



Hunger Council of the Windham Region

38 Eastwood Drive, Suite 100  
South Burlington, VT 05403

P: (802) 865-0255  
F: (802) 865-0266  
[HungerFreeVT.org](http://HungerFreeVT.org)

*Our Vision: All people in the Windham Region have access to an adequate supply of nutritious food!*

## **Introduction to the Hunger Council of the Windham Region**

Hunger Free Vermont currently facilitates eight Hunger Councils, groups of local leaders in Addison, Chittenden, Franklin & Grand Isle, and Washington Counties, the Lamoille Valley, the Northeast Kingdom, the Upper Valley, and the Windham Region, who are committed to learning about hunger and improving community and household food security. The Hunger Councils coordinate efforts and build strong nutrition safety nets at the community level and statewide. This project is a comprehensive approach to addressing hunger: by educating community members about the local causes and effects of hunger and providing tools to improve nutrition and reduce hunger in their communities and beyond.

Each Hunger Council is comprised of local leaders who are committed to improving access to quality nutrition through their individual spheres of influence and collectively, using their influence, to improve community and household food security. The membership is diverse and well-connected to the community. For example, each Council includes representatives of each member of Vermont's Congressional delegation, state senators and representatives, members of the clergy, executive directors of agencies that provide services to vulnerable populations including youth and elders, and representatives of state agencies.

Since 2006, the Hunger Councils have had an enormous impact. They have raised awareness of the issue of hunger by disseminating information within their agencies, in other professional and community circles, and through the media. Council members have expanded access and quality of nutrition for vulnerable Vermonters by increasing availability of summer food, nutrition education, school meals, child care meals, and 3SquaresVT within their counties. Hunger Council members were instrumental in expanding access to 3SquaresVT statewide, and in passing state legislation to eliminate the reduced-price category for school breakfast and lunch for Vermont children.

The Hunger Council of Windham County was founded in 2011, and in 2015, the Council changed its name to "the Windham Region" to recognize the active participation of Council members from southern Windsor County. Since the Council's founding, it has: saved the summer meal programs in Brattleboro from closing; raised awareness about hunger in the Windham region in the local media; expanded the percentage of eligible towns with summer meal programs for children from 28% to 73% in just 3 years; brought food shelves from around the county together to streamline operations, share best practices, and obtain grant funding for a transportation and processing project; helped to organize and support community events and fundraisers including the first Food Day and Summer Meals Kickoff events in Brattleboro; and developed a Guide to Healthy Food Donations that is now being used by organizations throughout the state and by the Farm to Plate Network.

There are currently three sub-committees of the Hunger Council of the Windham Region —one focused on expanding summer meals for children, one uniting the region's food shelves and food



## Hunger Council of the Windham Region

38 Eastwood Drive, Suite 100  
South Burlington, VT 05403

P: (802) 865-0255  
F: (802) 865-0266  
[HungerFreeVT.org](http://HungerFreeVT.org)

***Our Vision: All people in the Windham Region have access to an adequate supply of nutritious food!***

pantries, and one focused on regional food policy. Any Council member is welcome to join any sub-committee.

The Hunger Council of the Windham Region meets six times per year: every other month (Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., Nov.) on the third Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am, at the Marlboro College Graduate Center, 28 Vernon St., Brattleboro.

## Hunger Council

### Member Responsibilities & Roles

#### The Hunger Council

The Hunger Council is part of a strategic and multifaceted approach to effectively address hunger within a region or county by educating influential community members about the local causes and effects of hunger and providing tools to improve nutrition and reduce hunger in their communities and beyond. Hunger Council meetings are facilitated by members of the region and staffed by Hunger Free Vermont.

The Council will consist of leaders from the public and private sectors who can direct resources to anti-hunger efforts, such as critical information, visibility, funding, or the ability to influence policies or practices that impact food and nutrition services. Council members will be selected to ensure representation of:

- Urban and rural perspectives from communities around the region
- Organizations that seek to meet the basic needs of vulnerable populations
- Business, state and local government, higher education, philanthropy, faith communities

#### Hunger Council Member Roles and Responsibilities

- Bring visibility to the problem of hunger, and make ending hunger a priority in the community
- Use their expertise, resources and relationships to implement the solutions to hunger
- Identify partners and resources to help address issues and barriers that hamper food security
- Promote policy and/or program level changes that address barriers to food security

#### Hunger Council Members will develop an understanding of:

- The incidence and impact of hunger on children, families and elders
- Barriers that prevent participation in food and nutrition programs
- Factors that contribute to a strong community nutrition safety net, including federal nutrition programs, food and nutrition education, local food resources, and the emergency food system.
- The public and private organizations that play a role in strengthening the nutrition safety net