



# On the road to food security in Vermont

2026 Policy Slate

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[VermontFoodSecurity.org](https://VermontFoodSecurity.org)



## **Food Security is our Destination**

All people in Vermont  
All the time  
Sufficient, safe, nutritious food  
Active and healthy lives  
Physical access to the food  
Economic access to the food  
Social access to the food  
Dietary needs and preferences

## **The Roadmap to 2035 is our Guide**

Detailed strategies to reach the Farm to Plate  
Investment Program goal: Healthy Local Food for All  
Vermonters





## Food Security is a Priority Across State Plans

- The Roadmap's parent plan: [Vermont Agriculture and Food System Strategic Plan 2021-2030](#)
- Also in:
  - [Vermont Climate Action Plan](#)
  - [Report of the Governor's Commission on the Future of Agriculture](#)
  - [State Health Improvement Plan](#)
  - [draft Vermont Conservation Plan Framework Report](#)

## Roadmap Goals



**Communities** have the tools to support food security.



**Vermont Farms** have the resources to be resilient.



**Government** ensures food security for all in Vermont.



# Roadmap Coalition Members

- Hunger Free Vermont
- NOFA-VT
- Vermont Foodbank
- Intervale Center
- Feeding the Valley Alliance
- Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
- Land Access and Opportunity Board





# Thank you and Celebration

With your leadership on food security, our collective efforts are already seeing success.

## We are already on the road

- \$1m for VT Foodbank network of food shelves & more
- Base funding for VT 211
- Emergency Planning statute includes food considerations
- Funding for Land Access & Opportunity Board community programs



## We are already on the road

- Farm Security Fund advances
- Vermonters Feeding Vermonters grant program established and partially funded
- Land Access & Opportunity Board funded
- Crop Cash (Plus) and Farm Share partially funded





# We are already on the road

- Tax Credits expanded
- Federal Shutdown response for Vermonters:
  - Cover SNAP payments gap
  - State funds to VT Foodbank's network
- SNAP discretionary months
- Family Child Care Home meal program sponsor support
- Universal School Meals
  - 5 years, 1,000 days, 14 million meals



# 2026 Policy Requests

The State of Vermont can make policy choices to ensure food security for everyone who lives here.



# Maximize Federal Funding with Strategic State Investments

## **SNAP Administrative Match:**

Appropriate in FY2027 an additional \$6.3 million to the Department for Children and Families - Economic Services Division to ensure continued State administration of the SNAP program (3SquaresVT) in response to the changed federal match requirement.





# Maximize Federal Funding with Strategic State Investments

## SNAP Administrative Match:

- Investing an additional \$6.3 million now (and \$8.4 million in future fiscal years) will allow Vermont to continue leveraging **over \$150 million in federal dollars** that are spent directly in our food system during the same 12-month period.
- Appropriating \$6.3 million in FY27 is essential to maximizing and leveraging federal funding, **maintaining a low payment error rate**, and ensuring effective delivery of 3SquaresVT.







# Maximize Federal Funding with Strategic State Investments

## Benefit Assisters

Appropriate \$5.75 million in FY2027 to service-providing organizations to expand capacity for Benefit Assisters to keep eligible people on federal SNAP and Medicaid benefit programs.





# Maximize Federal Funding with Strategic State Investments

## CACFP

Appropriate in FY2027 \$182,000 to the Agency of Education - Child Nutrition Programs for the Sponsor Organizations of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) as an incentive to participate as a sponsor of the CACFP for Family Child Care Home providers.



# Maximize Federal Funding with Strategic State Investments

## CACFP

- The CACFP is the federal child nutrition program that early Family Child Care Home providers can participate in to receive cash reimbursement for eligible meals and snacks served
- A Family Child Care Home can only participate in the CACFP under an agreement with an eligible sponsoring organization
- The appropriation will cover the administrative funding gap for sponsoring organizations

# **Fund the Land Access & Opportunity Board (LAOB)**

Fund the Land Access and Opportunity Board in FY2027 for their operational costs and program funding

- Operational: \$1,784,809 total base appropriation
- Programs: \$1,432,925 one-time appropriation
- Budget Adjustment Act:
  - \$1M for LAOB to reinstate FY26 grant programs, including Community Resilience Hub Grants



## **Fund the Land Access & Opportunity Board (LAOB)**

“There is created the Vermont Land Access and Opportunity Board to promote improvements in access to woodlands, farmland, and land and home ownership for Vermonters from historically marginalized or disadvantaged communities who continue to face barriers to land and home ownership.”

- LAOB has Advisory Powers → SOV and affiliated institutions
- LAOB has Grant Making Powers → marginalized communities & individuals



# Support Local Food Security, Vermont Farms, and Food Producers

## Vermonters Feeding Vermonters

### *Budget Adjustment Act*

- Fully fund the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters local food purchase program in FY2026 with \$1.5 million

### *FY2027*

- \$2 million for Vermonters Feeding Vermonters grant program at VAAFM



# Support Local Food Security, Vermont Farms, and Food Producers

## Vermont Foodbank:

- Support Vermont Foodbank network food shelves and meal sites (\$2 million)
- Support Ready Response for food access in emergencies (\$1 million)





# Support Local Food Security, Vermont Farms, and Food Producers

Appropriate \$500,000 in FY2027 to NOFA Vermont to support the Crop Cash, Crop Cash Plus, and Farm Share programs.







# Support Local Food Security, Vermont Farms, and Food Producers

- Enact S.60, the Farm & Forestry Operations Security Special Fund bill.
- Appropriate \$20 million in FY2027 for the Farm & Forestry Operations Security Special Fund.





# **Support Local Food Security, Vermont Farms, and Food Producers**

Increase base funding in FY2027 for the Working Lands Enterprise Fund from \$1 million to \$1.5 million. Supplement the Working Lands Enterprise Fund with an additional \$3.5 million in one-time funding in FY2027 to address backlog and rising demand.

## Contact:

Becka Warren  
Coalition Manager  
802.299.1289  
Becka@action-circles.com

In the Statehouse daily:  
Amy Shollenberger  
Advocacy Lead  
802.793.1114  
Amy@action-circles.com