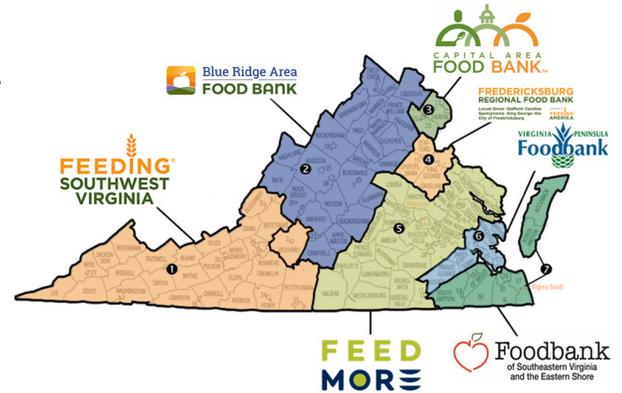


Achieving Health Equity through Boundless Collaboration



WHO WE ARE

The Federation of Virginia Food Banks and seven member food banks comprise the largest hunger-relief organization in the Commonwealth. Virginia's food banks have over 1,500 food pantries and partner agencies, which distribute food to 1 million neighbors facing hunger each year.

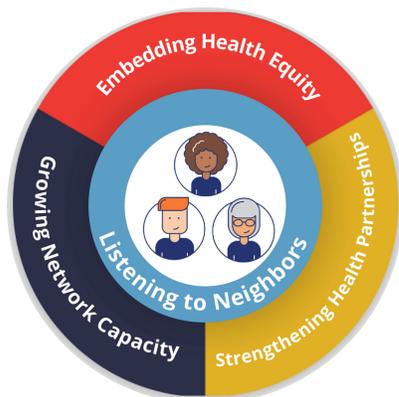


HUNGER AND HEALTH

Nutrition security is a critical contributor to health. Unfortunately, many people experience long-term health consequences because they were born into communities that lack access to affordable, nutritious food. Multisector approaches are needed to effectively address health equity. Virginia's food banks are investing in new, innovative ways of working together to make nutrition security and health attainable for all Virginians.

OUR CO-CREATED HEALTH EQUITY DEFINITION

Health equity involves policies, systems and environments that ensure opportunities for everyone to attain their highest level of health.



OUR HEALTH EQUITY PLAN

The Federation of Virginia Food Banks and all seven member food banks collaborated with pantries and partner agencies, neighbors, healthcare leaders, and community-based organizations to develop a statewide 3-year health equity plan. This unprecedented project serves as a shared commitment to ensuring that approaches to nutrition security in the Commonwealth are integrated, comprehensive, equitable, neighbor-centered, and contribute to improved health outcomes.

SHARED MISSION STATEMENT

to promote health equity by prioritizing access to nutritious and culturally responsive food, catalyzing cross-sector partnerships, and creating a culture and system that supports a more equitable and just society.

Want to partner or learn more? Email mbutler@vafoodbanks.org or visit vafoodbanks.org

THE FEDERATION OF VIRGINIA FOOD BANKS AND ITS' MEMBERS ARE ...

	COMMITTED TO...	BY...	IN ORDER TO...
Listening to Neighbors	listening to and learning from their neighbors to direct their collective efforts	expanding their partnership and engagement with people facing hunger	empower community driven-solutions and build on pre-existing community assets to improve health equity
		hardwiring neighbor feedback loops into health equity programs, processes and advocacy initiatives	
Embedding Health Equity	embedding health equity values, initiatives, and measurements into their strategic plans	building organizational capacity to implement equity-focused policies, procedures and practices	enhance the sustainability of the plan and assume a shared accountability for improving health equity
		setting measurable goals to address health equity in their service areas	
Strengthening Health Partnerships	being reliable, competent and trusted partners to support health equity	co-creating a statewide Healthy Pantry Model with neighbors, health partners, food banks and pantry partners	increase access and decrease stigma in accessing charitable food to improve health equity
		implementing a standard communication tool with healthcare to streamline referrals for food insecurity and benefits outreach	increase collaboration between health and social care to improve health equity
Growing Network Capacity	developing organizational and network capacity to ensure equitable access to healthy food across Virginia	assessing the health equity capacity of our agency network and developing a framework for measuring our health equity impact	better understand the gaps in nutritious food access to improve health equity
		modifying processes for resourcing our agency network and providing targeted grants to areas of highest need	increase equitability of our agency network to improve health equity
		sourcing and distributing more nutritious and culturally responsive foods	make the healthy choice the easier choice to improve health equity