

RHODY FEEDING RHODY

Alliance Meeting

Monday, November 18, 2024 • 12:00-1:00pm



At today's meeting, we will

- Hear end-of-season updates from Core Partners
- Learn about relevant food policy progress
- Reflect on impacts to date & share ideas for 2025

Meet Rachel!



RACHEL NEWMAN GREENE

Food Access & Nutrition Security Program Director

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she/her

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Updates from core partners!





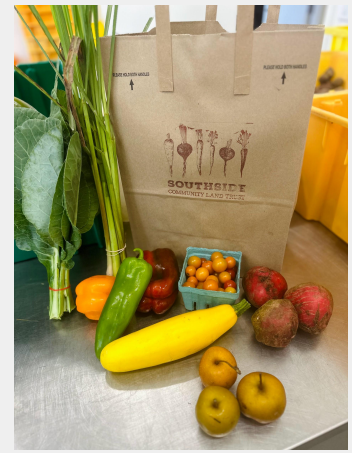
- **CFCRI Seafood Donation Program 2024**
 - 15 seafood industry partners
 - 9 community partners
 - 175,000 lbs distributed
 - New Partnership with SCLT
- **Sea to School Initiative**
 - Collaborative work with Tony's Seafood, Chartwells, FFRI, EWTE
 - 2 taste testing events at Gallagher Middle School and Segue Institute for Learning
 - Sampling and menuing planning for Winter & Spring 2025





- Gleaning
 - 200,000lbs+ gleaned so far in 2024
 - \$130,000+ paid out in farmer contracts
 - Served 63 hunger relief agencies, 50 farms/producers
- Farm to Food Pantry (June-December)
 - 48 agencies have purchased from 51 local food producers so far
 - Agencies have spent over \$140,000 on 89 unique local goods
 - Eggs, milk and tomatoes are the top three items purchased thus far -
 - 37% of purchases (types of items usually not donated/from the food bank)
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (May-December)
 - Delivered over 700 produce boxes
 - 21 bulk deliveries to agencies, 80 home deliveries
 - Over \$26,000 worth of local produce, herbs and honey purchased
 - Sub-awarded \$10,000 to Westbay Farm and Askiya
 - Piloted pop-up farmers markets at senior housing sites under PAC





- 145,547.20 to date, spent on food purchases
- New items that were given to participants (Pears, shiitake mushrooms, peaches, tea, honey, fish)
- Joseph Caffey Apartments and Jordan Caffey Townhouses
- Partnership with Commercial Fisheries Center of RI and Eating with the Ecosystem
- Total of 10 produce giveaways





Food Policy Update

- Federal Farm Bill update
- State legislation preview



Let's talk about the past year!



Rhody Feeding Rhody is at the end of Year 2!

- What went well?
- Where should we invest energy in 2025/Year 3?
- How else do we want to work toward sustainability?
- What else?

Shareworthy links

Growing wholesale channels for Rhode Island's farmers and fishers.

Providing fresh local food to our neighbors in need.

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The **RHODY FEEDING RHODY ALLIANCE** includes Rhode Island farmers, fishers, food pantries, food rescue organizations, distributors, and others who want to provide fresh, local, culturally-appropriate foods to our food-insecure neighbors at a fair price to our producers and harvesters.

Together, we are connecting our local food system, growing a reliable wholesale market, and becoming more resilient to supply chain shocks.



IN 2023, ALLIANCE MEMBERS

- Made **881** individual purchases from 93 Rhode Island farmers and fishers
- Fed over **35,000** food-insecure Rhode Islanders through partnerships with more than 30 hunger relief organizations
- Channelled over **\$480,000** into the state economy

Join more than 150 other members to grow this market: rhodyfeedingrhody.org/get-involved

Funding for Rhody Feeding Rhody was made possible by a grant/cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.

Rhode Island LFPA: Growing Resilient Supply Chains from Farm to Fork and Dock to Dish

Rhode Island is a small state – a total population of just around 1.09 million – but its food and agriculture community has tremendous reach and impact. The local food industry – from farms to fishing boats – supports over 75,000 jobs in the state and contributes nearly \$24 billion to the state economy annually. Rhode Island is also home to the highest percentage of new farmers nationally.

At the same time, the state suffers from high rates of food insecurity. According to the Rhode Island Food Policy Council's Data Dashboard, an average of 11.7% (over 35,000 households) of Rhode Island households were food insecure from 2002 to 2022, and over 25% of Rhode Island households with at least one child under 18 were food insecure in 2021. This increased to 41.1% in 2022.

Looking to grow the state's sustainable, resilient farm-to-fork and dock-to-dish food supply chain while feeding neighbors in need, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) signed a Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The agreement awarded RIDEM \$1.75 million to reach the state's most vulnerable citizens with fresh, healthy, culturally relevant foods.

To implement the program, RIDEM subcontracted with Farm Fresh Rhode Island (FFRI), a nationally recognized non-profit organization that has been growing and strengthening the Rhode Island food system since 2004.



By the Numbers

\$1.75 million total LFPA allocation to support a more resilient local food system in Rhode Island

More than \$732,000 in purchases through March 2024 – over half with socially disadvantaged farmers and fishers

95 local producers have provided nutritious, local food to over 35,000 Rhode Islanders

As the lead partner in the LFPA cooperative agreement, Farm Fresh supports other key food systems partners who are equally committed to connecting local farmers and fishers with consumers, specifically serving socially disadvantaged communities.

With long-standing relationships and operations in the state, these partners—Southside Community Land Trust, the African Alliance of Rhode Island, the Commercial Fisheries Center of RI, and Farm Fresh Rhode Island—used the dedicated funds to purchase fresh seafood, fruits, and vegetables from 95 local producers and distributed that nutritious, local food to over 35,000 Rhode Islanders.



The
Boston
Globe

COMMENTARY

Connecting Rhode Islanders in need to fresh, local food should be a priority

In the first year of the Rhody Feeding Rhody Alliance, members purchased food from over 80 farms and 25 seafood businesses throughout the state

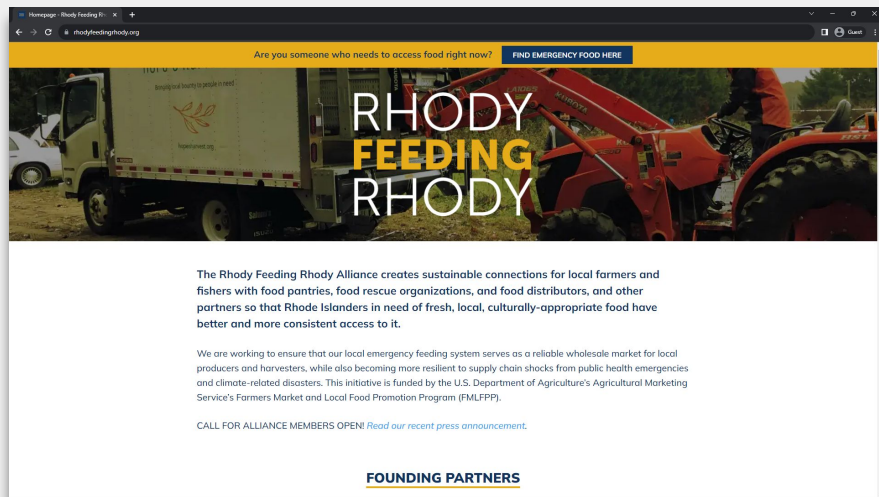
Updated October 29, 2024, 2 hours ago



Students harvesting produce at the University of Rhode Island, which will eventually be given out as part of the campus' free farmers market. The program is combating food insecurity among students. NORA LEWIS

Stay connected

www.rhodyfeedingrhody.org



- Use the form to sign up!
- Find food distribution points
- Register for upcoming meetings

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What's next?

- Spread the word about RFRA! #RhodyFeedingRhody
- Stay tuned for invites to our 2025 meetings
- Encourage others to join this alliance!

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Thank you!