



# Rhode Island Hunger Elimination Task Force DRAFT Recommendations



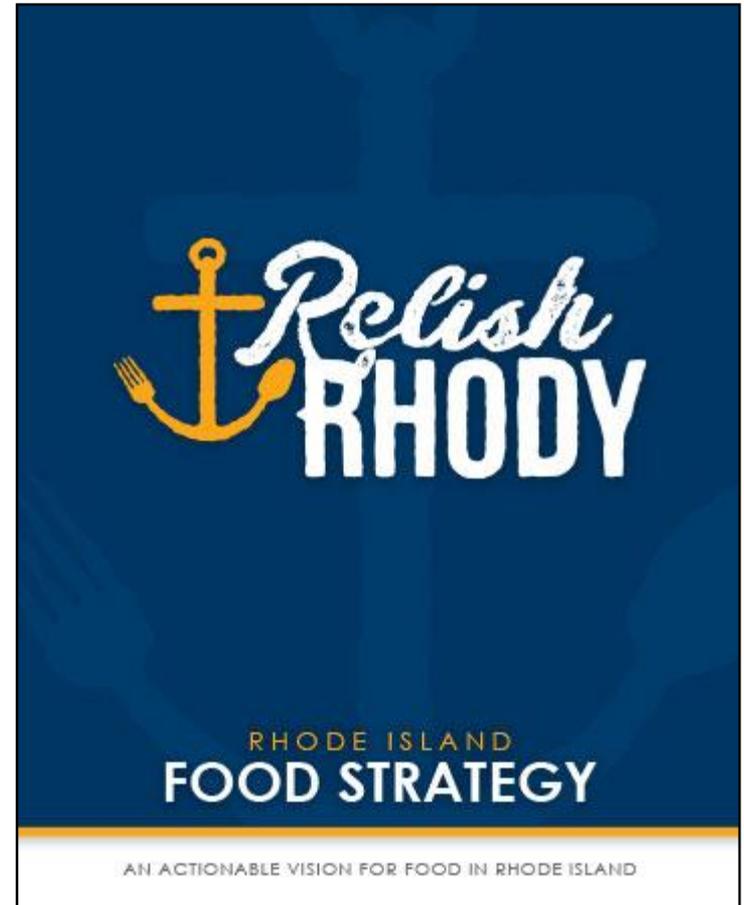
- Ensuring equitable food access and food security for all Rhode Islanders.

# Hunger Elimination Task Force Background

Governor Raimondo's *Relish Rhody* Food Strategy commits to reducing food insecurity levels to below 10% in 2020, from 12.8% in 2017\*.

Recommends convening cabinet directors and community leaders to lead this effort & offer recommendations & action steps

Launched in October 2017 with initial goal to have near & long-term recommendations to Governor & IFNPAC by Summer 2018



\*ERS/USDA Household Food Security in the US 2017 for 2014 – 2016



**INTEGRATED FOCUS AREAS:**

Preserve & Grow Agriculture, Fisheries Industries in Rhode Island

Enhance the Climate for Food & Beverage Businesses

Sustain & Create Markets for Rhode Island Food, Beverage Products

Ensure Food Security for all Rhode Islanders

Minimize Food Waste & Divert It from the Waste Stream

[relishrhody.com](http://relishrhody.com)

# Hunger Elimination Task Force Members Include:

- Office of Governor Raimondo
- Inter-Agency Food & Nutrition Policy Advisory Council
- RI Dept of Health
- RI Division of Planning
- RI Department of Environmental Management
- RI Dept of Human Services
- RI Department of Education
- Executive Office of Health & Human Services
- Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island
- Rhode Island Food Dealers Association
- SNAP-Ed
- Rhode Island Hospitality Association
- Johnnycake Center
- Rhode Island Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics
- WestBay Community Action; West Warwick HEZ
- Rhode Island Healthy Schools Coalition
- United Way 2-1-1
- Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Rhode Island General Assembly
- Woonsocket HEZ
- Southside Community Land Trust
- Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner
- Rhode Island Public Health Institute
- RI Food Policy Council
- State Innovation Model
- Rhode Island Community Food Bank
- Providence Healthy Communities Office; HEZ
- URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger-Free America
- Economic Progress Institute
- Local Initiative Support Corporation

# Syllabus for Task Force & Presentation Agenda

## Data & Metrics

- Definitions
- Gap Identification

## Social Determinants Framework: Development of Policy Recommendations

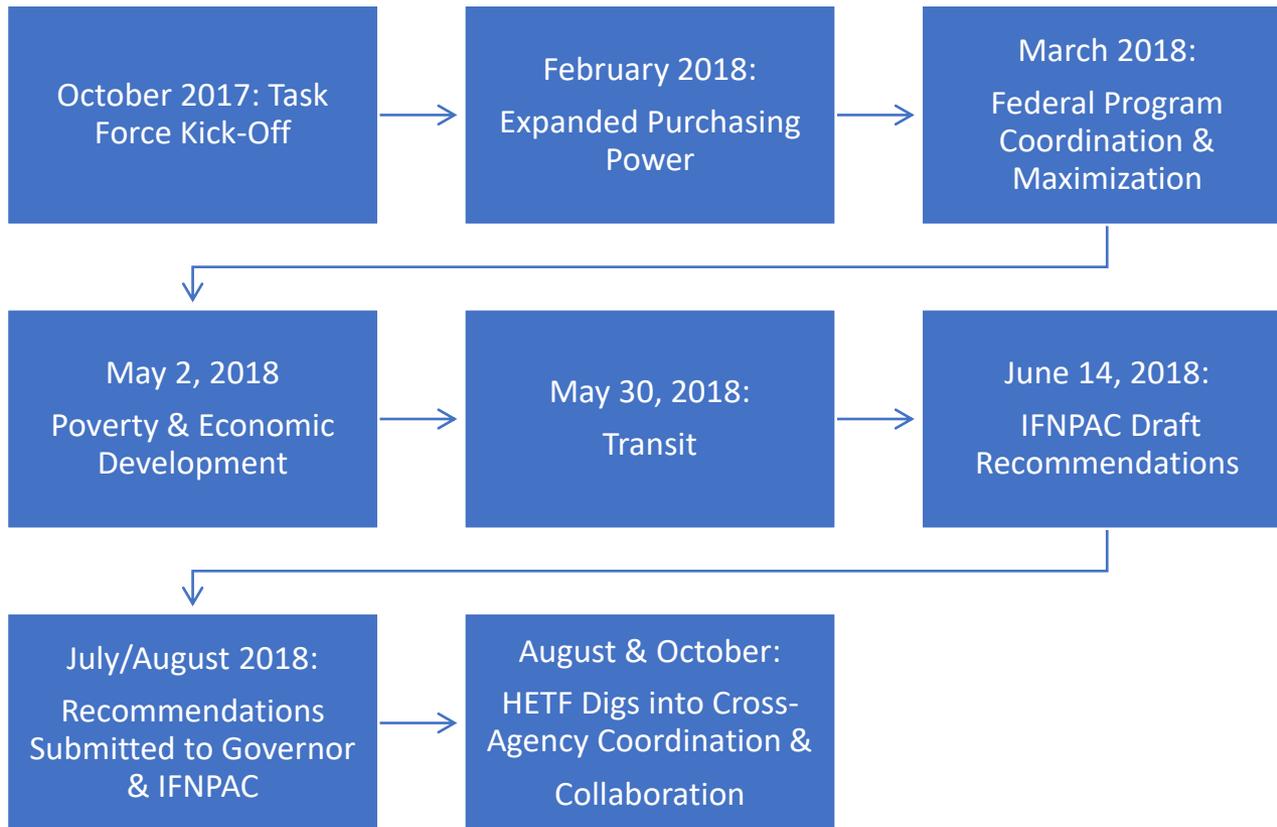
- Intersections with Economic Development
- Cost of Food & Expanded Purchasing Power
- Federal Programs: Maximizing Participating & Improved Coordination
- Transit/Transportation
- Safety Net

## Communication & Engagement (Summer/Autumn 2018) – Next Steps

- Inter-Organizational Network Communication & Coordination
- Public Policy & Policymakers
- Health Equity Zones & Community Engagement
- Inclusion of new stakeholders (e.g. finance & funding)



# Framework & Process



# Shared Definitions & Goals

**Food Security:** “Access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food security at a minimum includes the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, and an assured ability to acquire those foods without relying on the emergency food system.”\*

\*Adapted from the USDA definition & clarified to demonstrate that there is no stigma around use of emergency food system.

# Definitions Continued

- Needing to utilize the emergency food system is by definition food insecure.
  - Emergency Food System includes: Food Bank, pantries, & meal sites
- *Access* is a key piece of the definition.
  - *Access* could mean many things including: time, price, location, and cultural relevance
- Food Security Definitions do not place judgements on the types of food choices individuals make.

# Some Effects of Food Insecurity

- ❑ Difficulty Focusing in School
- ❑ Toxic Stress in Children & Adults
- ❑ Increased susceptibility to learning impairments & behavioral difficulties in school
- ❑ Potential effects to in-utero development
- ❑ Increased likelihood of physical altercations for kids
- ❑ Increased risk of chronic disease & difficulty managing chronic diseases (e.g. diabetes, hypertension)
- ❑ Potential for higher healthcare utilization
- ❑ Making Trade-Offs between necessary expenses: food, medicine, healthcare, energy, etc.

# Measuring Food Insecurity Methods:

- Household Food Security Survey: USDA Annual Survey
- Poverty Levels:
  - Food Insecurity tracks with poverty levels, but is not coincident
- Limits to Data include:
  - Statewide v. granular neighborhood-level data
  - Some populations are difficult to survey using traditional tools: homeless people, non-English-speaking individuals, immigrants/refugees
  - Small sample sizes -> higher margins of error
  - Focus on trends, not necessarily exact numbers from surveys

# Measuring Food Insecurity Rates in US v. RI

## US Households

Food Insecure

%

12.3%

Total

15.6 mil households

~40 million individuals

## Rhode Island

Food Insecure

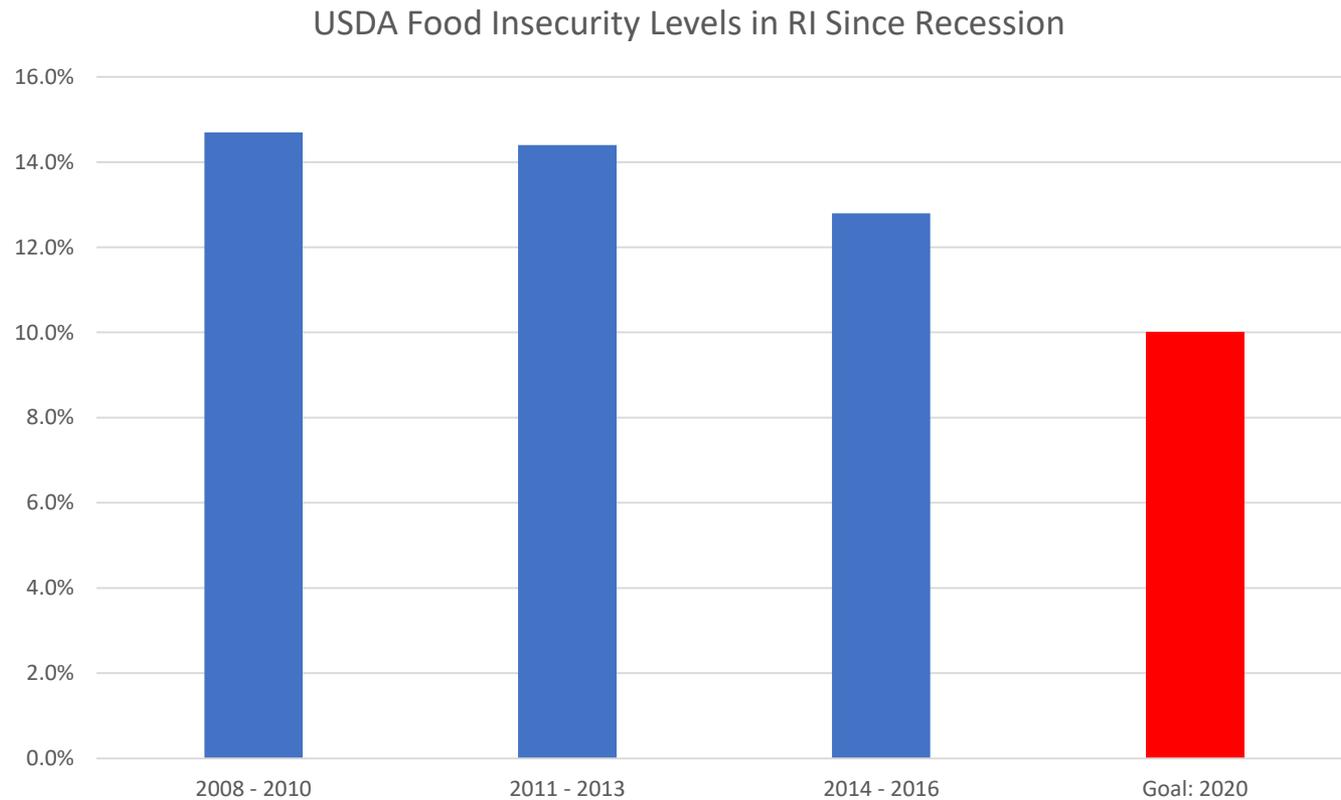
12.8 %

*~56,236 households*

*~135,600 individuals*

(ERS/USDA Household Food Security in the US 2017 for time period  
2014 - 2016)

# Measuring Food Insecurity Rates in US v. RI



**Goal:** Reduce Food Insecurity Levels to below 10% by 2020 in Rhode Island

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A reduction from 12.8% to below 10% across the state means reducing food insecurity by:

**12,302 households**

**30,000 individuals**

**But How Do We Get There?**

# Recommendation Development

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# Grounding in Data:

- Importance of targeting solutions & understanding the populations affected
- Who has access & where to existing programs
- RIDOH's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System & Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data show increases in certain populations:
  - High school students
  - Black (non-Hispanic)
  - Hispanic (Latino)
- Limits to data:
  - RI-specific data v. national data
  - Community-specific data
  - Populations left out of survey methods
- Need for better coordination across agencies on data sharing/targeting

# Food Insecurity Mapping

**RI Food Policy Council** Rhode Island Food Access Map *A project of the Rhode Island Department of Health*

Search for a location

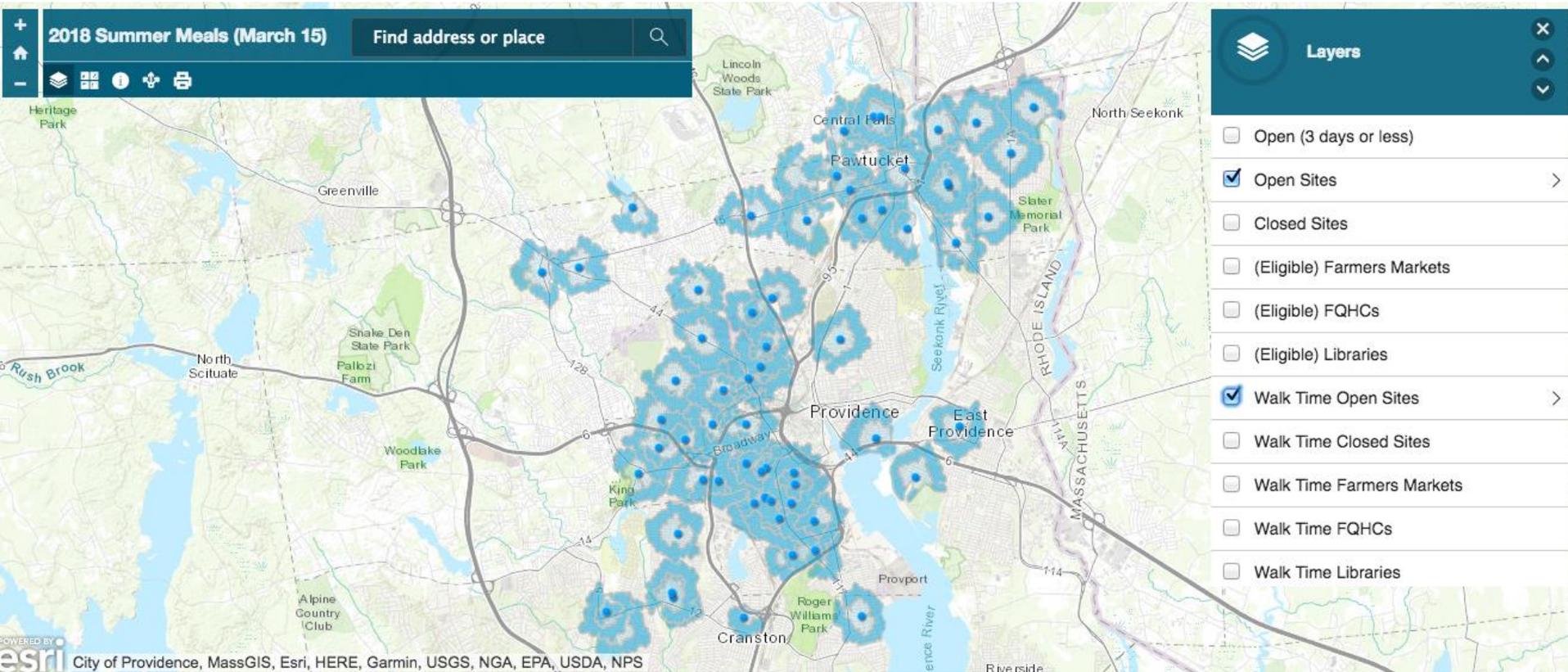
**Layer List**

**Operational layers**

- Farmers Markets
- Food Retail Locations Accepting WIC
- Food Retail Locations NOT Accepting SNAP
- Food Retail Locations Accepting SNAP
- WIC Office Locations
- Food Pantries and Meal Sites
- RIPTA Stops
- RIPTA Routes
- Low-Income Low-Access Areas (Tract)
- Poverty (Tract)
- Household SNAP Usage (Block Group)
- Household Vehicle Ownership (Block Group)

20mi  
Long Island Sound

# 2017 Summer Meals Heat Map



<http://rigea.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=c229c622d096421d9692291f6abfb9ad>

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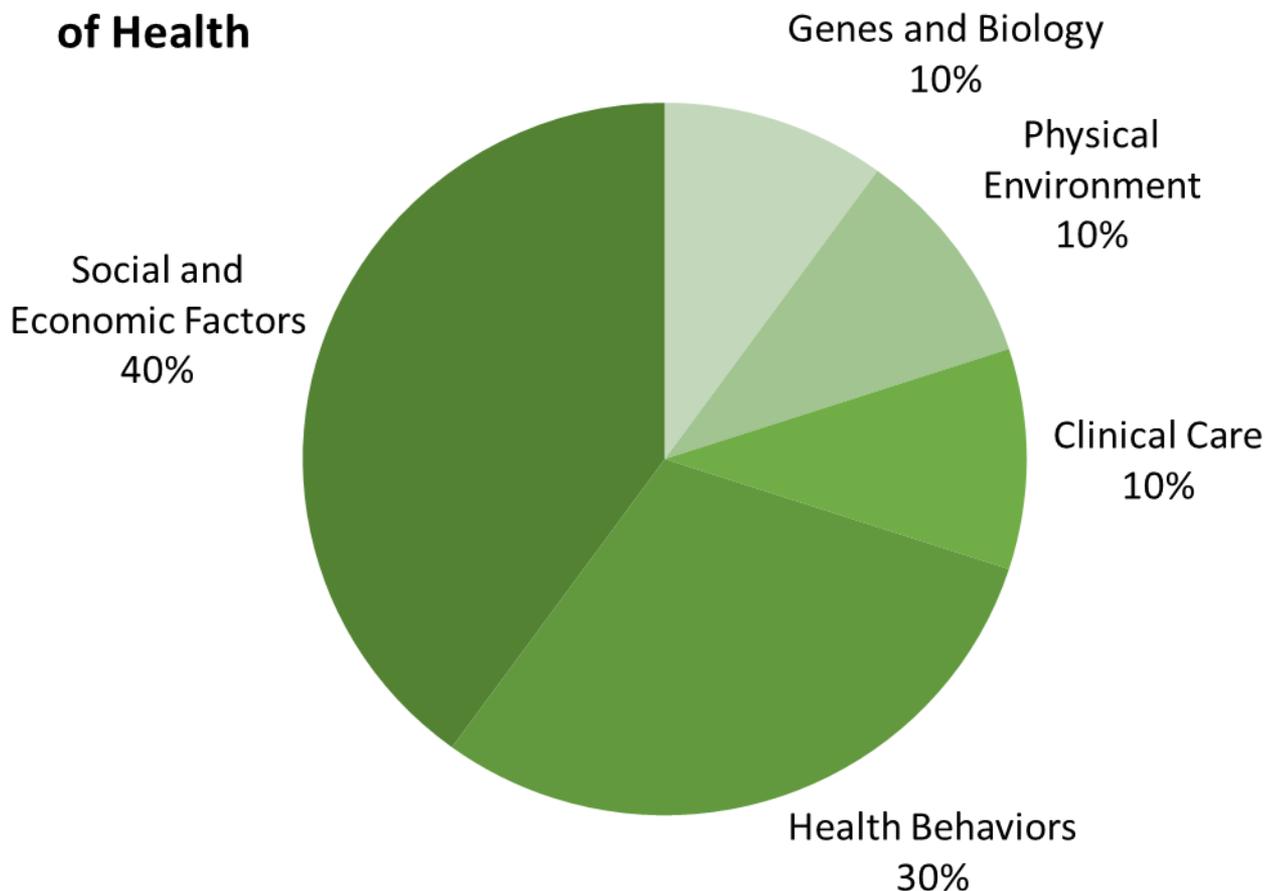
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# The Rationale for Addressing Determinants of Health



The case for investing at the community level to improve health

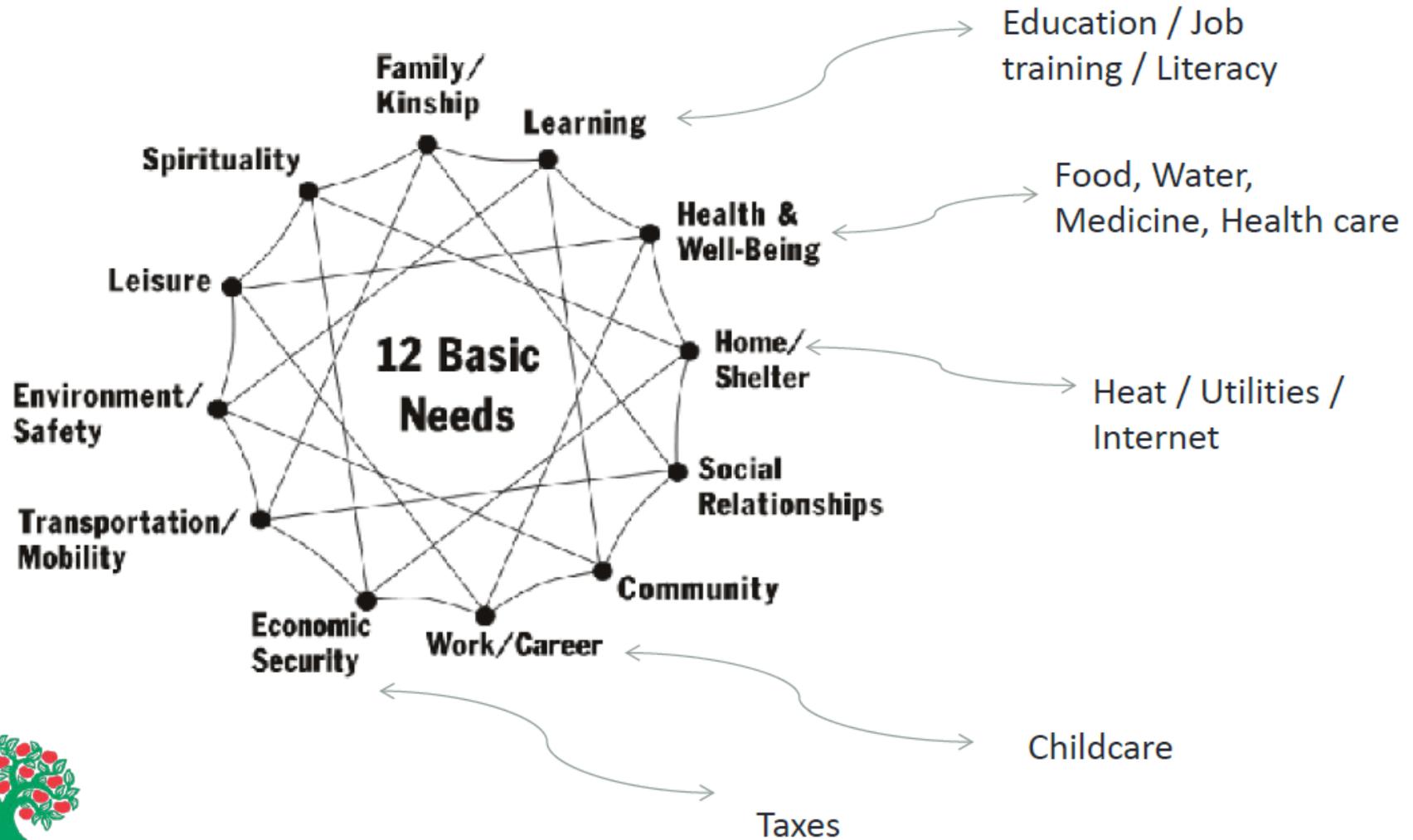
## Determinants of Health



## Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) Approach:

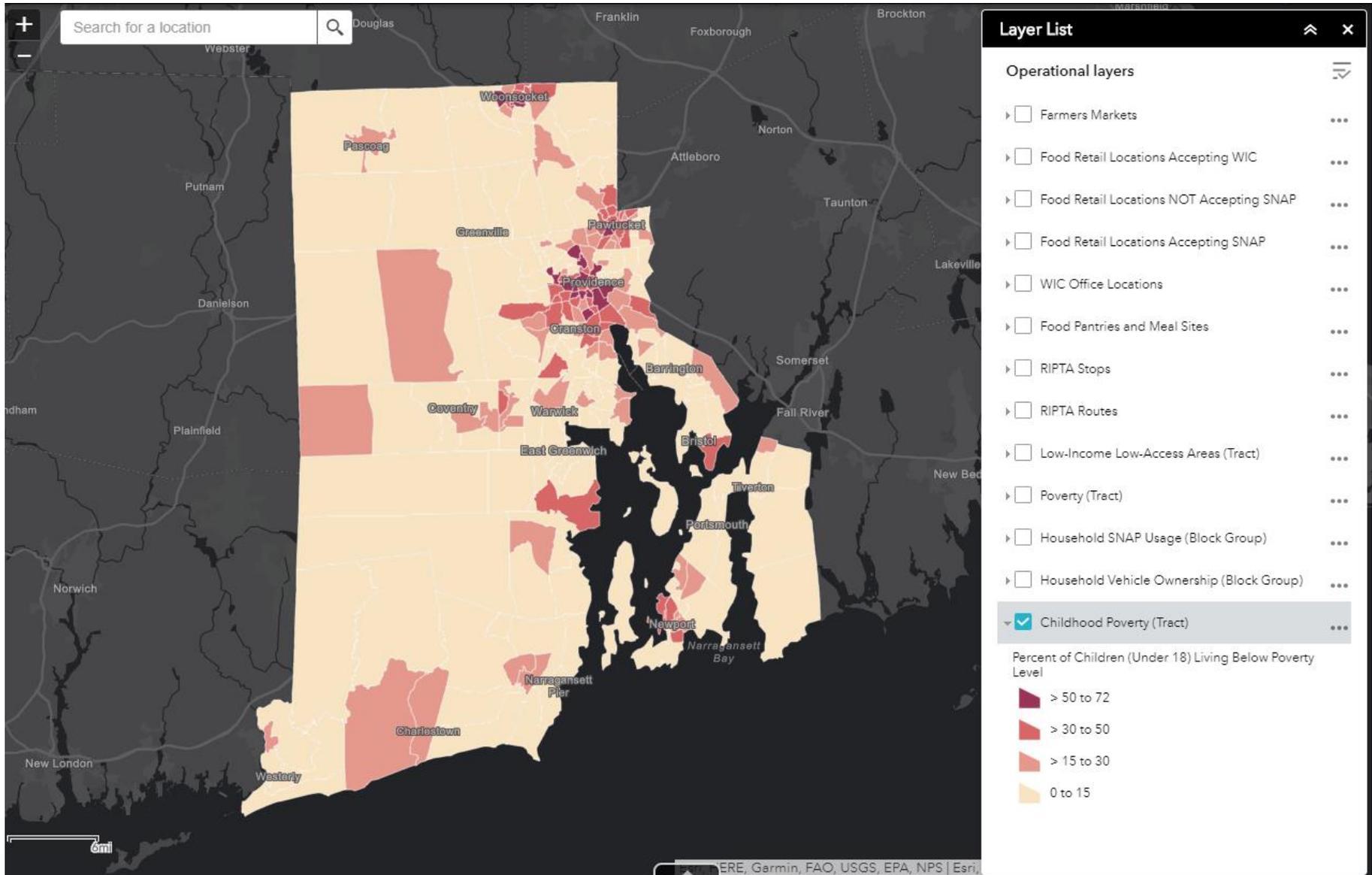
Create shifts in investments from the 10% clinical care to the 80% that determines health outcomes<sup>20</sup>

# Food Insecurity Doesn't Exist in Isolation



# Place Matters

(ex. Childhood poverty)



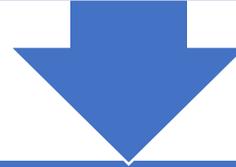
# Recommendations





# Strategy Goal:

Refine Data & Data-Sharing to have a more complete picture of RI'ers in need & improve targeting of programs



# Long-Term Objectives

Cross-agency collaboration for dissemination and collection of data for programs affecting low-income RI'ers (including energy, housing, etc.)

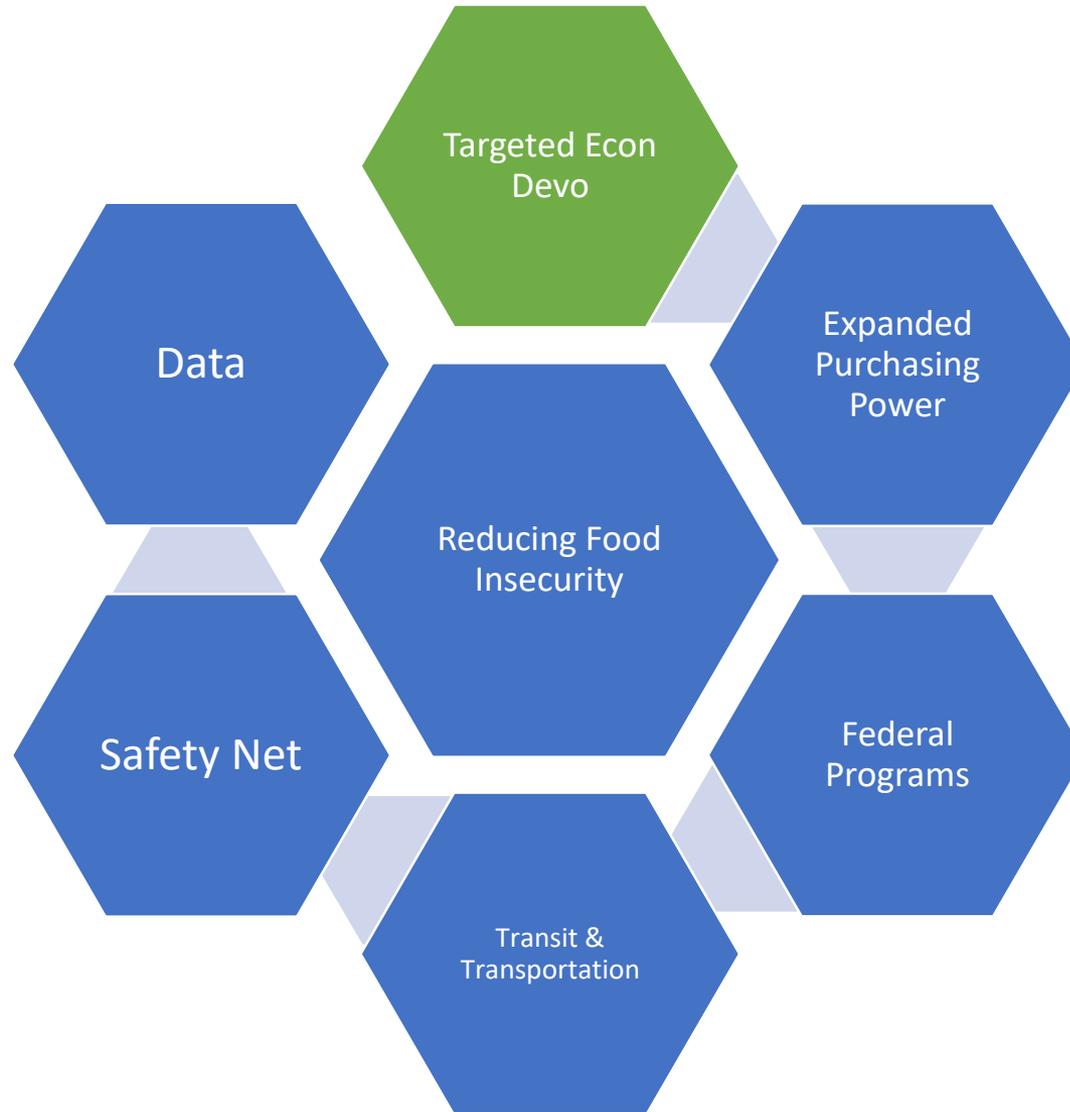
Development of Statewide Communications Strategy & Working Group

Address gaps in current data for individuals who are ineligible for some programs



# Tactics

Develop Statewide Communications SubCommittee/Working Group of the Hunger Elimination Task Force tasked with developing & implementing a plan for increased data collection & sharing & inter-agency collaboration



Targeted Econ  
Devo

Data

Expanded  
Purchasing  
Power

Reducing Food  
Insecurity

Safety Net

Federal  
Programs

Transit &  
Transportation

## Strategy Goal:

Increase Food Security as Lens in Economic Development



## Long-Term Objective

Target job creation in areas of high unemployment or in areas easily accessible by transit



## Short Term Objective

Target programs & services to specific communities in need & improve coordination across social service and economic development agencies



## Tactics

Connect ABAWDs affected by SNAP Waiver to economic and workforce development programs & tailor additional programs

Use Opportunity Zones and Other Targeted Investment Areas to draw investment to under-served communities

Continue to ensure that jobs created by economic development programs provide workers with liveable wages



## Strategy Goal:

Expanded Purchasing Power for Low-income RI'ers



## Long-Term Objectives

Urban Agriculture & Community Gardens are a tool utilized to empower communities to feed themselves

Development of statewide SNAP incentive program to increase \$ available for fruits & vegetables by X% by 2020.



## Shorter-Term Objectives

Inclusion of funding for urban agriculture in next (post-2018) funding opportunity for agricultural preservation

Continued support for & expansion of F&V incentive programs in existing channels (farmers markets & mobile markets)

Identification of additional federal & private funding streams to support SNAP Incentive programs in retail settings



## Tactics

Creation of a baseline scan of all state & municipal-owned properties for potential garden/farm sites

Workplan with RIDOH, RIPHI, RIFPC, Farm Fresh, RI Food Dealers & others for roadmap, feasibility studies, funding, etc developed within 1 year for SNAP incentive Program in retail settings



# Federal Programs: Maximizing Participating & Improved Coordination

- Federal programs & funding exists to support anti-poverty & anti-hunger efforts. Not taking full advantage leaves money on the table that could benefit others in need.

## Existing Programs Include:

- SNAP
- WIC
- School Breakfast
- School Lunch
- School Snacks/Dinner
- Summer Meals
- CACFP
- Commodity Programs
- Elderly Feeding Programs
- Meals on Wheels

## Strategy Goal:

Maximize Participation in Federal Programs aimed at alleviating food insecurity & poverty with particular focus on maximizing reach to low-income communities



## Long-Term Objectives

Consistent increases in Bfast, lunch, after-school, and summer meal program participation through 2020

Stronger Coordination Across Programs managed by the State (WIC, SNAP, Elderly Feeding, Summer & School Meals)



## Shorter-Term Objectives

More than 500,000 Summer Meals served in 2018; 5% increases in next 2 years

SY 2018 – 2019 Increase in breakfast participation by 5%

Maintain or improve levels of participation in federal entitlement programs (e.g. SNAP, WIC)

Successful completion of RI bridges program for SNAP



## Tactics

Require alternative breakfast delivery models in all k-12 schools

Require CEP in all eligible schools by 2020 & fix funding formula that is currently challenging.

Coordinated RI Advocacy at Federal Level to maintain federal funding for key programs such as SNAP, WIC, and Meals on Wheels

Increase WIC retention & participation through best practice sharing across



## Strategy Goal:

Transit Planning in Coordination with Food Insecurity Relief efforts



## Long-Term Objectives

Ensure that transit connects low-income neighborhoods with centers of employment

Increase RIPTA ridership in all income levels

Identify additional sources of funding for low-income RIPTA services



## Shorter-Term Objectives

Ensure that Food Insecurity Concerns are incorporated into the Transit Master Planning Process

Ensure that RIPTA connects RI'ers in need to necessary food-related services (meal sites, summer meals, WIC offices).



## Tactics

HEZ & HETF participation in the Transit Coordinating Council to reflect needs of food insecure RI'ers.

Hold targeted community input meetings re: RI Transit Master Plan located within each Health Equity Zone

Include the business community (EOC, Chambers of Commerce) in Transit Master Planning Process



## Strategy Goal:

Fully Support the Needs of our Emergency Food System Safety Net



## Long-Term Objectives

Increase the resources available to the RI Community Food Bank

Increase emergency food resources on college campuses across RI



## Shorter-Term Objectives

Increase funds available to RI Community Food Bank in line with funding levels in neighboring state.

Reduce the amount of healthful, edible food ending up the landfill

Ensure all eligible RI students are signed up for relevant programs (SNAP, WIC) & can use them on campus.



## Tactics

Support efforts by Hope's Harvest – RI's newest statewide farmer gleaning program

Expand the outreach of RIDOH's Rhode to End Hunger Initiative, connecting potentially wasted food with RI'ers in need.

Require all higher education schools to provide easy access to a food pantry for students

# Next Steps & Contact Info:

Comments on Proposed Recommendations due by:  
Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

Comments can be sent to:

Sue.AnderBois@governor.ri.gov

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Learn, engage, and discuss at

**relishrhody.com**