Foodbank and our partners sustain current levels of spending on fresh, local foods.

Economic Impacts on the Vermont Economy

- Based on large-scale wholesale food purchasing research conducted by the Center for Rural Studies at UVM, every dollar spent on locally produced food contributes an additional 60 cents into the Vermont economy.
- Estimate of \$3.8 Million contribution to Vermont economy annually

Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Program Components

1. Large-Scale Wholesale Purchasing
2. Mini-Grants to Vermont Foodbank Partners
3. Farm Share CSAs of Culturally Responsive Food

Additional Impacts

- **300+** Vermont Foodbank Network and Community Partners supported statewide distribution via Food Shelves, Meal Sites, Veggie Van Go School and Hospital sites, SASH and via other community partners.
- **100%** of large-scale participating growers reported increased amount of food going to families with limited income and/or who struggle with food insecurity.
- **92%** of large-scale participating growers reported increased amount of food that their business sells/keeps in Vermont.
- **156** Vermont Foodbank Partners spent \$500,000 in mini-grant funding on fresh local foods.
- **80%** of organizations reported spending additional funds on local food (\$296,664 additional funds spent)
- **52%** reported that donations from farms increased as a result of this program.
- **595** CSA shares of culturally responsive produce for New American families, migrant farm workers, etc reaching 1563 people.

Quote from Partner Organization

- "Vermonters Feeding Vermonters is a wonderful program that has benefitted our Food Shelf and our community. Not only does it allow us to provide high-quality, fresh foods to our clients while simultaneously supporting local farms, the VFV program also connects our Food Shelf, both our [volunteers] and our clients, with our neighbors who operate local farms. The forging of connections within the community has made a genuine difference for our Food Shelf, our clients, and our farm partners. The VFV program creates what is best described as a "virtuous circle", where not only are all the individuals involved better off, the community is as well. The VFV program is a wonderful idea, well-executed. Our community is grateful for it." – Reading West Windsor Food Shelf

Quote from Farm Partner

- "I have loved working with Neighbors in Action! They have amazing volunteers and staff who really care about their community and providing fresh, quality food for those who are struggling to meet needs. Having been a part of this grant program for several years now, it has really helped support my bottom line by giving me flexibility in what I choose to bring, reducing waste on the farm and helping support our mission of serving our community." - Jessica, Wilder Farm, Lyndonville