



*Creating a hunger-free community*

# **Worcester County Forum on Hunger: *A Call to Action***

## **Creating a Hunger-Free & Healthy Community**

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Worcester County Food Bank

June 14, 2011

# Defining Moments

- 2002- Worcester County Food Bank 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Mission Statement  
*To Engage, Educate, and Lead Worcester County  
in Creating a Hunger-Free Community*
- 2003- Worcester County Hunger-Free Network  
Partner Agency Conference - *Partners in a Vision: Freedom From Hunger*
- 2005- Community Forum on Hunger: *Taking Action*
- 2006- Mayor's Advisory Food Policy Council
- 2007- The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts
- 2008- Hunger-Free & Healthy Project

*“Hunger affects an individual, then a family, and ultimately a community. Hunger can best be seen and understood where it is experienced. Many of the best approaches to ending hunger arise from local communities.”*



\*A Blueprint to End Hunger 2008

# Hunger-Free & Healthy:

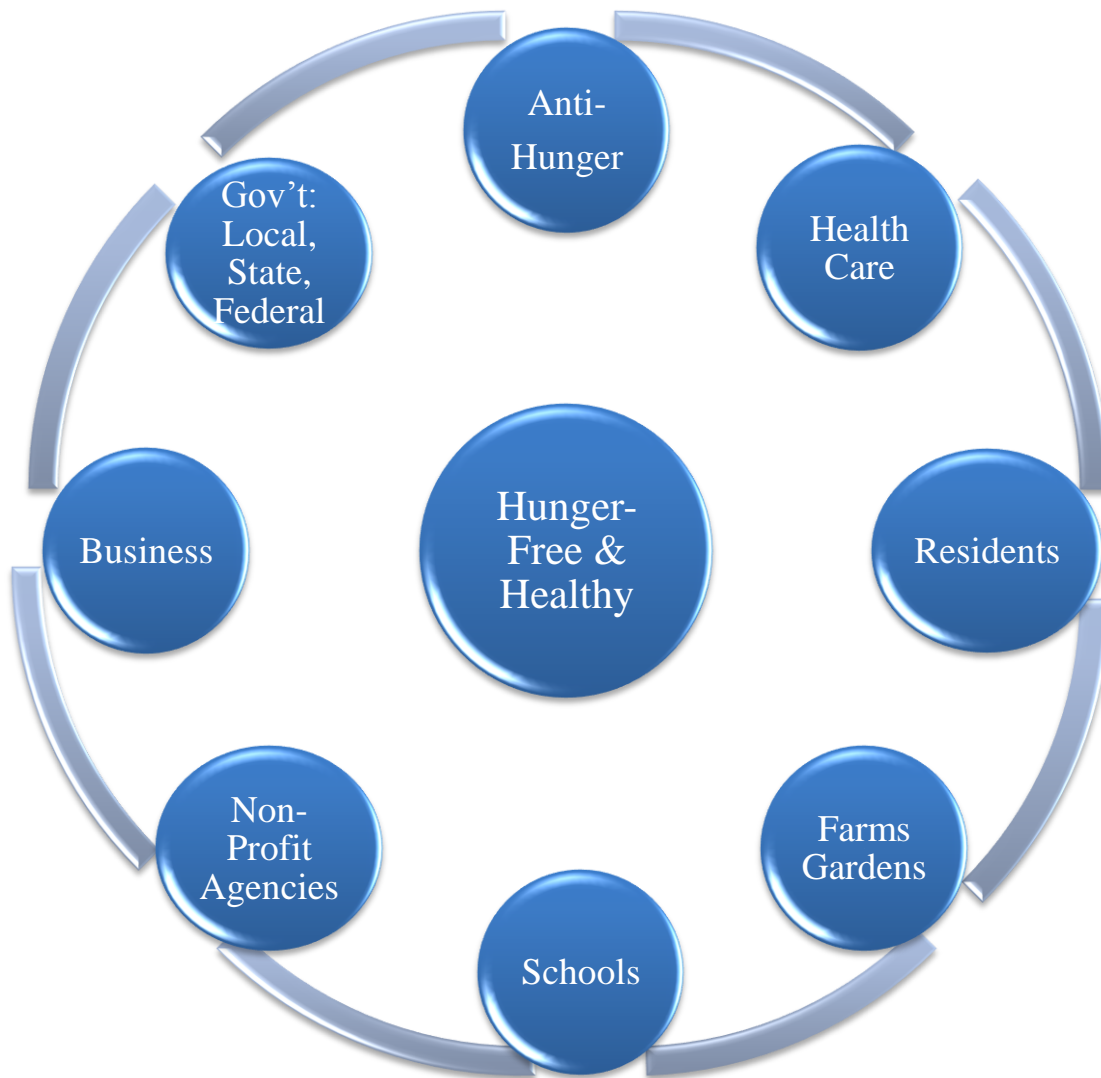
A community approach to promoting health and food security in Worcester

## Project Partners

Catholic Charities	Centro Las Americas
Congressman James McGovern and Staff	Cooking Matters Massachusetts
Edward M. Kennedy Health Center	Family Health Center of Worcester
Jeremiah's Inn	MA Dept. of Transitional Assistance, Worcester
MA Public Health Association	Mass in Motion
Pioneering Healthier Communities	Pleasant Street Neighborhood Network Center
Project Bread - The Walk for Hunger	Regional Environmental Council

## ... Project Partners Continued

Saint Vincent Hospital	The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts
UMass Medical School	UMass Memorial Health Care
United Way of Central Massachusetts	YMCA of Central Massachusetts
YWCA of Central MA	Worcester County Food Bank
Worcester Community Action Council	Worcester Housing Authority
Worcester Department of Public Health	Worcester Public Schools
Worcester Public School Committee Members	



# Hunger-Free & Healthy Project Leaders & Strategies

- Improving the quality of school meals in Worcester Public Schools
  - Child Nutrition Director
- Increasing participation of eligible households in SNAP
  - Project Bread, St. Vincent Hospital, UMass Memorial Health Care, DTA Worcester
- Establishing farmers' markets and school gardens
  - Regional Environmental Council
- Offering nutrition-based cooking and budgeting classes to families and teens
  - Regional Environmental Council, Cooking Matters Massachusetts
- Advocacy and Sustainability
  - Massachusetts Food Policy Council
  - Massachusetts School Nutrition Bill
  - Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization
  - 2012 Farm Bill

# Today is a Defining Moment

2011- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Partner Agency Conference,

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