



# Welcome!

- Please enter your name, organization and town in chat
- **Enter questions in the Q&A** and we will answer at the end of the presentation
- To view captions for the presentation, click “show captions” in the meeting controls of your Zoom screen.
- Recording and slides will be sent out after the webinar



# Connecticut Foodshare

Our Community, Our Food Bank

## **2026 On-Site Partner Support Program Informational Webinar**

January 14, 2026

# What is the On-Site Partner Support Program?



- Competitive opportunity
- In-person visits focused on **building capacity** to develop and/or enhance workflows

Long-term learning



Keep things going/learning for the future

Self-sufficiency



Being able to do it yourself

**This program does not offer direct services.**

# Capacity Building vs. Direct Service

- Capacity building – activities that expand and/or strengthen agency partners processes and operations to better fight hunger in CT
- Direct Service – activities that immediately addresses agency partner's needs

Capacity Building	Direct Service
Offer training and tools to help bring in more volunteers	Recruit volunteers
Find out what makes it hard to raise money and help create a plan to bring in more funds	Organize a fundraising campaign

# How Can the On-Site Partner Support Program Help?

In-person visits in one of the following areas:

Fundraising and Food Sourcing

Volunteer Management

Centering Neighbors



# Fundraising and Food Sourcing

- Creating a donor engagement plan.
- Using social media to raise food and funds.
- Setting up accounts on digital donation platforms.
- Looking at creative fundraising ideas and brainstorm your own.



# Case Study

Meal Center A typically runs low on food during the summer.

## **Our Approach:**

- On-site support: Assist staff with setting up digital donation platforms.
- Insights: Talk to staff at other organizations to learn about different fundraising approaches that have worked for them.



# Case Study

## **Solution:**

- While talking to staff at other organizations, we learn about successful adopt-a-shelf fundraisers and decide to adapt this for the meal center, calling it “adopt-a-meal.” We work with Meal Center A to reach out to businesses, clubs, and religious groups, asking them to pledge to provide ingredients for a certain meal every week.

**Result:** Meal Center A has more consistent donations year-round, and relationships are built with other groups in the community.

# Volunteer Management

- Learning strategies to recruit, engage and retain volunteers.
- Promoting your volunteers' impact and open roles by posting updates on your organization's website and social media channels.
- Exploring free or low-cost volunteer management software.



# Case Study

**Food Pantry B is struggling to recruit volunteers for its morning shift.**

## **Our Approach:**

- On-site support: Equip pantry staff with strategies to make volunteers feel welcome.
- Insights: Conduct interviews with current volunteers to understand barriers to morning shifts.
- Collaboration: Brainstorm solutions together to overcome these challenges.

# Case Study

## **Solution:**

- After training, the pantry decides to create a more inviting atmosphere by offering free coffee and playing cheerful music in the mornings.
- Interviews reveal that many existing volunteers work during the mornings, so we help launch a targeted recruitment campaign for retirees who have more availability.

**Result:** The pantry sees a significant increase in volunteers signing up for morning shifts.

# Centering Neighbors

- Drafting your mission, vision, and values.
- Learning about your organization's culture through interviews and observation.
- Condensing your learnings into action steps.



# Case Study

**Shelter C wants to create a stronger sense of community between neighbors staying in the facility.**

## **Our Approach:**

- On-site support: Work with staff to draft mission, vision, and values statements.
- Insights: Observe and document where neighbors naturally congregate. Interview neighbors to learn what activities they enjoy and how they make social connections.

# Case Study

## **Solution:**

- Observations and interviews reveal that many of the residents have children, and the parents tend to congregate outside while the children play.
- Short-term: put out chairs for the parents and provide sidewalk chalk for the children.
- Long-term: ask for donations to build a playground, using mission, vision, and values statements to explain why this is important.

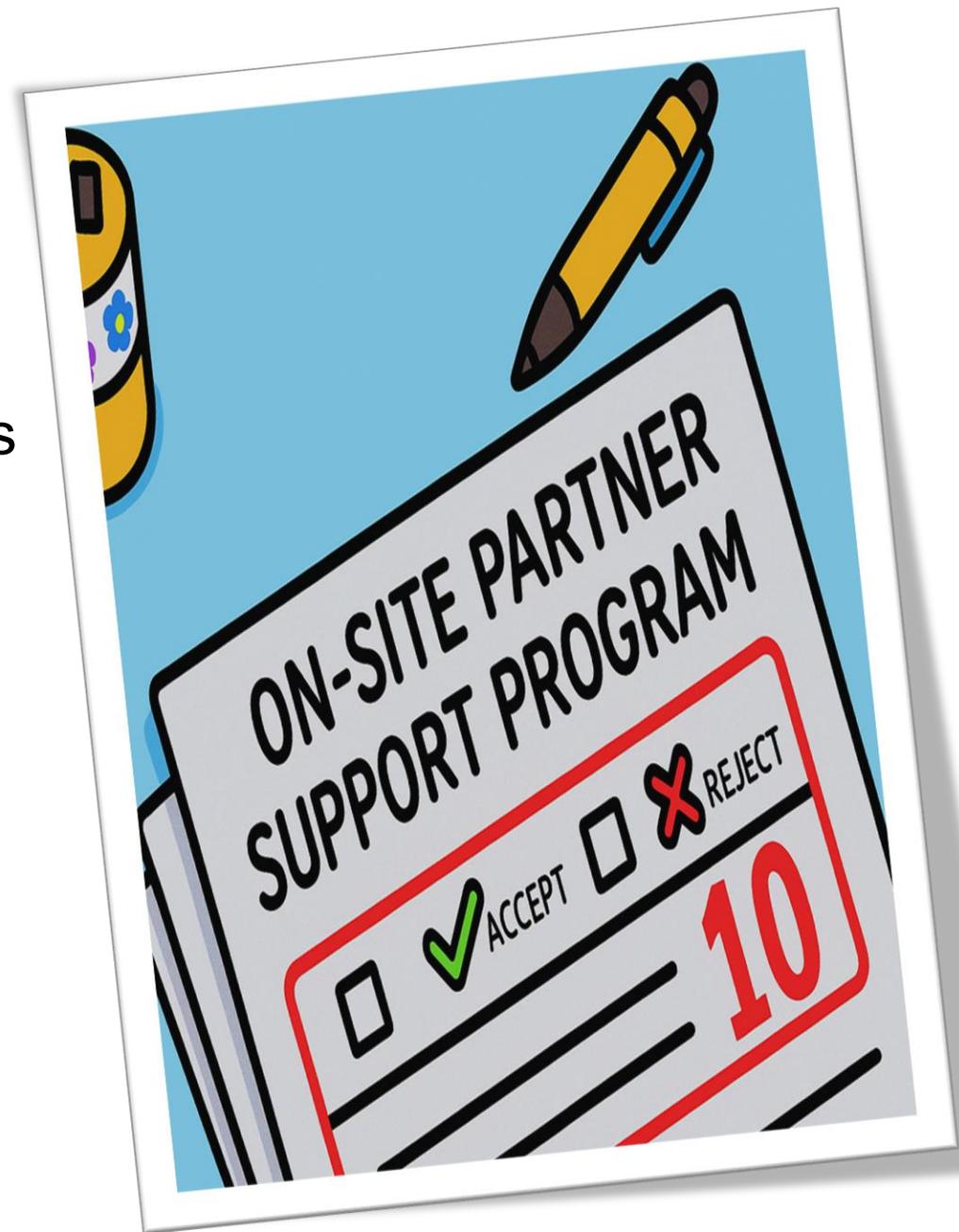
**Result:** Parents and children from different families form relationships, growing their support systems and improving mental health.

# Program Eligibility

- ✓ Agency partners (food pantries, backpack programs, community kitchens and emergency shelters) with active accounts in good standing.
- ✓ Must be available for support visits for 3-5 hours per week for 2-4 weeks depending on project scope.
- ✓ Must have at least one designated agency team member who can attend all support visits (two is preferred).

# How to Apply

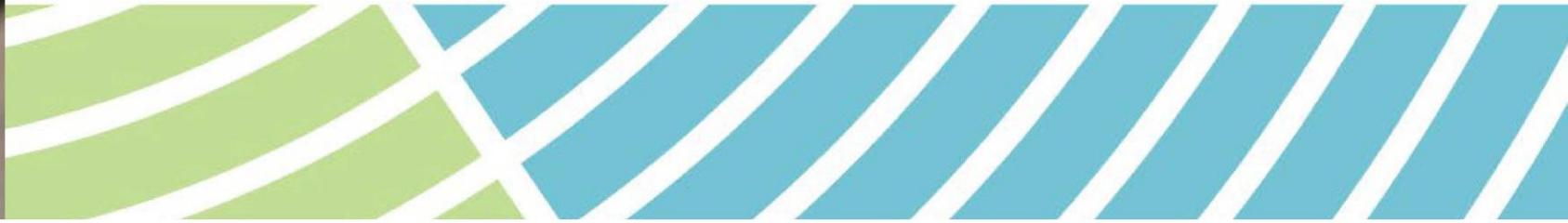
- Online – [application link here](#)
- On paper – contact your Network Relations Representative or print the form [here](#) and send filled form to Claire at [ccooper@ctfoodshare.org](mailto:ccooper@ctfoodshare.org) or Fernanda at [fpage@ctfoodshare.org](mailto:fpage@ctfoodshare.org)
- Video call – reserve a time slot for a video call [here](#)





# Important Dates & Deadlines

- ❑ **February 13, 2026: Applications due at 11:59 PM**
- ❑ **March 2, 2026:** Decisions announced
- ❑ **March 2-31, 2026:** Agreements signed; visits scheduled
- ❑ **April – June, 2026:** Support visits
- ❑ **May – July, 2026:** Follow-up visits and certificate distribution





# Connecticut Foodshare Network Connection

**Connect, chat, and share  
with your network partners.**



Scan to register and  
start chatting!

Or visit

[ctfoodshare.discourse.group/](https://ctfoodshare.discourse.group/)

Connecticut Foodshare Network Connection is a free online discussion tool that helps connect at your convenience. Share an appliance repair company, discuss fundraising challenges and successes, ask how others manage volunteers, and more.

# January Updates

**Join us for Network Updates on  
Wednesday, January 21 at 1PM**

**Hear from Jason Jakubowski, President & CEO, Chris O'Rourke, Chief  
Network & Program Officer, and Miranda Muro, Senior Director of  
Network Relations**

**Register at [ctfoodshare.org/webinars](https://ctfoodshare.org/webinars)**





**Questions?**

