

CCFAN Stakeholder/Agency Focus Group/Interview Guide

(Adapted for Carroll County from 2021 Monadnock Food Access Analysis. Given permission to use MCFAA as template, July 2022)

All participants will be given the community survey to complete prior to the focus group, upon registration. Agency Focus group is through Zoom

Introduction

Carroll County Food Access Network ([CCFAN](#)) is a resource to optimize access to affordable, nutritious, food for all people with efforts focused on supporting the local food system in Carroll County, New Hampshire. In collaboration with [UNH Extension](#), CCFAN received a grant through [Well Connected Communities](#) to complete a needs assessment to learn more about access to food, including local food. From this information we will create action steps to increase and improve access to healthy, affordable food in Carroll County.

Your participation is completely voluntary, and we thank you for helping us with this important effort. This is a consent form for you to review and sign if you agree to allow CCFAN to use your responses to help us better understand Carroll County's food resources and household food usage? **Give participants the link to the consent form in the Zoom Chat and give them a moment to review and give permission. The link will allow participants to give consent digitally for researchers.**

We want to have a conversation with you today on food access in Carroll County. _____ will be taking notes and helping me out. We will be following up with some stakeholder interviews to gather additional information, including information about the dynamics of the Carroll County food network.

Food Access and Insecurity in the Region

Display the [Food Access diagram and Definitions](#) on the screen and let everyone look over it. Allow clarification and (5 minute) discussion until everyone fully understands what food access is.

We are interested in learning from you about food access, insecurity and hunger for Carroll County residents.

1. What are some of the needs that you notice that your clients have? How do these needs vary across the geographic areas you serve?

[Probe: Workforce support, transportation needs, mental and physical health, childcare, better schools, affordable housing, opportunities for social involvement]

2. If your clients need food, where can they go in the community for help? Where do you send them for help? What services other than SNAP benefits are available to your clients when they run out of food resources? (*Probe: Gift cards, food bags, school or community food supports, local organizations; informal networks of friends, family members, and community members*)

a. What changes have arisen since 2019? What changes have been positive and should stay in place?

Older Adults

Carroll County has one of the oldest demographics in the state of NH. Are we meeting the needs of our residents?

3. What, if anything, makes it difficult for older adults to access food? What services are available to older adults to improve food access and reduce food insecurity?

[Probe: Gaps in terms of geography, times of the day or week, types of food, etc.]

Youth

Next, we'd like to talk more about food access and insecurity among children and youth.

4. What, if anything makes it difficult for youth to access food? And are they able to access these resources independently (without help from a parent or another adult)?

[Probe: Local/school food shelves, backpack programs, afterschool programs, summer camps, trusted adults]

5. Are food sources for younger children different from those available to older youth—particularly teens? What about when school is on break (summer, winter, holidays, etc.)?

[Probe: Schools, summer camps, food trucks, grocery stores, corner stores, restaurants, carry outs, fast food, soup kitchens, food shelves]

Strengthening Approaches to Addressing Food Insecurity

Next, we'd like to ask you big picture questions about the direction of future food insecurity and access efforts in Carroll County.

6. What changes do you think could be made to help the community have better access to local foods?

[Probe: Changes at both the local and federal level, systems-level approaches]

7. Are there any strategies or programs addressing food access or insecurity that has not been drawn on, but could be beneficial?

a. What organizations do you think could work together or collaborate to help address food insecurity?

- b. Are there minor tweaks or changes that you believe would significantly strengthen existing services and programs?**

- c. Do you think these changes would be more effective for some communities versus others? Why?**