

Priority Area C: Healthy Food and Housing

- Housing Quality/Accessibility
- Healthy Food Access

Goal

Ensure that all CT residents have equitable access to safe and affordable:

- **nutritious and culturally appropriate food, and**
- **fair, stable, healthy housing**

C1: Increase the utilization of available housing and food programs by eligible residents by 2025.

Strategies

- C1.1. Establish a common intake application in the top seven languages used by CT residents for all programs (e.g., Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), HUSKY, Housing Assistance). (See also C1.2, D4.7)
- C1.2. Enhance partnerships among community organizations, state agencies, state and local health departments, healthcare providers and CHW's to improve communication, coordinate work, provide navigation supports, and share available resources/knowledge re food and housing. (See also C1.1, D4.7)
- C1.3. Provide multi-modal education to community residents about benefit eligibility and support them in completing the common application process.
- C1.4. Expand the Community Eligibility Provision (universal meals for kids in high need communities).
- C1.5. Promote 211's information on housing and food resources and ensure that the information is comprehensive, up to date and accurate. (See also B3.6, D4.3)
- C1.6. Promote housing/food programs/resources to reduce stigma, restore dignity, and provide incentives to participate ("Faces of WIC").
- C1.7. Assess the capacity of the Emergency Food System (food banks, food pantries, faith-based food programs) to reduce need for and protect these resources from being used to meet day to day food needs. (See also C1.8, C2.9, D1.6)
- C1.8. Promote increased coordination among community food resources to reduce draw on the Emergency Food System. (See also C1.7, C2.9, D1.6)

C2: Increase the number of access points where people can obtain affordable, healthy, and nutritious food by 2025.

Strategies

- C2.1. Promote/enhance policies that expand options to obtain affordable, healthy, nutritious, and culturally centered foods, with a focus on underserved communities.
- C2.2. Promote hospitals and other healthcare providers as distribution points for access to healthy and nutritious food.
- C2.3. Promote a vibrant agriculture system within urban centers via community gardens and education (e.g., gardening workshops, individual/incubator farms).
- C2.4. Promote incentives to expand farmer's markets and mobile markets in areas where they are most needed; expand retail market of locally grown food; and to address food swamps and food apartheid.
- C2.5. Promote incentives for farmers and other retailers to increase acceptance of SNAP and doubling programs (e.g., CT Fresh Match) especially within urban areas.
- C2.6. Promote expansion of use of WIC benefits for multiple access points (e.g., curbside and online delivery).
- C2.7. Promote Farm to School network and school gardens to increase access to healthy foods in schools.
- C2.8. Ensure that all access/distribution points accommodate persons with physical and or mental/cognitive disabilities.
- C2.9. Promote the utilization of the Supporting Wellness at Pantries (SWAP) system. (See also C1.7, C1.8, D1.6)

- C2.10. Promote the continuation of the fruit and vegetable Rx program through health care providers, and work with payers to reimburse for food as medicine.
- C2.11. Promote the processing and preparation of locally grown food.
- C2.12. Promote policies that increase access to healthy food and beverage options (e.g., in vending machines limits on sugary drinks, healthy beverage options in kids' meals).

C3: Decrease the number of persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness and increase opportunities to obtain affordable and sustainable housing by 2025.

Strategies

- C3.1. Promote sustainable funding for programs that support housing stability, especially for the most at-risk populations (e.g., young adults, seniors, veterans, disabled, formerly incarcerated, non-White Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Pansexual, Transgender, Genderqueer, Queer, Intersex, Agender, Asexual and other Queer-identifying (LGBTQIA+) people).
- C3.2. Expand support for energy savings and healthy home improvement through existing and promising innovative housing programs (e.g., Green Bank, CT Children's Hospital, Department of Housing, CT Green & Healthy Homes, solar incentives).
- C3.3. Promote awareness of state and local policies that prevent landlord retaliation when tenants report issues.
- C3.4. Educate on and reduce barriers that keep formerly incarcerated persons from obtaining secure housing, with particular focus on building awareness around public housing policies.

C4: Adopt and begin to implement a Connecticut property maintenance code that includes a statewide definition for safe and quality housing by 2025.

Strategies

- C4.1. Reconvene the agencies, partners, and stakeholders to continue the conversation, confirm consensus, and move things forward.
- C4.2. Reorient partners, get buy in, define the code, pass the code, educate those who will be impacted
- C4.3. Conduct resident education for owners and renters to help them understand the newly adopted housing standards, be able to determine whether they are being met, and understand their rights for remediation.
- C4.4. Develop a system to allocate the costs for funding enforcement (other than regional or community funding).
- C4.5. Improve access for code enforcement officials to information that will locate absentee landlords/property owners and use and enforce policies to hold them accountable.
- C4.6. Educate property owners regarding available licensed trade and home improvement contractors for making property improvements (e.g., Department of Consumer Protection).

C5: Increase the percentage of owner-occupied housing in CT by 2025.

Strategies

- C5.1. Promote policies to incentivize owner occupied homes in key priority areas and for key demographics.
- C5.2. Educate first-time home buyers, particularly in communities that are disproportionately high rental, and for low income individuals and families, about available incentives for homeownership. (See also C5.3)
- C5.3. Educate consumers, especially priority populations, about financing a home, and available programs (e.g., Federal Housing Administration (FHA), home ownership, home maintenance, and domestic finances to understand the total cost of owning a home (mortgage, utilities, maintenance)). (See also C5.2)
- C5.4. Expand policies and systems that enable key populations to live well and particularly for seniors to age in place.
- C5.5. Promote fair housing choice and collaborate with partners to address and advance housing equity (e.g., new affordable housing construction, red lining, housing discrimination).