

Carroll County SNAP-Ed PSE Carroll County Food Access Network

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The Carroll County Food Access Network ([CCFAN](#)) was created to be 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. After conducting the Carroll County Food Access needs assessment research study in 2023 we identified priority areas, created teams, and set SMART goals for the year 2024. Teams are made up of agency leads whose missions align with the CCFAN goals already and whose work and reach will be improved by working as a food access network.

Our efforts have been added to the Extension website and can be found here:

<https://extension.unh.edu/resource/carroll-county-food-access-network>

CCFAN Teams, Goals, and accomplishments:

Team: Increase local food access to high-risk populations and senior meals Team Leader: Joy Gagnon, UNH Extension
Goal #1: Increase senior meal participation by 5% by January 2025 through networking and collaborations
<p><i>2024 Accomplishments:</i> Meal participation at the Gibson Center increased by 8.6 percent for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 (FY 2024). For FY 2025 through August 31st, 2024, we have experienced an increase of 10.2 percent compared to LYTD.</p> <p><i>Ossipee Concerned Citizens had a 4% increase in participation, and focused on building capacity and financial stability so they could prepare for an increase next year.</i></p>
Goal #2: Increase open summer meal sites by at least 1 site this summer
<p><i>2024 Accomplishments:</i> Ossipee Summer Meals: Weekend bags delivered to underserved youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>End 68 Hours of Hunger</i> <p>During Ossipee's town meeting a citizen raised a motion for the town to raise and appropriate funds to End 68 Hours of Hunger so they could provide meals to youth for the summer. End 68 set up a plan for the summer to offer weekend bags at a variety of locations around their catchment area of southern Carroll, including Ossipee Public Library and Ossipee Concerned Citizens Child Care Center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ossipee Central School</i> <p>Ossipee Central School also worked with the NH Food Bank to provide summer meals to youth in the summer program and as an open site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ossipee Concerned Citizens (Senior Center and Childcare)</i> <p>Ossipee Concerned Citizens (OCC) manages Meals on Wheels as well as a childcare center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ossipee Resident Owned Community (ROC)</i> <p>In Ossipee there is a Resident Owned Community that is a cluster of homes with families. This community has a board with one member who manages Facebook communication and has a good relationship with families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>White Horse Recovery Community Garden</i>

White Horse Recovery Community Garden had an overabundance of produce that needed to be distributed to the community.

In the spring CCFAN organized several round table meetings to see how we could increase summer feeding for rural youth who might be missed by the school summer feeding program. We designed a system for End 68 Hours of hunger to deliver bags to a few locations in Ossipee and to be delivered through meals on wheels drivers to the families in the resident owned community.

Every week bags were dropped off at OCC and delivered to the Resident Owned Community. White horse Recovery added a bag of fresh produce each week in a separate bag to go along with the End 68 Hours Bags. The Ossipee Central School was also a site for weekend bag distribution and school staff were able to identify other youth who might be missed otherwise to ensure they also received a bag.

Families in the resident owned community were notified of this option of getting bags delivered and the inclusion of fresh local produce. Families connected with the ROC board member to work out delivery or pick up options and if they wanted produce as well.

End 68 Hours of Hunger Results Summer 2024

Total number of bags delivered for the whole summer in southern Carroll County

- *Wolfeboro 79*
- *Tuftonboro 15*
- *Middleton 2*
- *Ossipee 541*

Ossipee Specific - Weekly (11 weeks) average number of bags = 59

- *Ossipee Public Library 3*
- *Ossipee Concerned Citizens 14*
- *Resident Owned Community 15*
- *Ossipee Central School 27*

Number reached with the Summer Food Service Program per day

- *Ossipee Central School 30*

The lower number of bags utilized in other areas leads me to believe that the extra effort to promote and deliver weekend bags to youth greatly reduces the barrier to food access to the most vulnerable. This partnership between the school, meals on wheels/day care, library, ROC, and Community Garden ensured that youth were not overlooked and were supported in several different ways. We would like to duplicate this model in another area next summer.

Goal #3: Assist agencies with reaching individuals experiencing homelessness to provide healthy meals/food in the areas they are living.

2024 Accomplishments: Gibson Center and the Way Station (homeless outreach organization) connected and began conversations about how and if they can provide premade to-go meals to homeless individuals. Discussed the barriers due to funding and possible solutions to the barriers. A survey of 37 homeless and housing insecure individuals showed that there is a need for pre-made to-go meals.

<p align="center">Team: Increase/ Build Farmer Capacity Team Leaders: State Rep. Mark McConkey and Kathryn Downing, NOFA NH</p>
<p>Goal #1: Assist WIC to connect 1-3 Farmers Markets (with 1-3 farmers at each connected market) in the county with “WIC at the Farmers Market” program.</p>
<p><i>2024 Accomplishments: WIC is a part of this Build Farmer Capacity team and gave monthly updates to the status of the WIC at the farmers market program. CCFAN provided input about what farmers and market managers capacity to handle the technology used. WIC was unable to offer this program this year, but the CCFAN team will continue to partner with WIC for next year’s planning.</i></p>
<p>Goal #2: (2 Year Project) Research the needs of the farmers and how to best use the county land, buildings, and equipment. 2024 goal: Create and implement a farmer survey and research topics and write a report on findings by the end of 2024.</p>
<p><i>2024 Accomplishments: This team identified areas for research and uses of the County land and buildings. CCFAN provides regular communication with the County Lands and Annex Committee to ensure support from the county to preserve the lands and buildings for food access in the future. As the year went on, a second leader, Kathryn Downing with NOFAA NH, was able to join and take the lead on this research along with the Carroll County Conservation District.</i></p>

<p align="center">Team: Increase SNAP participation Team Leader: Nadine SanAntonio, NH Food Bank</p>
<p>Goal #1: Get to know the team players working on SNAP participation through networking.</p>
<p><i>2024 Accomplishments: From March to June 30, Nadine worked as a sub-contractor with the NH Food Bank to meet with Community Partners in Carroll County for the purpose of providing information and resources about the SNAP program to low-income and elderly clients.</i></p>
<p>Goal #2: Increase awareness and therefore increase participation by scheduling tabling at different locations - libraries, food pantries, community housing sites</p>
<p><i>2024 Accomplishments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Carroll County Coalition for Public Health’s Community Health Worker was able to distribute rack cards on SNAP at several libraries, and table at one of the libraries. She also helped a few folks enroll in the SNAP program and submitted proper documentation for approval</i> • <i>Nadine visited with clients and staff of L.I.F.E Ministries Food Pantry often and would offer to meet with the board to explore ways to be more present for their clients to offer snap information and nutritional support – recipes, resources that are kept up to date...</i>
<p>Goals #3: Grow our efforts by encouraging more volunteers within this network and through contacts we make in the field.</p>
<p><i>2024 Accomplishments:</i> <i>The work of the SNAP team of CCFAN can add support to this effort by continuing to independently reach out as volunteers to the Community Partners that have already benefited from our presence.</i></p>