

NJ Commitments for Food Security

Thank you for your interest in submitting a commitment for your Program operating in 2026 to advance the New Jersey Food Security Strategic Plan (the Strategic Plan). The New Jersey Office of the Food Security Advocate (OFSA) recognizes that organizations, agencies, coalitions, institutions, businesses, and community partners across New Jersey are doing important work to strengthen food security and advance community well-being. This form is intended to document and celebrate those efforts while helping build a stronger, more connected statewide movement.

The Commitments process is designed to help OFSA better understand how organizations are working in alignment with the Strategic Plan's focus areas and strategies, identify opportunities for collaboration and shared learning, and highlight promising practices happening across New Jersey communities.

A Commitment represents a specific program, initiative, partnership, investment, or coordinated effort that supports one or more focus areas or strategies within the Strategic Plan. Commitments may represent existing or new efforts. **For the 2026 Call for Commitments, programs must be active at some point during calendar year 2026 (January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026), even if the program began earlier or will continue beyond 2026.**

Organizations with multiple qualifying programs are encouraged to submit separate submissions for each program. The form should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. A back button is available throughout the survey if you need to review or revise your responses. You may also save your progress and return later to complete your submission. You may be contacted by OFSA following submission if clarification or minor revisions are needed during the review process.

By continuing with this form and submitting a Commitment, you acknowledge and agree that OFSA may publicly reference and promote your organization's work, including approved program descriptions and related information provided through this submission, as part of statewide communications, implementation tracking, recognition activities, reports, presentations, or related Strategic Plan implementation efforts.

For more information, and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) guide, visit the NJ Commitments for Food Security webpage. If you have questions or need support completing this form, please contact Dr. Jenny Schrum at jennifer.schrum@ag.nj.gov.

Does your organization currently operate, or plan to operate, a program that is active in New Jersey at any time during 2026 and supports one or more focus areas of the New Jersey Food Security Strategic Plan?

- Yes
- No

Commitment Overview

- Title of food security Program:

- Program start date (please estimate if not known):

- Program end date (please estimate if not know):

In about 150 words, please provide a brief description of your Program:

County(s) served:

- Statewide
- Atlantic County
- Bergen County
- Burlington County
- Camden County
- Cape May County
- Cumberland County
- Essex County
- Gloucester County
- Hudson County
- Hunterdon County
- Mercer County
- Middlesex County
- Monmouth County
- Morris County
- Ocean County
- Passaic County
- Salem County
- Somerset County
- Sussex County
- Union County
- Warren County

Which geographic communities does your Program primarily focus on?

- Rural communities
- Urban communities
- Suburban communities

- Program serves the entire community and is not focused on a specific geographic area
- Other _____

Does your Program have any specific racial or ethnic group of focus? (Select all that apply)

- American Indian or Alaska Native individuals
 - Asian individuals
 - Black or African American individuals
 - Hispanic or Latino/a/e individuals
 - Middle Eastern or North African individuals
 - Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander individuals
 - White individuals
 - Multiracial individuals
 - Another race or ethnicity (please specify)
-
- Not applicable

Does your Program have any specific age group of focus? (Select all that apply)

- Infants and early childhood (0–4)
- Children (5–11)
- Adolescents (6-17)
- Adults (18–64)
- Older adults (65+)
- Not applicable

Does your Program have any specific priority populations of focus? (Select all that apply)

- Households receiving SNAP, WIC, or Medicaid
 - Individuals living in poverty
 - Immigrant or refugee communities
 - Individuals with limited English proficiency and/or whose primary language is not English
 - Individuals with low literacy
 - Individuals with disabilities (e.g., hearing, visual, physical, or cognitive disabilities)
 - Individuals with mental health conditions
 - Individuals experiencing homelessness
 - Individuals with substance use disorder
 - Single parent households
 - Military (active or retired)
 - Early childhood
 - Elementary or middle school students
 - High school students
 - College students
 - Other population of focus (please specify)
-
- Program does not target any specific priority population

Organization and Primary Contact Information

- Program lead organization name: _____
- Primary contact name: _____
- Title/role: _____
- Email address: _____

Sector of lead organization (select all that apply):

- Academic and research institutions
- Agriculture, farming, and food production organizations
- Childcare and early care and education providers
- Charitable food and emergency food providers
- Coalitions and networks (local, county, regional, or statewide)
- Community advocacy and policy organizations
- Cooperative extension
- County, tribal, municipal, or regional government agencies
- Economic and workforce development organizations
- Environmental, sustainability, and climate-focused organizations
- Faith-based and religious organizations
- Food retail organizations
- Food distribution, logistics, and supply chain organizations
- Healthcare, public health, and health system organizations
- Housing, homelessness, and social service organizations
- Industry, business, and private-sector partners
- Labor and workforce organizations
- Parks and recreation organizations
- Philanthropic organizations and funders
- Schools and school districts (Pre-K through grade 12)
- State government agencies
- Transportation and infrastructure organizations
- Technology, data, and communications organizations
- Other _____

Please list the names of any partners working on this Program (answer N/A if not applicable):

Based on your list of partners above, please enter the number of new or existing partnerships. (If none apply please leave the row blank):

	New partnershi p	Existing partnershi p
Academic and research institutions		
Agriculture, farming, and food production organizations		
Early childcare and education providers		
Charitable food and emergency food providers		
Coalitions and networks (local, county, regional, or statewide)		
Community advocacy and policy organizations		
Cooperative extension		
County, tribal, municipal, or regional government agencies		
Economic and workforce development organizations		
Environmental, sustainability, and climate-focused organizations		
Faith-based and religious organizations		
Food retail organizations		
Food distribution, logistics, and supply chain organizations		
Healthcare, public health, and health system organizations		
Housing, homelessness, and social service organizations		
Industry, business, and private-sector partners		
Labor and workforce organizations		
Parks and recreation organizations		
Philanthropic organizations and funders		
Schools and school districts (Pre-K through grade 12)		
State government agencies		
Transportation and infrastructure organizations		
Technology, data, and communications organizations		

Which Strategic Plan focus area does your program most closely align with (Select one primary focus area):

- Focus Area 1: Enhance Information Exchange and Access to Improve Public Awareness, Optimize Programs, and Support Data-Driven Decision-Making
- Focus Area 2: Expand Community-Based Food Infrastructure and Market Channel Creation for Enhanced Ongoing Food Access, Utilization, and Availability
- Focus Area 3: Build and Support Local Partnerships to Advance Community-Driven Food Security Approaches
- Focus Area 4: Collaborate Across Sectors and Across State Agencies to Streamline and Strengthen Federal and State Food Security–Related Program Access and Delivery
- Focus Area 5: Strengthen Food Systems Resiliency to Enhance Long-term Stability that Withstands Disruptions and Ensures Future Sustainability

*****Form will skip to only your selected Focus Area chosen above*****

Within Focus Area 1 which strategy(s) does your program align with?

- 1. Data Coordination: Coordinate state agencies across sectors to make existing food security–related data available across programs, voluntarily and where possible.
- 2. Impact Analysis and Research: Conduct analyses on the health and economic impacts of food insecurity and research the effectiveness and cost-benefit of food security initiatives and policies.
- 3. Data Visualization and Dissemination: Invest in coordinated, intuitive, asset-based data dashboards and visualization tools that can be customized to support community initiatives.

Within Focus Area 2 which strategy(s) does your Program most align with?

- 1. Food Access and Availability Infrastructure: Increase investment in transportation, technology, and infrastructure improvements to increase availability and access to food across the food supply chain and access to food/nutrition programs.
- 2. Agriculture Workforce and Land Access: Promote community-centered approaches that support the agricultural workforce and increase access to land for food production.
- 3. Market Channel Creation: Leverage federal, state, institutional, and charitable food purchasing dollars to support farmers and regional supply chains, expand local procurement opportunities, and build long-term demand for a variety of New Jersey-grown foods.
- 4. Food Enterprise Investment: Invest in community-rooted food enterprises and infrastructure to strengthen appropriate and preferred food utilization and economic opportunity.

Within Focus Area 3 which strategy(s) does your Program most align with?

- Tailored Education, Outreach, and Awareness Efforts: Launch new, and support existing, community-informed education, outreach, and awareness efforts to increase participation in local food security programs and build trust and partnerships with populations with lived and living experiences of food insecurity.
- County-level Coordination: Support action-oriented local food coalitions through county-level coordination that brings together partners across sectors to align food security efforts, develop and implement localized strategies, and share funding opportunities.
- Bi-directional Community Engagement: Establish consistent bi-directional community engagement strategies that feed into strengthening coordination between local and state food coalitions to inform decision-making and support implementation of long-term innovative and scalable food security strategies.
- Screening and Referrals: Provide cross-sector data integration, resources, technical assistance, and training to organizations on screening for program eligibility/need and providing closed-loop referrals to services.
- Multi-benefit Hubs: Establish multi-benefit hubs of various sizes, scales, and modalities to streamline enrollment and access to appropriate food and other social services.

Within Focus Area 4 which strategy(s) does your Program most align with?

- 1. Public Benefit User Experience: Implement locally tailored improvements in accessibility, user experience, and dignity in benefit enrollment and recertification processes through simplified applications, technology advancements, digital access, and client-centered service design.
- 2. Program Opportunities to Enhance Participation: Protect and leverage federal and state funding and policy options to expand outreach efforts, modernize and streamline enrollment processes, and maximize benefits.
- 3. Federal Nutrition Program Outreach and Referrals: Implement comprehensive outreach and referral initiatives to connect individuals with state- and county-administered federal nutrition programs.
- 4. State-level Interagency Work Group(s): Create state-level interagency work group(s) focused on protecting, aligning, coordinating, and streamlining federal, state, county, and local food security programs, and their administrative processes, definitions, regulations, and policies, where able.
- 5. Cross-sector Coordination, Training, and Resources: Provide coordination, cross-program training, interconnected digital platforms, and other resources to support staff across workforce development, Medicaid, housing, transportation, public health programs, and food assistance programs to provide client-centered, comprehensive services.

Within Focus Area 5 which strategy(s) does your Program most align with?

- 1. Supply Chain Sustainability Infrastructure: Invest in tangible and intangible infrastructure improvements across the food supply chain to reduce waste, improve distribution efficiency in times of disruption, and enhance food security stability and sustainability.
- 2. Sustainable Food Procurement and Waste Diversion: Educate and incentivize institutional, large-scale food generators (e.g., hospitals, universities, corporations, and businesses with food retail) to implement sustainable food procurement practices and support food waste diversion programs, prioritizing food donation.
- 3. Sustainable Farming Practices: Promote incremental sustainable farming practices that improve soil health, conserve natural resources, and strengthen long-term food production resilience.
- 4. Food Distribution Network Disaster Preparedness: Enhance disaster preparedness across the food system, including strengthening charitable food distribution networks and providing education and technical assistance on risk mitigation for farmers.
- 5. Food Security Positioning in Climate Work: Integrate food security within climate action.

What is the need or issue your Program intends to address?

What are the primary tactic(s) your organization and/or partners plan to conduct for this Program? (select up to 2 of your most primary tactics) For a comprehensive list of tactics, see the Library of Tactics for Addressing Food Insecurity in New Jersey.

- Community gardens, urban agriculture, or community-supported agriculture (CSA)
- Emergency preparedness and food resilience planning
- Farmer support, sustainable agriculture, or local food procurement initiatives
- Farmers' markets, farm stands, or mobile markets
- Food and nutrition education
- Food distribution, pantry services, or emergency food assistance
- Food hubs, aggregation, distribution, or supply chain infrastructure
- Food recovery or gleaning
- Food system coordination, coalitions, councils, or task forces
- Healthcare and food system partnerships
- Healthy food delivery programs
- Healthy food retail initiatives (e.g., grocery store development, corner store initiatives)
- Nutrition assistance outreach and enrollment support (e.g., SNAP, WIC, CACFP, school meals)
- Nutrition incentives or healthy food purchasing incentives
- Policy advocacy or legislative/regulatory systems change efforts
- Produce prescription, medically tailored meals, or other food-is-medicine programs
- Public awareness, communications, or social marketing campaigns
- Public benefits navigation or food assistance access services
- Research, data collection, evaluation, or learning collaboratives
- Shared use kitchens, community kitchens, or food equipment access
- Small food business support or food entrepreneurship
- Workforce development, youth development, or economic mobility initiatives
- Other _____

Please share your Program objectives (1 to 3 objectives total). Strong objectives describe one clear activity and one measurable change (outcome) within a defined timeline (see page 20 in the Strategic Plan Implementation Planning Toolkit).

What resources support or will support your Program? (Please check one option for each row or leave blank if not applicable)

	Secured	Not secured
Community fundraising		
Community resident engagement		
Consultants or contracted support		
Corporate sponsorships or donations		
County or municipal funding		
Cross-organization staff support		
Cultural knowledge and expertise		
Data, research, or evaluation		
Dedicated program staff		
Existing government policies		
Existing organizational policies		
Facilities, infrastructure, or equipment		
Federal funding		
Fee-for-service revenue		
Foundation or philanthropic funding		
In-kind financial support		
Local champions or advocates		
State funding		
Technical assistance and training provided		
Volunteers, interns, or fellows		
Other		

What is the estimated number of full time staff equivalents (FTEs) used to implement your Program? (Please enter '0' if not applicable)

- Paid staff _____
- Volunteers _____
- Interns/students _____
- Other _____

Approximately how much total funding is utilized (or is planned to be utilized) to implement the Program? (Please note, this information will never be publicly attributed to your Program, the amount will only be used in aggregate summaries across Commitments).

- Monetary dollars: _____
- In-kind dollars: _____

What additional information would you like to share with OFSA about the Program you are submitting a Commitment for?

What questions do you have about the NJ Commitments for Food Security?

Please check yes and click the arrow to submit your Program Commitment entry and receive a summary of your responses.

- Yes, submit form

