

Ideas for Student Hunger Report/3-year plan

Possible Broad Goals - Eliminate Hunger for Students in Maine

- Improve participation rates in all state and federal nutrition programs
- Utilize successful nutrition programs and best practices throughout the state
- Improve access to food across the state for students

Possible Broad Actions

- Expand and establish Public Private Partnerships throughout the state to adopt best practices to improve access to food for students
- Build state infrastructure and increase communication and cooperation among state agencies and school nutrition programs
- Develop and implement education programs to increase public awareness of programs and de-stigmatize programs
- Maximize the efficiency of federal dollars coming into the state for school nutrition programs
- Develop metrics and measures of success and track the increase in access to nutrition programs for students

Possible Ideas for Year 1 Goals

- Formalize the Task Force in statute as the "Commission to End Student Hunger" with members appointed for two years with the possibility to be reappointed. Meet four times a year in different locations throughout the state to hear updates on the status of student hunger, raise awareness of the issue, set deadline and guidelines, and track date. The Commission shall have the power to alter the plan and issue a report every year.
- Create and fund a full time state liaison between the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education to monitor student hunger programs and facilitate cooperation and communication between the two departments, and outside entities such as the USDA.
- Test messaging and target audiences to design public awareness campaign.
- Identify any waivers, statutory changes, program changes, or programs which are being underutilized and secure cooperation from the executive branch to make needed changes.
- Utilize the hunger coordinators provided by the public private partnerships.
- Emergency legislation to establish a CEP working group to set parameters and best practices around the program.
- School Breakfast Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the 50% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2 and 3)
- School Lunch Programs - Choose X school districts with participation rates near the% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2 and 3)

- After School Meals - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the 50% threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2 and 3)
- Summer Meals - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2 and 3)
- CEP - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2 and 3)
- Provision 2 Program - Choose X school districts/regions/sites with participation rates near the XX threshold and focus on getting them enrolled using the best practices of XXX. (Repeat for years 2 and 3)

Possible Ideas for Year 2 Goals

- Roll out public awareness campaign to target audiences with mailings and PSA's. Also focus on social media to help de-stigmatize student hunger programs.
- Have "Symposium on Maine Student Hunger" and invite all food service directors, school board members, hunger advocates, state officials etc to a large scale conference (Public awareness campaign could be rolled out here) to present the first report of the Commission and to highlight the gains of the first year.
- Create state grant program for hunger in the Department of Education to award small grants to school districts that need extra funding to move their participation rates.
- Identify and utilize existing best practices to get more local food to school nutrition programs.
- Identify and utilize available USDA demonstration and pilot projects.
- Monitor the status of federal programs and make recommendations for best practices.
- Undertake the same nutrition program initiatives as in year one, updated for Year 2.

Possible Ideas for Year 3 Goals

- Fund the transition or creation of hunger coordinators in the Department of Education or the Department of Human Services.
- Undertake the same nutrition program initiatives as in year one, updated for Year 3.