

Insights on Addressing Food Security in Greater Hartford



Hartford Foundation

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*Prepared by the Basic Human Needs Team for Capitol Region Council of Governments
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Food Delivery Methods & Provider Landscape

- Food and Basic Needs Redistribution Warehouses
 - CT FoodShare & Midwest Food Bank
- Food Pantries
 - Mostly faith-based service providers scattered throughout the region
 - Small grassroots groups and mutual aid
- Meals Programs
 - Typically lunch and dinner (warm food) but some breakfast programs available
 - Bagged lunch and dinner programs for food insecure individuals who work
- Food pantries embedded within nonprofit organizations
 - Services typically only available to organization clients – not general public
- Mobile Food Pantries – CT FoodShare is the primary service provider
- Municipal Health and Human Services Departments/Senior Centers

Food Delivery Methods & Provider Landscape

- School-Based Pantries and Weekend Backpack Programs
 - Often available through Family Resource Centers (K-12 system)
 - Often only available to families with children in attendance at school
 - Higher Education Pantries becoming more common

Sample Food Security Service Providers

Hartford

Emanuel Lutheran Church
Fishers of Men Ministries
Grace Episcopal Church
Grace Lutheran Church
Hartford Neighborhood Centers
Horace Bushnell Children's
Food Pantry
Shiloh Baptist Church
Warburton Community Church

Somers

Champ's Place

East Hartford

Charity Seventh Day Adventist Church
Crossroads Community Cathedral
South Congregational Church UCC
St. Rose Food Pantry

Manchester

Eight Manchester Public Schools -
Family Resource Centers
HOPE 4:10 Trinity Covenant Church
Second Congregational Church Food
Pantry

Granby/East Granby

Friend To Friend, Inc.
Granby Congregational Church,
UCC

Ellington

Crystal Lake Food Pantry
Town of Ellington Human Services

Hebron

Hebron Interfaith Human Services

West Hartford

Jewish Family Services of
Greater Hartford
Town of West Hartford



Trends in Practices Increasing Locally to Address Food Insecurity

- Pop Up Food Distribution Sites
 - Organizations like Urban Alliance have spearheaded this
 - Reduces need for maintaining permanent infrastructure (including buildings and appliances)
- Scattered Site Food Stalls
 - Signage explaining how to engage with stall
 - Stall attendees (and the broader community) are encouraged to share offerings they don't need with people who are in need
 - No direct human interaction, no need for paperwork or discussion
- Farmer's Markets increasingly see themselves as addressing food insecurity
 - Typically done through honoring WIC/SNAP
- Delivery services for the differently abled, elderly and infirm (meals and groceries)
 - Can be cost prohibitive to implement
 - Note – food insecure differently abled people receive services through established programming



Challenges for People Accessing Food

- Access to where and when food will be available when food is needed
 - Lack of awareness that there are repositories that share helpful resources
- Lack of access when food is available
 - Can they pick up food before and after work?
- Varied patchwork of needed services available throughout region
- Stigma/Personal Capacity and Ability

Challenges for Food Service Providers

- Ability to be able to market to new clients
- Maintaining infrastructure
 - Capitol investments, appliances, insurance
- Access to consistent edible (not spoiled) food to distribute
 - Grocery stores have changed their operations and pricing models to stock less food that will spoil
 - Client preferences for fresh and culturally relevant & responsive food has increased
- Labor shortage
 - Most of this work is done by volunteers
 - Food security professionals are often not paid well
 - Full staffing is rare

Local Solutions for Those who Need Them

1. Call 2-1-1 or visit [Connecticut United Way.org](https://www.ctunitedway.org)
2. Connect with [Connecticut FoodShare](https://www.ctfoodshare.org)/Mobile FoodShare
 - There is an app in the app store
3. Walk to your nearest church/temple/mosque/synagogue
4. Connect with [End Hunger CT!](https://www.endhungerct.org)
5. Connect with Local Nonprofits in Your Area as a Client
 - Health clinics and Hospitals
 - Community Health Services, First Choice Health Centers
 - Large cap organizations that employ case managers
 - Think Chrysalis Center, Community Renewal Team, HRA of New Britain

Sources of Local Food Security Data

- [Asset Limited Income Constrained and Employed \(ALICE\)](#)
 - United Way Connecticut
- [Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity](#)
 - Food & Nutrition Taskforce
- [Greater Hartford Community Welbeing Index](#)
 - DataHaven
- [Hartford Food Policy Council](#)

