

Food Access Plan

2024



A resource plan to ensure all community members in Broome County have access to healthy, affordable food sources.

The Food Bank of the Southern Tier (FBST) serves as an ongoing partner of the Broome County Food Council. FBST has housed and supported the Food Council Coordinator position. The Food Council Coordinator's role is vital to the Council as the only paid staff member, which is made possible through the New York Health Foundation grant. For more information on the Food Bank of the Southern Tier please visit www.foodbankst.org.

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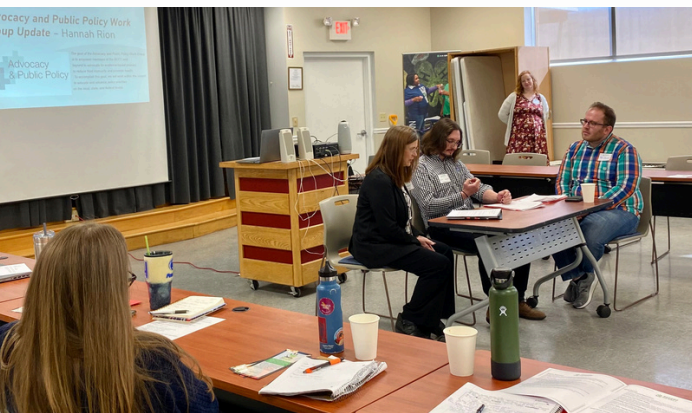
Thank You to Our Steering Committee



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Broome County



Active Organizations of The Broome County Food Council



- Binghamton City Council - CDAC
- Binghamton City School District
- Binghamton Parents and Children Together (PACT)
- Binghamton University
- Broome County Department of Health
- Broome County Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Broome County Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Broome County Catholic Schools - All Saints Elementary
- Broome-Tioga BOCES School Nutrition Services
- Catherine's Cupboard Pantry
- Catholic Charities of Broome County
- Community Advocates Program - FBST
- Community Foundation For South Central NY
- Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse (CHOW)
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County (CCE)
- Deposit Central School District
- Deposit Foundation & Food Pantry
- Endwell Rotary (4874)
- Family Enrichment Network (FEN)
- FIDELIS Care
- First Presbyterian Church of Johnson City
- Food Bank of the Southern Tier (FBST)
- Getthere
- Good Neighbors
- Greater Good Grocery
- Junior League of Binghamton
- Lourdes/Guthrie Parents and Children Together (PACT)
- Meals on Wheels of Western Broome
- Maine Endwell Central School District
- Rural Health Network of South Central New York (RHN)
- St. Michael's Orthodox Church of Binghamton
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- Salvation Army
- Union Endicott Central School District
- Union Presbyterian Church - Binghamton
- Union Presbyterian Church - Endicott
- United Way of Broome County
- Valley Christian Reformed Church
- Volunteers Improving Neighborhood Environments (VINES)
- Windsor Human Development

General and Active organization list can be found in our Member Packet



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About the Broome County Food Council

The history of the Council starts in 2013 when a Child Hunger Task Force was formed. This task force accomplished many objectives and goals. At the end of 2019, the founding members decided that they would like to form a Council to address food insecurity for the entire county for all people experiencing food insecurity.

In 2020 during the COVID pandemic, the Council became an emergency food resource to provide food access and distribution across the County. In the Spring of 2021, the Council started to meet and formed a Steering Committee and sub-committees called “work groups”. Their goal was to begin the process of developing a food access plan for Broome County. At that time the Council had members from over 40 agencies and organizations around the county but did not have backbone support to help facilitate, network, and coordinate the council work forward. The council was put on pause at the beginning of 2022 until August when backbone support was hired to coordinate the Council.

At present, the Council has over 190 members, 70 agencies and organizations represented, a Steering Committee, and four Work Groups.



Mission

The Broome County Food Council is composed of diverse partners, including people who have experienced food insecurity, with a goal to increase food security in Broome County through innovative and equitable solutions, lasting collaboration, education, communication and advocacy.

Vision

We envision an equitable food system that provides healthy, affordable and accessible food sources for all community members of Broome County.

••• Core Values •••



We value intentional **ADVOCACY** to bring the needs of the Broome County community to the elected and appointed officials that represent members of the Broome County community and advocate for policies that increase food security for community members.



We value a non-competitive **COLLABORATION** that seeks to build trustworthy partnerships by learning about the initiatives of those comprising the Broome County food system and working towards coordinating those efforts to increase efficacy.



We value effective **COMMUNICATION** that establishes a non-discriminatory relationship between the Broome County Food Council and the entire Broome County community that educates and informs.



We value a resourceful **EDUCATION** that provides tools to develop, cultivate, and guide the Broome County community toward people's specific needs with openness and empathy.



We actively work to build **EQUITY** within the Council that demonstrates respect, dignity, humility, fairness, opportunity, and understanding to all Broome County residents. We strive to create a safe, empathetic environment for residents affected by the inequities of the food system.



We value showing **EMPATHY** to everyone by recognizing an individual's uniqueness and complex history. We are committed to active listening and responding without judgement.



Introduction

The Food Access Plan was a collaboration effort over the course of 21 months. Four Work Groups, a Steering Committee, and Broome County Food Council members worked together to comprise, distribute, and study the analysis of a community survey that was done in the summer of 2023. This publication is more than just words. This Food Access Plan is a comprehensive working plan for Broome County that has been in the implementation stage since the Five Strategic Initiatives were written, edited, and finalized in May of this year, 2024. The goal is to improve food access across the county, move food to the people and people to the food, to decrease food insecurity and improve the health and economic stability of all our community members.

Our Community Assessment is ongoing as our Strategic Initiatives move forward. Our data and maps are comprised into an interactive GIS mapping system to tell the story of Broome County. This will include the data from our community survey, our Emergency Food Access Map (EFAM), and the progress of this Food Access Plan. You can access the Story Map here: tinyurl.com/BCFCStoryMap

The Underserved Populations Work Group developed three of the five Strategic Initiatives in three geographical areas; Western Broome, Eastern Broome, and the City of Binghamton. The Families with Young Children Work Group developed a Strategic Initiative concentrating on a specific demographic, children birth to 5 years old. The last initiative, developed by the Advocacy and Public Policy Work Group, concentrates on Advocacy work to support the other four initiatives.



Improve Food Access in Western Broome:
Endicott to Whitney Point

Surveys and mapping indicate that Western Broome is a high-need area for food access. The primary barriers to food access include poverty, public transportation, and hours of service for food providers. Western Broome is defined as the 20-mile stretch of Route 26 from West Corners Endicott to Whitney Point and surrounding areas/communities.

Initial Action Plan

Partner with the community support center in Whitney Point

- Kolby Oakley Concert to support pantry and school resource center

Tactical asks to the County legislators

Document public transportation needs

Interview relevant restaurants, farmers, churches, businesses, and organizations that may be able to support food access in Western Broome

Develop advertising strategies that go outside of the internet/social media. Examples include faith communities, schools, community school coordinators, and trained ambassadors

Review community assets that are underused and could support food access

Establish a committee to identify ideas and monitor results. Potential members are listed below. The committee would meet for one hour every quarter

- Develop an outreach plan and discuss services available in Western Broome
- Underserved Population Work Group members would report back to the entire Work Group

Continue communication and support for the Greater Good Grocery Bus

Identify and develop community gardens

- Research and build relationships with produce producers
- Expand VINES Community Gardens

Review food service schedules and locations

- Churches (Endwell to Whitney Point) collaborate on Food Bank and CHOW pantry site hours and resources

Develop stories on community needs

- Work together with the Advocacy work group to develop a community form

Review safety and liability protocols for deliveries from Food Bank and CHOW pantries and other food service providers

2-Year Development Plan

1. Evaluate holistic care for individuals and families. Often food insecurity is linked to many other challenges.
2. Develop a list of local and regional service providers that can support Western Broome.
3. Begin to develop ideas for a Food System. Does a food hub make sense in Western Broome?
4. Discuss plans to bring in an outside source for a Food Systems Analysis.
5. Improve the linkage of Western Broome to the many emerging career opportunities.
6. Explore the development of a Route 26 economic corridor: events, marketing, and business development.
7. Identify and participate in grant opportunities for all the above.

Metrics

- SNAP Data
- Requests for Food
- Qualitative Data
- Additional Surveys



Improve Food Access in Eastern Broome County

Census data, surveys, and mapping indicate that Eastern Broome is a food-insecure area with limited access to healthy and nutritious food. Primary barriers to food access include poverty, transportation, travel distance to healthy food sources, chronic disease, disabilities, and hours of operation for food providers. Eastern Broome is defined as areas of Windsor, Deposit, Harpursville, and surrounding communities.

Initial Action Plan

Continue communication and support for the Greater Good Grocery Bus

Establish a committee to identify ideas and monitor results

- Develop relationships with businesses, houses of worship, local food producers, and other organizations who may be able to assist and support food access in Eastern Broome
- Meet quarterly to discuss and execute the initiative

Document public transportation needs

Review food service hours and locations of Food Bank and CHOW pantries

Identify services available in the Eastern Broome area

Include Delaware County information

Census data and community survey review

Identify the areas in Eastern Broome with higher challenges to food access

Double Up Food Bucks Communication and Education

Develop ideas for better access to healthy and nutritious foods including Healthy Corner Store Initiatives

- <https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/library/materials/healthy-corner-stores>

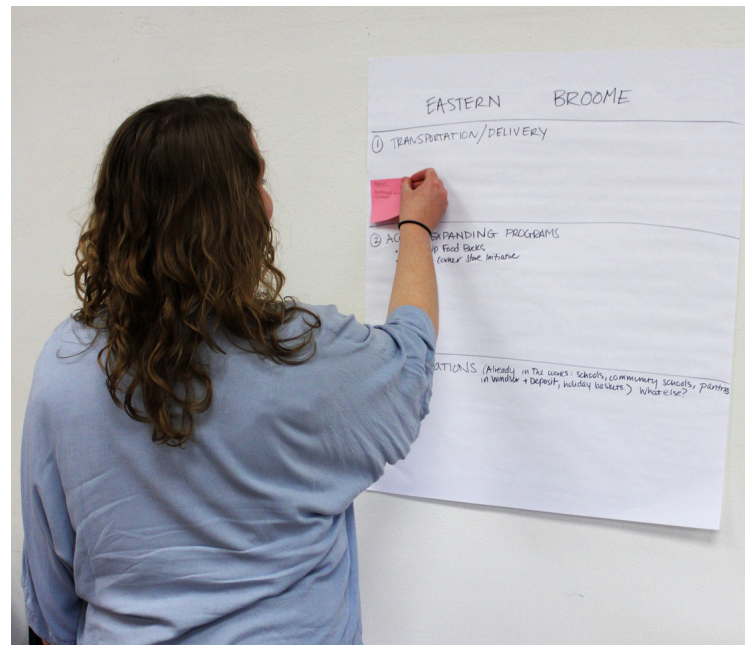
Continue and expand collaboration with School Districts

2-Year Development Plan

1. Evaluate the differences between rural and urban food insecurity and understand there are more issues at play than access to food and services.
2. Develop a list of local and regional services that can assist Eastern Broome.
3. Develop a list of hamlets, villages, and towns and their proximity to a store that stocks a variety of affordable and healthy food.
4. Create balcony or container gardening opportunities to help supplement produce.
5. Contact Willow Run Foods to understand their private program helping to transport employees to and from their facility. Develop a list of other employers who may be willing to operate a similar program to connect rural populations to employers.
6. Identify and participate in grant opportunities for all the above.

Eastern Broome Hamlets, Villages, and Towns

Conklin, Corbettsville, Kirkwood, Five Mile Point, Fenton, Port Crane, Sanitaria Springs, Beldon, Harpursville to the Chenango County border, Tunnel, Vallonia Springs, Nineveh, Ouaquaga, Colesville, West Colesville, Windsor and area to the PA border, Sanford, Deposit to the Delaware County border.



Improve Food Access in the City of Binghamton

**Focus on an Emergency Plan*

In the last six months, two food organizations and one grocery store have shut down permanently or temporarily in the city of Binghamton. This initiative will focus on developing an Emergency Plan when things go down. It will also look at educating and communicating the plan to the community.

Initial Action Plan

Write the Emergency Plan - *beginning with Southside of Binghamton focus*

- Designate the communication plan
- Designate the education plan
- Organization to lead for independents
 - Code
 - Food Safety
 - DOH requirements - permits
- Include a resource hub
 - Flyers
 - Can opener and personal hygiene drive
- Getthere travel training
 - Food is heavy - bus limitations
- Discussion with Southside pantries
 - Southside Free Community
 - Traci CARES School Food Center at Ben Franklin Elementary
 - Shepherd's Bowl Anglican Church
 - Conklin Ave 1st Baptist Church
- County Connection, Stephanie Brewer, Planning Director: Hazard Plan for Broome County includes floods, power outages, and other natural disasters

Establish a committee to identify ideas and monitor results

- Organize a meeting with potential members to discuss this initiative
- CHOW, GGG, FBST, Ben Franklin Pantry, Getthere, CCE Broome, Good Neighbors, Wagon Train Warriors, Salvation Army, United Presbyterian Church of Binghamton, FBST Community Advocates Program Members, Binghamton City Council Members, County Legislative Districts that represent City of Binghamton

Outreach and food resources for Houseless community members

- Need better facilities for the houseless community members
- Work with Advocacy Initiative to educate leaders and community

2-Year Development Plan

1. Branch out to other parts of Binghamton looking specifically at the deeper dive analysis from the community survey.
2. Work towards building sustainable food sources by taking steps to overcome barriers within the city.
3. Work together with Binghamton City Council, County Legislature, and County Departments to help plug holes in the present system.
4. Nutrition incentives at Convenience Stores: Develop ideas for better access to healthy and nutritious foods including Healthy Corner Store Initiatives.

<https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/library/materials/healthy-corner-stores>

- EBT
- Double Up Food Bucks
- Conversation - invite to the table



Increase Food Access and Nutrition Resources Within Early Childcare Programs

Childcare is an important asset to families with young children. Nationwide, more than 12 million children under 5 receive care outside the home; and meals served in care can make up a majority of a child's diet.² Meanwhile, early childcare education is a proven strategy for economic growth, with research showing a \$14 return on investment for every \$1 spent on childcare in NY.³

Despite this, investments in early childhood are severely limited. Recent challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and inflation have exacerbated inequities, with areas reporting only 80% of the childcare slots they had pre-pandemic.⁴ The majority of Broome County census tracts have been identified as childcare deserts.⁵

The Families with Young Children Work Group will address these challenges to increase access to high-quality childcare and support nutrition programs within childcare, a proven strategy for improving food and economic security.

Initial Action Plan

Outreach Efforts:

- We will continue to invite new members to the Council, assigning roles and responsibilities to ensure the Initiative is completed
- Connect the early childhood community with existing food and nutrition resources that are culturally appropriate and available in multiple languages when possible, including:
 - The Council's Emergency Food Access Map and Community Resource Map
 - The Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)⁶
 - The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)⁷
 - Summer EBT⁸
 - The Greater Good Grocery bus
 - QUALITYstarsNY⁹
 - The Food Bank of the Southern Tier and associated feeding programs
 - Summer meal sites
 - Help me Grow¹⁰
- Recognizing the potential impact of these programs, assist in outreach to populations served by WIC, CACFP, and Summer EBT to increase participation
- Involved K-12 school districts in outreach to reach school-based early care programs and assist in sharing of resources between early childhood and school-aged programs
- Support referrals and sharing of resources between programs

Recognizing the need to bring diverse voices to the table, collaborate with families with young children, childcare providers, childcare support organizations, and supporters of the Broome County early childhood community, including WIC and other relevant County government offices

- Engage in continued conversation and regular meetings with the Broome County early childhood community, prioritizing voices from underserved populations
- Share this initiative with stakeholders
- Connect with the early childhood community where they are, including childcare sites themselves, to inform them about the Council and the importance of food access
- Collaborate with the Underserved Populations Work Group to connect providers and families with young children in underserved communities

Ongoing data collection and research

- By overlaying the location of childcare facilities, the Council's Emergency Food Access Map, and transportation survey results, develop and share maps identifying target areas within Broome County
- Review County and State surveys and compare them to BCFC analysis
- Continue to share quantitative and qualitative data among stakeholders
- Utilizing existing data sources, track:
 - # of families with access to childcare in Broome County
 - # of childcare centers and family day care homes participating in CACFP
 - # of eligible participants receiving WIC
- Through continued engagement, collect quantitative feedback from childcare providers and families with young children

References:

1. [Childcare Aware of America](#)
 2. [Hunger Solutions NY](#)
 3. [Early Childhood Advisory Council](#)
 4. [Creighton et al.](#)
 5. [Council on Children and Families](#)

6. WIC provides pregnant and breastfeeding women, new parents, and children under 5 with nutrition resources
 7. [CACFP](#) is the Federal Child Nutrition Program for early care
 8. [Summer EBT](#) offers electronic benefits to families with children receiving free or reduced lunch during the summer months.

9. [QUALITYstarsNY](#) is New York's Quality Rating and Improvement System for early childcare.
 10. [Help Me Grow](#) provides no cost early intervention and home visiting services to families with young children who have developmental delays or disabilities, from pregnancy through early childhood

2-Year Development Plan

1. Continue outreach and research efforts established in year one, ensuring ongoing collaboration with childcare providers and families to adapt strategies based on evolving needs and challenges.
2. Based on needs identified in year one:
 - a. Distribute resources to support food access at childcare sites, in collaboration with the entire council
 - b. Build capacity for childcare sites to offer food access and nutrition services in Broome County by connecting them with resources and training opportunities.
 - c. Collaborate with the Advocacy Work Group and the rest of the Council to advocate for the needs of the childcare community, including increased and diversified funding sources for early childcare
3. Continued tracking the metrics outlined in year one to measure changes in program availability and participation.
4. Incorporate continued focus on the early childhood community in the Council's long-term plan to ensure the sustainability of these efforts.



Support, advocate, and educate the Broome County community in the issues of workers income (poverty), transportation (food to the people and people to the food), and childcare (access to improve food and economic security).

The Advocacy and Public Policy Work Group will continue to focus on educating the community and government representatives on issues related to food security. The Group will continue to drive the Council's connection to public policies affecting food access, including federal nutrition programs, and issues affecting food security, such as income, transportation, and childcare, knowing that these issues directly impact a family's ability to afford food.

Initial Action Plan

Recruit more Advocacy Work Group Members

Continue to meet with elected officials and other decision-makers to educate them about the Council's work

- Build a relationship with the Farm Bureau of Broome County, the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce, the Broome County Department of Social Services, the American Civic Association, and Workforce Development
- Advocate for expanded access and sustained/increased funding for federal nutrition programs, such as SNAP, WIC, school meals, summer meals, and Summer EBT
 - Continue advocacy work in Health School Meals for All.

Assist in the planning opportunities to hear directly from the 19th Congressional District Representative

Investigate the work being done in the county at New Energy NY with the underserved populations

Begin to research money flow into the county, living wage information, unemployment, poverty, and supporting data

- Dept. of Labor
- Comparison to other regions/counties
- Review maps from the survey analysis
- Continue to research any prior or present work locally and at the state level
- Confirm BCFC organizations representation as it relates to food security

Provide 3-4 training opportunities for Council members per year

Continue educating the community and sharing opportunities to utilize SNAP and other benefits at Farmer's Markets

Communication with Underserved Population and Families with Young Children Work Group on how Advocacy WG can best support their efforts via advocacy on poverty (income), childcare, and transportation

- Assist in compiling qualitative stories - create a submission form
- Assist in ongoing solutions for food access
- Assist in research of transportation issues as they relate to food insecurity
 - Research the transportation system and continue/build relationships with the transportation stakeholders
- Assist in research of childcare issues as they relate to food insecurity
 - Research the childcare system and build relationships with the daycare stakeholders

For context: The most common barriers to food access identified in the Broome County Community Survey are lack of income and transportation. Broome County has also been recognized as a childcare desert.

2-Year Development Plan

1. Finalize the Council's Policy Priorities/ Advocacy Agenda.
2. Support the move towards a Food Systems Analysis-Regional approach.
3. Representative(s) of the Food Council meet with each local town and village board, Binghamton City Council, Broome County Legislature, State and Federal representatives at least once per year. Advocacy Work Group coordinates visits and communication to ensure continuity.
4. Increase relationships with Tioga County organizations, agencies, local and county government.

Metrics

1. Outputs:
 - a. Number of Food Council presentations completed
 - b. Number of trainings conducted
 - c. Number of meetings with decision-makers
2. Outcomes:
 - a. Positive training feedback
 - b. An increase in the number of community relationships - growing the network
 - c. Qualitative data: stories of impact
 - d. Policy decisions that come out in our favor
 - e. Provide quarterly updates to Broome County Food Council members and Community - meetings and newsletter





The Broome County Food Council plans to continue to move the Strategic Initiatives forward as tactical initiatives form and fulfill the five 1-year action plans. The 2-year action plan will involve a Food Systems Analysis conducted by expert consultants who will be approved by the BCFC leadership. The goal is to have a Food Systems Plan for Broome County by 2026.

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**BROOME
COUNTY**
FOOD COUNCIL