



Governor Ned Lamont  
Senators Looney, Duff & Harding  
Representatives Ritter, Rojas & Candelora

Dear Governor Lamont & Legislative Leaders:

On Friday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it will no longer compile and distribute the annual Household Food Security Report it has issued for each of the last 30+ years. Without question, this is an unfortunate development that will make it even more difficult for state and federal lawmakers to make nonpartisan, data-driven decisions when it comes to addressing the complex issue of hunger.

While we can't speak to the collection of data at the federal level, I do want to personally assure you that **Connecticut Foodshare can and will fill this gap at the state level.** We will continue to collect and report data on food insecurity here in Connecticut; and we will report it out to you – and the public – on an annual basis just as the USDA used to do. Our Chief Data & Impact Officer Tyler Kleykamp will lead this initiative. Many of you are familiar with Tyler, as he was the state's first-ever Chief Data Officer at OPM for many years before coming to work here at the food bank. Tyler and his team have been recognized by OnCon Icon as one of the 100 best data teams in the country, and they will be more than happy to annually collect and report this non-partisan data in the absence of the USDA data. We also partner closely with the UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy and Health to execute comprehensive survey research and analysis across the state.

Connecticut has a rich history of taking a bipartisan – even nonpartisan – approach to hunger policy that has always been rooted in data-driven decision making. We are very proud of that distinction, and here at Connecticut Foodshare we will do everything we can to help you all continue to make the best decisions for all of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Jason Jakubowski

President & CEO



CC:

Lt. Governor Bysiewicz

Commissioner Barton-Reeves

Commissioner Hurlburt

Representatives Gilchrest & Kavros DeGraw

Senators Lesser & Berthel