



Your monthly news & updates

The Passaic County Food Policy Council (PCFPC) is committed to expanding healthy food access in our communities in addition to supporting an overall Culture of Health. Our strategic plan, "**Building a Culture of Health: Blueprint for Action**", provides information about the kind of work we are doing. For more information or to join our next bi-monthly general body meeting, which is scheduled for May 11th at 9:30am to 11am, please email [Mary Celis](mailto:Mary.Celis). Also, check out [our Facebook page](#) for more frequent updates. [Link to Strategic Plan](#)

NEWS AND ADVOCACY UPDATES

NJEDA Report and Food Desert Relief Program

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) has released a list of New Jersey's 50 designated Food Desert communities. The Food Desert Relief Program addresses the food security needs of communities across New Jersey by providing up to \$40 million per year in tax credits, loans, grants, and/or technical assistance to increase access to nutritious foods and develop new approaches to alleviate food deserts.

Read more about the programs: [Methodology](#), [Community Ranking](#) and [Map](#).



Food Security Planning Grant Program

To advance the goals of the Food Desert Relief Act (FDRA), part of the Economic Recovery Act of 2020, the EDA will use up to \$1,500,000 in economic planning services funds to create a competitive planning grant program focused on leveraging distressed assets in designated Food Desert Communities (FDCs) in New Jersey to improve food access and food security.

Check out the grant opportunity [here](#)

RESOURCES AND TOOLS

Citi Foundation Community Finance Innovation Fund Request for Ideas

The Citi Foundation has announced a \$50 million Request for Ideas (RFI) to support the next level of growth for Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) industry through the creation of the new Community Finance Innovation Fund. The Fund supports intermediary-like nonprofit organizations with the ability to provide technical assistance and capacity-building innovations to multiple CDFIs working on a national or regional basis. There is no identified maximum or minimum grant size defined for this opportunity, although the Foundation anticipates it will ultimately provide grant support to 10-20 ideas as part of the Community Finance Innovation Fund and that the amount of funding for each idea will vary depending on the scope and scale of the ideas submitted.

Citi Foundation



Submit your application by May 24th [here](#)

Using NJ SNAP at Farmers Market

Did you know that you can use your SNAP EBT benefits at over 20 farmers markets and farm stands across New Jersey? Learn how it works and find a [location](#).



CUMAC's Benefit Enrollment Program

Access to benefit programs is not always easy to figure out. Luckily, CUMAC is creating a [Benefits Enrollment Center](#) and is providing free help with benefits applications for adults aged 65+ and adults living with a disability. The BEC is helping with programs such as: Medicaid, Medicare Savings, Medicare Part D Extra Help, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and more. For more info contact 973-742-5518 or info@cumacecho.org



Hunger Free New Jersey

There are several federal programs, operated by New Jersey state agencies, that provide food assistance to families. Families and individuals may qualify for more than one program. To find out more information on assistance programs click [here](#).



Recording – Measuring Nutrition Security

Is your community focused on changing the local food landscape to improve health? View the recording of the Southern New Jersey Nutrition Security Learning Collaborative's April webinar that featured the Live Healthy Salem County partners' approach to measuring nutrition security in their county, and explored data tools that are available to communities for free to support this work.

[Watch the recording](#).

The BUILD Health Challenge

The BUILD Health Challenge seeks to support communities in their efforts to advance health equity—to ensure that no one is disadvantaged from achieving their full health potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances. The BUILD Health Challenge will support up to 19 awards of up to \$300,000 each, over a three-year period, to put their **bold, upstream, integrated, local, data-driven** plans into action. New Jersey communities of 100,000 residents or more are eligible to apply for the four awards designated for cities from any U.S. state or territory.



- An informational webinar with BUILD Health Challenge on **Tuesday, May 17, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET.**
- Application Q&A webinar on **Tuesday, May 24, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.**

[Register for either or both informational webinars here.](#)

- **Thursday, June 30 is the last day to submit a Round 1 application.** The BUILD Health Challenge will extend invitations to select applicants for Round 2. [View complete details.](#)

LEARNING AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

2022 New Jersey Sustainability Summit

Time: June 24, 2022 8am-4pm

Location: Bell Works, Holmdel, NJ

The New Jersey Sustainability Summit is a momentous event in our state, annually drawing more than 600 change-makers from across the political, private, and public sectors. This exceptional one-day forum spotlights the successes and lessons learned from the people and projects that are helping New Jersey realize a more sustainable future. We invite all who are interested to be ready to deepen their understanding and expand their network. Register for the event [here](#)



New Jersey Farmers, Markets, & Growers Coalition

New Jersey's first statewide coalition of farmers, markets, and growers seeks to bring together local growers and agricultural stakeholders to leverage partnerships and resources. This coalition will support networking among producers and facilitate connections to markets and funding opportunities across the state to support local growers, and increase access to fresh, healthy food across the Garden State. Interested in joining the coalition? Check it out [here](#).



Models for Healthy Food Choices and Nutrition Education at Food Pantries

Explore the future of emergency food distribution, including models for supporting choice pantries, on-site

nutrition education and more with the Southern New Jersey Nutrition Security Learning Collaborative and experts from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey and the Food Bank of South Jersey in this virtual event.

Thursday, May 19, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ET

View details on the attached flyer. [Register here](#) to receive the Zoom link for this event.

Food and Research Action Center

This report evaluates food insecurity in New Jersey and proposes actionable recommendations to eliminate hunger across the state. Produced with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the aim of this [statewide assessment](#) of New Jersey's existing food access and hunger landscape is to inform state and local policymakers, state agency leaders, community and nonprofit groups, philanthropic organizations, leaders in the private sector, and community members about which policies, systems changes, cross-sector outreach, and programmatic initiatives, if implemented in the coming years, would result in the most significant gains in food security. Check it out [here](#)