



Vermonters Feeding Vermonters

Supporting local farmers and fighting hunger during COVID-19

This year, Vermonters Feeding Vermonters (VFV) emerged as a critical tool for addressing the economic fallout from the pandemic. This Vermont Foodbank program purchases locally produced fresh food to distribute to people facing hunger. As rates of food insecurity skyrocketed and local farmers and producers lost their markets, VFV bridged the gap. Thanks to the legislature appropriating Coronavirus Relief Funding to the Vermont Foodbank, we were able to rapidly expand this program to address the unique challenges facing our community.



Food insecurity in Vermont has increased by **46%** since the start of the pandemic.* We expect hunger levels to remain high well into the future.

Our original budget for VFV this year was \$200,000. Thanks to funding from the state, in 2020 the Vermont Foodbank will spend **\$935K** on local food to meet the increase in need.



In the past, VFV has focused solely on produce. This increase in funding has allowed us to expand VFV to include local meat, dairy, and eggs. Over **\$500K** will be spent in 2020 on these additional products.

We are facing a hunger crisis unlike anything we've seen in our lifetimes. VFV can remain a key tool to ensure that all Vermonters are fed and that our local farmers and producers can stay afloat. The CRF funds that have supported this increase must be spent by the end of 2020 and we are looking ahead to next year. We cannot continue at this level without additional funding.

We are asking the legislature to appropriate \$500,000 to Vermonters Feeding Vermonters, helping feed our neighbors facing hunger while supporting local farmers and producers.

* According to estimates from Feeding America



Vermonters Feeding Vermonters

Sharing Vermont's bounty with all

Vermonters Feeding Vermonters is the Vermont Foodbank's local approach to creating healthier communities where everyone has access to fresh, locally produced food.*

The Vermont Foodbank and partner agencies work with Vermont farmers and food producers to set a purchase quantity and price prior to the growing season; farmers provide regular deliveries throughout the year.



- **Partnerships with more than 50 Vermont farms and food producers located throughout the state**
- **Estimated \$1.5 million stimulus to Vermont's economy in 2020**



Fresh, local food is provided to people facing hunger through the Vermont Foodbank's VeggieVanGo program, and partner food shelves, meal programs and housing sites.

- **23 schools and 10 hospitals**
- **215 partner food shelves and meal programs**
- **41 housing sites**



Access to fresh, local food for 153,000 people in Vermont annually.

- **1 in 4 people in Vermont receive food through the Vermont Foodbank**
- **All 14 Vermont counties are served by the program**

Learn more at feedingvermonters.org

** Totals projected for the 2020 growing season*



Vermont
Foodbank



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Vermonters Feeding Vermonters addresses key issues the state faces in working towards a better future for all.



IMPROVED HEALTH FOR VERMONTERS

85% of recipients indicated they are **more likely to eat Vermont grown produce again**

25% of recipients reported **increased daily vegetable consumption**

FRESH = HEALTHY



SECURITY FOR FARMERS

100% of participating growers reported **improved financial gains**

57% of participating growers reported **increased stability** due to the dependability of selling large and reliable quantities

FRESH = SECURE



STRONGER VERMONT ECONOMY

\$1 spent on local food contributes an additional **.60¢** to the **local economy***

\$935,000 spent on **Vermont produce, meat, dairy, and eggs** in 2020

FRESH = STRONG



REDUCED ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Vermont produced food stays in Vermont, reducing the **current average of 1,500 miles** food travels from "field to plate"

FRESH = GREEN

Learn more at feedingvermonters.org

* "Economic Contribution and Potential Impact of Local Food Purchases Made by Vermont Schools" By Erin Roche, Florence Becot, Jane Kolodinsky, PhD and David Conner, PhD. May 2016

