

A win-win for local food retailers and homebound shoppers

Providence SNAP Delivery Pilot Ensures Residents with Limited Mobility Have Access to Healthy, Fresh Food

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

In 2021, the RI Food Policy Council (RIFPC) worked with national and local partners to facilitate a pilot program offering fee-free grocery delivery to Rhode Island SNAP recipients who are homebound or have limited mobility. The pilot offered an online order form as well as reliable customer service and over-the-phone ordering assistance. Payment was processed efficiently and conveniently at point-of-delivery at curbside.

The Providence SNAP Delivery Pilot successfully provided safe, effective food access for Rhode Island residents and enabled SNAP shoppers to spend thousands of dollars at local grocery stores.

PILOT IMPACT

100% of program participants said the program helped them feel and stay safe

88% said the program made it a lot easier for them to buy food and fresh fruits and vegetables

42% often ran out of food before the pilot, while only 8% often ran out of food during the pilot

FUNDING PARTNERS



CELEBRATING
50 YEARS

PROGRAM PARTNERS

CARTWHEELRI



Voices of Participants



Between 1-10, I'd give it a 9 or 10. I'd recommend it to my brother, and lots of other people. It's so helpful if you don't drive...and you have the choice of what you want."

—Nathaniel



I like that I had the time to look to think about what I want, and what I want to spend, so that I don't have to go to the cashier and deal with that in the pandemic."

—Marysabel



It was great. Especially in times when my car wasn't working, things were really hard. I have three kids, so it was really helpful. And the people, they were so respectful."

—Carmen

Program Recommendations

- Fund a dedicated helpline to help SNAP recipients order food for delivery
- Fund a technical assistance program for locally-owned food retailers to become SNAP-approved and online SNAP-approved vendors

