



2026-2028 Community Health Improvement Plan Monitoring and Evaluation

Food Access/Food Insecurity WG Progress Report

Completion date: Draft updated July 2026; final submission due July 21, 2026

Workgroup representative: Kiana Radney, Community Co-Chair; Kimberly Molnar, NHWLC Co-Chair

Strategic Issue	Food Access/Food Insecurity
Goal	By December 2028, coordinate collaborative opportunities to address accessibility, affordability, availability, and adequacy of healthy foods in the current food system to improve nutrition security in Nashville/Davidson County.
Objective	Objective 3.4: Identify existing, local best and promising practices in food access and nutrition education to inform local policy development. [Policy-level]

Progress of CHIP Activities

Description of Activities	Accomplishments AND Impact	Status
Workgroup leadership and Objective 3.4 reporting structure	- Kiana Radney was elected as the community co-chair, and Kimberly Molnar was elected as the NHWLC member co-chair for the Food Access/Food Insecurity Workgroup. - The co-chair role supports monthly agenda setting, progress tracking, written CHIP reports, and oral presentations to NHWLC. - This strengthens accountability for the CHIP Food Access/Food Insecurity Workplan	Completed
Objective 3.4 best/promising practice tracking and outreach infrastructure	- The workgroup is focusing this progress report on Objective 3.4 only: identifying local, best and promising practices in food access and nutrition education to inform future policy development. - A SharePoint-based tracking structure is being used to organize the organization list, question bank/prompts, and potential best practices.	In Progress

	An outreach survey will help document what is currently happening locally, including practice strengths, implementation barriers, sustainability needs, and policy implications.	
Description of Activities	Accomplishments AND Impact	Status
Hydroponics/aeroponics selected as first promising practice area for exploration	- Hydroponics/aeroponics remains the first best/promising practice being explored because of existing subgroup momentum, available engagement funding, local examples, and alignment with food access, education, sustainability, and workforce/economic development questions. - Subgroup discussions have emphasized that hydroponics is a tool, not the goal, and should be explored through feasibility, equity, sustainability, staffing, technical capacity, and community relevance. - The work has moved from general case study review toward a community-facing learning and listening process.	In Progress
Growing Possibilities: From Learning to Action - Hydroponics Community Forum planning	- Forum planning has been updated and strengthened through a detailed agenda, interactive station run of show, and breakout session guide. - Current planning details: September 17, 2026; 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; setup/planning window 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Riverside Nashville Church, 800 Youngs Ln. 37207; estimated audience: approximately 50 participants. - The updated format includes welcome/purpose/framing, a timed Hydroponics 101 presentation, brief Q&A, interactive station rotations, lunch/networking, ToP-aligned breakout sessions, report-out, synthesis, next steps, closing, and evaluation. - The forum is designed to move participants from learning to practical reflection, feasibility, partnership identification, and recommended next steps. Outputs will directly support Objective 3.4 by documenting community and partner perspectives on whether and how hydroponics may function as a local promising practice.	In Progress
Interactive station and breakout/listening session design	- Confirmed station hosts include Mona Hitch/TN Urban Farm, Patricia Tarquino/Grow2Learn Cooperative, Kip Bennett/Vanderbilt Dining and Michael Crenshaw/Greener Roots. Brooklyn Heights Community Garden is pending - Station rotations will allow participants to hear practical, real-world examples related to getting started, routine operations, staffing/maintenance, community education, hybrid growing, institutional sustainability education, and indoor farm innovation. - Breakout sessions are designed as listening sessions rather than presentations. Participants will self-select into four categories: New Explorers and Community-Based Organizations; Existing Growers, Community Gardens, and Food Producers; Education, Youth, and Workforce Development Partners; and Institutions, Health Partners, and Food Access Programs.	In Progress

	Each breakout group will identify two opportunities, two barriers, one support need, and one recommended next step. This creates structured qualitative data for the workgroup to summarize and connect to future policy development.	
Description of Activities	Accomplishments AND Impact	Status
Equity-centered engagement and policy learning	- The updated forum design incorporates community voice, role-based breakout options, practical feasibility questions, and prompts about support needs, funding, technical assistance, peer mentors, site visits, sample budgets, training, curriculum, and follow-up planning. - The approach helps reduce the risk of treating hydroponics as a predetermined solution. Instead, participants will identify what feels realistic, what feels unrealistic, who else needs to be at the table, and what supports would be needed before any future recommendations are developed. - Findings from the forum are connected with the Objective 3.4 policy scan and outreach tool to inform future policy recommendations grounded in local practice and community feedback.	In Progress

Barriers and Solutions

Description of Barriers	Plan to Resolve Barriers
Forum planning timeline has shifted from earlier planning discussions to a confirmed September 17 forum date, requiring focused July/August follow-up.	Use the detailed run of show as the master planning document. Confirm owners, deadlines, and planning decisions during the July 28 workgroup meeting and subsequent subgroup follow-up.
Several forum details still require confirmation. Amy Dunlap, UT Ag Extension, has accepted the Hydroponics 101 invitation. Dharma Pitchay, Ph.D., Professor (Horticulture) and Director, Agric. Research and Education Center, College of Agriculture, Tennessee State University, was also invited but requested a different format than the current forum design; therefore, his participation may not be the best fit for this forum unless the role can be aligned with the timed Hydroponics 101/session flow. Other remaining items room map, station needs, timekeeper, facilitators, note-takers, and catering logistics.	Use the detailed run of show as the master planning document. Confirm owners, deadlines, and planning decisions during the July 28 workgroup meeting and subsequent subgroup follow-up.
There is a risk that hydroponics could be perceived as a predetermined recommendation rather than an exploratory best/promising practice being assessed for fit, feasibility, equity, and sustainability.	Continue framing the forum as learning and listening. Use breakout prompts to capture community interest, barriers, support needs, and realistic next steps before moving toward any policy recommendations.
Equitable outreach requires intentional participation from smaller, less visible, grassroots, culturally specific, community-led, and neighborhood-based organizations, not only established partners already known to the workgroup.	Continue framing the forum as learning and listening. Use breakout prompts to capture community interest, barriers, support needs, and realistic next steps before moving toward any policy recommendations.
Forum notes, worksheets, breakout report-outs, and evaluation/interest forms will need to be collected and synthesized so they can inform the CHIP progress process and future policy development.	Assign documentation leads before the forum. After the forum, summarize themes by breakout category, including opportunities, barriers, support needs, recommended next steps, and organizations interested in follow-up.

Next Steps/Additional Comments

- Workgroup is moving forward with objective 3.4
- Use the July 28 Food Access Workgroup meeting to review NHWLC feedback, confirm Objective 3.4 priorities, and align on next steps for the outreach tool, question bank/prompts, and forum planning.
- Finalize forum planning decisions in July/August: presenter confirmation, station host confirmation, room map, participant rotation groups, breakout facilitators, note-takers, timekeeper, participant packet, station worksheet, evaluation/interest form, and catering timeline.
- Continue preparing the forum as a community learning and listening activity that generates data for Objective 3.4: opportunities, barriers, support needs, recommended next steps, interested partners, and policy-relevant themes.
- Hold Growing Possibilities: From Learning to Action - Hydroponics Community Forum on September 17, 2026, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- After the forum, compile a summary of station feedback, breakout findings, evaluation results, and follow-up interests. Connect findings to the policy scan and determine whether an additional technical assistance session, partner convening, or pilot planning conversation is needed.
- Continue documenting Objective 3.4 work in alignment with the CHIP Monitoring and Evaluation Guide and status options: Completed, In Progress, and Not Started.