Rhode Island
Hunger Elimination
Task Force
Quarter One Meeting
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28th 2023 @ 2 - 3:30PM
HETF Goal:
To reduce hunger and increase access to healthy, culturally-appropriate food for all Rhode Island residents
TODAY’S AGENDA

• Welcome & announcements
• PANEL: Food Delivery for Transit Challenged RI-ers
• Breakout session

2023 Q1 Hunger Elimination Task Force Meeting
DURATION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF FOOD DELIVERY OPERATIONS (2021)

Length of Time Food Delivery has been Offered

- 52% More than 3 years
- 32% 1.5-3 years
- 12% 1-1.5 years (Since COVID-19-related restrictions began)
- 4% 6 months - 1 year

FROM 40 SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD DELIVERY PROVIDERS SURVEYED IN 2021
Fewer Providers users skip meals or eat less where they are getting more in SNAP

Skipped meals

- States issuing emergency allotments
- States not issuing emergency allotments

Source: Random sample of Providers users

2023 Q1 Hunger Elimination Task Force Meeting
AGENDA

- Food Insecurity in Rhode Island
- Cartwheel in Broad Strokes
  - Online Ordering
  - Item List
  - Logistical Innovations
  - Online SNAP/Food Stamps
- Fresco Program
- Food Pantry Delivery Program
- Q&A
Food Insecurity in Rhode Island

- “Nearly one in three Rhode Island households can’t afford adequate food.”¹
- “There is a time-urgent need for a statewide network of food ordering/delivery systems for homebound residents that allows SNAP participants to shop using their EBT cards.”²

² Rhode Island Food Policy Council & CartwheelRI (2022, March). SNAP delivery legislative roundtable. Attended by Rhode Island federal and state congressional members. Rhode Island Food Policy Council, Providence, RI.
Cartwheel in Broad Strokes

- A 501(c)(3) food-access nonprofit in RI that provides free home delivery of locally-grown fruits and vegetables.
- Accepts SNAP/Food Stamps and operates on a ‘Pay-What-You-Can’ contribution model.
- Runs a widely-used food pantry home-delivery program supported by the RI Community Food Bank.
The bilingual website for Cartwheel’s Fresco program serves as the starting-place for its clients’ online ordering. Phone ordering is also available for clients with limited tech access.
Clients choose from a curated and continuously-updated list of locally-sourced products.
Cartwheel automatically maps delivery destinations and shares color-coded maps with drivers. Each destination holds pertinent information such as address, client phone number and delivery instructions.
Online SNAP/Food Stamps

Farm Fresh Bonus Bucks, a USDA SNAP/Food Stamps incentive program allows Cartwheel to deliver Farmers Market-quality produce at a 50% discount.

In May 2022, Cartwheel became the first USDA-approved online SNAP retailer based in Rhode Island: Cartwheel can now offer its SNAP discounts through a streamlined online platform.
An innovative worker-cooperative model delivers high-quality, nutritious food to the doorsteps of vulnerable Rhode Islanders. Clients can receive donated food (provided through Cartwheel’s partnership with the RI Foundation) or purchase food with card or EBT/Food Stamps. Community members are paid $20 per hour to deliver food orders.
Free Food Pantry Delivery

- Cartwheel works with **food pantries throughout the state of Rhode Island.** These include Progreso Latino in **Central Falls**, the Olneyville Food Center and the West End Community Center in **Providence**, Connecting for Children & Families in **Woonsocket** and the East Bay Food Pantry in **Bristol**.

- In 2022, Cartwheel completed **3,556 food pantry deliveries** and served **5,808 unique individuals**. Many of these individuals received weekly food pantry deliveries.
Food Pantry Delivery: By the Numbers

**2022 Food Pantry Delivery**

By Zip Code

**2022 Food Pantry Delivery**

By Household Size

[Charts showing delivery by zip code and household size]
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