Key Takeaways
The Quarter Four meetings of the Hunger Elimination Task Force (HETF) are an opportunity for Task Force members to come together and review the activities, accomplishments, and challenges of the past year, as well as hear updates from agency partners that administer statewide nutrition benefits and programs. The breakout rooms of the Quarter Four HETF Meetings provide a chance for the members to discuss how to improve the Task Force and identify key priorities to focus on in the following year. HETF Member feedback is below:

In what ways has the HETF benefitted your organization and supported your work in 2022?

- **Resource and information sharing.** The HETF helps the members keep track of food access activities and programs across the state, and stay updated on relevant federal programs and important food access resources members can share with their clients.

- **Networking and relationship building:** The HETF creates a space for members to network, build relationships, and make important connections that benefit their own work.

- **Landscape view and statewide updates:** HETF members appreciate hearing statewide updates on food access programming and current food insecurity statistics, as well as the sharing of useful metrics such as the RI Food Policy Council’s data dashboard. Members indicated that these updates and statistics help them set goals and priorities in their own work.

What are some areas for improvement for the Hunger Elimination Task Force?

- **Possible format change:** HETF members mentioned that the format of the meetings may need to be adjusted to allow for more impactful and actionable work amongst the members (including opportunities for advocacy), perhaps by aligning the Task Force and associated Communities of Practice closer with the work of the state agencies.

What food access topics and issues should the HETF focus on in 2023?

- **Continue a focus on key issues from 2022:** Several key priorities from 2022 still need to be a focus of HETF, particularly the issue of free/low cost delivery of meals and groceries to individuals without reliable transportation and getting more local food into the supplemental food system.

- **Additional key issues and activities for 2023 include:** more engagement with community health workers and the healthcare field, staying updated on opportunities from both state and federal nutrition programs, Universal School Meals, medically-tailored meals, information on local food producers (including farms) that can supply the emergency food system in RI.