

# County Support & Services







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**Tracy Silna Zur**

Bergen County Commissioner and Panel Moderator

**Patrick Fallon**  
Project Coordinator



**Jen Salt Taylor**  
Rutgers University, FCSH Educator



**Keily Hayes**  
Director of Community Impact



**Adaobi Ndupu**  
Director of Health

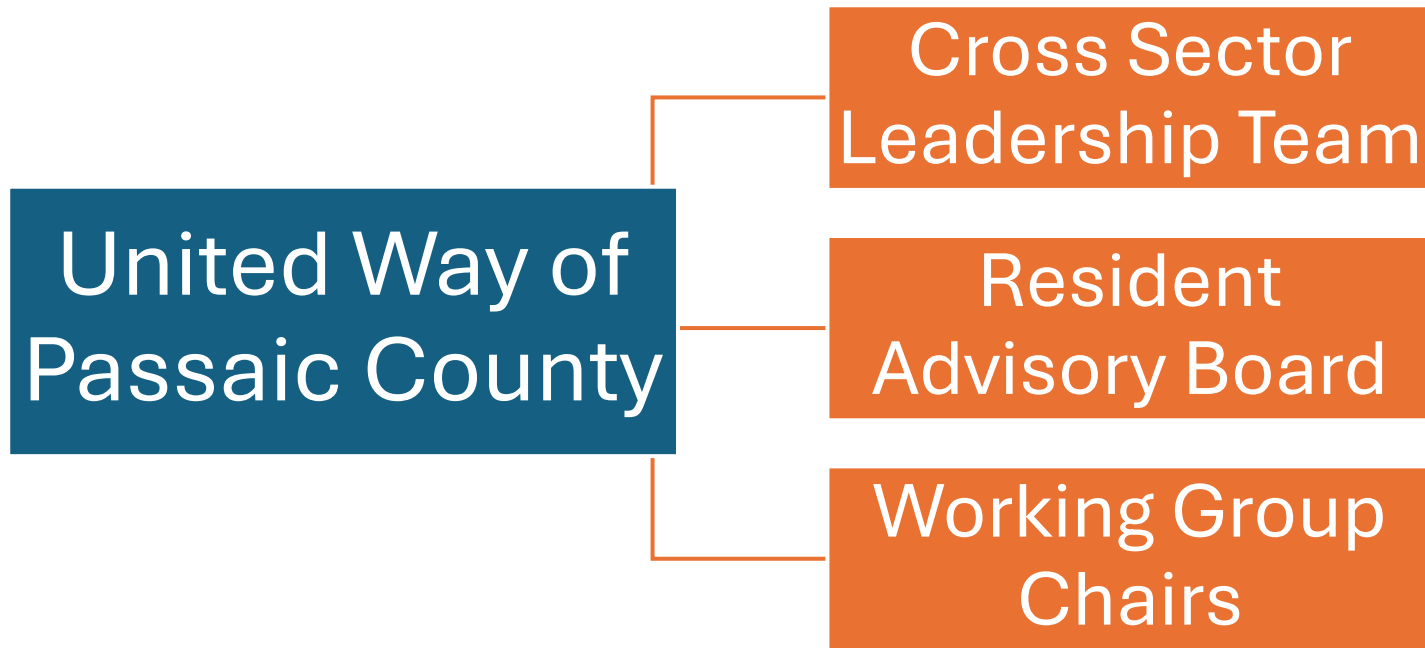


# Passaic County Food Policy Council

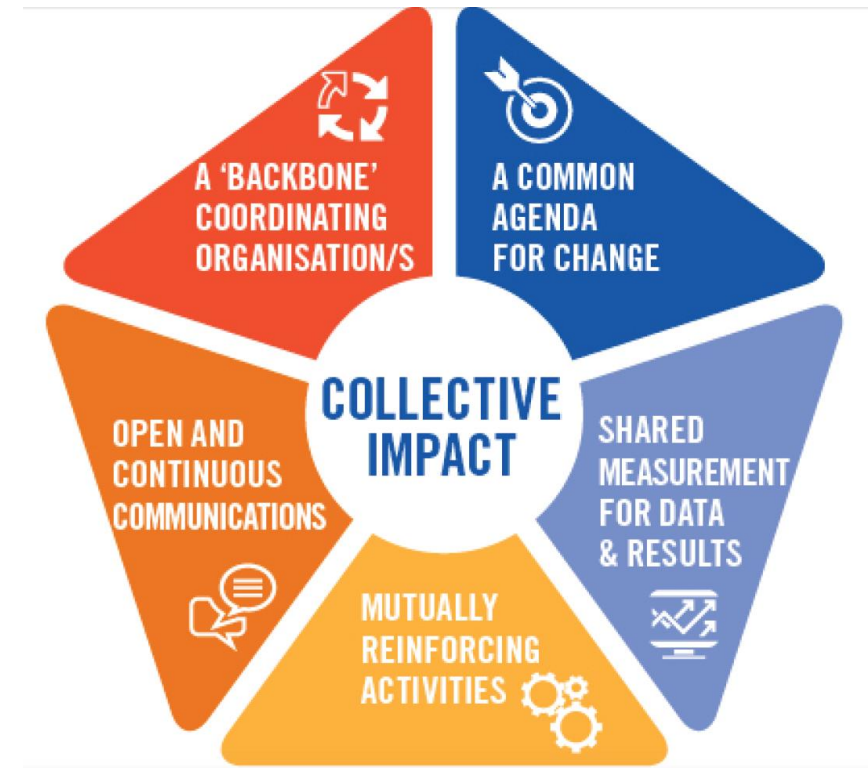
*The vision of the Passaic County Food Policy Council is to end hunger by addressing the root causes of food insecurity in Passaic County. The council brings together partners from across the food system, and advocates for policies that make healthy food more affordable, accessible and available to Passaic County residents.*



# Coalition Structure



Ongoing capacity building and trainings for membership.  
UWPC releases RFP's to membership as funds are available.



# Working groups

- Local Food Procurement
- SNAP/WIC/Summer EBT Outreach and Enrollment
- Healthy Food Retail
- Federal Nutrition Programs
- Community and School Gardens
- Cooking and Nutrition Knowledge
- Resource Sharing and Capacity Building

# LEARN MORE



Mary Celis: [maryc@unitedwaypassaic.org](mailto:maryc@unitedwaypassaic.org)

Jen Salt Taylor: [jennifer.taylor@rutgers.edu](mailto:jennifer.taylor@rutgers.edu)

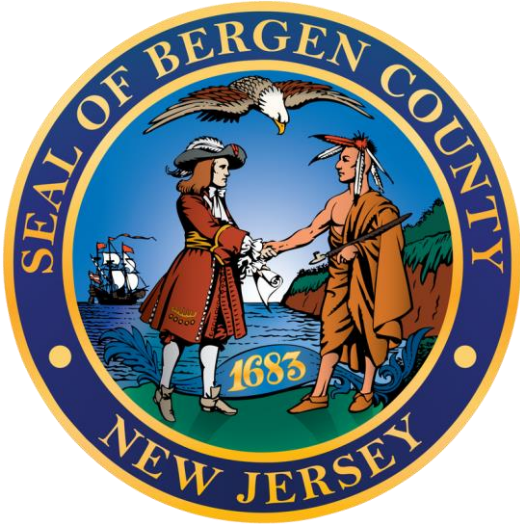




# The Bergen County Office of Food Security:

Addressing Food Insecurity Through County Government

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Bergen County  
**Food Security  
Task Force**

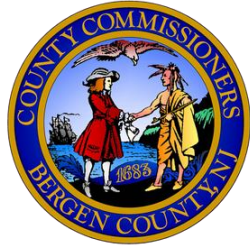






# Bergen County Food Security Task Force

2020 MEMBERS



RUSSELL BERRIE  
FOUNDATION



JFCS

JEWISH FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY



Bergen County  
Superintendent of Schools



PantryTeaneck@gmail.com | (201) 357-2545



# IN 2020, THE BERGEN COUNTY FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE WAS FORMED

SPEARHEADED BY BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER TRACY ZUR, THE TASK FORCE WAS FORMED AS A RESPONSE TO UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS OF FOOD INSECURITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THE ORIGINAL GOALS OF THE TASK FORCE INCLUDED:

Respond to immediate emergency

Create a network of food providers

Improve supply chain for healthy options

Improve public awareness of food insecurity

Improve outcomes for food insecure families





# MEETING THE NEED

EVOLUTION FROM EMERGENCY SUPPORT TO BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCY

Resources & Referrals

Networking & Sharing  
Best Practices

Modernizing Pantry Operations

Capacity Building



## Bergen County **Social Services Directory**

*County, state, and local nonprofit agencies  
providing food, financial aid, childcare,  
mental health, substance abuse, and many  
other resources for County residents*



Bergen County  
**Food Security  
Task Force**

# Becoming the Office of Food Security

In 2023, the Bergen County Food Security Task Force became the Bergen County Office of Food Security – a permanent office with the Bergen County Department of Human Services.

The Office of Food Security serves as a resource connector for food pantries and their clients, helping them access important information about key services in Bergen County.

OFS also works to achieve the original goals of the Food Security Task Force:

- Modernizing pantry operations through Bergen County Oasis Insights network & helping pantries make direct referrals for clients using software
- Building capacity through \$1.6M in grant awards from Bergen County Food Pantry Sustainability Grant Program
- Creating networking opportunities for pantries through the Bergen County Food Pantry Summit & Food Security Office Hours
- Raise public awareness about food insecurity through events like Canstruction, the Bergen County Soup-er Bowl, and Hunger Action Month





# Thank You

Bergen County Office of Food Security

[OfficeOfFoodSecurity@co.bergen.nj.us](mailto:OfficeOfFoodSecurity@co.bergen.nj.us)

201-336-7464







In Essex County, New Jersey, a county-wide coalition focusing on food insecurity as a key social determinant of health and working collaboratively across sectors and with communities to advance health equity and achieve collective impact.

*Est. 2024*

[www.fhecessex.org](http://www.fhecessex.org)



# Food & Health Equity Coalition

## Mission & Vision

***The mission*** of the Food & Health Equity Coalition of Essex County is to increase and improve food access, security, and sovereignty through collaboration, advocacy, education, and coordination of resources.

***We envision*** a future where communities across Essex County have the access and ability to acquire the food and nutrition they need and want through sustainable food systems which are informed and driven by the communities they serve.

# Coalition Goals

- Engage a diverse group of stakeholders, including the development of a Community Advisory Board, to identify the greatest barriers to food security impacting communities in Essex County, NJ.
- Compile and assess existing food access resources in Essex County and develop a plan to centralize, maintain, and share comprehensive, relevant, and accurate food access resources.
- Build working groups to address the greatest barriers to food security in Essex County. The working groups will include experts and professionals, as well as community members with lived experience.



# Why + How We Got Here

## Collective Impact:

The commitment of a group of cross-sector actors to a common agenda for solving a complex social problem \*



*\* John Kania and Mark Kramer, "Collective Impact," Stanford Social Innovation Review, Winter 2011*

# Why + How We Got Here

With lots of learnings from...



We're in this together!





# Why + How We Got Here

## **August 2023, Planning Committee:**

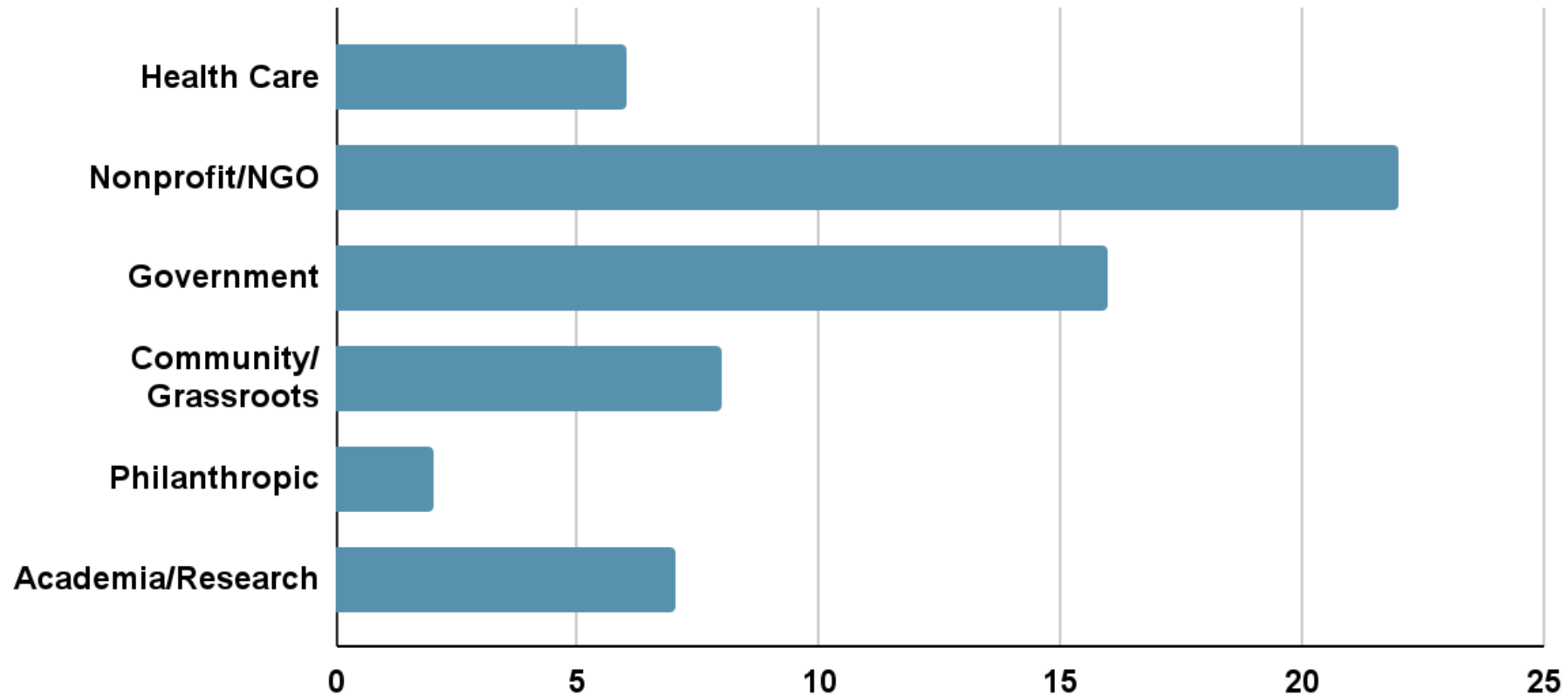
1. Believe in a Healthy Newark, United Way
2. Greater Newark Conservancy
3. MEND
4. Newark Community Health Centers
5. Newark Office of Sustainability
6. Partnership for Maternal & Child Health

## **January 2024, Planning Committee:**

1. Advocates for Children of NJ
2. Center for Family Services
3. Community Foodbank of NJ
4. Councilman Kelly's Office
5. Chrill Care
6. Essex County Office of Public Health Management
7. Essex County Human Services Advisory Council
8. Greater Newark Conservancy
9. Hunger Free NJ
10. Irvington Health Department
11. MEND Hunger Relief Network
12. Newark Community Health Centers (NCHC)
13. Newark Office of Sustainability
14. Newark Science & Sustainability, Inc
15. NJ Advocates for Aging Well
16. Rutgers Cooperative Extension
17. Rutgers University-Newark
18. RWJBarnabas
19. United Way of Greater Newark
20. Zufall Health

# Cross-Sector Collaboration

62 Member Organizations by Primary Sector



*as of May 2024*

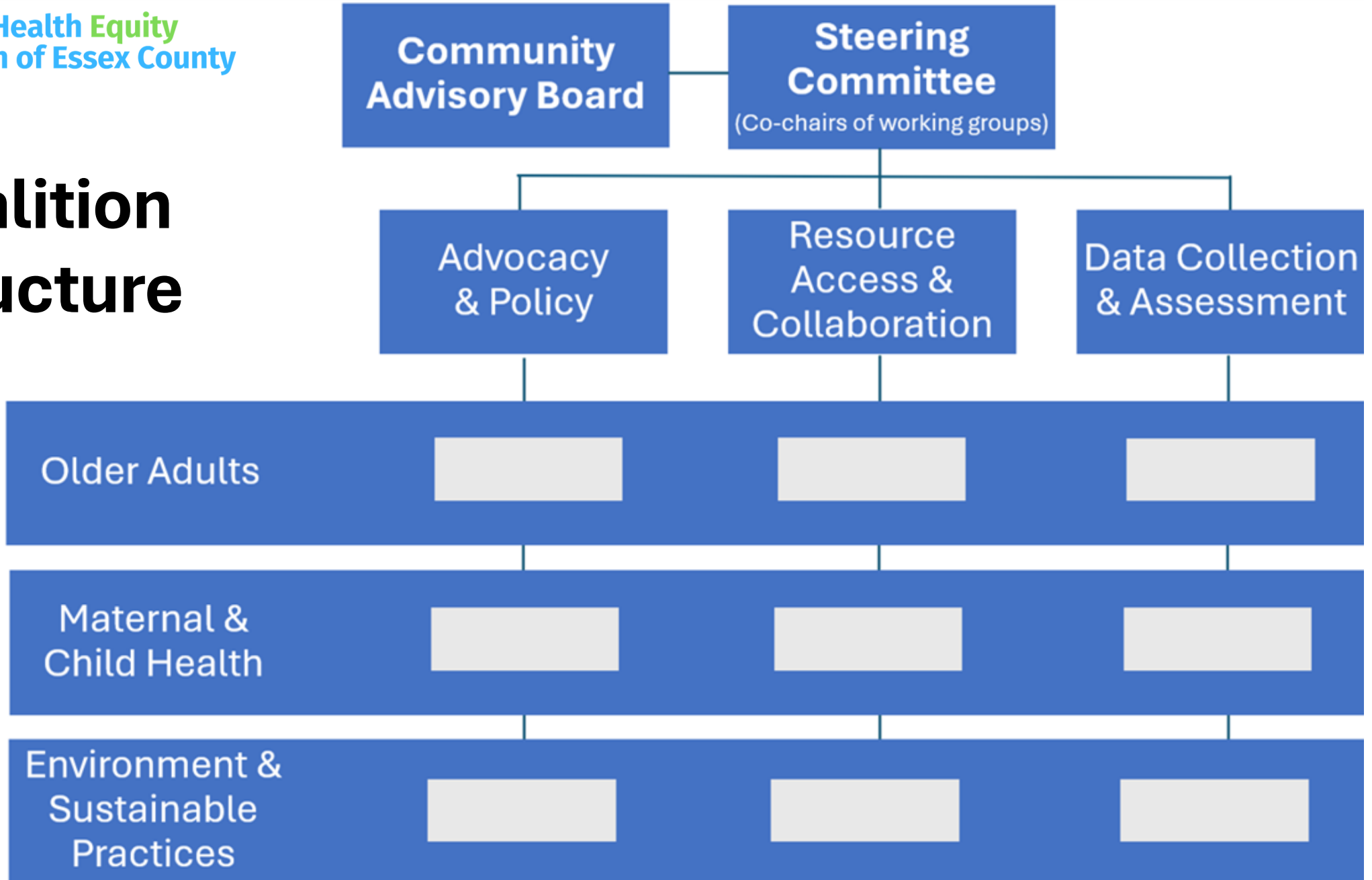
# Organizations



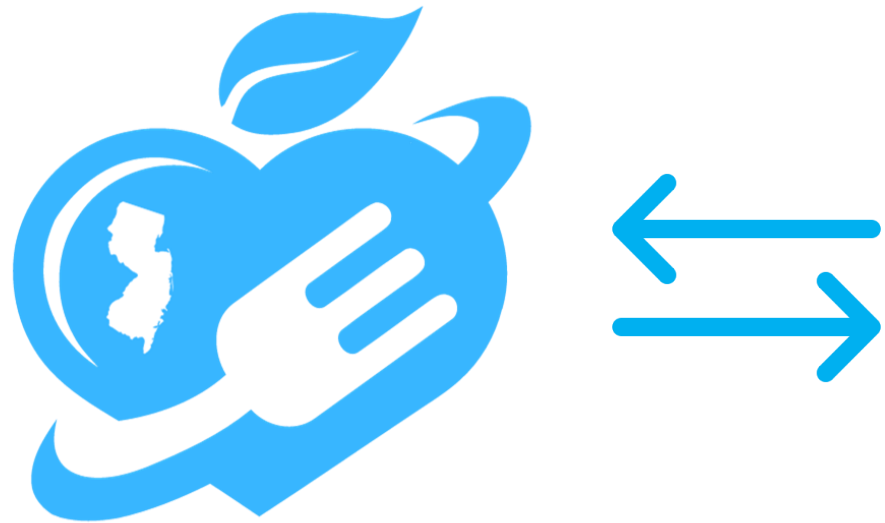


**Food & Health Equity**  
Coalition of Essex County

# Coalition Structure



# Connecting Efforts Across the County



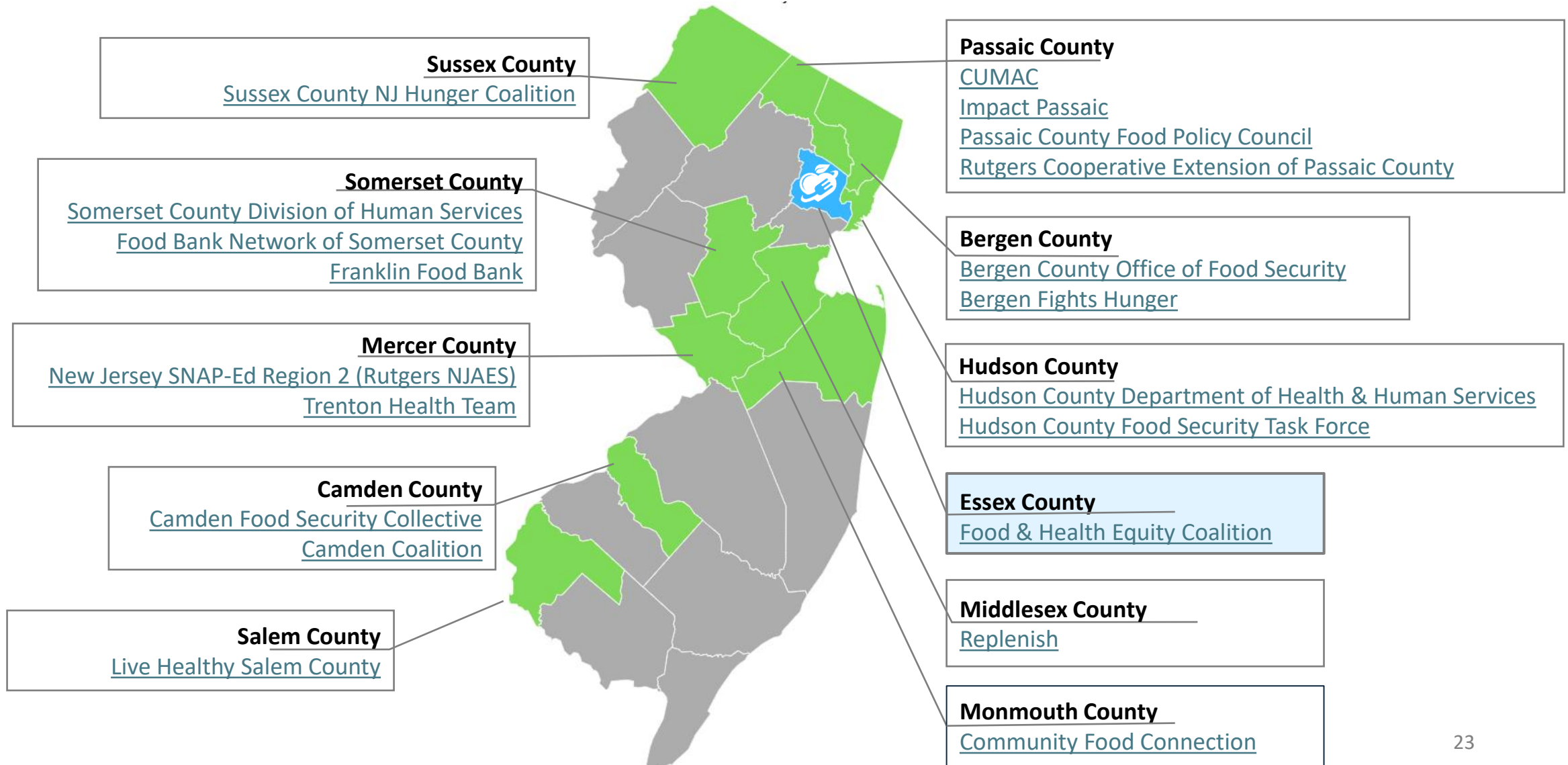
**Food & Health Equity**  
**Coalition of Essex County**

## Existing Coalitions and Networks:

- Hunger Free Campus Network
- Believe in a Healthy Newark, United Way
- Coalition for Healthy Food in Newark Schools
- Healthy Essex of Essex County
- Human Services Advisory Council, Essex County
- MEND Hunger Relief Network
- Nourishing Newark
- Coalition for Food and Health Equity



# Connecting Efforts Across the State





# 2024 Quarterly Meeting Highlights

## Q1: February 1, 2024

- NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate, Mark Dinglasan
- Speed Data-ing:
  - CFBNJ, NCHC, Rutgers FCHS, RWJBarnabas, EC Office of PH Management, Coalition for Healthy Food in Newark Schools
- Breakout Groups: SPOT Analysis

## Q2: May 9, 2024

- Panel: “Finding Food: Who’s doing what and how FHEC can help”
  - CFBNJ, NJ211, Lemontree, The Jersey Bee
- Hear From Peers:
  - DFAB, Hunger Free NJ, Coalition for Healthy Food in Newark Schools
- Quarterly Action Reports: Working Groups & Supporting Committees <sup>25</sup>



# Current Issues Being Discussed

- Ensuring food & nutrition resources are **easily accessible, accurate and maintained**, for providers and community members seeking services
- Challenges with **SNAP applications** and delays in processing applications/**long wait times**
- **Wait list for Meals on Wheels** applicants/More resources needed for food delivery for older adults
- Addressing disparities in **maternal & child health**, focus on whole person health
- **Redemption of FMNP vouchers** for seniors and WIC participants

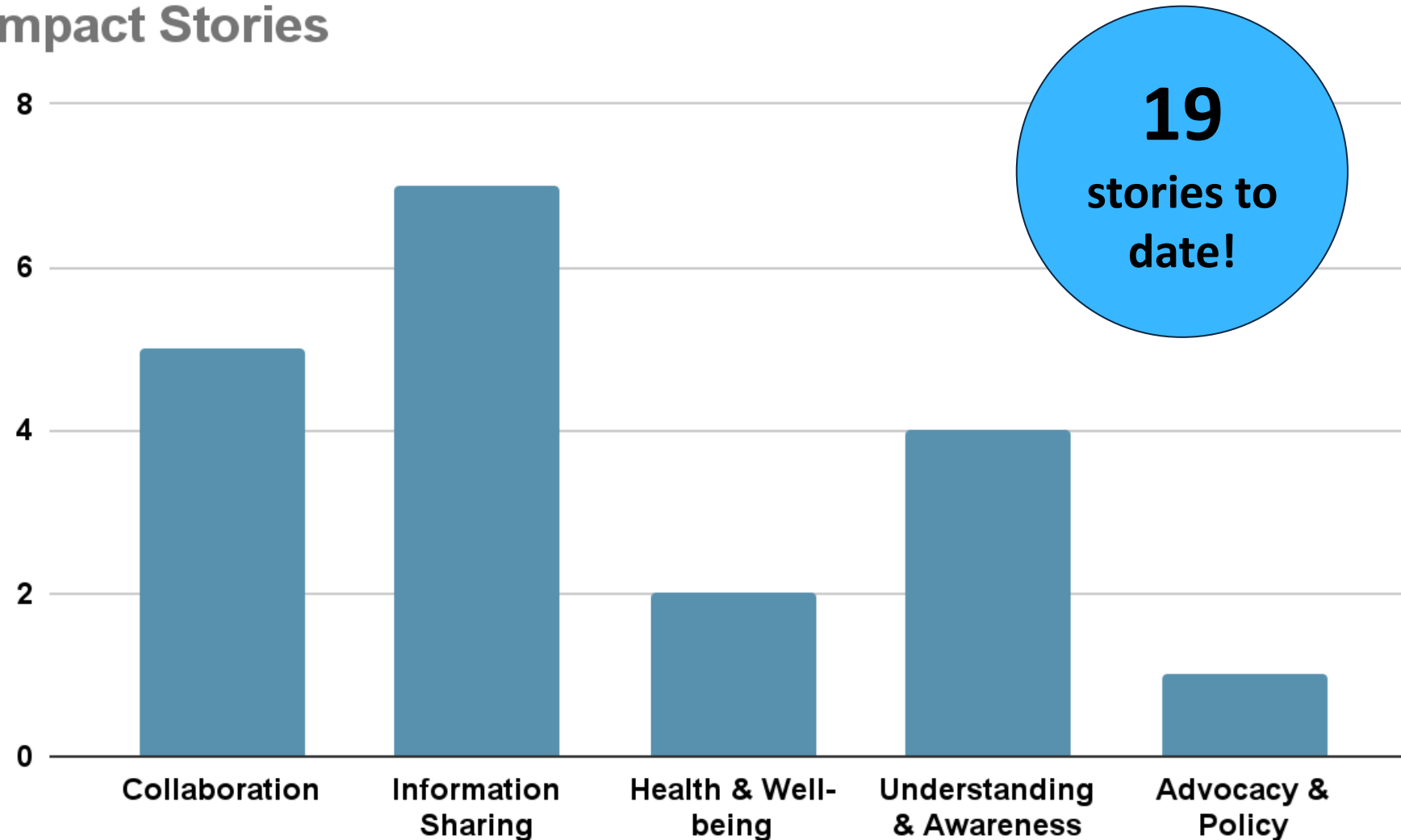
# Celebrating Our Successes

[Our website has launched!](https://fhcessex.org/)  
<https://fhcessex.org/>



# Collective Impact: It's happening!

## Impact Stories



Shared by  
FHEC  
members  
April - May  
2024



# Collaboration-O-Meter

“Since joining FHEC, I have been able to collaborate with others working to address food and health equity more often and more easily.”

*Q2 2024 Member Survey*

72 Responses

**Disagree**

1.4%

**Neutral**

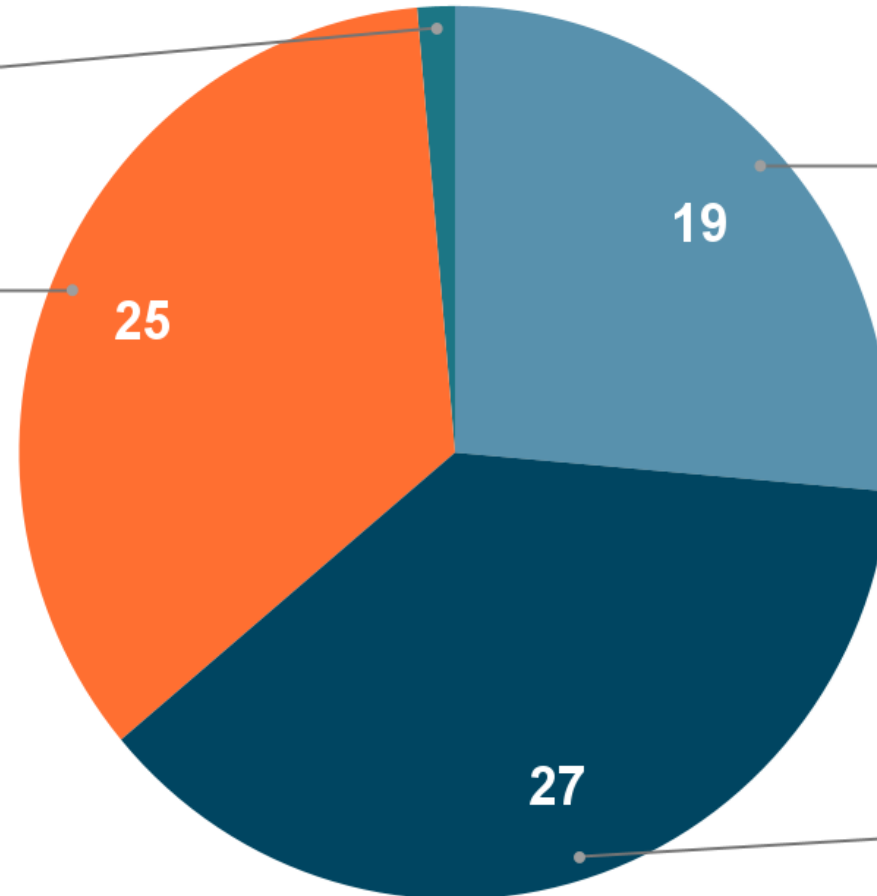
34.7%

**Strongly Agree**

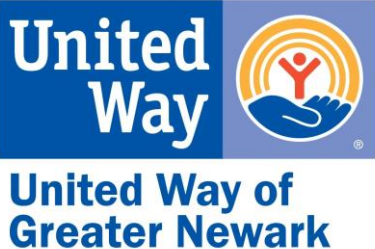
26.4%

**Agree**

37.5%



# Steering Committee



❖ Ask questions and learn more:  
Email [info@fhcessex.org](mailto:info@fhcessex.org)

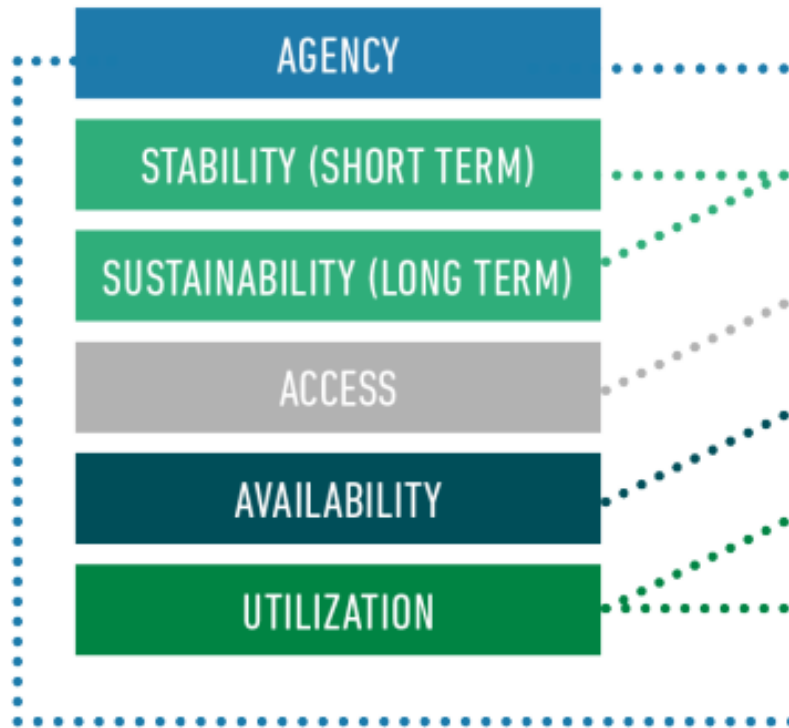
❖ Join the Coalition:  
[FHEC Membership Form](#)



"Leaders must be steadfast in their efforts to achieve results that advance equity—just and fair inclusion into a society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential."

- Michael McAfee  
[Bringing Soul to the Work of Collective Impact](#)





*“Food security (is) a situation that exists when*  
**ALL PEOPLE,**  
**AT ALL TIMES,** *have*  
**PHYSICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ACCESS** *to*  
**SUFFICIENT,**  
**SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS** *food that meets their*  
**DIETARY NEEDS** *and*  
**FOOD PREFERENCES**  
*for an active and healthy life.”*

# Additional links

[FHEC Website at fhecessex.org](http://fhecessex.org)

[Member List](#)

[Member Organizations with links](#)

[See Who's Doing What](#)

[Charter](#)

[FHEC Data Pack](#)