Common Metrics

HHTF Ladder Team Overview

Common Metrics and Ladder

Common Metrics is the data strategy for the Health and Hunger Task Force that supports measuring impact, alignment of priority data indicators, and strengthening shared learning and strategic action across partners. To implement this strategy, the HHTF needs a common tool for data visualization and, eventually, for member data sharing. The primary tool to support this work will be Ladder, developed by DataKind, in collaboration with HHTF membership and Second Harvest Food Bank.

Ladder is a platform designed to make community data accessible, actionable, and equitable. Ladder turns fragmented local data into clear insights to help service providers, policymakers, public administrators, and local organizations identify high-need areas, target outreach, provide services, strengthen partnerships, and advocate effectively. (DataKind, Introducing Ladder, September 2025)

Ladder is a platform that offers multiple ways to visualize data and collaborate. At a baseline, anyone can create a Ladder account, free of charge, and use the tool to visualize and overlay 49 publicly available indicators. The HHTF membership will leverage the Ladder "Team" functionality to be able to upload additional indicators to the site for visualization in a closed HHTF team.

Ladder Teaming Function Basics

From the Ladder FAQ page:

The teaming function in Ladder allows teams to work together with others. Here's how it works:

- Teams of One (Default): When a user first creates an account, that user starts as a "team of one," meaning they're the only member. The user's team name will default to their own name.

- Creating and Joining Teams: Users can create new teams for different projects. They can also be invited to join existing teams. They always have the option to leave a team.

There are several access roles within a team that govern how data is shared:

- *Team Owner:* This person has the most control. They decide who joins the team, who can upload data, and what data is shared within the team.
- *Contributor:* Contributors can add data to the team and can ask the team owner to share that data with everyone on the team.
- *Viewer:* Viewers can only look at the data that has been shared with them by the team owner.

Any data uploaded within a specific team is only visible to members of that team. The team owner can choose to "share" uploaded data with everyone on their team. If the team owner decides they don't want to share it anymore, they can revoke sharing permissions.

For more information about Ladder and Teaming, a full overview of Ladder and all its functionality can be found here, with Teaming functionalities specifically demonstrated at the 16:44 time mark.

HHTF Team In Ladder

The Teaming function in Ladder will serve as the shared workspace for HHTF data visualization and collaboration. The structure of the HHTF Team will evolve over time as the Common Metrics initiative moves from Phase 1: Population-Level Indicators into Phases 3 and 4: Program-Level and Community-Need Indicators.

Below is an outline of the current Phase 1 configuration of the HHTF Team. Future configurations will be updated as additional guidance is developed by HHTF members.

- Access Roles
    - Team Owner: Second Harvest Food Bank Staff
    - Viewers: HHTF members
        - Access must be requested and granted by Team Owners
    - Contributors: None
        - No HHTF member will have the option to upload any data into the Team at this time.
- Requesting Viewer Access:
    - HHTF members may request Viewer access by completing the HHTF Ladder Team Access Request Form.

- Team Data Uploads
    - During Phase 1, only SHFB staff members will be able to upload data into the HHTF Ladder team. The data uploaded will be indicators identified as Common Metrics Population Level Indicators. No organizational level data will be shared or requested of HHTF members.
    - A crosswalk of population level indicators and their geographic level and category in Ladder can be found in the Population Level Indicators Overview.

The HHTF leadership will continue to keep members updated on new phases of Common Metrics work, and the Ladder team, on the HHTF Common Metrics website page.