

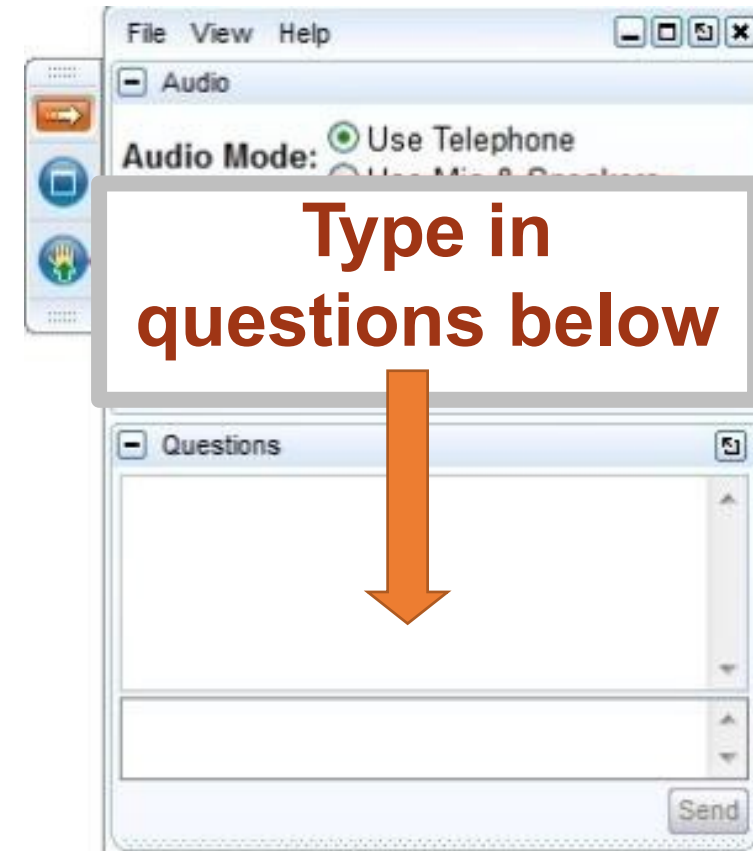


Addressing Food Insecurity During the COVID-19 Crisis

April 22, 2020

House Keeping

- Because this is a webinar, attendees are muted
- Please type any questions you have into the Questions Box
- We are recording this webinar and will send out the link to everyone who registered at a later date.






Overview of Food Insecurity



Carl Asikainen
Youth Systems Coordinator

Agenda

Today's Topics: Overview

- Food Insecurity
 - The terrain of food resources is complex and dynamic
 - The Current Context: COVID-19 =
 - Strains on the Food System
 - Strains on Shelter and Hotel Settings (Decompression)
- 
- How can we continue to support communities of people recently housed and currently struggling with housing stability?
 - Tactics:
 - Focus on robust resource awareness
 - Address access barriers
 - Highlight local responses



End Hunger Connecticut!



Robin Lamott Sparks, MPA
Executive Director

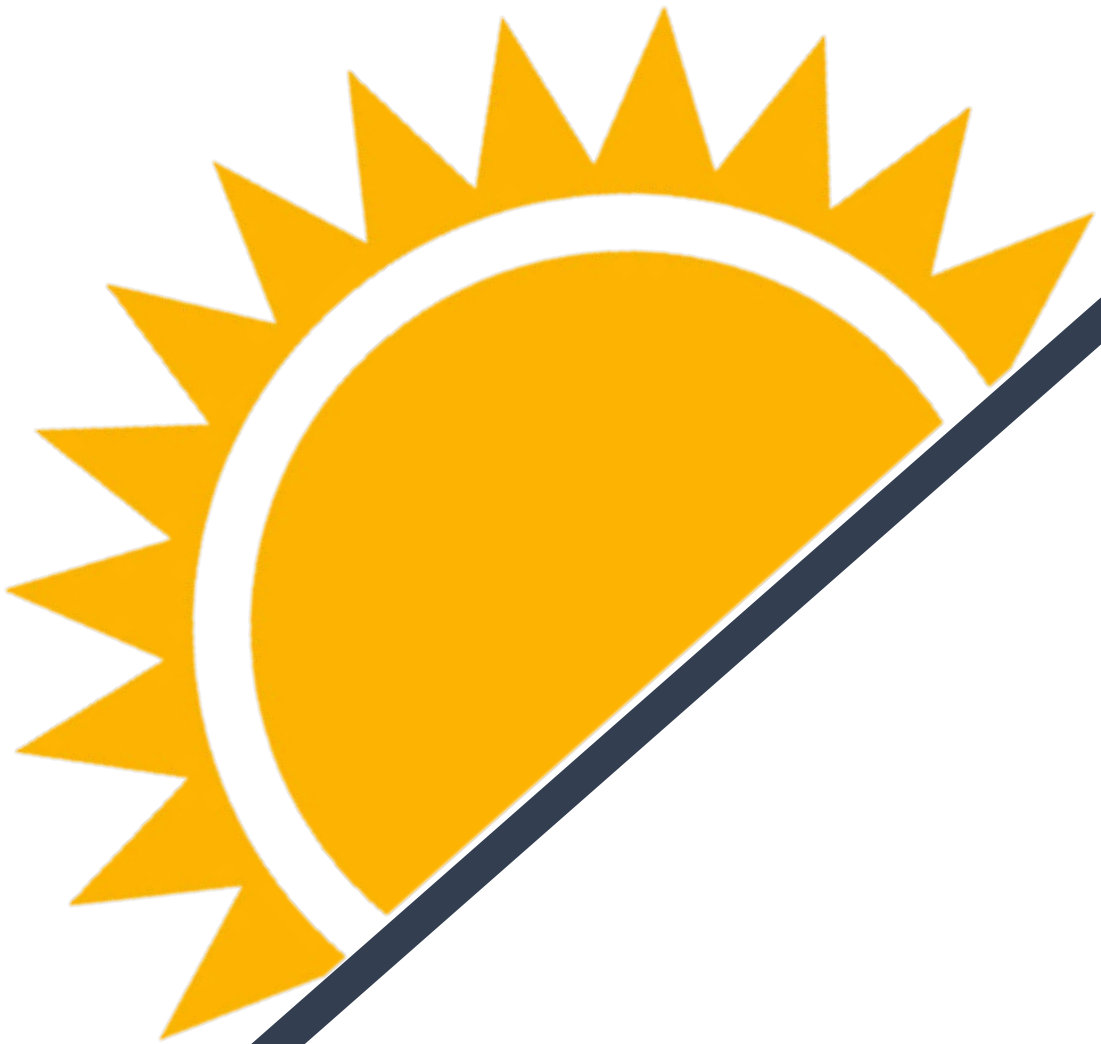


Connecticut Food Bank

**CONNECTICUT
FOOD BANK**

Carolyn Russell

*Senior Director of Procurement and
Member Services*



Foodshare

FOODSHARE

Jennie Hirsch

Executive Assistant

Special Projects Coordinator

Foodshare Overview

- Food bank serving Hartford and Tolland counties
- More than 118,000 food insecure individuals in our service area
 - 1/9 adults, 1/7 children
 - The metro-Hartford area (Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford) has the highest rate of food insecurity among adults age 55-65 in the entire country*
- A network of more than 280 partner programs and 63 Mobile Foodshare sites
- Operating a SNAP outreach program

Food Supply

Estimated 35%
increase in attendance

Purchasing food to fill
the gap left by decline
in donated product

Longer lead times for
deliveries of both
purchased product
and TEFAP

Surplus of produce
and dairy, scarcity of
non-perishables

Food Supply & TEFAP Product

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) is a new USDA program announced over the weekend

Recent COVID-19 Federal relief bills allocated emergency funding to the state of Connecticut for the purchase and distribute TEFAP product

TEFAP product is distributed by the USDA and budgeted for annually

Distribution



- About 80% of our pantries are distributing food and 56/63 mobiles are running
- Waived all fees for agencies to ensure that finances were not a barrier to food distribution
- Hosted multiple pop-up distributions in Hartford and New Britain
- Hosting daily drive-thru distributions first at the Hartford Regional Market, then moving to Rentschler Field in East Hartford to accommodate traffic and attendance

SNAP

SNAP is still the first line of defense against food insecurity

We continue to operate our SNAP outreach program; assisting with online applications

Working with Feeding America and our Federal legislators to advocate for increased SNAP benefits in the next COVID-19 relief bill



Advocacy & Collaboration



- Working directly with legislators to ensure adequate funding to support emergency food response is included in the next relief bill
- Working with Feeding America to identify how state needs fit into the broader national issues
- Foodshare CEO leading the Governor's *Emergency Food Working Group* along with other key stakeholders throughout the state to identify issues relating to food during the COVID-19 crisis and address those issues effectively



Resources

Food Resources

Connecticut Food Bank - <http://www.ctfoodbank.org/>

- Mobile Pantry Distribution information is listed

Foodshare - <http://site.foodshare.org/>

- Mobile Foodshare schedule is listed
- To receive the Mobile Foodshare schedule on your cell phone text FOODSHARE to 85511

End Hunger Connecticut! - <https://www.endhungerct.org/>

Food Pantries and Meals – 2-1-1 Infoline <https://211ct.org/>

DSS Information and Resources - <https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Communications/DSS-Response-to-COVID-19>

CT Department of Education – Emergency Meal Programs - <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE>

Questions?

