

2nd Annual Garden State Conference on Food Security *Setting a Table For All, for Always*



September 29, 2025

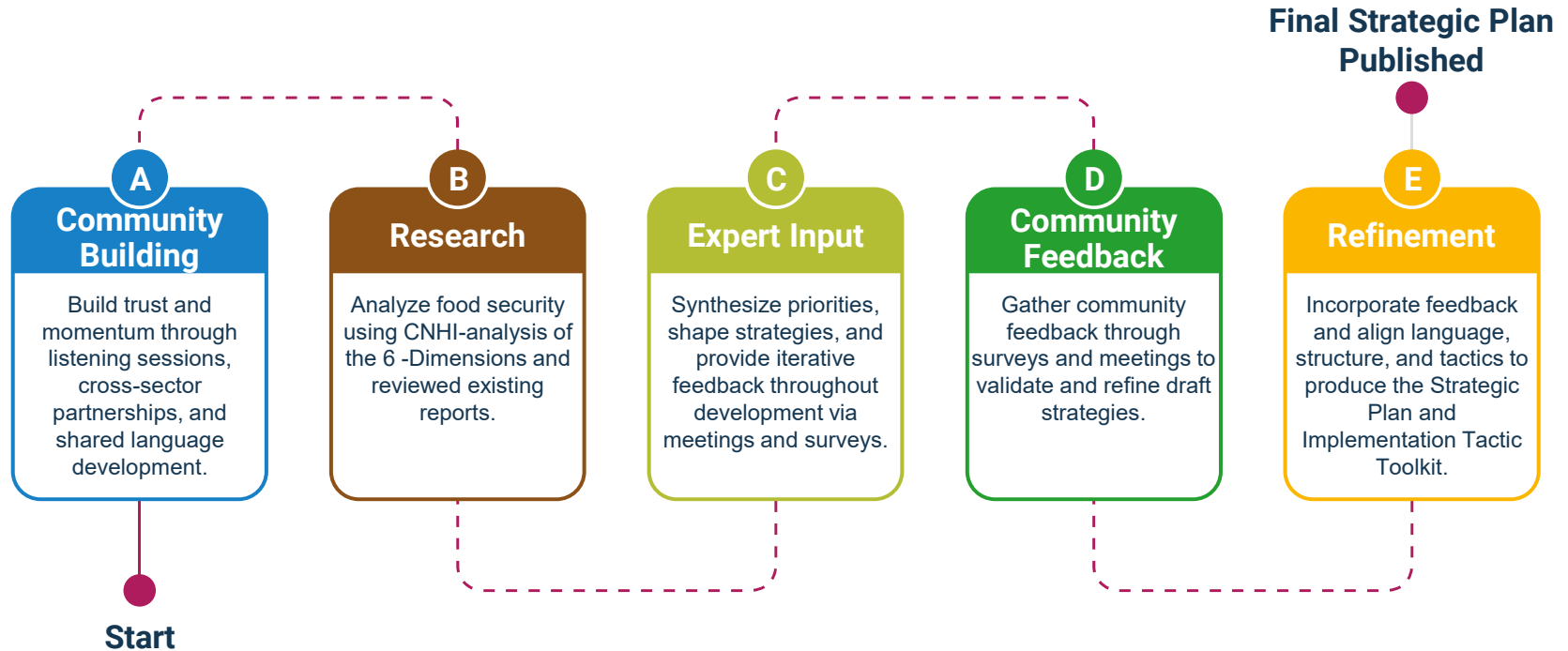
Overview of the NJ Food Security Strategic Plan

An overview of the NJ Food Security Strategic Plan development process, focus areas, and next steps

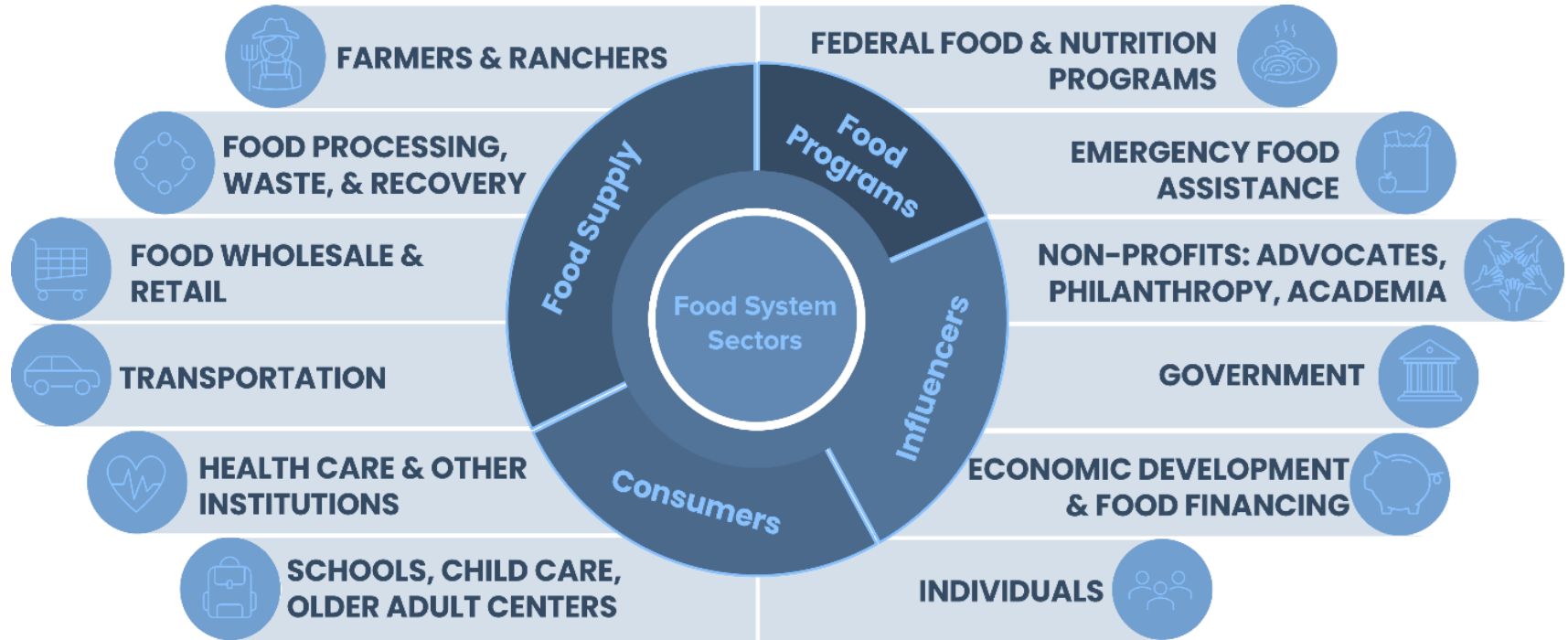


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Strategic Plan Process



Strategic Plan Intended Audience: All Sectors Impacting Food Security



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Strategic Plan Focus Areas

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

View the Strategic Plan Overview Here



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Community Feedback

We received robust feedback across:

Geography



All NJ counties represented in the survey, Executive Committee, and community roundtables

Sectors



- Agriculture/Food Businesses
- Charitable Food
- Education/Schools
- Government (state and local)
- Healthcare/Health Organizations
- Social Services
- Universities/ Academic

Organization Type



- Businesses
- Community members
- Local agencies
- Nonprofits/Community organizations
- State agencies

Community Feedback: What We Heard

Strategic Plan Feedback Summary



The Strategic Plan should acknowledge the federal landscape and advocacy will be an important implementation tactic because of this

"I did not see an emphasis on the impact of federal public policy on food security which is a reality of the current environment and will impact NJ over the next three years."



Some specific topics to build out were mentioned, but generally, the Strategic Plan is comprehensive and complete

"I think the five focus areas are spot on."



The Strategic Plan is broadly applicable across organization type and size

"The Strategic Plan highlights opportunities for individuals and organizations working on food insecurity from across the spectrum from grassroots efforts to large organizations, this is a huge strength!"

Community Feedback: What We Heard

Implementation Feedback Summary



Funding and support for implementation of tactics that work toward achieving Strategic Plan strategies is critical

"To achieve many of these goals, significant multi-year funding will be needed... Joint/pooled funding opportunities need to be created that foster participation from nonprofits, farmers, food businesses, etc. of ALL sizes."



Communicating how strategies translate to action and metrics is desired

"Be clear as to what each strategy means and involves."



Collaboration, including with the private sector and philanthropy, in the implementation of strategies is key

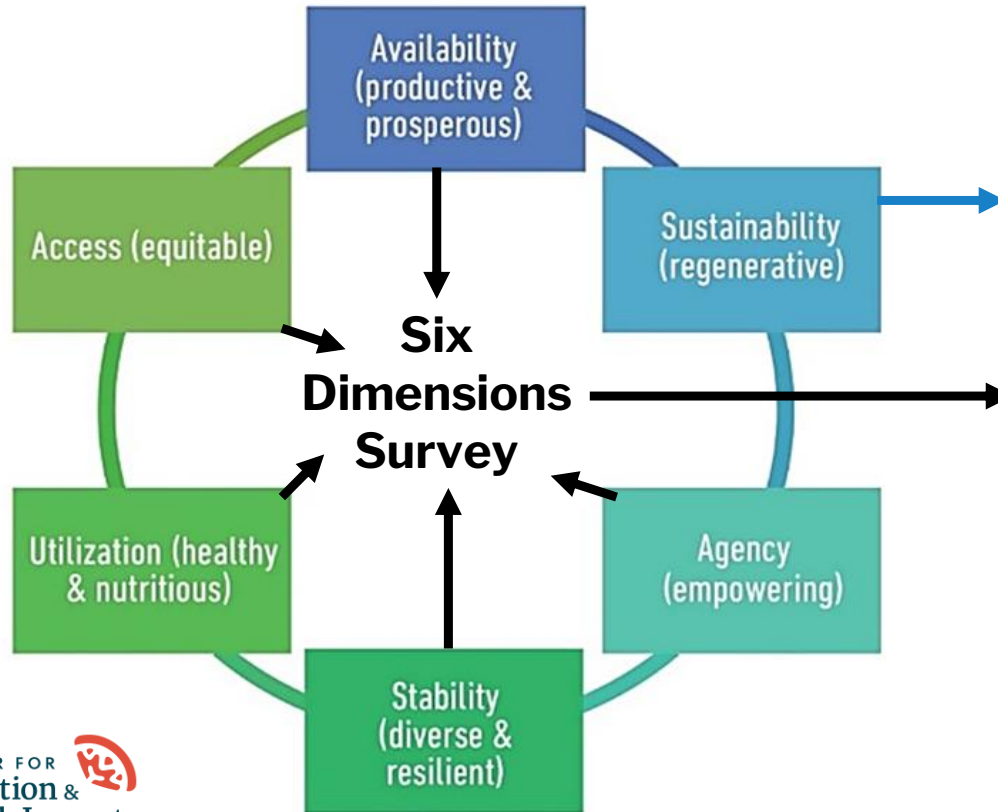
"Our collaboration is the only way to overcome the daily/weekly changes we are facing as charitable food systems in 2025 and beyond."



Continue to engage community in shaping the Strategic Plan and consider structural barriers in the implementation of tactics

"...consider issues such as structural racism, implicit bias, and the absence of genuine community control vs. culturally inappropriate entities being funded to do the work."

Survey Development



Food System Expert Survey (n=61)

- Survey to NGOs, gov. agencies, and commercial sector experts, asking about perceptions of sustainability priorities in New Jersey

Resident Survey (n=2,028)

- USDA Household Food Security Survey Module
- CNHI Perceived Limited Availability Scale
- CNHI Utilization Barriers Scale
- CNHI Food Security Stability Scale
- CNHI Household Agency Scale
- Resident perceptions of sustainability priorities

Resident Survey

Step 1: State-wide sample (n=974)

Qualtrics panel of NJ community members



Step 2: Community deep-dive (n=1,054)

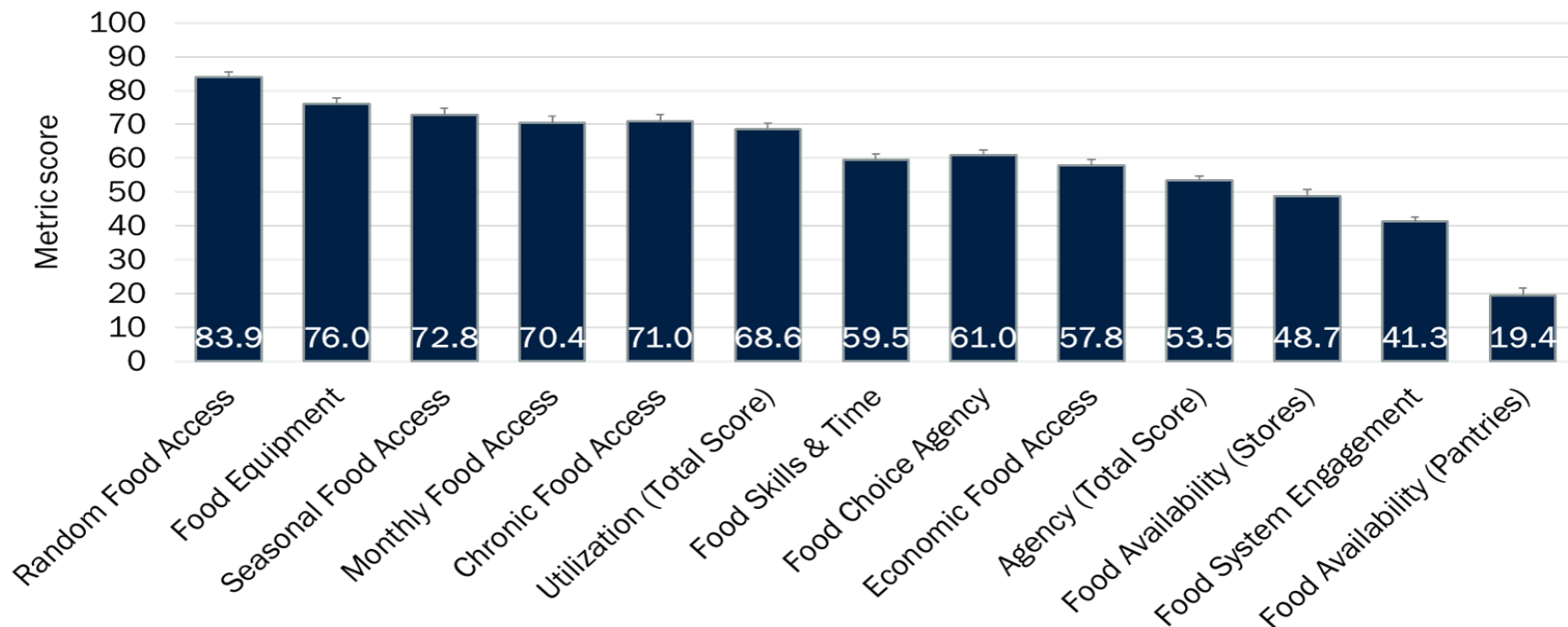
Improve representation of most affected areas



1. Prioritize Issues
2. Identify area- and group-specific challenges
3. Establish a baseline to measure progress

Resident Survey (n=2028)

Scores across 13 metrics that assess dimensions of food security in New Jersey (n=2,028)

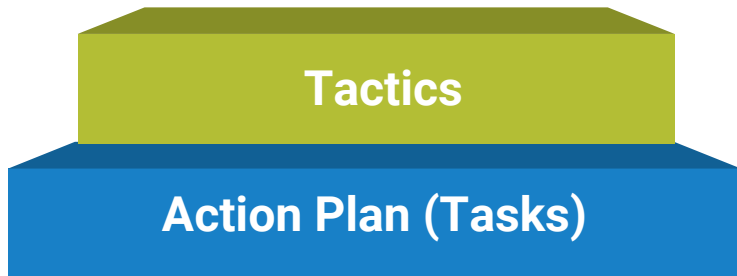




New Jersey Food Security Strategic Plan

A set of strategies to align resources and move all efforts in a focused direction for the next three years.

- The what and why
- Collectively defined with OFSA support and dissemination
- Strategies (not necessarily all) applicable across geographies, sectors, and organizations
- Non-prescriptive in the ways strategies can be actualized and tailored to each community's needs



Implementation Action Plans (Up Next)

Implementation roadmaps of tailored tactic(s) to operationalize the selected Strategic Plan strategies

- The how and who
- Defined by individual organizations or sectors
- The strategies and tactics chosen to pursue are tailored to each entity, collaborative, or community's needs and assets
- Implementation tactic toolkit and OFSA example action plan forthcoming

Thank you!

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