

# NSP Evaluation Roundtable

## Evaluation and Learning about Basic Human Needs Programs

October 24, 2019

# Goals

- ✓ Promote ongoing nonprofit discussion, sharing and learning about evaluation
- ✓ Provide new and relevant information to meet nonprofit evaluation needs
- ✓ Provide a community of practice for area nonprofit and evaluation professionals

# Today we are learning more about ...

- How the Hartford Foundation has supported efforts to support basic human needs
- National and regional data related to your basic human needs work
- Key issues and challenges faced by organizations that provide basic human needs services
- Effective program and evaluation strategies used to address basic human needs work

# Agenda

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Basic Human Needs Grantmaking**

Dawn Grant, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

**Food Insecurity Data**

Miranda Muro, Foodshare

**The Hartford Foundation's Use of Evaluations & Other Data Sources**

Kate Szczerbacki, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

**Table Discussions**

# Agenda, continued...

## Break and Networking

## Evaluation Panel

Anita Baker, Evaluation Services

Justine Couvares, Chrysalis Center, Inc.

Cora Mercer, Hartford Neighborhood Centers, Inc.

David O'Rourke, Hockanum Valley Community Council, Inc.

Miranda Muro, Foodshare

Abigail Kelly, Hands on Hartford

## Table Discussions

## Closure

# Additionally...

- ✓ Facilities
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Fun !

# Basic Human Needs

- Overview of Foundation's historic Basic Human Needs program
- Current state of Basic Human Needs based on reports from participating agencies
- Foundation's thinking and next steps



Hartford Foundation

FOR PUBLIC GIVING

Together for good.™

# Food Insecurity Data

Miranda Muro, Deputy COO, Foodshare  
October 2019

The logo for Foodshare, featuring the word "FOODSHARE" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is stylized with a circular arrow around it. The text is centered within a dark teal rounded rectangular background.

**FOODSHARE**

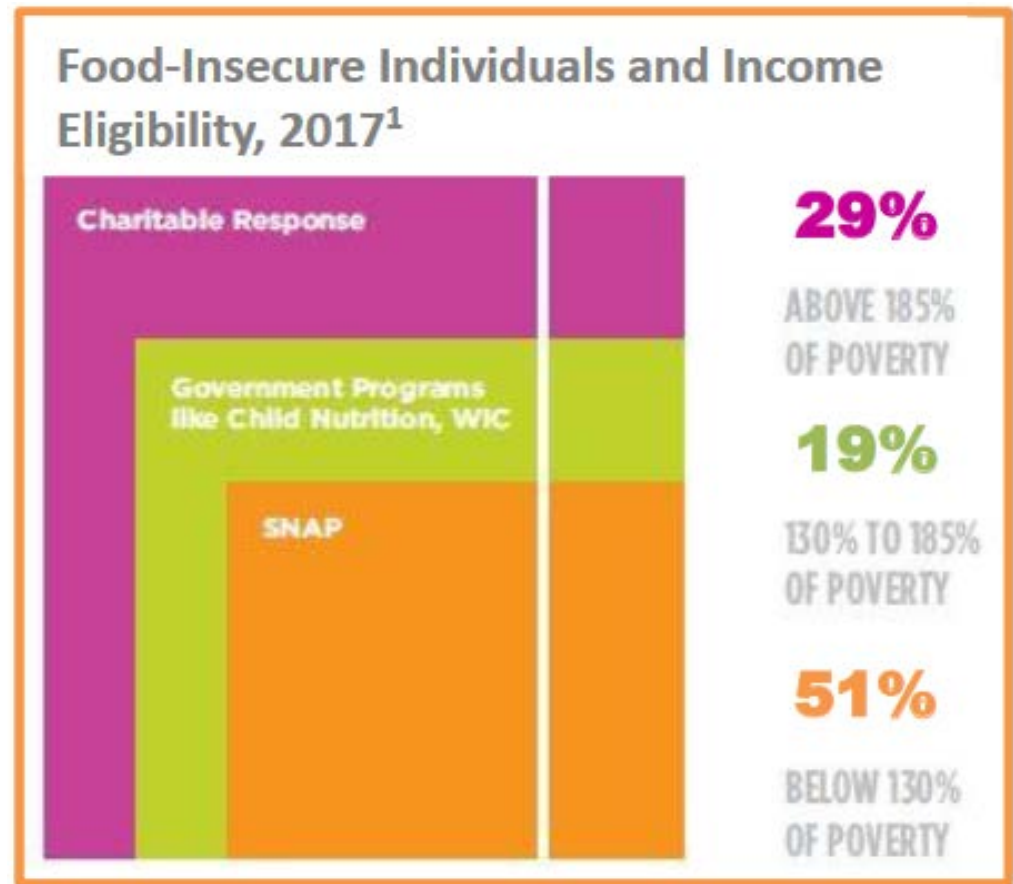


# What is food insecurity?

- USDA measurement of a lack of consistent access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life
- *Hunger* refers to a personal, physical sensation of discomfort at the individual level
- *Food insecurity* refers to a lack of available financial resources for food at the household level

# Poverty & Food Insecurity

- According to the USDA, one-third of food insecure households live **above** 185% of the poverty line



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research

# Food Insecurity is Complex

## Primary Drivers of Food Insecurity

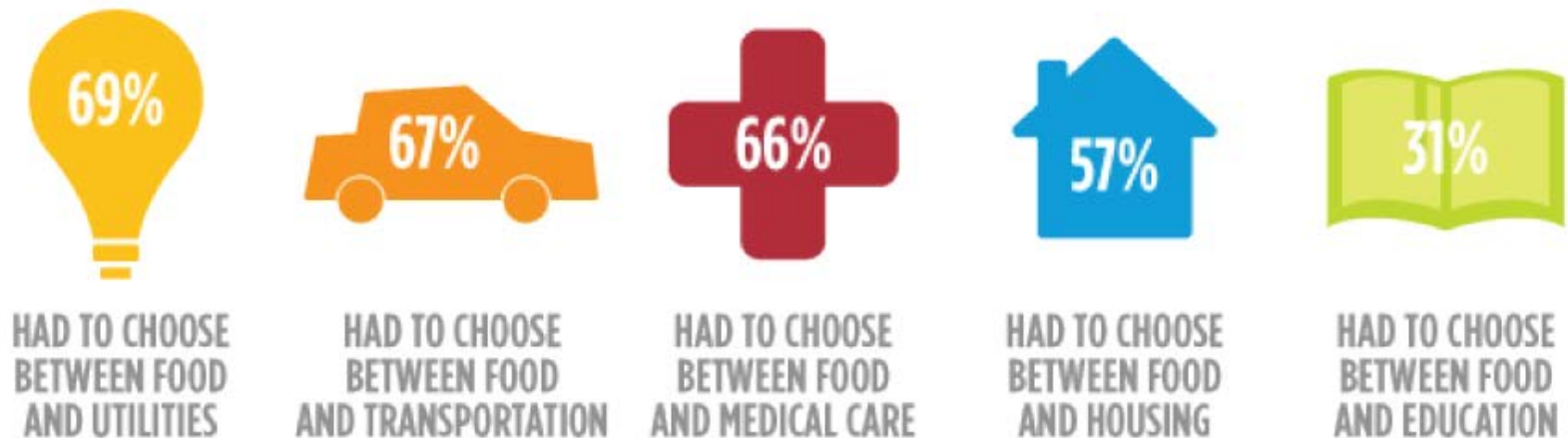


Needs don't exist in isolation and families are making tough tradeoffs to meet basic needs



# Tough Tradeoffs

Households that seek charitable food across the U.S. report spending tradeoffs at some point during the year:



Source: Feeding America. *Hunger in America 2014*.

<https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/hunger-in-america>

# Food Insecurity Rates from USDA

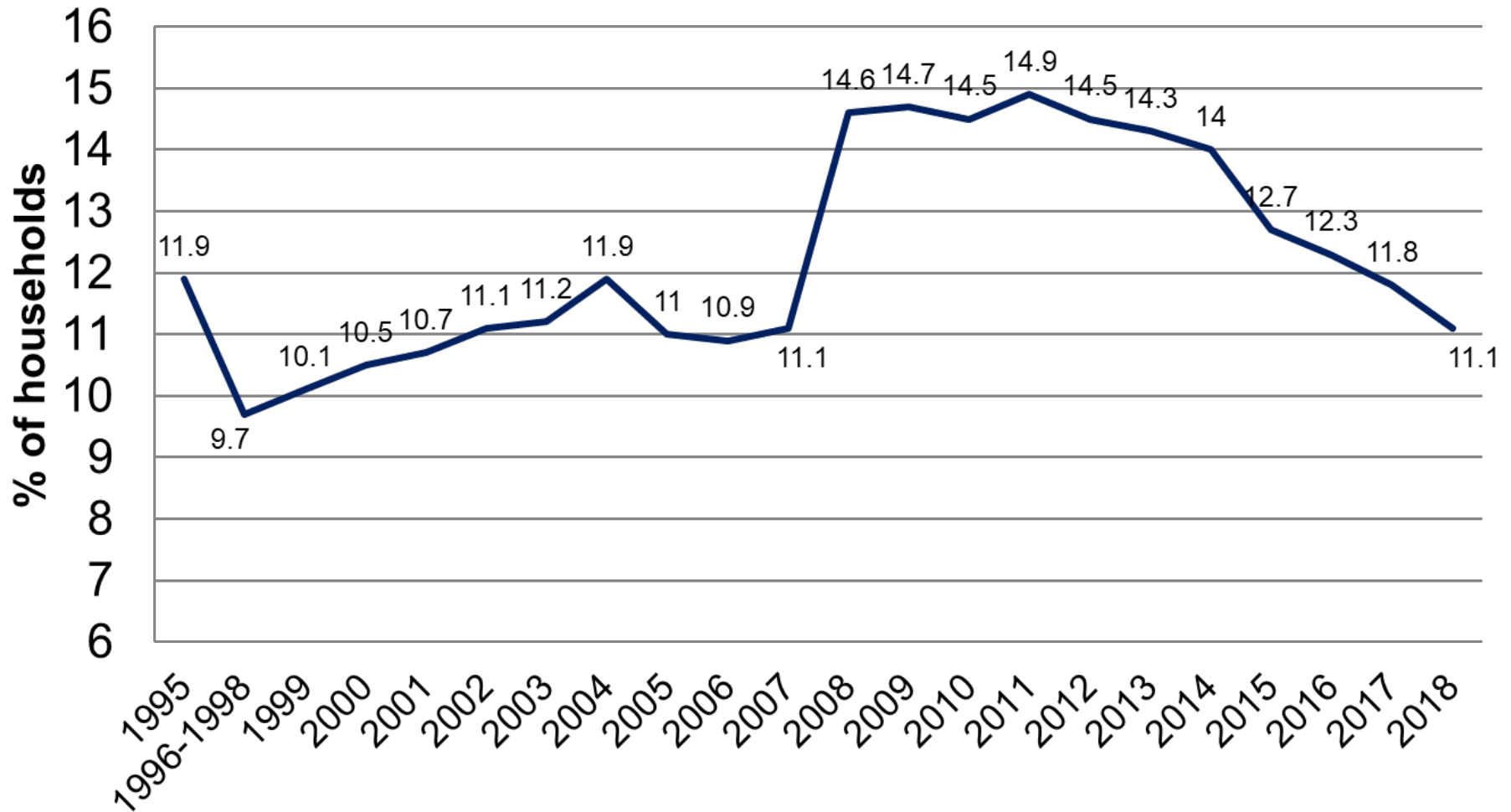
## Nationally

- 1 in 9 households (11%) in the United States encountered difficulty at some time during 2018 in providing enough food for their family
- 37 million Americans, including 11 million children
- Lowest rate since before the recession

## Connecticut

- 12% of all households, still higher than 11% in 2008

# Trends in prevalence rates of food insecurity in U.S. households, 1995-2018



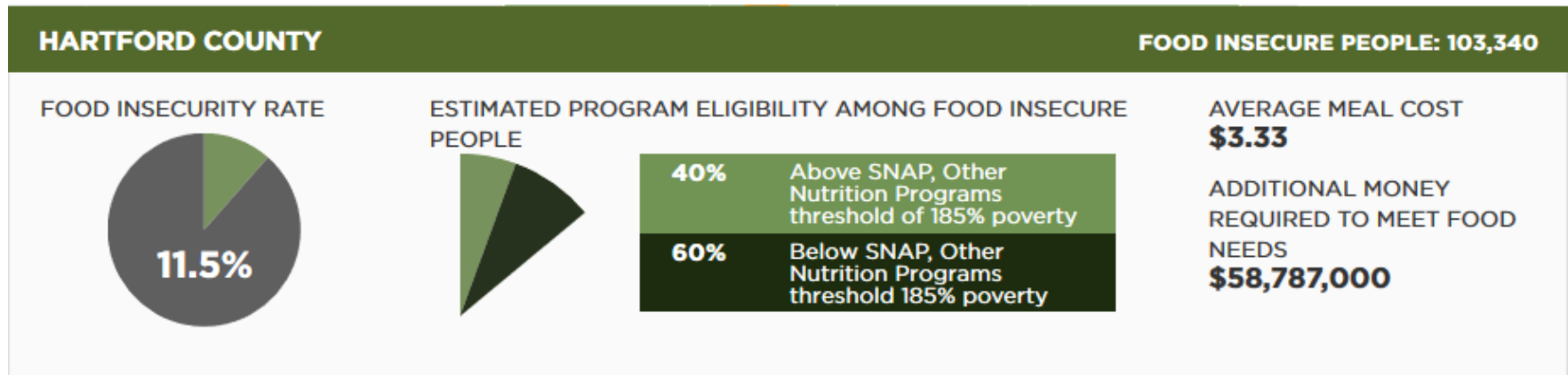
Source: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Food Security in the United States.  
<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/survey-tools/>

# Feeding America Research



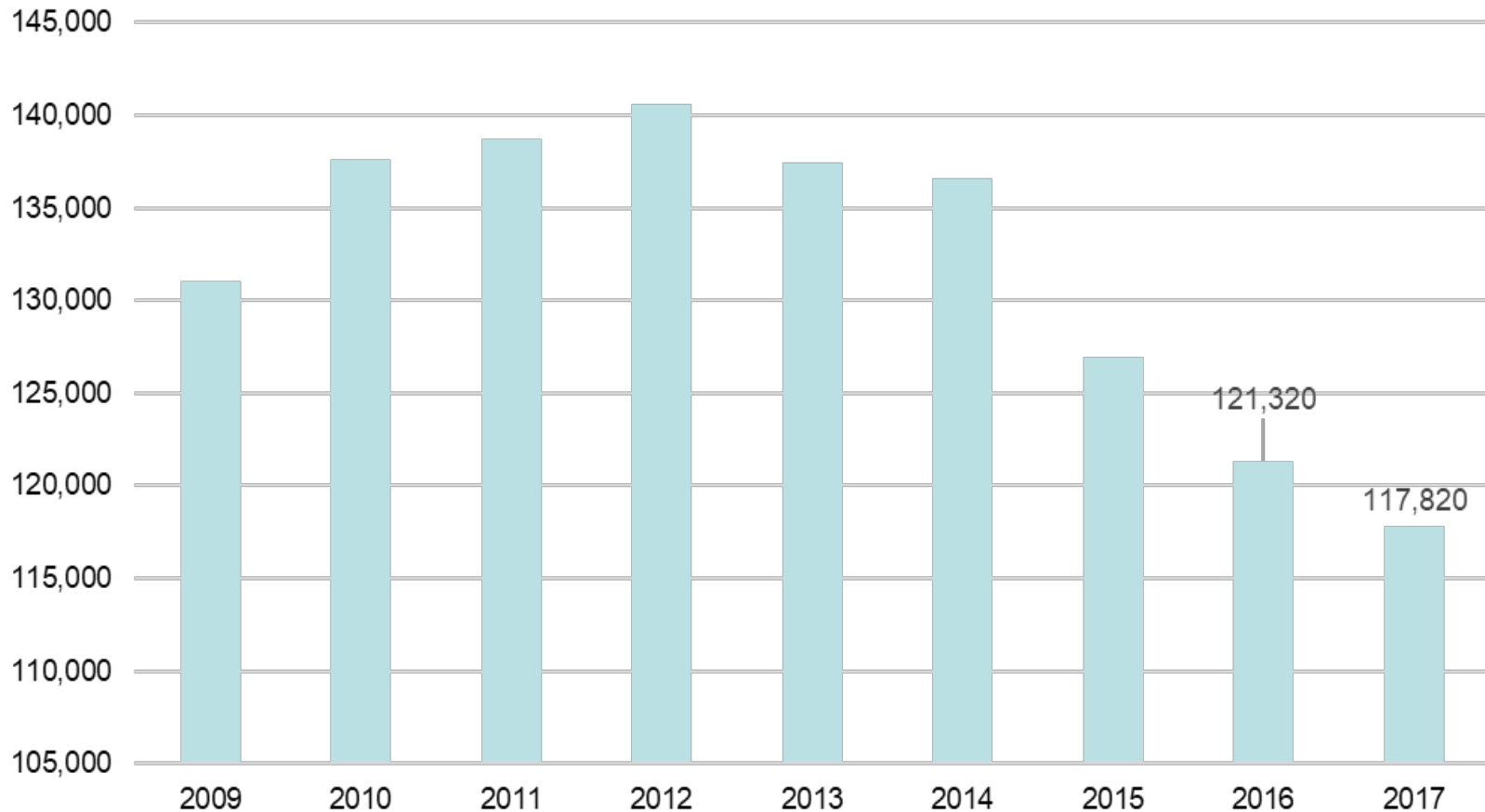
## Map the Meal Gap

- County-level food insecurity estimates by income categories
- An estimate of the food budget shortfall that food insecure individuals report



<https://map.feedingamerica.org/>

# About 118,000 people in Hartford and Tolland counties are food insecure, including 33,000 children



<https://map.feedingamerica.org/>





# Food Insecurity in Greater Hartford

- About 15% of children are food insecure, compared to 11% among the general population
- An estimated 42% of the food insecure population have incomes too high to qualify for most federal nutrition programs
- A person who is food insecure is estimated to need, on average, \$18.37 more per week to buy just enough food to meet their needs

<https://map.feedingamerica.org/>



# Hunger Among Adults Age 50-59



- At the state level, Connecticut has 5<sup>th</sup> highest rate of food insecurity for this age group in 2017 at 16%
- At the metro level, ranks the Hartford area as the #1 highest rate of food insecurity for this age group in 2017 at 20%

## **Implications for programming and advocacy**

<https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/senior-hunger-research/senior>

# Feeding America Research

## A Conceptual Framework: Cycle of Food Insecurity & Chronic Disease



Adapted: Seligman HK, Schillinger D. N Engl J Med. 2010;363:6-9.

# Additional Resources

## United Way ALICE Report

Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

[https://alice.ctunitedway.org/meet\\_alice/](https://alice.ctunitedway.org/meet_alice/)

## Feeding America Hunger + Health Website

<https://hungerandhealth.feedingamerica.org/>

- [Map the Meal Gap 2019 Executive Summary](#)
- [Map the Meal Gap 2019 State Data Tables](#)
- [Health Implications of Food Insecurity](#)
- [Child Food Insecurity](#)
  
- [Hunger Among Adults Aged 50 - 59](#)

<https://map.feedingamerica.org/>

**FOODSHARE**

# The Hartford Foundation's Use of Evaluations & Other Data Sources

- **Funding / commissioning evaluations, plans, and studies**
  - Ex: Greater Hartford Reentry Welcome Center Plan (<https://tinyurl.com/y2z2p5f2>)
- **Ad-hoc / shoestring data collection**
  - Ex: Homelessness scan
- **External reports & data sources**
  - Ex: 2018 DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey & 2019 Community Wellbeing Index(<https://tinyurl.com/yxpdcvtn>)



# TABLE DISCUSSIONS

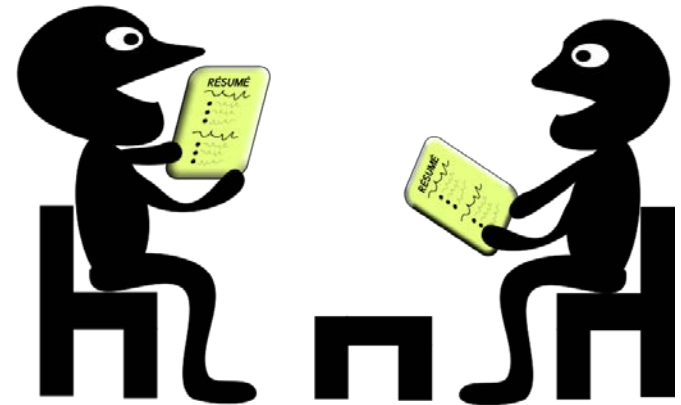
# Break and Networking

# EVALUATION PANEL

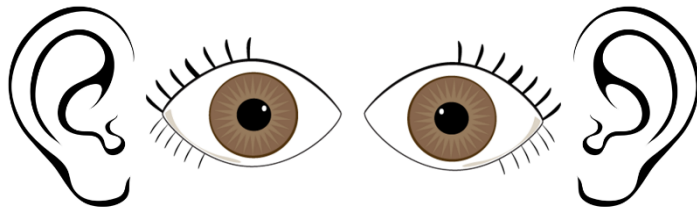


# Evaluation Advice: BHN

1. Select key evaluation questions. (what do you need to know?)
2. Systematically collect data.



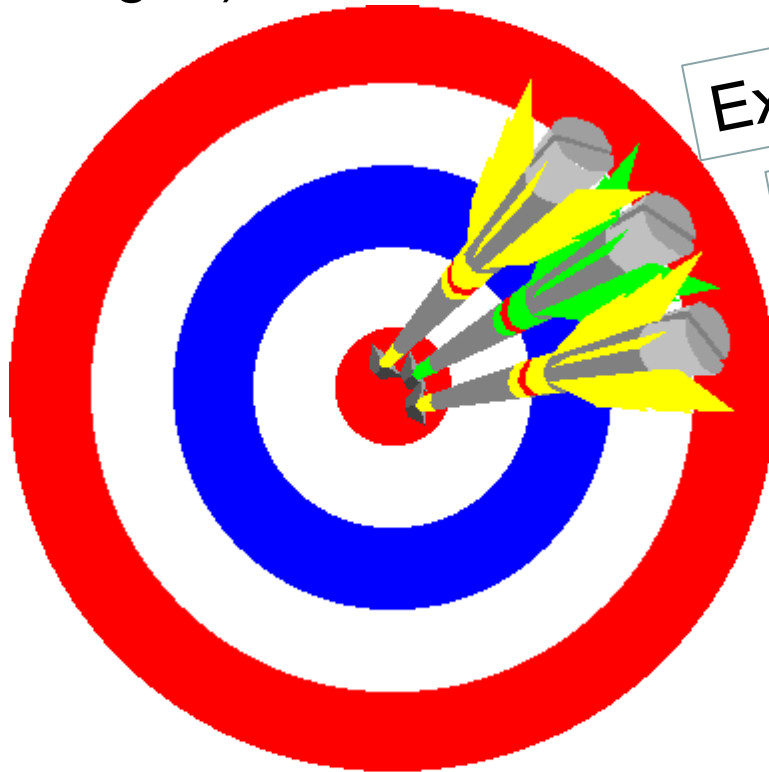
**INTERCEPT**



# Evaluation Advice: BHN



- 3. Determine targets in advance.** (How good is good enough?)



- External Standards
- Past Performance
- Best Professional Hunch

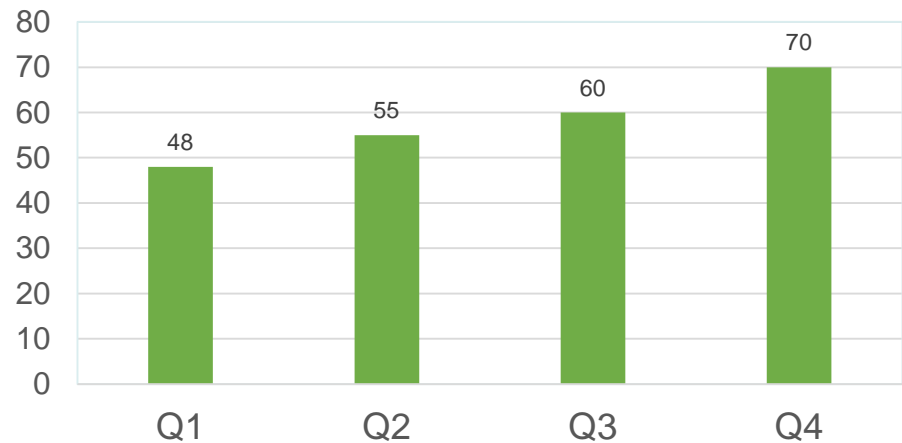
Lbs. of food provided  
Number of clients served  
Number who did not skip meals  
Percent who used food savings for rent

- 4. Analyze, summarize and share findings.**
- 5. Use findings to inform next steps.**

# Chrysalis Center

## Review of Incident Reports

FY19 Incidents Involving Substance Abuse



- **Service staff required to report on all client incidents** (e.g., medical & psychiatric hospitalizations, arrests, incarceration, deaths, serious injury)
- **Most incident categories have a sub category of substance abuse**
- **Incident reports reviewed quarterly by CQI department for trends**
- **Recommendations made for improvements**



1. *Changed Risk Assessment Level to move chronic substance abuse participants to Risk Level 3*
2. *Increased case management services for those with Level 3 Risk*
3. *Monthly trainings and case conference with Substance Abuse clinical professional*

# Hartford Neighborhood Center Food Pantry: Aug 2016 – Feb 2017



	TOTAL	AVG		Number	%
Pounds of Food	12,460	2,077			
Total Clients	245		Family Size		
New Clients	51	21%	1 person	44	18%
Returning Clients	194	79%	2 persons	96	39%
			3-4 persons	62	25%
Female	200	82%	5 or more	43	18%
Male	45	18%			
Race/Ethnicity			Employment		
African-American	37	16%	Employed	45	18%
Caucasian	13	5%	Disabled	60	24%
Latinx	186	78%	Unemployed	140	57%
Other	1	<1%			

**We learned more about who are clients were and received feedback verifying they needed and were grateful for our assistance.**

A rustic wooden surface, possibly a cutting board or table, is the background. On the left side, there is a variety of fresh vegetables including mushrooms, onions, red bell peppers, tomatoes, and green onions. On the right side, there are three wooden spoons of different sizes and colors. The text is centered on the wood.

HVCC

★ *food pantry* ★

TOLLAND  
VERNON  
ELLINGTON

# Mobile Foodshare Client Surveys 2018

Optional survey administered immediately before and during food distribution at 25 of 67 sites

Surveyed 1,956 attendees (65% response rate) in English, Spanish and Polish



## Tips:

- ✓ Involve program staff early on
- ✓ Want to know vs. need to know
- ✓ Test survey tool
- ✓ Logistics are key
- ✓ Client experience: timing, messaging, language, incentives
- ✓ Clients want to contribute and feel heard
- ✓ BEC support

## Highlights from responses:

- 63% with senior(s) in household
- 59% reported not receiving SNAP
- 70% reported not visiting other pantries
- 77% visit Mobile truck every two weeks
- 51% know someone in need who is unable to get to Mobile Foodshare site
- Customer service experience
- Top requested items: vegetables, fruit and meats



*50* years changing lives  
**Hands  on**  
*Caring in Action* | **HARTFORD**

*Founded in 1969 as Center City Churches*

# TABLE DISCUSSIONS



# Intentions

- ▶ What questions did this raise for you? How could they get answered?
- ▶ What, if anything, will you do in response to this Roundtable?
- ▶ What project might you undertake using existing evaluation capacity at your organization to better understand the extent to which you are helping support basic human needs for your clients?

# Closure

- ***Thank You!***
- For further information...visit our website
- Evaluation Capacity Grant program
- Look for our survey – we want ***your*** feedback!

## I need help with: EVALUATION



Evaluation is about more than just numbers. It's about gathering, understanding and applying information to inform learning, improvement, and critical decision-making.

These resources can help your nonprofit build its evaluation capacity.

### NSP RESOURCES

- **Building Evaluation Capacity Program** enables a team from your organization to learn to design and conduct program evaluations
- **NSP Evaluation Roundtable** is a community of practice for nonprofit evaluation practitioners
- **Evaluation Capacity Grants** enable your organization to continue building evaluation capacity

### OTHER RESOURCES

- **Evaluation Services, Inc.** and **Bruner Foundation Effectiveness Initiatives** provide free resources for nonprofit evaluators.
- **W.K. Kellogg Foundation Logic Model Development Guide** helps you understand how to develop and use logic models to plan evaluation.
- **Innovation Network/ Point K Learning Center** provides resources to help you understand theories of change and evaluation planning.

+ I NEED HELP WITH...

Every opportunity starts with a conversation.

For Evaluation resources, please contact:



**Doug Shipman**  
Senior Nonprofit Support  
Program Officer  
[dshipman@hfpg.org](mailto:dshipman@hfpg.org)  
860-548-1888 x1005

The New England Nonprofit Consultant Directory is a free searchable database of consultants that work with nonprofits, including in the area of evaluation.

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