



NEW ENGLAND
FOOD SYSTEM
PLANNERS PARTNERSHIP

NESGFOA

4.27.23

**The New England Feeding
New England Project**

www.nefoodsystemplanners.org



NEW ENGLAND FOOD SYSTEM PLANNERS PARTNERSHIP



Ellen Kahler & Jake Claro



Tanya Swain



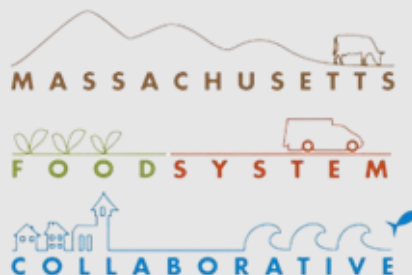
NH FOOD
ALLIANCE

University of New Hampshire
Sustainability Institute

Nicole Cardwell



Meg Hourigan & Martha Page



Winton Pitcoff & Brittany Peats



Nessa Richman

In Collaboration With



Karen Nordstrom



NEW ENGLAND FOOD SYSTEM PLANNERS PARTNERSHIP

New Supporting Partners



Bonita Oehlke



Abbey Willard



Joshua Marshall



Michelle Webb



Julianne Stelmaszyk



Cyrena Thibodeau

New England Feeding New England Project Goal

By 2030, 30% of the food consumed in New England is produced/harvested/caught within New England.

Our collective effort will focus on expanding and fortifying the region's food supply and distribution systems in an equitable and inclusive way that ensures the availability of adequate, affordable, socially and culturally appropriate products under a variety of rapidly changing climate, environmental, and public health conditions.



Why is this project important?

New England has the capacity, ability, and ingenuity to create a food system that is more self-reliant. The current system presents several barriers to doing so.



In order to create a more self-reliant food system, food system development entities must work collaboratively **to identify policies and investments that support public and private supply chain businesses and infrastructure.**



Building a more resilient, strong regional food system would mean more jobs, a healthier populace, and greater stability of our economy, workforce, and supply chains.



What is a food system?





VOLUME 3

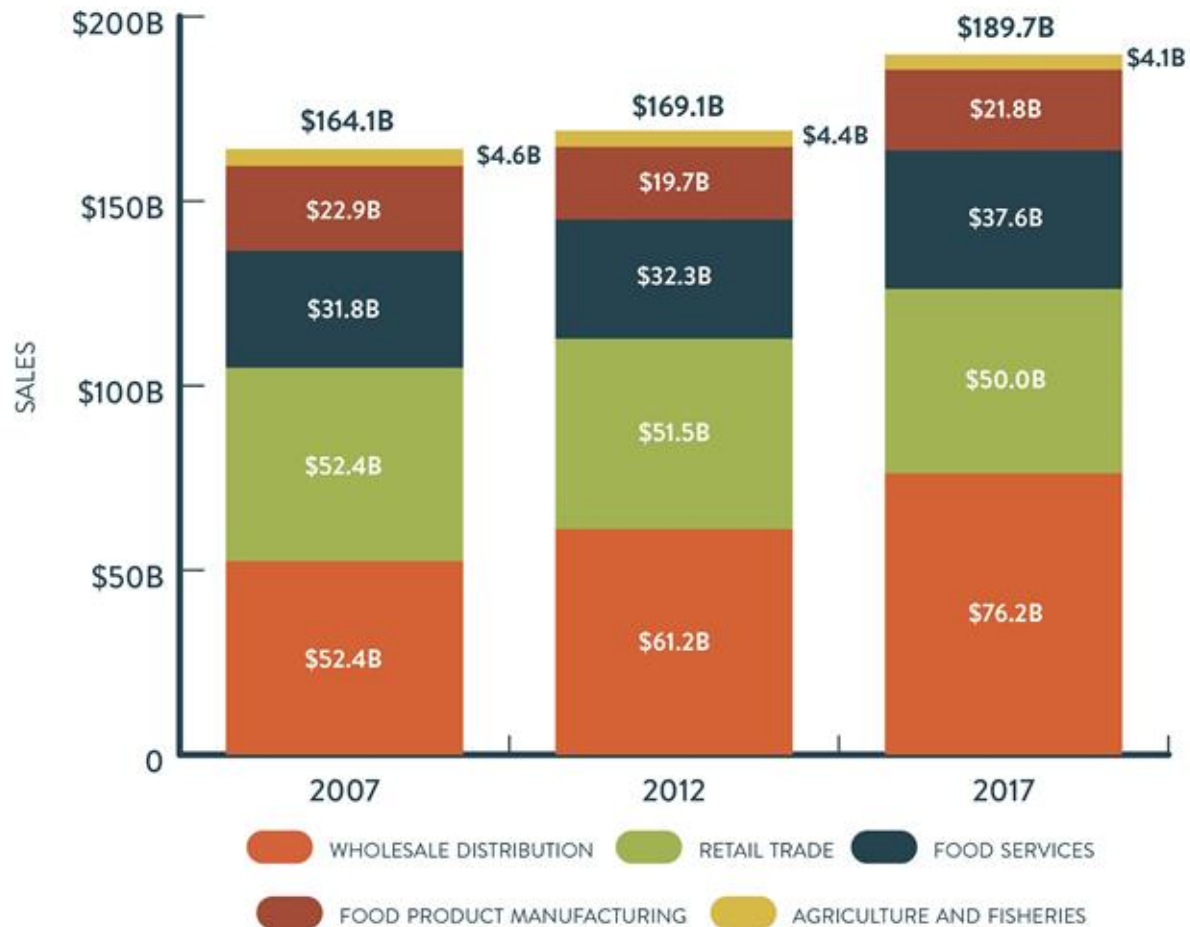
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NEW ENGLAND'S FOOD SYSTEM

APRIL 2023



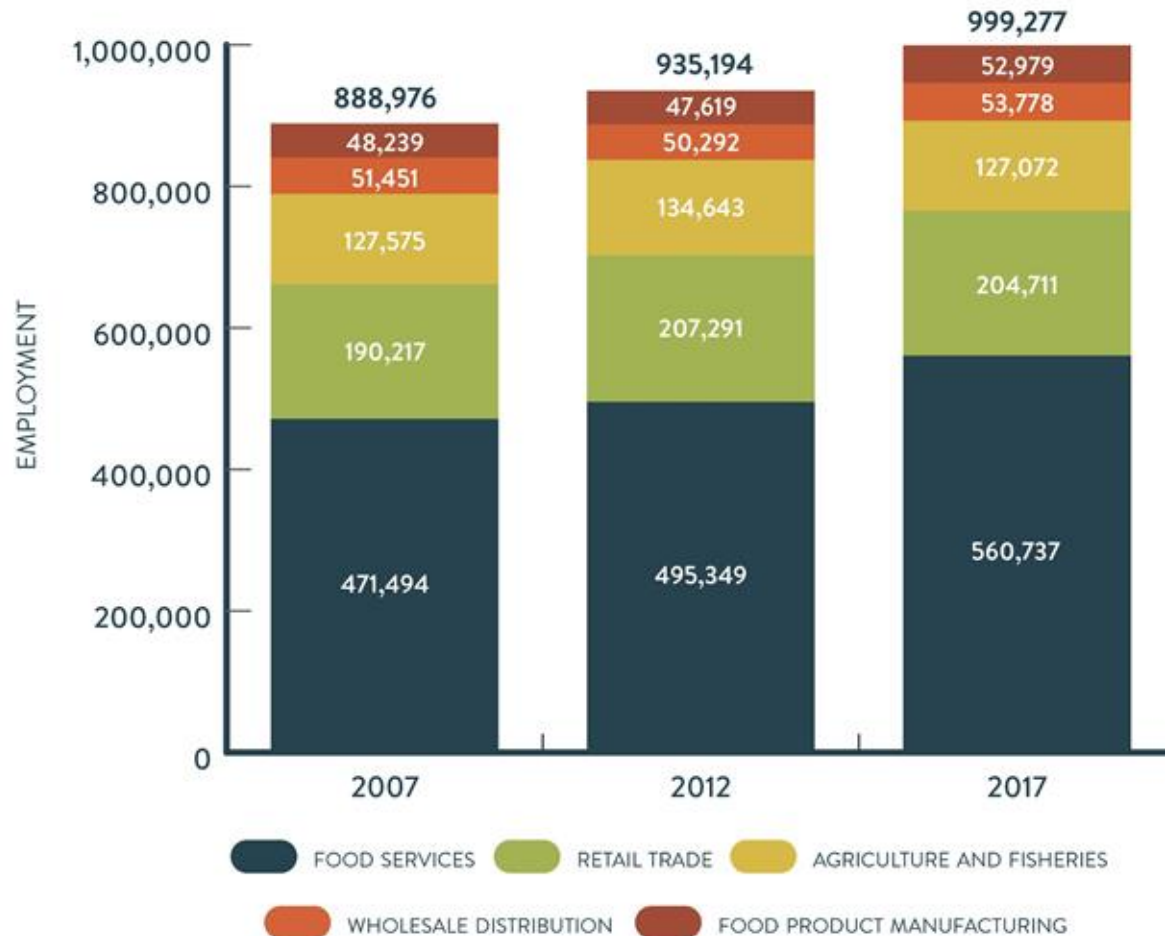
New England Sales by Sector

FIGURE 2: New England Sales by Sector, 2007, 2012, 2017



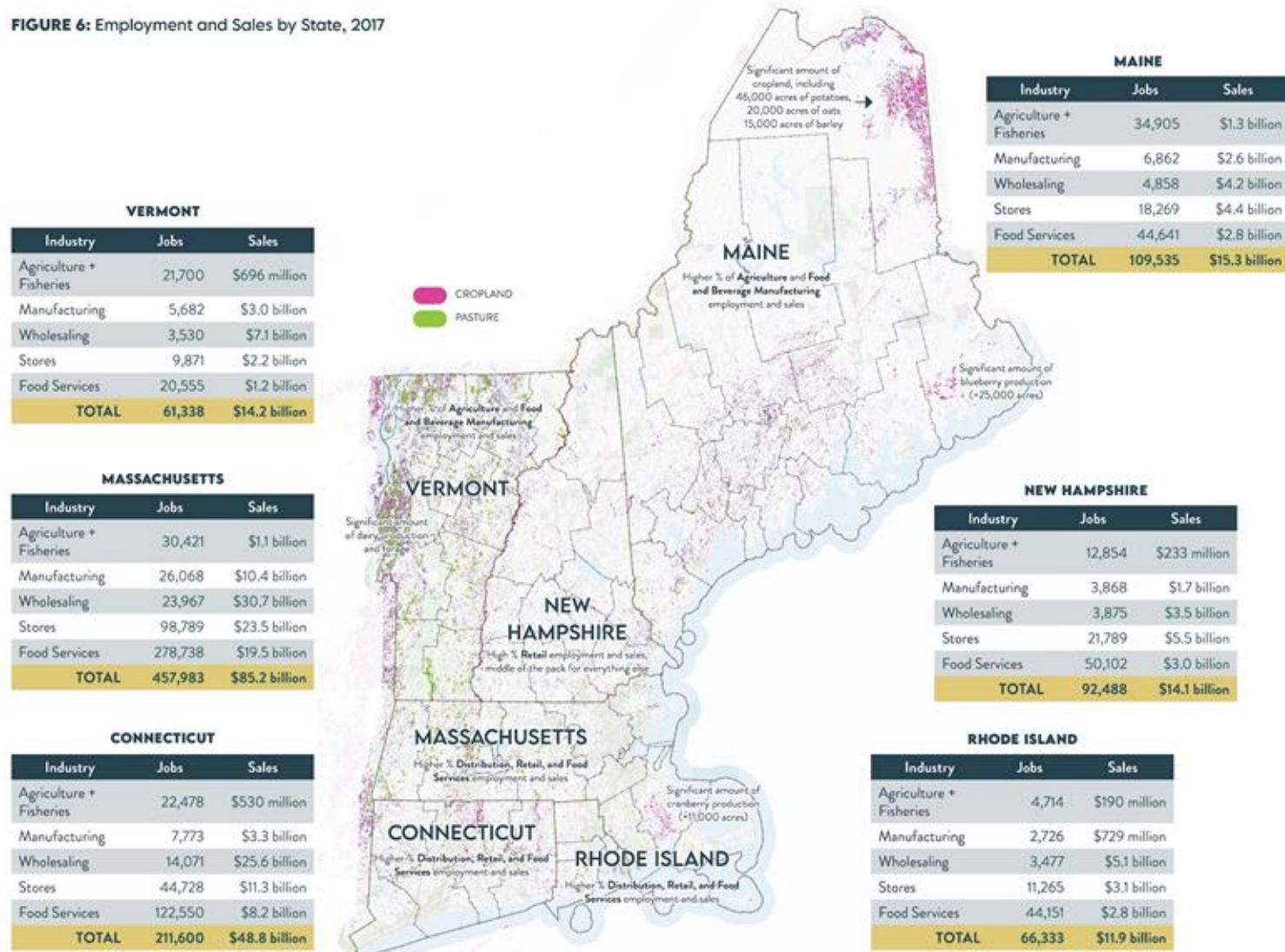
New England Employment by Sector

FIGURE 1: New England Employment by Sector, 2007, 2012, 2017



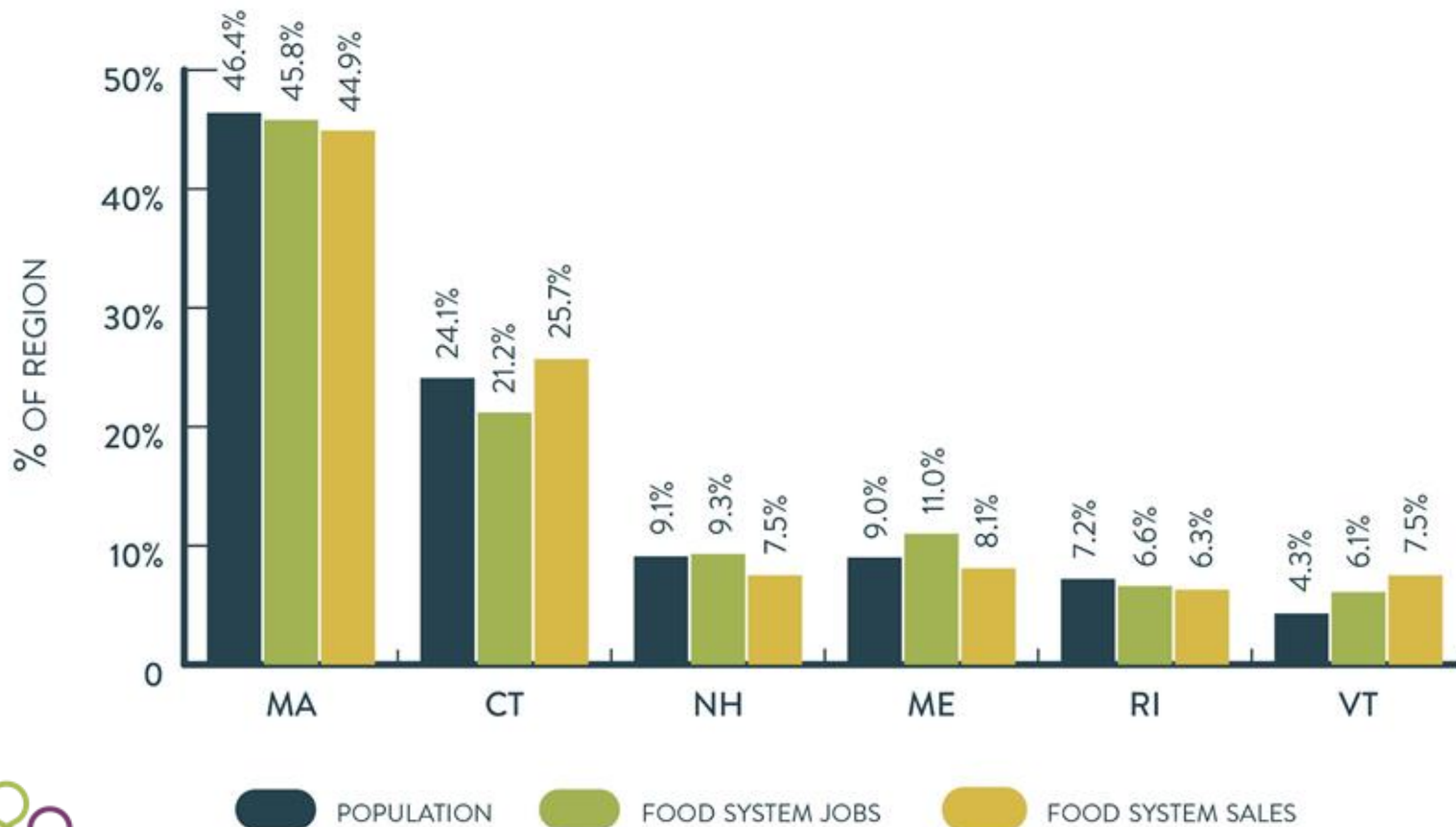
Employment & Sales by Type in New England

FIGURE 6: Employment and Sales by State, 2017



Food System Sales and Jobs in New England Feeding New England

FIGURE 4: Share of New England Population, Food System Jobs, and Sales by State, 2017



What is food security?

Food security means that people have access, at all times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.

At a minimum, this includes:

1. readily available, nutritionally adequate, safe foods
2. assured ability to acquire personally acceptable foods in a socially acceptable way



How Much of Our Income is Spent on Food?

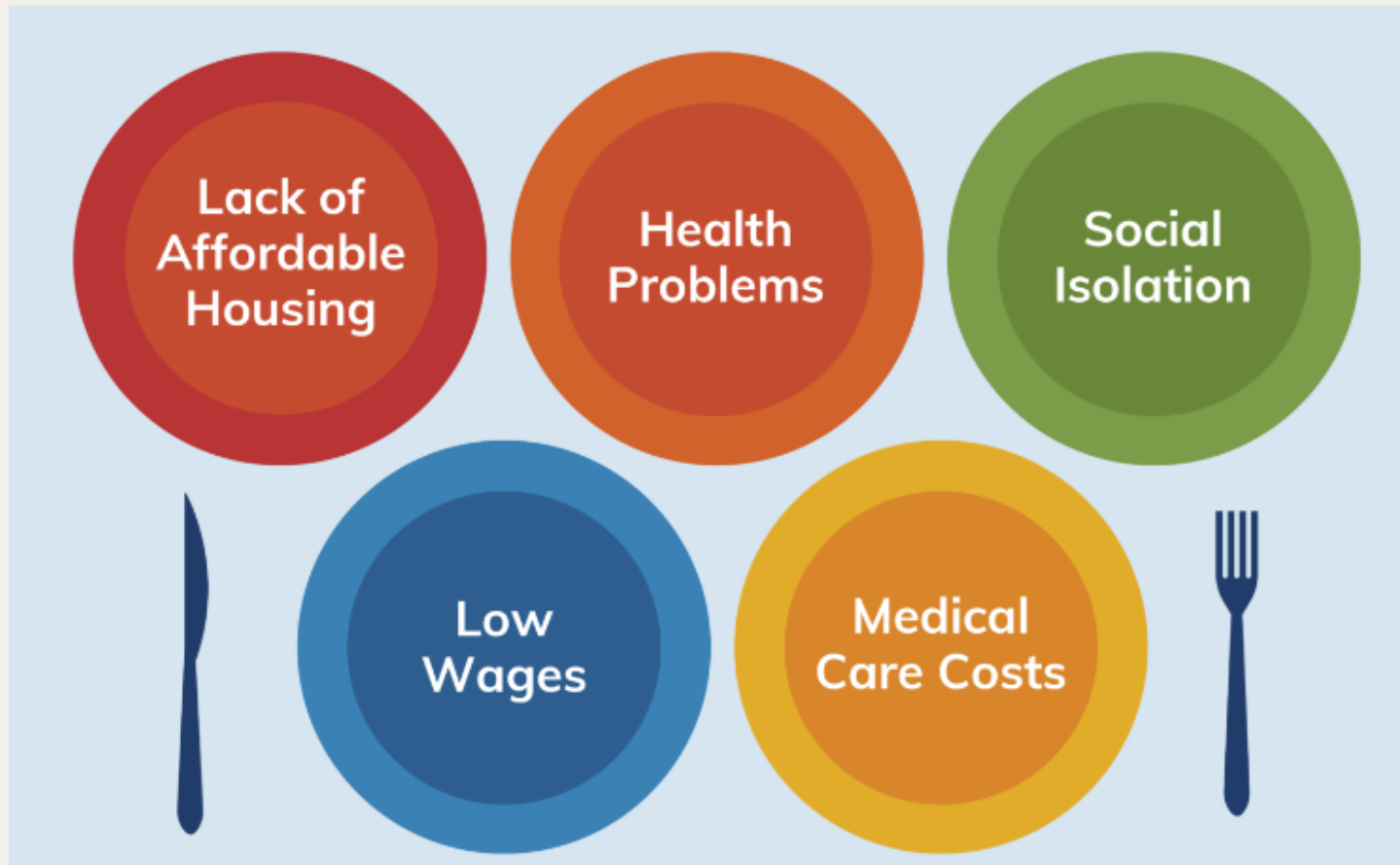
TABLE 7: Percent Distribution of Total Annual Expenditures by Major Category for All Consumer Units, 2018-2021

Category	2018	2019	2020	2021
Average annual expenditures	100%	100%	100%	100%
Housing	32.8%	32.8%	34.9%	33.8%
Transportation	15.9%	17.0%	16.0%	16.4%
Food	12.9%	13.0%	11.9%	12.4%
Personal Insurance and Pensions	11.9%	11.4%	11.8%	11.8%
Healthcare	8.1%	8.2%	8.4%	8.1%
Entertainment	5.3%	4.9%	4.7%	5.3%
Cash Contributions	3.1%	3.2%	3.7%	3.6%
Apparel and Services	3.0%	3.0%	2.3%	2.6%
Education	2.3%	2.3%	2.1%	1.8%
Miscellaneous	1.6%	1.4%	1.5%	1.5%
Personal Care Products and Services	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.2%
Alcoholic Beverages	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%
Tobacco Products and Supplies	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Reading	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Surveys, multiple years, <https://www.bls.gov/cex/tables.htm>.

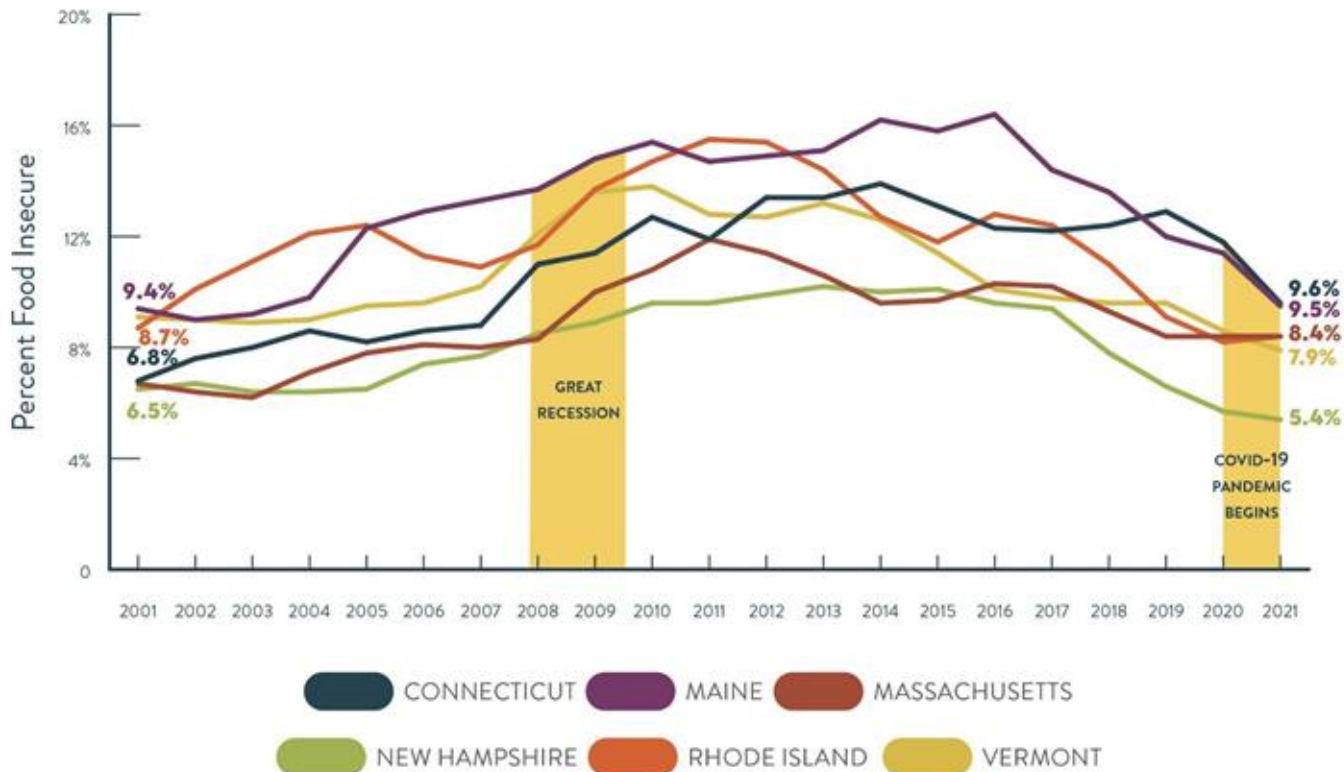


How does food insecurity happen?



How Many New Englanders are Food Insecure?

FIGURE 9: Prevalence of Food Insecurity in the New England



Source: USDA Economic Research Service, multiple years, Statistical Supplement to Household Food Security in the United States, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/readings/#reports>.



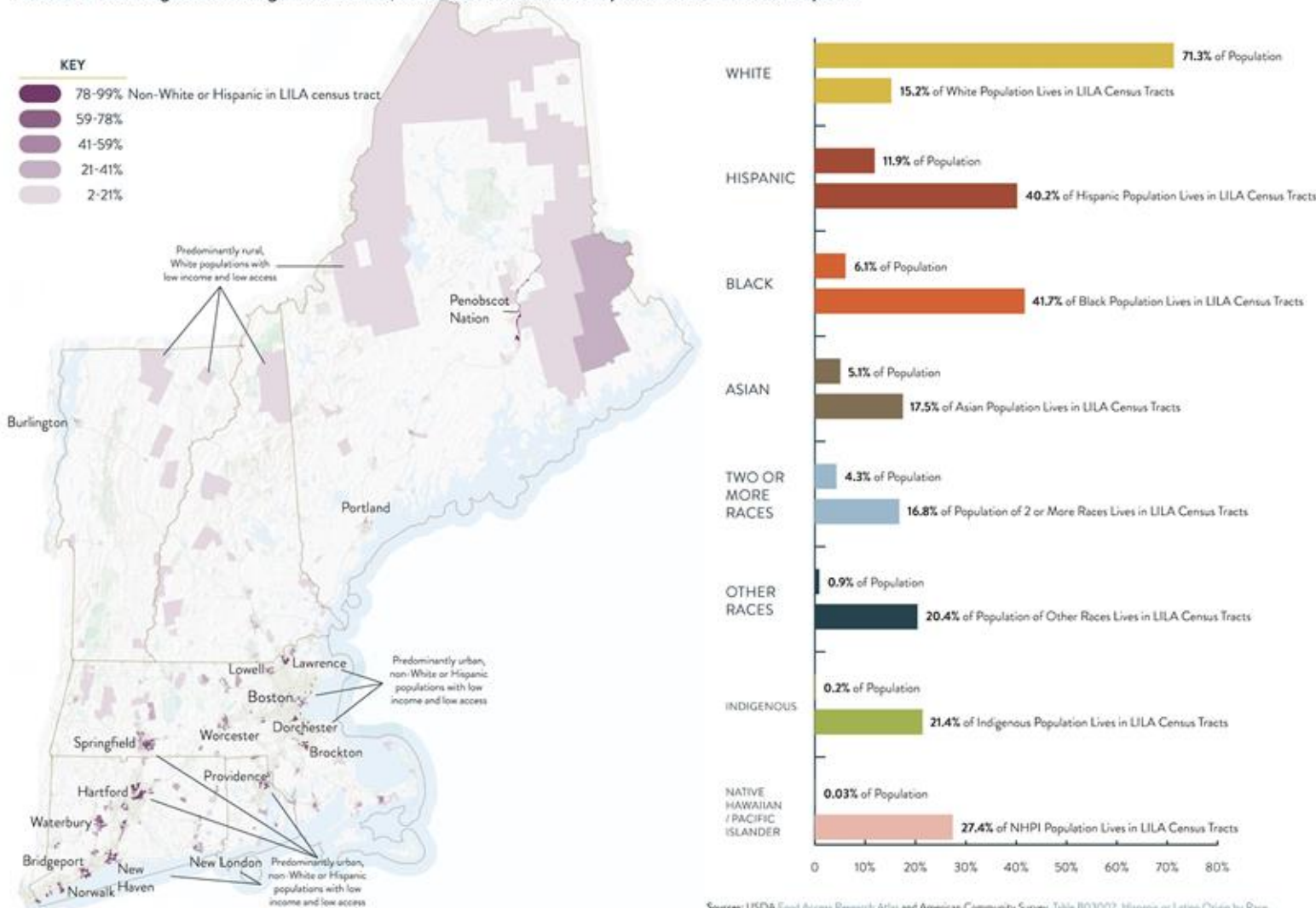
Critical food security programs in the U.S.

Acronym	Full Name	Brief Description	Parents & Kids	Healthy Eating	Low-income Seniors	Supplying Food Banks
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	Provides timely, targeted, and temporary benefits to low-income Americans to buy groceries.	✓	✓	✓	
TEFAP	The Emergency Food Assistance Program	Provides USDA commodities to families in need of short-term hunger relief through emergency food providers like food banks.	✓	✓	✓	✓
CSFP	The Commodity Supplemental Food Program	Provides food assistance for low-income seniors with a monthly package of healthy USDA commodities.		✓	✓	✓
CACFP	The Child and Adult Care Food Program	Provides nutritious meals and snacks to children and adults in designated child and adult care centers.	✓	✓	✓	
NSLP	The National School Lunch Program	Provides nutritionally balanced lunch to qualified children each school day.	✓	✓		
SBP	The School Breakfast Program	Provides nutritionally balanced breakfast to qualified children each school day.	✓	✓		
SFSP	The Summer Food Service Program	Provides free meals and snacks to low-income children during the summer months.	✓	✓		
WIC	Women, Infants, and Children	Provides nutritious foods and nutrition education for low-income, at risk women, infants.	✓			



New Englanders Living in Low Income / Low Access Census Tracts, by Race

FIGURE 3: New Englanders Living in Low Income/Low Access Census Tracts by Percent Non-White or Hispanic



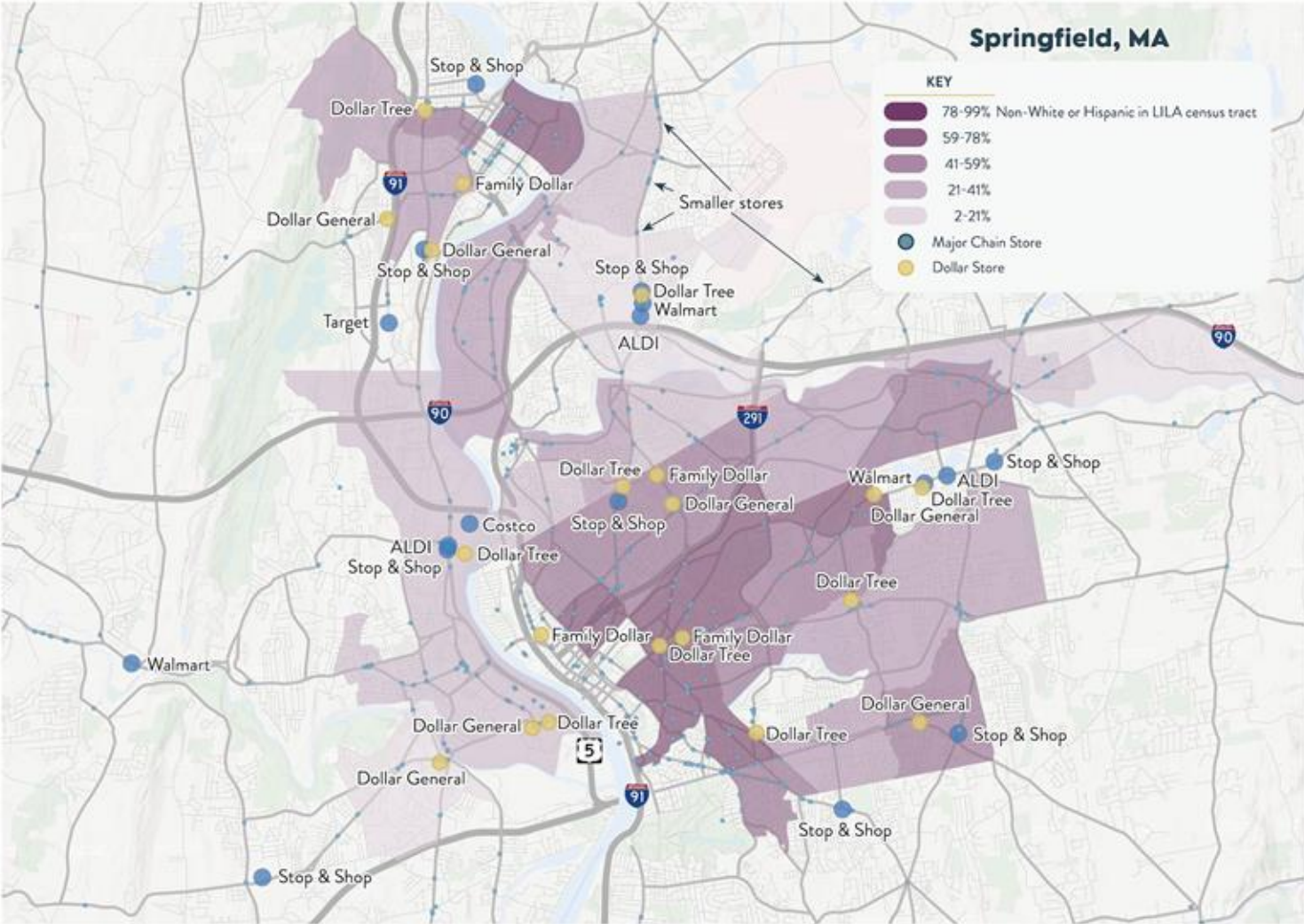
Sources: USDA Food Access Research Atlas and American Community Survey, Table B03002, Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race



Location of Grocery Stores in Low Income/Low Access Census Tracts

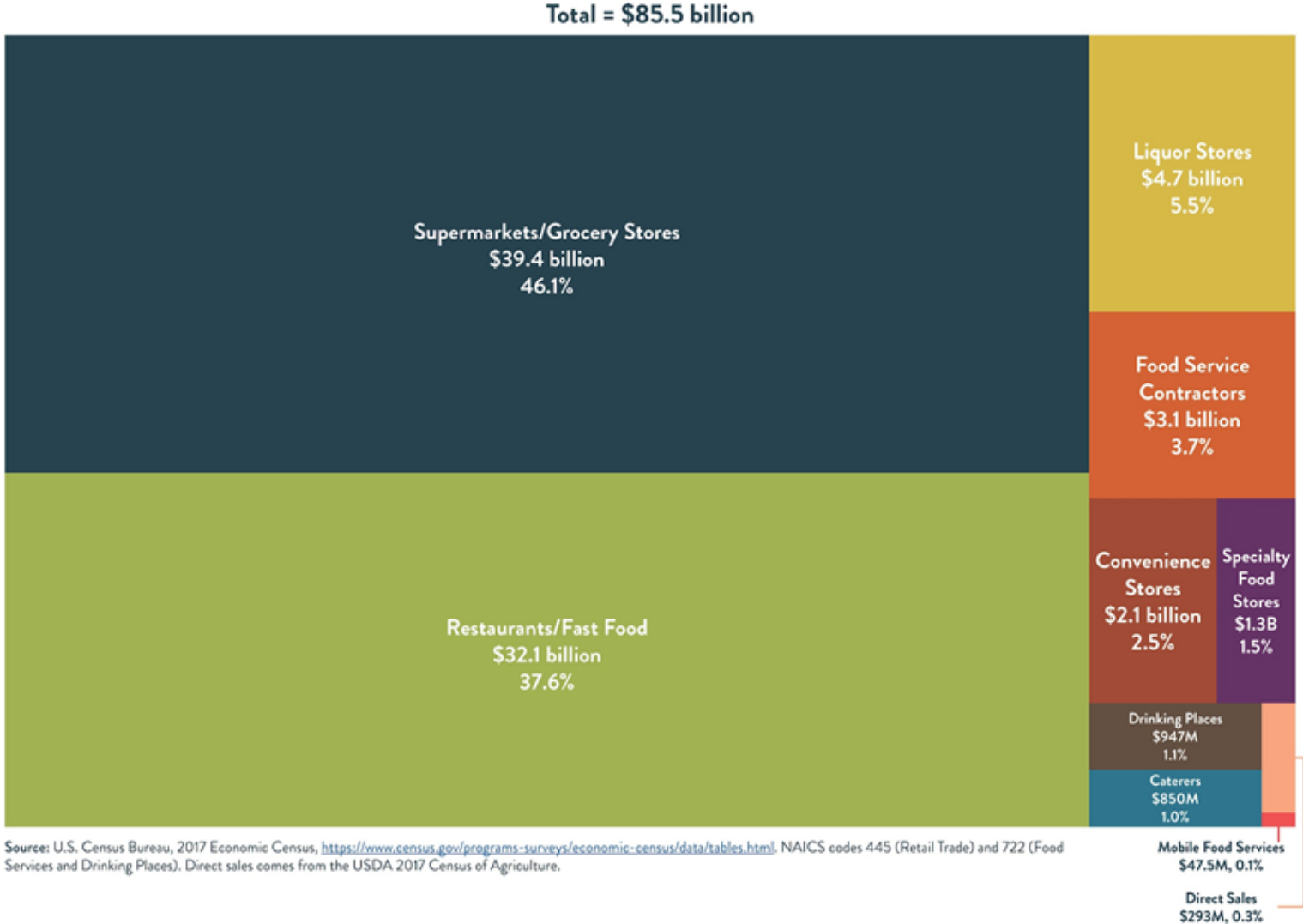
Census

FIGURE 4: Location of Grocery Stores in Low Income/Low Access Census Tracts in Springfield, Massachusetts by Percent Non-White or Hispanic



New England Retail Food Sales by Type

FIGURE 1: New England Retail Food Sales, 2017



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 Economic Census, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/economic-census/data/tables.html>. NAICS codes 445 (Retail Trade) and 722 (Food Services and Drinking Places). Direct sales comes from the USDA 2017 Census of Agriculture.



How does Development Finance Relate to Food Access & Food Security?

The Analogue: Clean Energy & Food Systems Finance

- Over a decade ago the clean energy and energy efficiency sectors were characterized as risky, fragmented, and ill-defined.
- Investors viewed this as a questionable investment and avoided the clean energy sector, contributing to a lack of overall investment in the industry.
- Today, the clean energy sector has been redefined as one of the most sought-out investment classes in the development finance spectrum.

So, what changed?



What's in your Toolbox?

How can traditional development finance tools be employed to prove the viability of a food system asset class?

- Bond finance
- Tax Increment Financing (TIFs)
- Federal and state tax credits and incentives
- Revolving loan funds

CDFAs target specific social and environmental benefits on a greater scale than the work of local level food systems efforts and they share many goals and methods with the food community. Though CDFAs have not been fully integrated into the food community, opportunities for collaboration are increasing.



CDBG Funding

Real Eats in the Innovation Kitchen

Location: Geneva, NY

Investment Area: Geneva, NY



Real Eats, a vacuum-packed meal delivery service, expanded their operations using the Innovation Kitchen, a local food incubator that functions as rentable industrial kitchen space as a temporary home for emerging food entrepreneurs. With an 18-month exit plan, Real Eats plans to grow their business by providing their dinners to 25,000 to 30,000 customers, resulting in about 75,000 meals per week. As part of the City of Geneva's Grow into Geneva Food and Beverage District initiative, a \$350,000 Community Development Block Grant and a \$150,000 Revolving Loan Fund were used to move Real Eats into the Innovation Kitchen in 2017. The grant and loan funds can be used for equipment acquisition, facility rent, payroll, or working capital.

<https://www.cdfa.net/cdfa/cdfaweb.nsf/resourcecenters/foodsystems.html>



New Markets Tax Credits

Food Lifeline's Hunger Solutions Center - Seattle, WA

In late 2015, \$2.6 million in New Markets Tax Credits via US Bank and CCG Community Partners, LLC was used as part of the capital stack to finance the construction of Food Lifeline's Hunger Solution Center in South Seattle. The project consisted of a new 117,500 square foot facility that includes warehouse space, storage and freezer space, classrooms, and office space for Food Lifeline's food distribution efforts. The build-out of the facility was completed in two phases, totaling about \$34 million in total project costs. Food Lifeline calls themselves the "food bank to the food banks" and they needed a new, larger, and consolidated space to increase efficiencies and meet demand.



<https://www.cdfa.net/cdfa/cdfaweb.nsf/resourcecenters/foodsystems.html>



TIFs

Peoria Area Food Bank Warehouse Expansion - Peoria, IL Social Enterprise

In 2012, the Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity (PCCEO) received \$492,425 in TIF to help the Peoria Area Food Bank construct an 11,000 square foot warehouse expansion that cost approximately \$2.6 million in total. PCCEO is an umbrella organization that oversees the Food Bank's operations. This addition to the facility enabled an increase in food distribution to pantries and soup kitchens, which was especially important in the years following the Great Recession. When this funding was received, the Food Bank had already increased its product distribution during the previous 5 years by 1.5 million pounds to its 8 service counties.



<https://www.cdfa.net/cdfa/cdfaweb.nsf/resourcecenters/foodsystems.html>



Healthy Food Financing

The ReFresh Project

Location: New Orleans, LA
Investment Area: National



After Hurricane Katrina, community members in New Orleans started to rebuild areas of devastation. The ReFresh Project — a 60,000-square-foot healthy food hub that includes a high-quality grocery store, a teaching kitchen for Tulane University’s culinary medicine program, a culinary job training and development program for at-risk youth, community meeting space, offices for other mission-aligned non-profits, nutrition classes, and an on-site urban teaching farm – is what emerged in an area of disinvestment in 2014. The \$25.8 million ReFresh project was primarily financed through New Markets Tax Credits, as well as a \$1.5 million Healthy Food Financing Initiative Loan from Low Income Investment Fund, providing gap financing to the project. JP Morgan Chase and Goldman Sachs financed \$8 million and \$10 million in NMTC financing, respectfully. Additionally, Goldman Sachs loaned \$3.1 million in a traditional bank loan. The Foundation for Louisiana invested \$500,000 in equity, while the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority issued a \$900,000 loan through a Commercial Corridor Revitalization loan. The New Orleans Fresh Food Retailers Initiative loaned \$1 million and the Newman’s Own Foundation awarded a \$200,000 grant.

<https://www.cdfa.net/cdfa/cdfaweb.nsf/resourcecenters/foodsystems.html>



City Land Lease Option



<https://www.citymarket.coop/co-op-history>



How else can government finance officers support?

- Protect agricultural land from development surrounding your downtown and build relationships with area food producers
- Help food producers in your area gain access to shelf and cooler space in the grocery stores in your community
- Use existing public sector programs to build local food infrastructure



How else can government finance officers support?

- Through creative marketing find ways to increase demand for local food (including locally processed and manufactured food)
- Ensure that everyone in your community lives within a ½ mile of a food store and/or there is adequate public or other transportation options for everyone to get to where food is sold or distributed
- Support efforts to get more local food sourced into childcare center, senior meal sites, schools, etc.



A Few Ways To Get Involved

- ✓ Eat more local and regionally produced food!
- ✓ Get to know us! NEFNE partners can:
 - Provide you with data
 - Introduce you to key partners
 - Help you understand what food system infrastructure is needed in your area of focus
- ✓ **Work with us and other local and state partners to identify projects to support that contribute to the 30% by 2030 regional food goal while creating jobs and boosting your economy.**



What's Next with Our Project?

Presentations to and convenings of key stakeholders about the NEFNE research findings. Each report component ends with a series of framing questions that can be used in sessions with different audiences.

The 6 State Partners will lead on:

- Grocers, Distributors & Food Hubs
- State Agriculture, Economic Development, Public Health, Health and Human Services, Environmental Protection, Fisheries Department Leaders
- Legislators (state & US Congressional)
- Economic and Community Development Planners
- Producers and Producer Associations
- Funders, Lenders, and Investors - and Potential Funders for food system projects and businesses

Food Solutions New England will lead on:

- NGOs, CBOs, BIPOC-led associations/organizations, food access/security organizations





NEW ENGLAND
FOOD SYSTEM
PLANNERS PARTNERSHIP

Want to learn more about the New England
Feeding New England project?

Contact our Project Director, Leah Rovner - leah@vsjf.org
or visit us at www.nefoodsystemplanners.org

Thank you!