



Health and Hunger Task Force

Meeting Notes

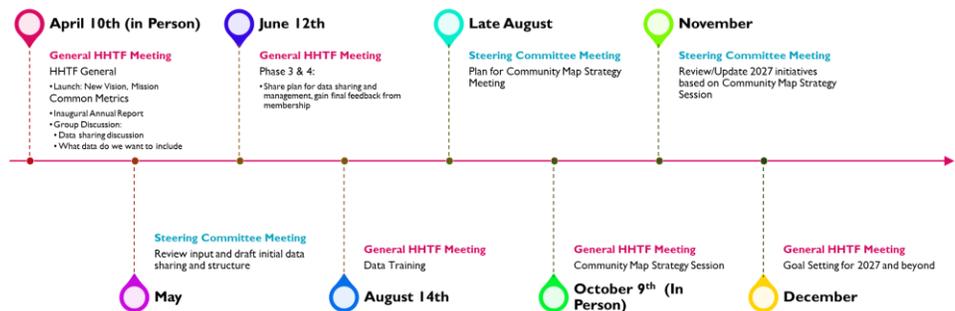
Friday, February 13th, 2026 | 10:00am-11:00pm | Zoom

Meeting Notes:

- **“Healthy SNAP” – Overview of upcoming changes in SNAP Policy in Florida:** Allison Leo, Florida Department of Children and Families, Health Communications and Legislative Affairs Liaison
 - Allison provided an overview of Florida’s Healthy SNAP waiver and subsequent upcoming SNAP changes regarding allowable purchases with SNAP benefits.
 - Beginning April 20th, 2026, SNAP participants in Florida will no longer be able to use their SNAP benefits to purchase soda, energy drinks, candy, and ultra-processed prepared desserts.
 - Within a national context, other states have begun implementing similar health and nutrition focused waivers, mostly focused on beverages. Florida is among the first states to include prepared desserts.
 - Tracking of all state level waivers (submitted and approved) can be found here: www.nationalgrocers.org/snap-waiver-tracker/
 - The website also outlines rules for online versus brick and mortar purchasing as a guide for retailers
 - Healthy SNAP Website & Resources:
 - DCF has created a dedicated Healthy SNAP webpage available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. This webpage can be found here: www.myflfamilies.com/HealthySNAP
 - The website includes:
 - FAQ Section: Explains the definition of ineligible food groups (soda, energy drinks, candy, etc). For example, “ultra processed prepared desserts” do NOT include freshly prepared baked goods – so a family may still purchase a birthday cake from the bakery of a grocery store.
 - Inquiry form: Allows retailers or recipients to submit questions about the new policy
 - SNAP Retailer Toolkit (English, Spanish, Haitian Creole): Toolkit includes flyers, window sling signage, social media images, etc.
 - These are useful for retailers but may also be used by community organizations to spread the word about upcoming changes.
 - Two new resources coming soon:
 - Webinar providing general information about the changes that will be geared towards retailers
 - Retailers will be required to watch
 - Operational Handbook including eligibility checklists and guidance

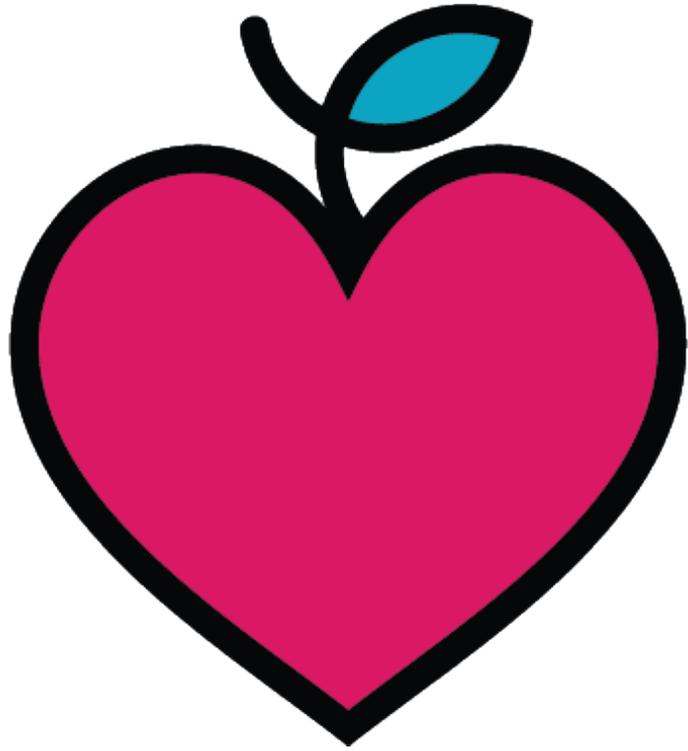
- **Retailer Communications:**
 - DCF has held meetings with large and small retailers (e.g., Walmart, Target, Publix) to let them know about the changes
 - A 90-day grace period has been granted for retailers as the initiative rolls out
 - It is important to note that there are no penalties for recipients who attempt to purchase restricted items; compliance responsibility lies with retailers.
- **Recipient Communications:**
 - Planned communication strategies from DCF include:
 - Minimum of two direct text messages/emails to SNAP recipients
 - Banner on DCF website
 - Banner on MyACCESS portal
 - Potential social media posts
- **Taskforce Questions & Discussion:**
 - Cultural and Comparable Alternatives: A question was raised about how to support culturally relevant beverage substitutions (Jarritos or Malta Drinks) and provide practical alternatives.
 - Allison shared that this is a concern they are hoping to address through workshops or community-based education sessions and materials
 - Cost Concerns: A question was raised about purchasing power: If a previously allowed item costs \$2 and a healthier alternative cost \$7, would recipients end up purchasing fewer total groceries? Is this being tracked?
 - Allison advised at this time, there is no formal tracking mechanism comparing cost differences or purchasing power before and after implementation, but this concern was acknowledged as important for further consideration.
 - Current Evaluation Efforts including data collected from retailers, tracking of program complaints and compliments, and a pre/post implementation survey.
- **HHTF What's Next in 2026:** Angela Corona, Second Harvest Food Bank, Health Systems Manager
 - **Steering Committee Updates:**
 - The HHTF Steering committee has been working on refining the HHTF Vision statement. This new vision will not include any major shifts in direction, but more clear alignment with work.
 - The new Vision and Mission statement will be shared in the April HHTF meeting, and the Steering Committee will work next to update HHTF Strategic Priorities.
 - **Common Metrics Initiative:**
 - Phase 1 (Population-Level Indicators) is complete
 - Agreed upon population level indicators are available in Ladder, via the HHTF Ladder Team
 - Supporting documentation about the indicators can be found on the HHTF website [here](#) and [here](#).
 - Phase 2 (System-Level Indicators) is underway

- Phase 2 will identify system-level indicators reflecting policy changes, funding shifts, relationship development, resource flows, and organizational practice changes
- An annual member survey, developed in collaboration with the Common Metrics Workgroup, will launch in late February
- Survey results will be included in the Health & Hunger Task Force Annual Report (coming April 2026) and be a key resource for collaborative strategy development.
- Phases 3 & 4 (Program and Need Data) is in the planning stage
 - This phase will focus on enabling individual organizations to share data in Ladder so that it is visible to other HHTF partners. This shared view of data will support cross-organizational collaboration and help partners coordinate strategies to better support neighbors and community members.
 - The HHTF will launch this phase at the April 2026 HHTF meeting, beginning with discussions about the structures and agreements needed for data sharing, as well as what data member organizations would like to see represented in Ladder.
 - A full overview of the planning process is outlined in the chart below. By the in-person October HHTF meeting, the goal is to have organizational data actively shared in Ladder, allowing the meeting to focus primarily on collaborative, data-informed strategy.



- **Healthcare Provider Education**
 - SHFB is currently working on developing interactive online courses on:
 - Food Insecurity and Connection to Health.
 - Screening for Food Insecurity in the Healthcare Sector
 - Initial feedback is underway from HHTF members, and SHFB is anticipating a soft launch of the courses in Summer 2026.
- **Closed Loop Referral Workgroup**
 - This is a Joint Initiative between:
 - Second Harvest Food Bank - Health and Hunger Task Force
 - Florida Dept of Health-Orange - Health Equity Taskforce Closed Loop Referral Subcommittee,
 - Ginsburg Institute for Health Equity - Child Health Equity Workgroup,
 - Mission Statement:

- The CLRW fosters collaboration to address systemic referral gaps and reduce barriers to health.
 - 2026 Next Steps
 - Standardize meeting cadence with quarterly meetings (March is the next meeting month)
 - White Paper is being developed to support better understanding of how referral platforms are being used across the community
 - The group will work this year to identify strategies for alignment across organizations specific to closed loop referrals and systems
 - **Thrive Roadmap Initiative**
 - Second Harvest and other HHTF members are participating in the Thrive Roadmap initiative led by the Central Florida Foundation.
 - Thrive is an initiative that brings together Central Florida organizations to co-create an actionable roadmap that guides Central Florida toward holistic well-being by amplifying community voices and fostering cross sector collaboration.
 - Task Force members are encouraged to join relevant working groups, and HHTF leadership will be looking for ways to align HHTF work with the broader roadmap.
 - **Staffing Update**
 - Claire White, Health Promotion Coordinator and HHTF support team member, at SHFB is off to new adventures! Her last day at the food bank was February 25, 2026.
- **Next HHTF Meeting:**
 - Friday, April 10th, 2026
 - In Person at Second Harvest Food Bank (411 Mercy Dr, Orlando, FL 32805)
 - 10am-12pm
- **Additional Materials:**
 - PowerPoint: HHTF Meeting – February 2026: Pages 5-18



HEALTH & HUNGER TASK FORCE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 13, 2026



HEALTHY SNAP

ALLISON LEO, DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES





HHTF: WHAT'S NEXT IN 2026?

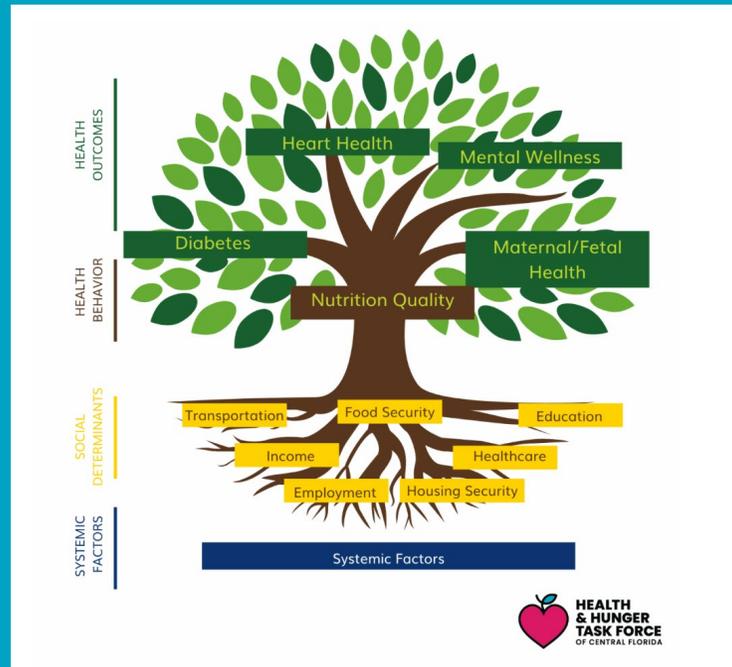


STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATES

Coming April 2026

- Updating “Vision” Statement to:
 - Formal Vision Statement
 - Mission Statement
- Updated Strategic Priorities
- Updating and aligning with direction of HHTF and Common Metrics Framework to provide greater clarity, not shifting direction

COMMON METRICS

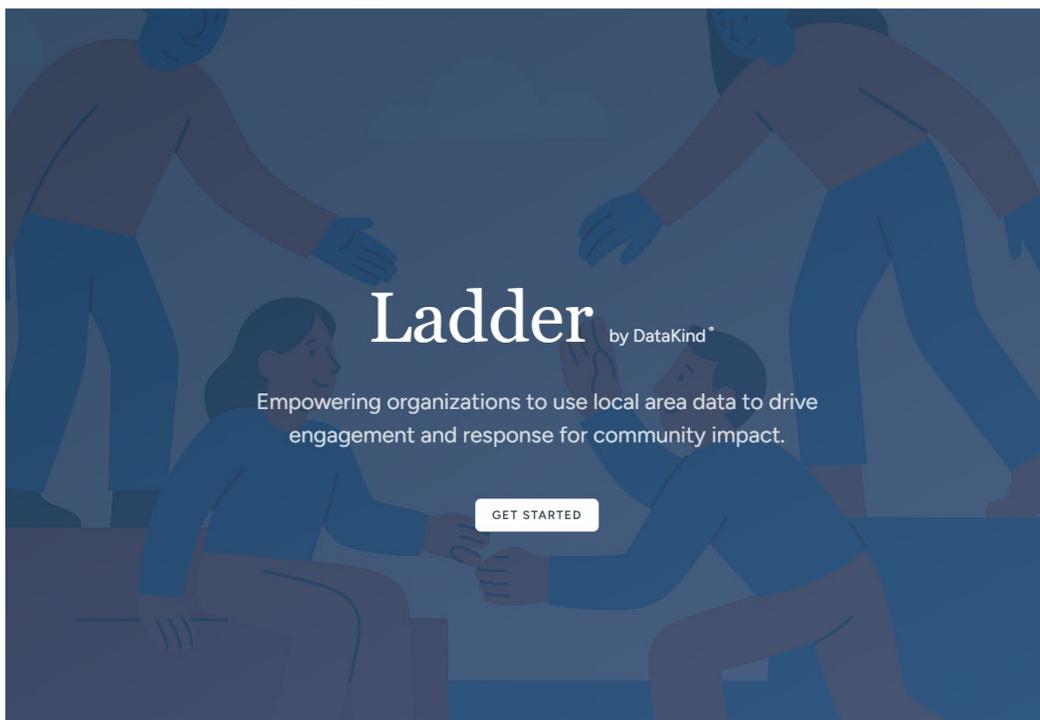


- Phase I: Population Level Indicators
 - Indicators In Ladder
 - Crosswalk on HealthAndHungerCFL.org
 - Join Our Team!

HHTF Ladder Team Request Form

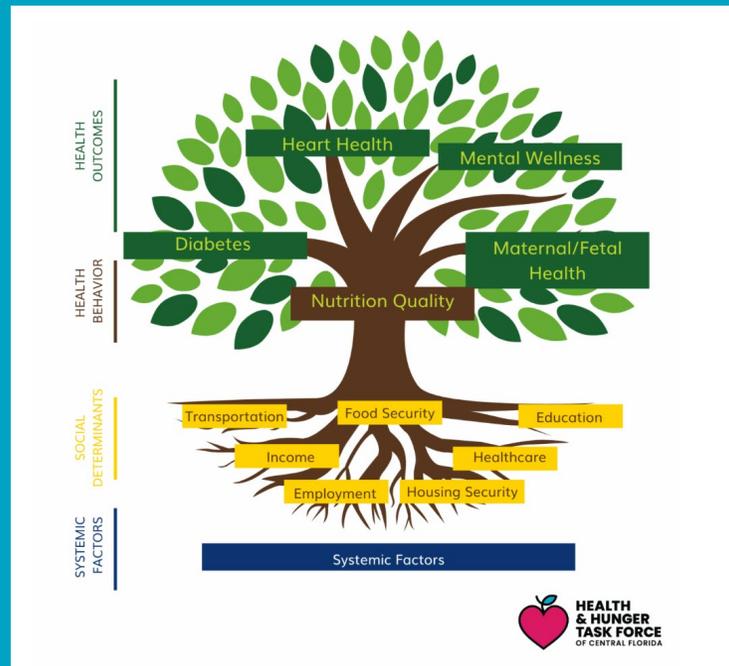


LADDER UPDATES: COMING SOON



- **Coming Late February 2026**
 - Enhanced Analysis Screen
 - Enhanced Uploader Process
- **Create an Account**
 - [Ladderhub.org](https://ladderhub.org)

COMMON METRICS



- Phase 1: Population Level Indicators
 - Indicators In Ladder
 - Crosswalk on HealthAndHungerCFL.org
 - Join Our Team!

- Phase 2: Systems Level Indicators
 - Survey launching late February
 - One survey per organization
 - Plan to spend some time on it

COMMON METRICS PHASE 3 & 4

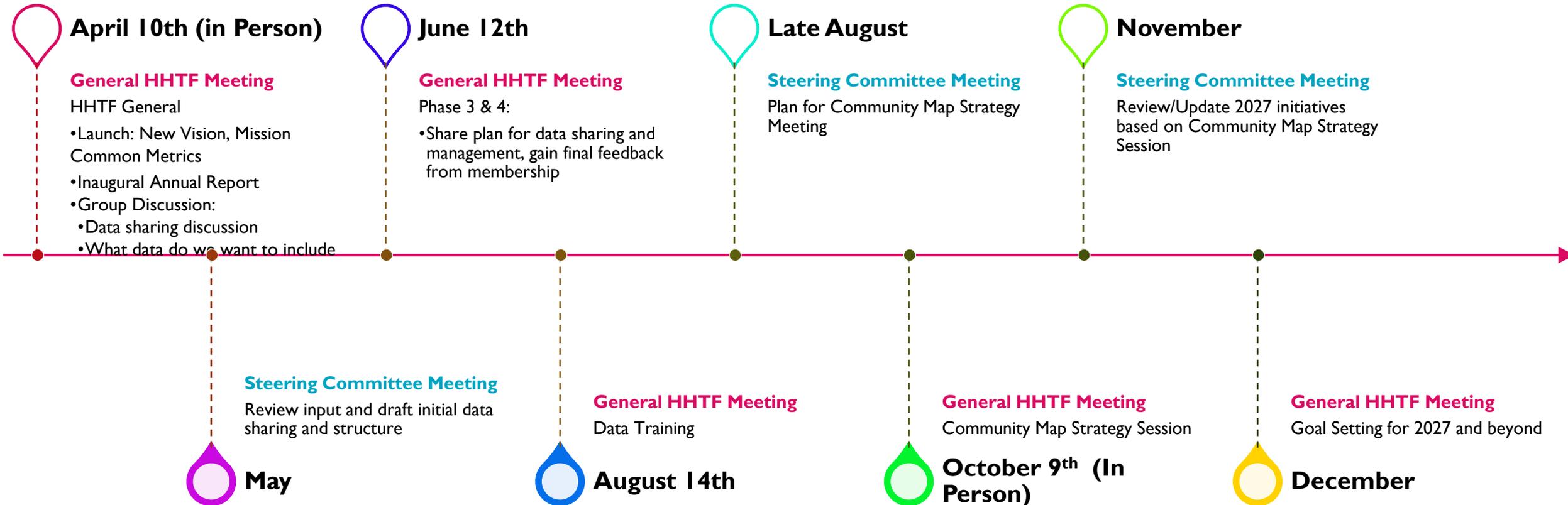
- Organization Level Data
- Essential for strategic collaboration and decision making to increase support for neighbors
- Sample Outcomes
 - Identifying health related programming needs in high need communities
 - Shift programming away from saturated areas
 - Use real time need trends to inform future grants and programming

Membership Driven

Voluntary
Participation

Collaboration not
Mandates

2026 MEETING SCHEDULE



HEALTHCARE PROVIDER EDUCATION

- Interactive Courses on:
 - Food Insecurity and Connection to Health
 - Screening for Food Insecurity in the Healthcare Sector
- Initial HHTF Feedback Groups Underway
- Soft Launch Summer 2026
- Opportunity for Future Courses:
 - Chronic Conditions
 - Nutrition Basics for Healthcare Professionals
 - Data Privacy Best Practices
 - Program Management/Evaluation

Root Causes of Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is not the result of something an individual has done, and it takes more than just food to end hunger. There are many economic and social hardships that are interdependent and are lead drivers of hunger and poverty that people face. There are many root causes that are ingrained in our society that can keep people trapped in this cycle. This includes, but is not limited to: inadequate wages and working conditions, lack of quality, affordable, accessible health care, educational inequalities, housing insecurity, criminalization of communities, and systemic discrimination. Understanding and addressing the root causes of hunger is an essential step in eliminating food insecurity.

Addressing Root Causes:

- Inadequate wages & working conditions
- Increasing access to quality health care that is affordable to promote physical and mental health
- Educational opportunity inequalities
- Increasing access to affordable and quality housing
- Creating healthy, safe, and thriving communities
- Systemic discrimination

Interact with Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap page to discover how food insecurity impacts counties differently throughout the U.S.:

FEEDING AMERICA

Need Help [DONATE](#)

+ More Options

The United States

FLORIDA (67 COUNTIES) FOOD INSECURE POPULATION: 3,241,180

FOOD INSECURITY RATE: 14.4%

ESTIMATED PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AMONG FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE OVERALL: 19% Above SNAP threshold, 61% Below SNAP threshold

AVERAGE MEAL COST: \$3.69

ADDITIONAL AMOUNT REQUIRED TO MEET FOOD NEEDS: \$2,271,603,000

Click a State to view details

Food Insecurity Rate: No Data, 0-10.0%, 11.1-20.0%, 21.1-30.0%, 31.1-40.0%, 41.1-60%

* "Overall" refers to all individuals, including children, regardless of race or ethnicity

2023 Overall Food Insecurity in The United States

CLOSED LOOP REFERRAL WORKGROUP

- **Joint Initiative:**
 - Second Harvest Food Bank - Health and Hunger Task Force
 - Florida Dept of Health-Orange - Health Equity Taskforce Closed Loop Referral Subcommittee,
 - Ginsburg Institute for Health Equity - Child Health Equity Workgroup,
- **Mission Statement:**
 - The CLRW fosters collaboration to address systemic referral gaps and reduce barriers to health.
- **2026 Next Steps**
 - Quarterly Meetings
 - White Paper
 - Identify Strategies for Alignment

THRIVE ROADMAP INITIATIVE

Vision



A thriving community in Central Florida where **everyone** can achieve their **chosen, optimal, healthy** quality of life.



FACILITATED BY CENTRAL FLORIDA FOUNDATION

Organizational Structure

Steering Committee At-Large Members

Alissa Mahadeo | Susan Ponce | Cherlette McCullough
Jennifer Haddad | Kathy Rovito | Jordan Vaughn
Magaly Dante | Larry Williams

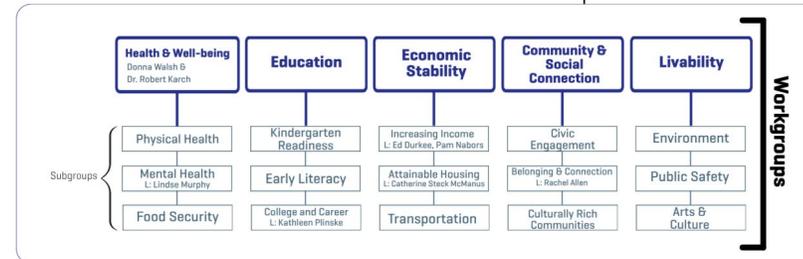
Thrive Roadmap Steering Committee includes Chief Advisor, Co-Chairs, Project Manager, Secretary, At-Large Members, and Workgroup Captains and Leads.

Chief Advisor
Sandi Vidal

Co-Chairs
Laudi Campo
Tanya Easterling

Secretary
Karla Muniz

Project Manager
Caroline Nickerson



Join a Workgroup!

HHTF alignment with Food Security Workgroup



QUESTIONS?

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Thrive Food Security Workgroup
 - *Pending Early March Meeting*
- Closed Loop Referral Workgroup
 - Tuesday, March 24th: 3pm-4pm, Virtual
- Health and Hunger Task Force April Meeting
 - Friday, April 10th, 10am-12pm, In Person
 - Seeking site to host Meeting