

2017 State Overview New Hampshire

Healthy Food in Health Care has been active in New Hampshire since 2012 at which time the New Hampshire Hospital Association joined the Healthier Hospitals Initiative with a focus on the Healthier Food and Leaner Energy challenges. Over the last three years, 16 facilities have either signed the *Healthy Food in Health Care Pledge* or become active in our network.

Healthy Eating Active Living NH (HEAL) is a core partner in the state. In early 2015 they released a new five year plan *Healthy People Healthy Places* in which they included a state-wide goal to increase access to healthy, affordable food for all residents. They highlight an emphasis on the role of institutions (specifically health care and schools) in meeting this goal. The alignment around this goal has created a deeper synergy in our work and further opportunities for collaboration.

Community Loan Fund is another core partner in NH. Together we have developed a Farm to Health Care Producer Questionnaire to guide producers and food businesses in the state to meet hospital demand. To date, over two dozen producers have completed the questionnaire and six have been matched with health care facilities. In 2017, we will work together for enhanced promotion of these local producers to the facilities.

Key Upcoming Activities/ Opportunities in 2017

Quarterly Workgroup meetings to work with facilities to develop hospital-wide plans for engagement around healthy food procurement and community food access. This will be a continuation of the first meeting in October 2016 to break down silos of various departments who are working on food related issues with varying degrees of coordination.

Work with NH Farm to School to support “Beacon Communities” who support healthy, local, and sustainable food through multiple points of access including health care and schools.

Work with NH Food Alliance to strengthen the food network and create a more robust local food system in the state.

Key Dates for 2017

- January & February: 2017 HFHC survey
- March: Nutrition Month, featuring the blended burger
- March 8: HFHC workgroup meeting.
- April 5-7: Regional Farm to Institution Summit in Leominster, MA
- June 20: HFHC workgroup meeting.
- July- September: Farm field trip
- September: Launch Nourished by New England local food program
- September 20: HFHC workgroup meeting.
- October: HEAL NH Annual Conference

- October 24: Food Day
- November: NH Food Alliance Annual Gathering
- November 13-19: Get Smart Week
- December 5: HFHC workgroup meeting.

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