

Snapshot of Rochester, New York

July–December 2021 Progress Report



Goals

- Increase stakeholder and community engagement
- Spread public awareness of community food policy and food systems
- Establish a food policy council to actively advance policies



By the Numbers

- 181 individuals from Rochester attended 11 meetings, classes and web-based events related to food access
- 10 community members selected for the city's 13-member Food Policy Council that includes three institutional representatives

Success Story

Rochester's Food Policy Council has officially taken off thanks to the five resident leaders who joined the food policy council planning team and assisted with the selection process. Common Ground Health, Foodlink, and the City of Rochester also supported the process by providing guidance and resources to both the planning team and the new council members. Together, this has allowed resident leaders and members of the council to step into leadership roles and has increased momentum in addressing food insecurity within Rochester.

"In order to successfully advocate for policy changes that will increase access to healthy foods, it is necessary to build a broad coalition of both institutions and individuals. Personal relationships and trust must be formed, so that all participants feel valued and are able to exercise their power within the coalition. By establishing relationships and building group identity, [we've] taken the first steps in creating a community-led movement to create a healthier food system."

Mike Bulger,
Common Ground Health