

STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-29



We advocate to end food insecurity, improve equitable access to nutritious food, and address hunger's root causes for all New Hampshire residents.

The Strategic Landscape

New Hampshire faces a significant participation gap in federal nutrition programs. Only 32% of those eligible for SNAP are enrolled. We rank 46th in the nation for school breakfast; fewer than half of children eating school lunch also eat breakfast. Of those eligible, only 54% are enrolled in WIC.

Our system of food and nutrition supports is like a power grid, moving healthy food through communities to schools to households. In New Hampshire, the grid is well developed in some areas and patchy or non-existent in others. **If everyone eligible for federal nutrition programs was connected to those resources, we could get close to ending hunger in New Hampshire.**

Cost of Inaction

Low participation results in missed health benefits for children, and a massive loss to the state economy. Reaching full SNAP enrollment alone would bring nearly \$400M in federal dollars to NH, creating more than \$600M in economic stimulus. NH Hunger Solutions works to ensure this grid reaches every community through five strategic priorities.

Priority 1: Policy Change

Goal: Close the gap between those eligible and those enrolled in federal nutrition programs through administrative and legislative advocacy.

- Pass policies that feed more children in schools.
- Implement widespread hunger screenings and referrals; seek insurance reimbursement; support the state's closed loop referral system.
- Secure state funding for robust SNAP Outreach; simplify applications; implement a Combined Application Project (SSI/SNAP); and advocate for increased SNAP benefits.

Priority 2: Child Nutrition

Goal: Expand access to healthy meals for children through school and community partnerships.

- Scale the School Breakfast Challenge to more schools, focusing on Breakfast After the Bell.
- Implement Universal Breakfast in high-poverty schools.
- Explore expanding the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for after-school/childcare meals, as well as increasing WIC and Summer Meals participation.

Priority 3: Public Education

Goal: Increase public and policymaker understanding of hunger in New Hampshire and how to solve it.

- Continue seeking and displaying data on hunger in New Hampshire and seek qualitative data from people with lived experience.
- Educate policymakers and the public via social media, earned media, op-eds, webinars, and presentations.
- Broaden data and storytelling to show the connection between food access and the root causes of poverty.

Priority 4: Coalitions

Goal: Support regional and statewide food access coalitions.

- Support robust statewide (NH Food Access Coalition and subgroups: SNAP, Health Equity, Research) and local coalitions (10+ regional coalitions).
- Build engagement and leadership mechanisms for people with lived experience, including training and stipends.
- Implement co-backbone models and a community of practice for local leaders to share best practices.