

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services regarding:**

**Resolve 2015, Chapter 81
Resolve, To Facilitate the Distribution of Food Harvested in Maine to Residents
with Food Insecurity**

December 2018

I. Introduction

In 2016, Good Shepherd Food Bank applied for the funds made available through Resolve 2015, Ch. 81 Resolve, To Facilitate the Distribution of Food Harvested in Maine to Residents with Food Insecurity. These funds, which originated from the Fund for a Healthy Maine, were administered by the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) through a competitive RFP process. Good Shepherd Food Bank was the winning bidder for these funds. Our proposal focused on utilizing the funding for Good Shepherd Food Bank's Mainers Feeding Mainers program. This report outlines this program and how funding has been allocated since we last reported in December 2017.

II. Mainers Feeding Mainers

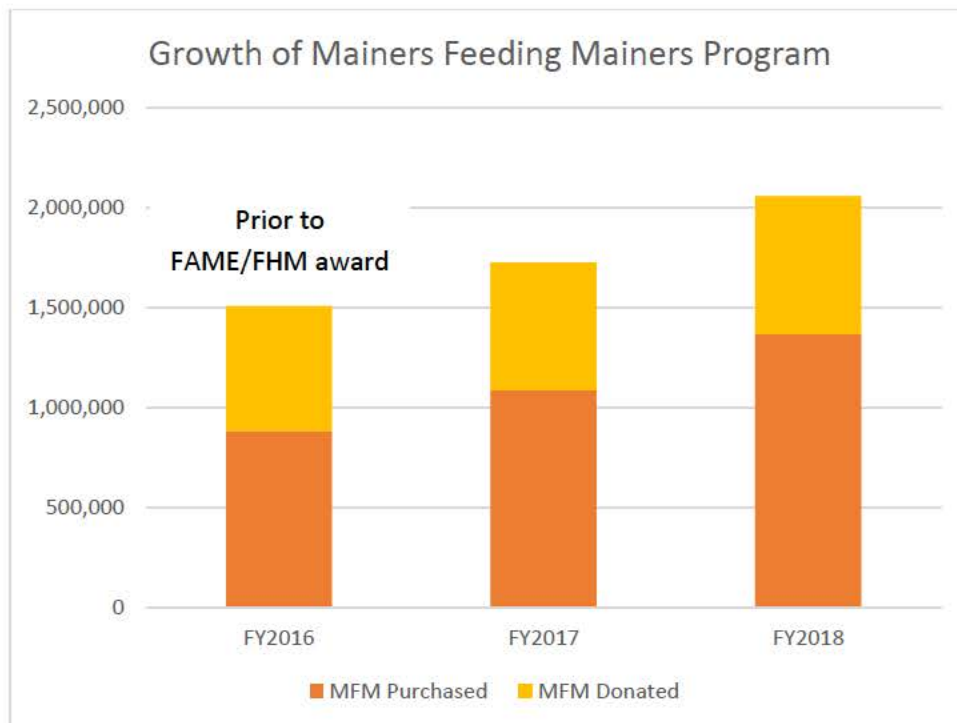
Mainers Feeding Mainers is Good Shepherd Food Bank's local food purchasing program. The Food Bank is committed to distributing fresh, nutritious food to Mainers who struggle with food insecurity and have limited access to healthy options. We are also committed to supporting local communities and investing in Maine's economy. We do this by forming purchasing agreements with local farmers and creating safe and efficient distribution channels for fresh, local food.

Good Shepherd Food Bank established the Mainers Feeding Mainers program in 2010. In that first year, the Food Bank acquired and distributed just over 350,000 lbs. of nutritious, locally grown food. In Fiscal Year 2018, the Food Bank purchased 1.4 million pounds of product from our farm partners, and these farms donated an additional 690,000 pounds, for a total of just over 2 million pounds of local food distributed.



As in the previous year, funding from this law was utilized to purchase fresh produce, fresh frozen produce, and frozen fish, as per the statute. In addition, the Food Bank worked with local farms to acquire dairy, eggs and grain products, funded by charitable dollars.

The following chart shows the growth of the Mainers Feeding Mainers program in the year prior to the FAME/Fund for a Healthy Maine funding through Fiscal Year 2018.



In 2018, Good Shepherd Food Bank partnered with 71 farms to purchase nutritious food for hunger relief programs across the state, an increase from 56 farm partners in 2016, the year prior to the funding. We now have at least one farm partner in each of Maine's 16 counties. See Appendix A for a list of Good Shepherd Food Bank's current farm partners.

III. Statewide Hunger Relief Network

Good Shepherd Food Bank partners with a network of 400 local agencies across Maine to distribute nutritious food to Mainers who face food insecurity. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14.4 percent of Maine households are food insecure, meaning they lack adequate access to nutritious food. This is significantly higher than the national average of 11.8 percent and makes Maine the most food insecure state in New England.



Nearly one in five Maine children live in a food insecure household. The Food Bank's statewide network of local partner agencies serving this population includes food pantries, community meal sites, schools, healthcare centers, and more.

See Appendix B for a map of the Food Bank's statewide network of partner agencies.

In 2011, through the Mainers Feeding Mainers program, the Food Bank began facilitating direct deliveries of produce from farms to local hunger relief agencies. These deliveries are crucial to our efforts to move fresh food more cost-effectively, quickly, and safely from the field or producer to the shelves of hunger relief programs. This farm-to-pantry component has grown from a single farm in 2011 to 46 farm-to-pantry partnerships in 2018, delivering fresh produce and dairy directly to more than 180 food pantries, soup kitchens, school pantries, and other organizations across the state.

IV. Funds Expended

Month	Produce/Seafood	Storage/ Distribution Cost	Driver Salary/ Truck Lease	4% indirect allocation	Total Expenses
Dec-17	\$28,150.70	\$15,471.32	\$8,382.69	\$2,080.19	\$54,084.90
Jan-18	\$22,500.32	\$13,422.36	\$7,964.26	\$1,755.48	\$45,642.42
Feb-18	\$23,738.88	\$12,606.88	\$8,177.38	\$1,780.93	\$46,304.06
Mar-18	\$22,233.38	\$14,956.61	\$7,594.41	\$1,791.38	\$46,575.78
Apr-18	\$20,240.97	\$7,407.34	\$7,436.81	\$1,403.40	\$36,488.53
May-18	\$33,077.56	\$15,708.82	\$10,060.39	\$2,353.87	\$61,200.64
Jun-18	\$5,863.05	\$8,557.03	\$7,376.76	\$871.87	\$22,668.72
Jul-18	\$44,679.42	\$13,381.13	\$7,763.98	\$2,632.98	\$68,457.51
Aug-18	\$111,322.77	\$32,740.80	\$7,820.01	\$6,075.34	\$157,958.93
Sep-18	\$138,954.82	\$43,655.73	\$10,021.05	\$7,705.26	\$200,336.86
Oct-18	\$134,095.22	\$46,187.10	\$7,147.04	\$7,497.17	\$194,926.53
Nov-18	--	--	--	--	--
Total	\$584,857.09	\$224,095.12	\$89,744.78	\$35,947.88	\$934,644.87

*Nov. financials not yet available



V. Products Purchased

From December 2017 – November 2018, we used funds from this grant to purchase the following products from our farm partners:

Product	Weight	Product	Weight	Product	Weight
Apples	246,419	Eggplant	1,559	Peppers	6,710
Applesauce	13,369	Frozen Tomato Sauce	13,600	Potatoes	300,176
Beets	16,777	Garlic	64	Radishes	381
Broccoli	2,061	Green Beans	19,734	Seafood	7,640
Cabbage	74,863	Greens (Assorted)	11,349	Summer Squash	41,484
Carrots	62,293	Melon	5,851	Tomatoes	31,967
Cauliflower	284	Onions	34,076	Turnip	8,574
Corn	67,994	Parsnips	392	Winter Squash	133,224
Cucumbers	54,209	Peas	541	Zucchini	32,091
				TOTAL LBS.	1,187,682

VI. Increase in Availability & Accessibility

Since Mainers Feeding Mainers launched, the program has contributed to a fundamental change in the nutritional quality of the food Good Shepherd Food Bank distributes. The Food Bank has steadily increased the pounds of fresh produce distributed to food insecure Mainers—from 1.5 million pounds in 2010 to 8.5 million pounds year to date in 2018 (this total product category of fresh produce includes food from farms and retail partners). Fresh produce now makes up more than one-third of the food Good Shepherd Food Bank distributes, in large part due to our purchases from local farmers. Since the receipt of this funding from FAME/Fund for a Healthy Maine, Good Shepherd Food Bank has increased its distribution of fresh produce by 19 percent.

The following charts show distribution of Mainers Feeding Mainers products from December 2017 – November 2018. These numbers reflect products purchased with the FAME/Fund for a Healthy Maine award, in addition to donations from farm partners that are leveraged as a result of our purchases.



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Distribution of Product Purchased (in pounds)

Month	Direct to Pantry	GSFB Warehouse	Total Lbs.
17-Dec	10,309	133,358	143,667
18-Jan	3,862	108,122	111,985
18-Feb	6,385	98,281	104,665
18-Mar	8,587	95,813	104,400
18-Apr	2,268	74,884	77,152
18-May	3,071	122,545	125,617
18-Jun	2,398	104,661	107,059
18-Jul	35,974	79,725	115,699
18-Aug	110,956	164,444	275,400
18-Sep	132,157	214,611	346,768
18-Oct	117,989	207,764	325,753
18-Nov	3,086	20,793	23,879
TOTAL LBS.	437,042	1,425,002	1,862,044

Distribution by County (in pounds)

County	Weight in lbs.	Percent of Total	Percent of Total Food Insecure Pop.
Androscoggin	278,998	14.98 %	8.67 %
Aroostook	142,580	7.66 %	6.04 %
Cumberland	340,745	18.30 %	20.37 %
Franklin	37,975	2.04 %	2.23 %
Hancock	40,143	2.16 %	4.03 %
Kennebec	102,241	5.49 %	9.26 %
Knox	25,317	1.36 %	2.77 %
Lincoln	32,795	1.76 %	2.36 %
Oxford	61,117	3.28 %	4.50 %
Penobscot	301,349	16.18 %	12.62 %
Piscataquis	52,303	2.81 %	1.52 %
Sagadahoc	12,557	0.67 %	2.30 %
Somerset	62,733	3.37 %	4.38 %
Waldo	125,455	6.74 %	3.01 %
Washington	101,972	5.48 %	2.75 %
York	143,764	7.72 %	13.20 %
TOTAL LBS.	1,862,044	100.00 %	100.00 %



VII. Further Action Needed

Since this funding runs out in June 2019, prior to next year's harvest season, the most critical action needed at this time is to secure additional funding so that the Mainers Feeding Mainers program can continue. Without ongoing funding, the Food Bank will need to pull operational resources from other programs to cover the Mainers Feeding Mainers budget. We have no intention of ending the program, as we remain steadfast in our commitment to distributing fresh, nutritious food and supporting local Maine producers. That said, the budget for the program will likely shrink significantly if our funding partnership with the State of Maine ends in June 2019. Our goal is to secure ongoing funding from the State of Maine so we can continue this program at its current level or grow the program to purchase additional products from Maine producers.



Appendix A: Good Shepherd Food Bank Farm & Food Producer Partners

FARM	TOWN	COUNTY
*Indicates new farm partner in 2018		
Bell Farms	Auburn	Androscoggin
Berry Fruit Farm	Livermore	Androscoggin
Chipman Farm	Poland Spring	Androscoggin
Cultivating Community	Lisbon	Androscoggin
Hillandale Farms	Turner	Androscoggin
Little Ridge Farm	Lisbon Falls	Androscoggin
New Roots Farm	Lewiston	Androscoggin
R. Belanger & Sons Farms	Lewiston	Androscoggin
Somali Bantu Community	Lewiston	Androscoggin
Circle B Farm*		
Farm 4 ME/ Catholic Charities	Caribou	Aroostook
Friends of Aroostook	Houlton	Aroostook
Irving Farm	Caribou	Aroostook
Pineland Farms Potato Co.	Mars Hill	Aroostook
Smith Farm Inc.	Presque Isle	Aroostook
Carlin Family Farm	Windham	Cumberland
Cozy Harbor Seafood	Portland	Cumberland
Growing to Give/Scatter Goods Farm*	Brunswick	Cumberland
Jordan's Farm	Cape Elizabeth	Cumberland
Mayberry Farm	Sebago	Cumberland
Oakhurst Dairy	Portland	Cumberland
Replenova Farm	Portland	Cumberland
River Run Farm*	Naples	Cumberland
Wolfe's Neck Farm	Freeport	Cumberland
Riverweb Farm	Avon	Franklin

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Sandy River Farm	Farmington	Franklin
Beech Hill Farm	Mt. Desert	Hancock
East West Farm	Verona	Hancock
Horsepower Farm	Penobscot	Hancock
King Hill Farm	Penobscot	Hancock
Emery Farm	Wayne	Kennebec
Field of Greens	Albion	Kennebec
Erickson Fields Preserve	Rockport	Knox
Terra Optima Farm*	Appleton	Knox
Goranson Farm*	Dresden	Lincoln
Spear Farm	Nobleboro	Lincoln
Twin Villages Foodbank Farm	Damariscotta	Lincoln
Cooper Farm	W. Paris	Oxford
Flood Zone Farm*	Canton	Oxford
Pie Tree Orchard*	Sweden	Oxford
Weston Farm	Fryeburg	Oxford
Foxgreen Farm*	Howland	Penobscot
Gardiner Farms	Stacyville	Penobscot
Jordan Farm/Greg Jordan	Chester	Penobscot
Nettie Fox Farm*	Newburgh	Penobscot
Rowe Orchards	Newport	Penobscot
The Lion's Farm	Corinth	Penobscot
Checkerberry Farm	Parkman	Piscataquis
Helios Horsepower Farm	Guilford	Piscataquis
Ripley Farm	Dover-Foxcroft	Piscataquis
Turning Wheel Farm	Bowdoinham	Sagadahoc

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Backyard Farms LLC	Madison	Somerset
Dasher Farm	Fairfield	Somerset
Maine Grains	Skowhegan	Somerset
Moore Farm	Madison	Somerset
Sweet Land Farm	Starks	Somerset
Chase Stream Farm	Monroe	Waldo
Fisher Farm	Winterport	Waldo
Hall Brook Farm*	Thorndike	Waldo
Maine Farmland Trust/ Veggies for All	Belfast	Waldo
Penobscot McCrum	Belfast	Waldo
Songbird Farm	Unity	Waldo
True North Farms	Montville	Waldo
Wild Miller Farm	Palermo	Waldo
Cherryfield Foods	Cherryfield	Washington
Folklore Farm	Milbridge	Washington
Tide Mill Organic Farm	Edmunds	Washington
Wyman's Food Inc.	Cherryfield	Washington
Anderson Farms	Dayton	York
Kate's Homemade Butter	Arundel	York
Spiller Farm	Wells	York

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Appendix B: Statewide Hunger Relief Network

