



## RI Hunger Elimination Task Force - 2023 Q1 Meeting Breakout Room Discussion Key Takeaways February 28, 2023 | 2:00-3:30 pm

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### Key Takeaways

*The primary discussion among the breakout groups centered on the current landscape of “last-mile” food delivery services in Rhode, as well as current gaps and future opportunities for these programs.*

### Four key themes that emerged from breakout room discussions are as follows:

- **A lack of knowledge about these programs is a barrier.** Both residents who may need food delivery services and community partners serving these individuals do not always know about these food delivery programs, how they work, or how to sign up for them. **Materials about these programs should be printed as well as available online and in different languages to help spread the word and enable awareness.**
- **A mix of diverse delivery solutions is ideal.** Because the potential customers of food delivery services and their needs can be very different (e.g. serving older adults with prepared meals vs. serving a single parent who wants to pay for groceries with SNAP funds), a mix of solutions and providers is required.
- **Successful delivery solutions often require partnerships.** The logistics of identifying and interacting with customers, procuring food and managing the last mile delivery logistics can be complicated, it is best to partner with other organizations who are experts in one or two pieces of the supply chain.

- **Delivery organizations/companies need sustainable funding and to pay a living wage to their staff.** Our state needs long term stable solutions to last mile delivery to individuals experiencing food insecurity. Having a reliable source of funding can support the infrastructure for these programs (delivery technology, storage, delivery vehicles) and can ensure organizations who deliver food can pay their staff a liveable wage. Potential funding sources include allowing SNAP benefits to cover delivery fees, building the delivery cost into the cost of food, state funding, healthcare funding, and private philanthropy.

*The groups also were asked the question, What are the most important things we need to get done in RI if we are going to truly eliminate hunger by 2030? Their primary themes are below.*

- Solve transportation barriers that continue to be a key issue for food accessibility.
- All food access work should be framed around nutrition security, providing nourishing healthy food as well as additional support for nutrition education, food justice, and food sovereignty.
- Ongoing priority to identify how these important food access programs can be funded long term.

***Suggested Next Action Steps:***

- Possible next action step for HETF, RIFPC and RIDOH - look at the many pilots across the state evaluate impact and viability and how to scale for the longer term. Collectively identify which entities should be responsible for providing and paying for delivery.
- Explore partnerships with healthcare organizations who can support some of this delivery and food access work.