Tompkins County, New York

Cradle to Career, a project of the Center for Transformative Action, and partners lead the Childhood Nutrition Collaborative, a community initiative that ensures food security in Tompkins County.

**Goals**

- Identify assets for and barriers to food security and review the current approaches being used to decrease food insecurity
- Embed the Childhood Nutrition Collaborative within other food systems initiatives to better inform change and influence sustainability
- Influence systems change that has the potential to increase food security for every young person pre-birth to age 24

**Background**

- Population size: 104,871
- Rates of food insecurity in Tompkins County are estimated to be 14%.
- The median income is below U.S. average, with 20% living in poverty.

**Key Milestones from July – December 2020**

- 35 individuals that attended community convenings or meetings related to access to foods that support healthy eating patterns
- 21 partner organizations convened or engaged by the lead partner to promote access to foods that support healthy eating patterns
- 14 community convenings or meetings related to access to foods that support healthy eating patterns

**Success Stories**

- Distributed a community survey which included questions about food access and local food systems in an effort to gain better understanding of COVID’s impact on the community
- Created a Childhood Nutrition Collaborative Coordinator position, which holds outreach and relationship building central to this role
- Updated food pantry lists and provided resource sheet on how to refer patients with food insecurity to food assistance programs

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