

NEW HAMPSHIRE FOOD BANK'S

REPORT

— TO THE —

COMMUNITY



A MESSAGE FROM OUR
**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends, Neighbors, and Partners,

Reflecting on the past year brings a profound sense of gratitude for the incredible resilience and unity of our Granite State community. Stepping into the role of Executive Director at the New Hampshire Food Bank offered a unique and fast-paced onboarding process, that coincided with a series of unprecedented federal funding shifts, changing legislative requirements, and a federal government shutdown.

Yet, what could have been an overwhelming trial instead became a beautiful, firsthand lesson in the unmatched generosity of New Hampshire.

Unexpected federal cuts and a government shutdown severely impacted our NH Feeding NH program and jeopardized public food assistance benefits, we saw our communities across the Granite State step up. Along with our network of over 400 partner agencies, we mobilized overnight to ensure our neighbors were fed and our farmers were supported.

As you read through this year's Annual Report to the Community, you will see the stark realities of the challenges we face. But more importantly, you will see a narrative of triumph, collaboration, and hope.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly into this role, and thank you for your steadfast commitment to ensuring that no one in New Hampshire has to face hunger alone.

With deep gratitude,



Elsy Cipriani
Executive Director
New Hampshire Food Bank



The Mission of the New Hampshire Food Bank is to shepherd a statewide network of partners to alleviate food insecurity, nourish our communities through innovative programming, and boldly advocate to end hunger for all Granite Staters.



The New Hampshire Food Bank envisions a hunger-free NH, where all Granite Staters have access to the foods they need to thrive.



As a proud program of Catholic Charities New Hampshire (CCNH), our identity is built on a shared commitment to service and excellence; a dedication that is perfectly reflected in our CHOICES (Collaboration, Honor, Optimism, Integrity, Compassion, Excellence and Service) values.

TOGETHER, *We can end hunger*

For more than **40 years**, the New Hampshire Food Bank - our state's only food bank - has led the fight to end hunger.

Our goal is simple: **end hunger in our communities.**
In 2025 alone, we partnered with over **400 local agencies** to distribute **20 million pounds** of food to those in need.



CHILD FOOD INSECURITY *has deepened*

FROM
1 in 7
CHILDREN
IN 2025

TO
1 in 6
CHILDREN
TODAY



FOOD INSECURITY *across our state*

1 in 9

GRANITE STATERS
LACK RELIABLE
ACCESS TO FOOD.



THE CHALLENGE IS GROWING *The need is real*

As living costs remain high
and nutrition assistance
programs face uncertainty,

we need your partnership



Together, we can reverse this trend and
ensure every neighbor has the resources
they need to thrive.



**YOUR SUPPORT.
OUR COMMUNITY.**

**A HUNGER-FREE
NEW HAMPSHIRE.**



2025 IMPACT & INNOVATIONS

Ending hunger takes more than providing food. It requires expanding access, strengthening community partnerships, advocating for effective public policy, and investing in long-term solutions. In 2025, the New Hampshire Food Bank advanced each of these priorities to help build a more food-secure future for New Hampshire.

Fresh Rescue: Saving Food, Feeding More Neighbors

The New Hampshire Food Bank's Fresh Rescue Program connects grocery stores, wholesalers, and retailers with our hunger-relief network to recover fresh, nutritious food that would otherwise go to waste.

180+

RETAIL
PARTNERS

7M

LBS. OF FOOD
RECOVERED



Above left to right: Hudson Wells (NHFB's Fresh Rescue Manager), Elsy Cipriani (NHFB's Executive Director), Lisa Lessard (Hannaford's Hooksett Store Manager) and Zach Blanchard (Hannaford's External Communications Specialist)

NEW IN 2025

\$750K

FEEDING
AMERICA GRANT

Additional staff
Refrigerated vehicles
Cold storage equipment

Meeting the Growing Need for Food Assistance

In 2025, the New Hampshire Food Bank distributed food through its partner agencies, including soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and older adults, as well as nearly **60 Mobile Food Pantries** across the state.

“The need for our services continues to grow. 2025 was a record year; we served 5,542 family visits and provided 315,904 meal equivalents, an **increase of nearly 15%** compared to the previous year. We are fortunate to be able to assist our neighbors **because of your support.**”

- Bill Connors, President, LIFE Ministries Food Pantry, Wolfeboro, NH



60%

OF THE FOOD DISTRIBUTED BY PARTNER AGENCIES COMES FROM THE NH FOOD BANK



Demand for Mobile Food Pantries Tripled During the Federal Government Shutdown

Left: Nashua Mobile Food Pantry, November 2025

MOBILE FOOD PANTRIES 2025



59

DISTRIBUTIONS



13,633

HOUSEHOLDS
SERVED



544K

LBS FOOD
DISTRIBUTED

WHEN NEW HAMPSHIRE NEEDED US MOST

A statewide response to ensure no family went hungry during the 2025 federal government shutdown.

When uncertainty surrounded SNAP benefits during the federal government shutdown, more than 77,000 Granite Staters faced the possibility of running out of food assistance before the month was over. For many working families, children, and older adults, the stakes couldn't have been higher.

Within days, the Governor and the state Department of Health and Human Services partnered with the New Hampshire Food Bank to implement an emergency statewide food distribution plan. Approved by the Governor and Executive Council, this unprecedented collaboration mobilized our network at remarkable speed.

From **October 30 to November 14, 2025**, ten strategically located partner agencies became regional distribution hubs, while emergency Mobile Food Pantries delivered food directly to communities with the greatest need, including Claremont, Laconia, Woodsville, and Manchester.

Together, our statewide network ensured that no community was left behind—demonstrating the power of strong partnerships, rapid coordination, and compassionate action when New Hampshire families needed it most.



76,000+

GRANITE STATERS
WHOSE SNAP BENEFITS
WERE AT RISK



10

REGIONAL EMERGENCY
DISTRIBUTION HUBS
ACTIVATED STATEWIDE



17,704

NEIGHBORS
SERVED IN JUST
2 WEEKS



136,610

EMERGENCY MEALS
DISTRIBUTED TO
BRIDGE THE GAP



6,323

SHELF-STABLE FOOD
BOXES DISTRIBUTED

This rapid, collaborative response shows what's possible when partners come together with a shared mission to feed our neighbors and strengthen our communities.

New Hampshire Food Bank

SPECIAL SECTION



**When our neighbors
faced uncertainty,
*New Hampshire Responded.***

OUR STATEWIDE NETWORK OF PARTNER HUBS



NORTH COUNTRY

- NHFB Berlin Warehouse
- Vaughan Community Services
- North Country Missions



CENTRAL/SOUTHERN NH

- Christ the King (Concord)
- Families in Transition (Manchester)
- Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter (Nashua)
- Community Kitchen (Keene)



UPPER VALLEY

- LISTEN
- Claremont Soup Kitchen



SEACOAST

- Gather (Portsmouth)



**Emergency, SNAP-specific Mobile Food Pantries
deployed to high-need areas:
Claremont, Laconia, Woodsville, and Manchester**



PRESERVING NH'S PATH TO FOOD SECURITY

A changing federal landscape means greater challenges—and greater community action.

Recent federal changes to SNAP through H.R. 1 (the Budget Reconciliation Bill or “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) will shift significant costs from the federal government to states, creating new financial pressures for New Hampshire while increasing the risk that thousands of residents could lose food assistance.

By FY2028, New Hampshire is expected to assume nearly **\$20 million** in additional annual SNAP costs, including higher administrative expenses and new state responsibility for a portion of SNAP benefits.

At the same time, expanded work requirements and reduced exemptions could place an estimated 15,000 Granite Staters at risk of losing benefits. More than half of New Hampshire's SNAP participants are children, making these changes especially concerning for families.

While charities cannot replace a federal nutrition program, the New Hampshire Food Bank and our partners are working to protect access to food through community education, enrollment assistance, and statewide outreach. Together, we're helping eligible neighbors understand changing requirements and connect with the benefits they still qualify to receive.



15K

GRANITE STATERS COULD BE AT RISK OF LOSING BENEFITS



54%

OF SNAP PARTICIPANTS ARE CHILDREN

HOW WE ARE CONNECTING WITH NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Together, we're taking action to protect access to food assistance across New Hampshire.



EDUCATE

Statewide outreach and workshops to share accurate information



HELP ENROLL

Assistance with applications and understanding eligibility



SUPPORT PARTNERS

Working with local agencies, retailers, and community leaders across all 10 counties



PROTECT ACCESS

Fighting to preserve the dignity and economic benefits that SNAP dollars provide

H.R. 1: THE FINANCIAL IMPACT ON NEW HAMPSHIRE

Due to H.R.1, nearly **\$20 million** in new SNAP costs will shift from the federal government to New Hampshire by FY 2028.



≈ \$20 MILLION

PROJECTED ANNUAL COST SHIFT TO NH BY 2028



\$4.4 - \$6 MILLION

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION COSTS

Historically split 50/50, H.R. 1 changes the formula to require the state to cover 75% of administrative costs - **requiring New Hampshire to spend an additional \$4.4M to \$6M annually.**



\$15 MILLION

PROGRAM BENEFIT COSTS (THE “ERROR RATE” PENALTY)

Previously, the federal government covered 100% of benefit dollars. The new law requires states with an error rate over 6% to pay a penalty share. **NH's 8.85% error rate will subject it to a \$15M financial penalty to cover some benefit costs.** Learn more: nhfoodbank.org/SNAP-PER

EXPANDED WORK REQUIREMENTS

H.R. 1 changes threaten access to food assistance for more vulnerable Granite Staters.



RAISES THE WORK REQUIREMENT AGE LIMIT

54

PREVIOUSLY

→ 64

NOW



REMOVES AUTOMATIC EXEMPTIONS FOR:



VETERANS



PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

PROTECTING SNAP

PROTECTING NEW HAMPSHIRE

SNAP is the foundation of hunger relief and a stronger New Hampshire.

SNAP is the nation's most effective tool for preventing hunger—and a critical resource for thousands of Granite Staters.

In New Hampshire, **1 in 9** people and **1 in 6** children experience food insecurity, while more than **76,000** residents relied on SNAP each month in FY2025 to help put food on the table.

SNAP is also an economic engine. In FY2025, it brought more than **\$154 million** in federal funding into New Hampshire, supporting more than 1,000 local retailers and generating up to \$1.80 in local economic activity for every dollar invested.

As federal policies continue to evolve, the New Hampshire Food Bank is working to ensure eligible families can access benefits, providing policymakers with real-time data from our network of more than 400 partner agencies, and advocating for sustainable investments that strengthen both SNAP and our emergency food network.



32%

PERCENTAGE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR SNAP WHO ARE ENROLLED



54%

PERCENTAGE OF SNAP RECIPIENTS WHO ARE HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN



\$154M

IN FEDERAL SNAP BENEFITS SUPPORTED NH'S ECONOMY IN 2025

Supporting more than 1,000 local retailers and generating \$1.80 in local economic activity for every \$1 invested.

Together, we can ensure every neighbor has reliable access to nutritious food.

Whether you **advocate, volunteer, donate, or organize a food drive**, your support helps protect one of our state's strongest defenses against hunger. Our **advocacy priorities** are clear:



Education and Enrollment:

Demystifying the complex, changing federal rules and expanding outreach to ensure qualified, food-insecure Granite Staters get enrolled.



Protecting State Budgets:

Assisting our state leaders in navigating the administrative and benefit cost shifts so that essential local programs aren't slashed to close federal gaps.



Strengthening Local Networks:

Securing predictable, sustainable funding to keep our emergency trucks on the road 365 days a year.

**YOUR VOICE.
YOUR ACTIONS.
REAL IMPACT**



ADVOCATE
for strong nutrition programs



VOLUNTEER
to support our neighbors



DONATE
to help provide food today



HOST A FOOD DRIVE
in your community or workplace

WHEN FEDERAL FUNDING ENDED

New Hampshire stepped up

A \$968,000 funding loss became a community call to action.

In March, the New Hampshire Food Bank learned that nearly **\$968,000** in federal funding for **NH Feeding NH** was eliminated, putting one of our most important local food programs at risk.

Through NH Feeding NH, we purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy, and protein directly from New Hampshire farms, strengthening local agriculture while providing nutritious food to neighbors experiencing hunger.



NH didn't look away.

Rather than allowing this critical program to slow, our community responded. Donors, local farmers, and our network of more than **400 partner agencies** came together to help bridge the gap—ensuring families continued to receive fresh, locally grown food while supporting New Hampshire's agricultural economy.



\$968K

FEDERAL FUNDING LOST

A sudden loss that threatened a vital program for our neighbors and our farms



400+

PARTNER AGENCIES STRONGER TOGETHER

Our statewide network stepped up quickly to help bridge the gap and keep food moving to those in need.



NH GROWN

FRESH, LOCAL & NUTRITIOUS

We continue to buy produce, protein and dairy directly from NH farms.

This challenge reinforced an important truth:
when we invest in local food, everyone benefits.



NH FARMS

Local farmers grow the food we all rely on.



NH FOOD BANK

We purchase and deliver fresh local food across the state.



400+ PARTNER AGENCIES

Food pantries, meal sites, shelters, and community programs.



NEIGHBORS ACROSS NH

Nutritious food reaches families, older adults, and children in need.



Advocating for Stronger Food Security

The New Hampshire Food Bank was a leading voice in protecting SNAP, a critical food assistance program, against federal and state-level policy efforts to restrict the program.

- Testified before state lawmakers
- Published op-eds across NH
- Launched a storytelling campaign
- Generated 15.8K+ advocacy video views
- Helped stop legislation that would have restricted SNAP

Due in part to our campaigns in coordination with our advocacy partners, state lawmakers rejected legislative proposals to severely restrict SNAP.

32% ONLY 32% OF THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR SNAP IN NH ARE ENROLLED



Retired and living on a fixed income, Peri struggled to afford groceries. Our outreach team connected him to SNAP, helping him put food back on the table. His story was featured in our advocacy campaign, and he was interviewed on *WMUR-TV's "NH Chronicle."*

“It's difficult to make ends meet, with the rising cost of fuel, groceries and energy. I'd just have to cut back on everything, really, if it wasn't for the help that I received from the Food Bank and the food pantries.”

- Peri D., Manchester

Nourishing Kids All Summer Long

When school is out, many children lose access to the nutritious meals they depend on during the school year. Through the New Hampshire Food Bank's **Summer Meals Program**, the Food Bank provided free breakfasts and lunches at 21 rural locations across the state, including to-go sites such as the Berlin Community Field Park (pictured).

90K

NUMBER OF MEALS SERVED THROUGH OUR SUMMER MEALS PROGRAM



Representatives from Manchester Community College and ApprenticeshipNH visited our Production Kitchen as part of a new collaboration on a Registered Apprenticeship Program

Preparing New Hampshire's Culinary Workforce

NEW IN 2025

The New Hampshire Food Bank's **Culinary Job Training Program** prepares aspiring culinary professionals for successful careers in the food service industry through free, hands-on training in essential culinary skills, food safety, and sustainable food systems.

In 2025, the NH Food Bank launched a **Preparation Cook Registered Apprenticeship Program** in partnership with Manchester Community College and ApprenticeshipNH. Through classroom instruction and paid, on-the-job training, the apprenticeship creates a direct pathway to employment and meets the demand for skilled culinary professionals.

4,500⁺ 

NUMBER OF MEALS PREPARED & DISTRIBUTED TO PARTNER AGENCIES EACH WEEK THROUGH OUR PRODUCTION KITCHEN



2025

BY THE NUMBERS

Thanks to our supporters, partners, and volunteers, we are nourishing New Hampshire communities.



20 MILLION
POUNDS OF FOOD
DISTRIBUTED



16.8 MILLION
MEALS PROVIDED



131
NH FARMS SUPPORTED



24,496
VOLUNTEER HOURS

FIGHTING HUNGER

FOOD DISTRIBUTION



20,038,144
POUNDS
DISTRIBUTED

6,282,424 lbs
PROTEIN
meat & non-meat

5,371,578 lbs
PRODUCE

MOBILE FOOD PANTRIES



59
DISTRIBUTIONS

13,633
HOUSEHOLDS
SERVED

544,786
LBS
DISTRIBUTED

SUMMER NUTRITION



21
SITES

90,000

TOTAL MEALS
SERVED TO
CHILDREN &
TEENS

June - August
2025

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

COOKING MATTERS NH



10 COURSES
87 GRADUATES

54 WORKSHOPS

246 PARTICIPANTS

21 STORE TOURS

139 PARTICIPANTS

PRODUCTION KITCHEN



155,100

MEALS PRODUCED FOR AFTER-
SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND
OTHER PARTNER AGENCIES

153,150
DISTRIBUTED

3,925 meals provided across all workshops, courses, and tours

STRENGTHENING LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS



NH FEEDING NH

293
PARTNER
AGENCIES
BENEFITED

476,918
POUNDS
PURCHASED

131
NH FARMS

\$383,323
INVESTED IN
THE LOCAL
ECONOMY

HELPING FAMILIES THRIVE



SNAP APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

235
APPLICATIONS

\$261,206
IN BENEFITS

\$402,256

LOCAL ECONOMIC
IMPACT

70,596
MEAL EQUIVALENT



SNAP INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

51,648
TOTAL SNAP INCENTIVE
TRANSACTIONS

\$312,992
DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS
REDEEMED AT PARTICI-
PATING RETAILERS

\$81,134
GRANITE STATE MARKET
MATCH REDEEMED

\$3,531,982
SNAP FUNDS REDEEMED AT
RETAILERS & FARMERS'
MARKETS AND STANDS

DEEPER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS

24,496
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

\$778,978
VOLUNTEER
DOLLAR
VALUE

11.8
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEE
EQUIVALENT

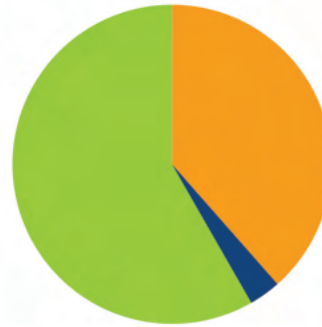
TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING A **HUNGER-FREE** NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Thank you for being part of our mission!

2025 Financial Snapshot (without restrictions)

Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2026 | Audited in 000s

Support & Revenue	
Food Donations, In-Kind	11,280
Program Fees	943
Grants, Contracts & Contributions	17,073
<i>Total Support & Revenue</i>	29,296
Expenses	
Program	24,753
Management & General	394
Fundraising	1,546
<i>Total Expenses</i>	26,693
Investment Gain	1,273
Change in Net Assets	3,875
Net Assets, End of Year	21,437



Support & Revenue

- 38.5% Food Donations
- 3.2% Program Fees
- 58.3% Grants, Contracts and Contributions



Expenses

- 92.7% Programs
- 1.5% Management and General
- 5.8% Fundraising



\$1.28 = 2 Meals

New Hampshire Food Bank can provide two meals for every \$1.28 donated.

2026-29 Strategic Plan

**Elevating Our Network:
A Collaborative Vision
for 2026-2029**

- 1 IMPROVE NEIGHBOR ACCESS AND EXPERIENCE
- 2 ENHANCE FOOD SOURCING AND SHARING
- 3 EXPAND MISSION ADVOCACY ACROSS NH'S POLICY LANDSCAPE

- 4 INCREASE HOLISTIC SUPPORTS
- 5 TRANSFORM MEASUREMENT AND DATA

For a full version of our strategic plan please scan the QR code



Join the movement to end hunger.

nhfoodbank.org



New Hampshire Food Bank Advisory Committee

Bryan Christiansen, *Comcast*

John Dumais, *Retired, Chair*

Lisa Drake

Bill Dwyer, *Retired*

Robert Gossett, *Gossett Consulting, LLC*

Pauline Ikawa, *Retired*

Bernie Lontine, *110 Grill®*

Bobby Marcotte, *The Tuckaway Tavern & Butchery, hop + grind, rise + grind, Grindhouse Meat Co., The Barn at Merry Hill*

Michael McLean, *McLane Middleton*

Joanne Ward, *Former NH House of Representatives, Rockingham County District 19*

Sharon Zeigler, *Bank of America*

Thomas Blonski, *Catholic Charities NH*

Dominique Rust, *Catholic Charities NH*

Elsy Cipriani, *New Hampshire Food Bank*

Dennis Gichana, *New Hampshire Food Bank*

Nancy Mellitt, *New Hampshire Food Bank*

Stacie Merrifield, *New Hampshire Food Bank*

