



Connecticut Foodshare

Our Community, Our Food Bank

**Network Update
January 21, 2026**



Welcome!

- Please enter your name, organization and town in chat
- Enter questions in the Q&A and we will answer at the end of each presenter's section
- 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

Today's Agenda

1. CEO update - Jason Jakubowski
2. Food sourcing update - Carolyn Russell
3. SNAP reminders and updates - Chris O'Rourke
4. State of CT Shutdown grants
5. Upcoming resource opportunities
6. Network Activity Council (NAC)
7. Neighbor Council recruitment – Olivia Giusto
8. Upcoming Webinars
9. 2026 Gather conference

Miranda Muro

Jackie Riberdy

A Celebration of Life



Fran Laureano

June 7, 1956 – December 22, 2025

**The family of Fran Laureano is inviting you to join them
in a Memorial Service celebrating her life!**

February 21
@ 12:00 noon



23 Griffin Road
Granby, CT



Connecticut Foodshare Advocacy Update

Advocacy Update: Successes

- CT-NAP Funding increase passed in last year's legislative session
 - \$3 million this fiscal year
 - \$6 million in fiscal year 2027
- The Governor has also allocated \$24 million to food assistance programs in Connecticut to help offset the continued effects of changes to SNAP.





Advocacy Update: 2026 Legislative Agenda

Goals for the 2026 legislative session:

- Increase the stability and capacity of the charitable food system in Connecticut
- Support increases in resources for programs that provide cash assistance to neighbors
- Ensure the availability of data on food insecurity in Connecticut to help inform decision making

Wallingford Building Expansion



Key Benefits of Expansion

34,000 add'l sq ft –
allows for 15+ years
of future growth

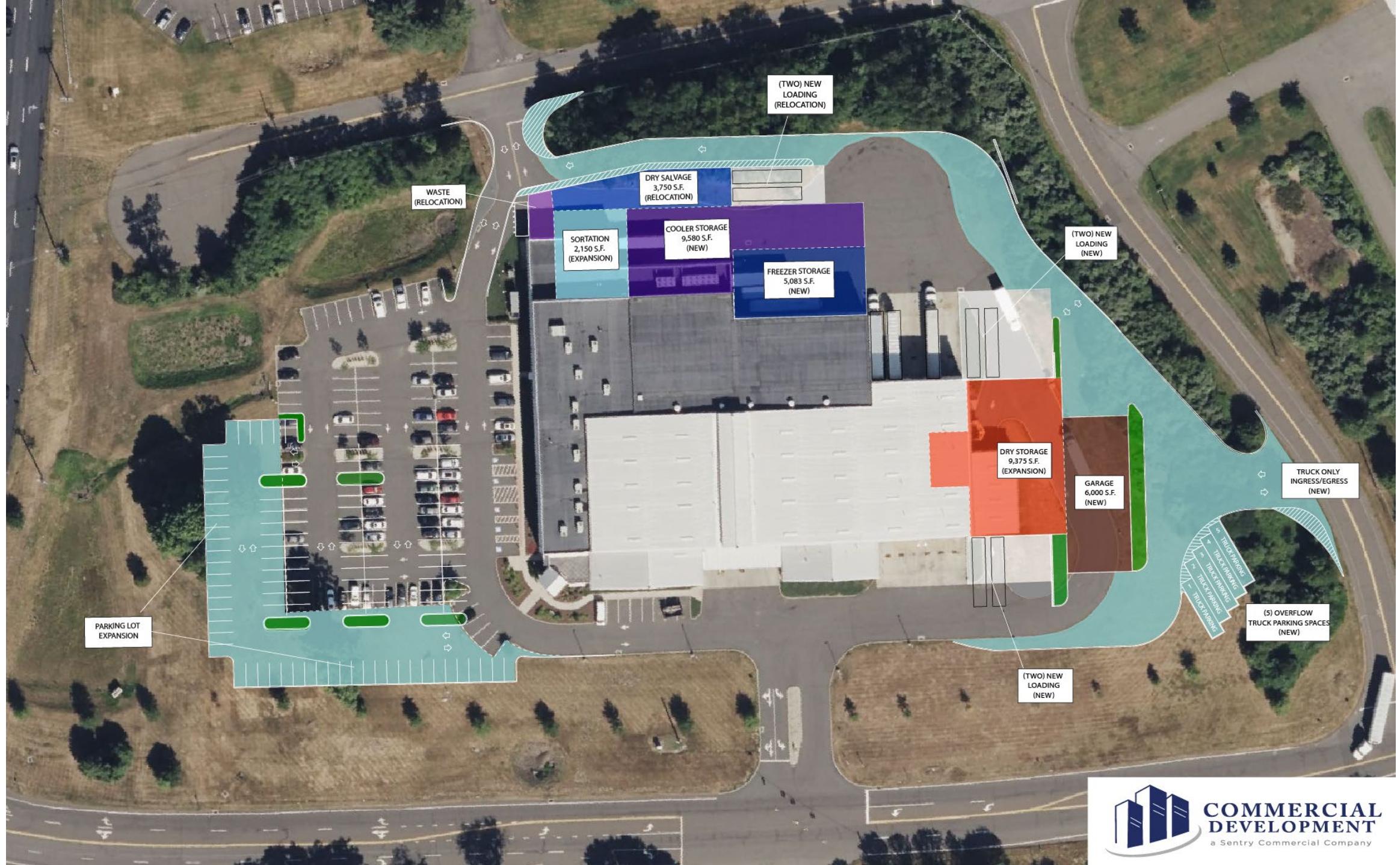
More space to store
dry product and
stage orders for
distribution

Additional loading
docks for shipping
and receiving food

Parking lot
expansion to
accommodate
increase in
volunteers

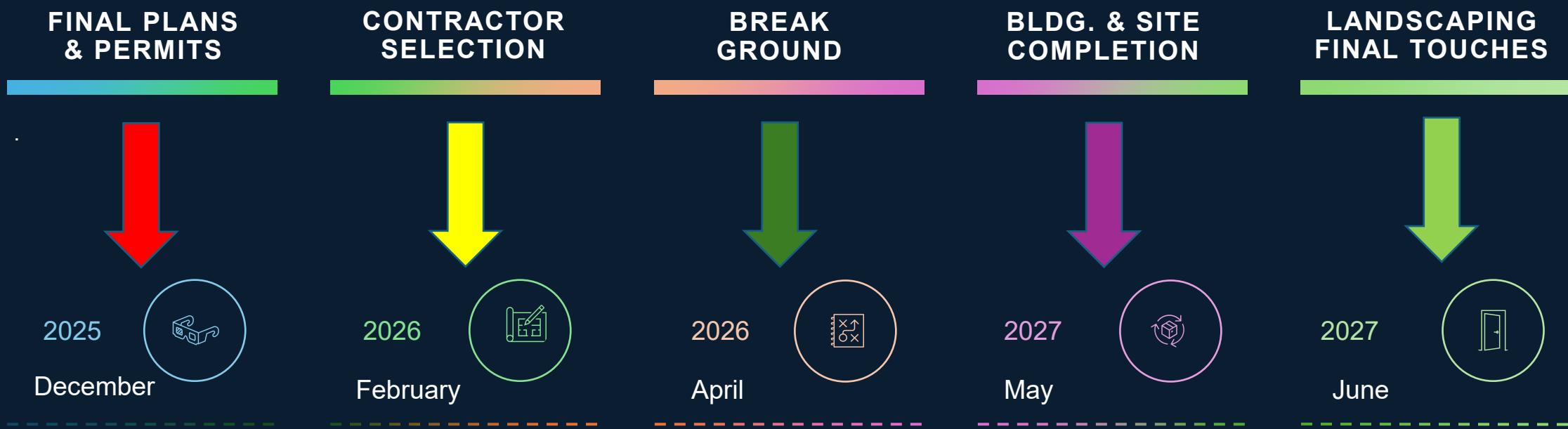
Significant increase
in cooler and freezer
space

Larger food sortation
room



**COMMERCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
a Sentry Commercial Company

Estimated Project Timeline (subject to change)



Agency Fees: Fiscal Year 2027





Allowable Fees

Fee Type	Amount
Shared Maintenance on donated food	Up to \$0.19/lb.
VAP Produce	Up to \$0.50/lb.
CT-NAP	Up to \$.05/lb.
TEFAP	Not permitted
Delivery (non-TEFAP pounds only)	\$0.10/lb.
Annual fee	Food bank decision
Grocery Purchasing Program (GPP) mark up	Food bank decision



FY 27 Fees

(July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)

Fee Type	Amount	FY 27
Shared Maintenance on donated food	Up to \$0.19/lb.	\$0
VAP Produce	Up to \$0.50/lb.	\$0
CT-NAP	Up to \$.05/lb.	\$0
TEFAP	Not permitted	NA
Delivery (non-TEFAP pounds only)	\$0.10/lb.	\$0
Annual fee	Up to food bank	\$0
Grocery Purchasing Program (GPP) mark up	Up to food bank	No mark-up

Food Sourcing Update

- TEFAP
- CT-NAP
- Produce
- Retail Rescue
- Looking Forward

Carolyn Russell
Director of Food Strategy and
Procurement
203-741-9212
crussell@ctfoodshare.org

TEFAP Update

- Section 32 Bonus loads of dry fruit, fruit juice and nuts expected to arrive between April 15th and August 30th (mostly grape juice)
- Entitlement funds projected to remain the same for the coming year



TEFAP Expected January – June

January

TEFAP Fruit Mixed 24/15oz
 TEFAP Fish Pollock Fillets Frozen 20/2lbs
 TEFAP Apples Fresh 12/3lb
 TEFAP Beans Pinto Dried 12/2lb
 TEFAP Peaches 24/15oz
 TEFAP Beans Green 24/14.5oz
 TEFAP Corn 24/15.25oz
 TEFAP Apples Fresh 12/3lb

TEFAP Cranberries Dried 300/1.16oz
 TEFAP Beans Black Canned 24/15oz
 TEFAP Catfish Fillets Raw Unbreaded 20/2 lbs

April

TEFAP Peas Sweet 24/15oz
 TEFAP Beans Kidney Dark Red Dried 12/2lbs
 TEFAP Cereal Corn Flakes 12/18oz
 TEFAP Fish Pollock Nuggets Frozen 20/2lbs
 TEFAP Pasta Spaghetti 20/1lb
 TEFAP Sauce Spaghetti 24/15oz
 TEFAP Peaches 24/15oz
 TEFAP Beans Pinto Dried 12/2lb
 TEFAP Rice White Long 24/2lb
 TEFAP Chicken Boned Pouch 36/10oz
 TEFAP Peanut Butter Smooth 12/16oz
 TEFAP Beans Garbanzo Canned 24/15oz
 TEFAP Almonds Natural Whole Shell 12/2lb
 TEFAP Spinach 24/15oz
 TEFAP Mixed Vegetables 24/15oz

February

TEFAP Peas Sweet 24/15oz
 TEFAP Fish Pollock Nuggets Frozen 20/2lbs
 TEFAP Beans Pinto Dried 12/2lb
 TEFAP Peaches 24/15oz
 TEFAP Cranberries Dried 300/1.16oz
 TEFAP Beans Black Turtle Dry 12/2lbs
 TEFAP Mixed Vegetables 24/15oz

May

TEFAP Beans Green 24/14.5oz
 TEFAP Fish Pollock Fillets Frozen 20/2lbs
 TEFAP Pasta Spaghetti 20/1lb
 TEFAP Raisins 24-6/1.33oz
 TEFAP Juice Grape 8/64oz
 TEFAP Sauce Spaghetti 24/15oz
 TEFAP Cereal Corn Flakes 12/18oz
 TEFAP Beans Black Turtle Dry 12/2lbs
 TEFAP Fruit Mixed 24/15oz
 TEFAP Corn 24/15.25oz
 TEFAP Fish Pollock Sticks Breaded 20/2lbs
 TEFAP Chicken Boned Pouch 36/10oz
 TEFAP Beans Northern Dried 24/1lb
 TEFAP Peanut Butter Smooth 12/16oz
 TEFAP Beans Garbanzo Canned 24/15oz
 TEFAP Pistachios 25/1lb
 TEFAP Juice Grape 8/64oz
 TEFAP Spinach 24/15oz
 TEFAP Rice White Long 24/2lb

March

TEFAP Beans Green 24/14.5oz
 TEFAP Beans Pinto Dried 12/2lb
 TEFAP Fruit Mixed 24/15oz
 TEFAP Corn 24/15.25oz
 TEFAP Cranberries Dried 300/1.16oz
 TEFAP Fish Pollock Sticks Breaded 20/2lbs
 TEFAP Beans Black Canned 24/15oz
 TEFAP Beans Northern Dried 24/1lb

June

TEFAP Peas Sweet 24/15oz
 TEFAP Beans Kidney Light Red Dried 12/2lb
 TEFAP Cereal Corn Flakes 12/18oz
 TEFAP Juice Grape 8/64oz
 TEFAP Pasta Spaghetti 20/1lb
 TEFAP Sauce Spaghetti 24/15oz
 TEFAP Fish Pollock Nuggets Frozen 20/2lbs
 TEFAP Raisins 24/15oz
 TEFAP Peaches 24/15oz
 TEFAP Beans Black Turtle Dry 12/2lbs
 TEFAP Rice White Long 24/2lb
 TEFAP Chicken Boned Pouch 36/10oz
 TEFAP Peanut Butter Smooth 12/16oz
 TEFAP Beans Garbanzo Canned 24/15oz
 TEFAP Spinach 24/15oz
 TEFAP Juice Grape 8/64oz
 TEFAP Mixed Vegetables 24/15oz





Increased CT-NAP Funds

Plans for increased CT-NAP funds:

- Continue to source fresh eggs
- Increase frozen protein as able depending on freezer space
- Increase dry product
- Currently on order:
 - canned mixed vegetables
 - canned kidney beans
 - canned pears
 - canned peaches
 - canned corn
 - canned pinto beans



Produce

- **Value Added Processing (VAP) –** imperfect produce donated to food banks with fees for transportation/packaging (cost fully covered by Connecticut Foodshare)
 - 4 tractor-trailer loads each week online
 - 1 tractor-trailer load as needed for Mobile and CSFP
- **Local Produce**
 - 15% of CT-NAP funds allocated to purchase produce from local growers
 - Continued efforts to source donated product from local growers and distributors





Retail Rescue

- ▶ Continuing to seek out potential new retailers
- ▶ Working with current donors to increase donations and add categories where possible
- ▶ Retail donors focusing on reducing shrink so have less to donate



Looking Forward

Continued efforts to source as much food from local donors as possible

Focus on fresh produce and protein

Increase culturally connected foods
Including Halal and Kosher

Continue to take advantage of food available through TEFAP

Utilize feedback from agency partners to inform purchases – GPP and CT-NAP



Carolyn Russell
Senior Director of Food Strategy and Procurement
203-741-9212
crussell@ctfoodshare.org

SNAP Reminders and Updates

Chris O'Rourke
Chief Network and Program Officer



SNAP – We Help Neighbors Apply

Connecticut Foodshare's SNAP application assistance team helps neighbors:

- ✓ Apply for SNAP benefits
- ✓ Renew their SNAP benefits

Requesting assistance is easy!

- ✓ On our website: <https://www.ctfoodshare.org/snap>
- ✓ By phone: (860)-856-HELP

All assistance is provided over the phone – no need to travel.



SNAP – Changes to Benefit Loading Dates Coming Soon!

Beginning March 1, 2026:

- SNAP benefits will be loaded over the **first 8 days** of the month -- currently first 3 days
- SNAP benefits will now be loaded based on the last two digits of the client's Client ID number – currently first letter of last name
- The flyer is available in English and Spanish on the [Help Beyond Food](#) page of our website. Please post!



Upcoming Opportunities for Agency Partners

Miranda Muro
Senior Director of Network Relations





FACILITY TOURS

Interested in touring Connecticut
Foodshare's Wallingford headquarters?
SIGN UP FOR A TOUR!

ctfoodshare.org/tours

Tours available
Tuesdays &
Thursdays at 11:45am

Register as an
individual or
with a group



State of CT Government Shutdown Relief Credits:

Expiring March 31

- The State of Connecticut awarded Connecticut Foodshare this **emergency funding** in November to have an immediate impact and help meet growing need during the government shutdown
- If your agency account in Network Hub still has unspent State of Connecticut Shutdown Relief funds, this GPP credit will expire on **March 31, 2026**
- To see if your account has unspent grant funding available, log in to Network Hub and click the **Grants** tab
- Credits are automatically applied to GPP expenses when orders are placed
- If you want to brainstorm ways to make the most of this credit while it's still available, contact your Network Relations Representative

Onsite Partner Support Program: Apply by February 13

- Request custom capacity-building support at your location from a trained AmeriCorps VISTA
- Support visits will take place over the course of about 2 to 4 weeks this Spring
- Designed to meet your program's unique needs:
 - Fundraising and food sourcing
 - Volunteer management
 - Neighbor-centered practices
- Apply online, on paper, or through a virtual meeting by Friday, February 13, 2026
- Learn more: www.ctfoodshare.org/on-site-partner-support-program



Walk Against Hunger Benefitting Partners: Apply by February 20



- Raise awareness and support for your program by creating a custom Walk Against Hunger online fundraising page
- Last year, 57 Benefitting Partners raised \$190,000!
- Benefitting Partners keep 100% of designated donations and Connecticut Foodshare covers all associated fees
- Apply online by Friday, February 20, 2026
- Walk with us on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at Dunkin Park in Hartford
- Learn more: www.ctfoodshare.org/2026-walk-against-hunger-resources



Network Advisory Council (NAC)

- Launched in 2023, the NAC meets with Connecticut Foodshare leadership quarterly to inform decisions affecting the network
- Representation includes 15 food pantry and community kitchen leaders from across the state
- Diverse program types, sizes, populations served and regions
- New in 2026:
 - 3-year term limits to invite new voices each year
 - 5 openings this year – targeted recruitment to fill gaps coming soon
 - Honorary NAC membership for those ending their terms

2026 NAC Members:

- Jill Corbin, Norwich
- Kathleen Souvigney, Enfield
- Xiomara Colon-Torres, Vernon
- Chelsea French, Thompson
- Janet Wilson, Morris
- Dona Ditrio, Meriden
- Kristin Jones, Guilford
- Tshon Cooper Davis, Bridgeport
- Renee Santos, Hartford
- Rick Wood, Bethlehem
- *5 new members coming soon!*

Honorary NAC Members:

- Linda Hutchings, Danbury
- Sandy Hagan, New Haven
- Joseph Edwards, New Haven
- Jenilyn Djan, Waterbury



Recruiting for 2026 Neighbor Council

Olivia Giusto

Strategy & Community Engagement Coordinator





NEEDS YOU

APPLY TO JOIN THE

Neighbor Council

HELP

build awareness of food insecurity

use your voice to engage in policy change

REQUIREMENTS

- Live in CT and have experience using food assistance programs
- Commit 22 hours of time between March and July 2026
- Must have device (laptop/smart phone/tablet) for three virtual sessions
- Attend two in-person sessions (transportation costs provided)
- Earn a VISA gift card each month

**APPLY
HERE**



ctfoodshare.org/nc



TE NECESITA

SOLICITA PARA UNIRTE AL

Neighbor Council

AYUDA

usa tu voz para participar en los cambios en políticas

ayuda a crear conciencia sobre la inseguridad alimentaria

REQUISITOS

- Vivir en CT y tener experiencia usando programas de asistencia alimentaria
- Comprometer 22 horas entre Marzo y Julio de 2026
- Debes tener un dispositivo (computadora portátil/teléfono/tableta) para tres sesiones virtuales
- Asistir a dos sesiones en persona (se proveerán gastos de transportación)
- Gánate una tarjeta de regalo cada mes

**SOLICITA
AQUI**



ctfoodshare.org/nc

Network Resources Updates

Jackie Riberdy

Resource and Engagement Coordinator



Upcoming Webinars

Register at ctfoodshare.org/webinars

Advocacy Training: Building Relationships with Legislators

Wednesday, February 18 from 1PM to 2PM

Volunteer Management

Wednesday, March 18 from 1PM to 2PM

Welcoming Line Management and Intake

Wednesday, April 15 from 1PM to 2PM

May Network Update

Wednesday, May 20 from 1PM to 2:30PM

Enhancing Cultural Humility in Organizations

Wednesday, June 17 from 1PM to 2PM

Recordings and slides are always available at ctfoodshare.org/webinars

SAVE THE DATE



Gather 2026

Friday, September 25, 2026



Today's Presenters

Jason Jakubowski – jjakubowski@ctfoodshare.org

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Miranda Muro – mmuro@ctfoodshare.org

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Jackie Riberdy – jriberdy@ctfoodshare.org

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**Connecticut
Foodshare**

Our Community, Our Food Bank

Thank You!



Provide feedback on this webinar at
www.ctfoodshare.org/WebinarSurvey