

Welcome to the
2026 FOOD SUMMIT
Growing Together

CARAT Insights + Partner Impacts Across Southeastern MA

Hosted by:

**MARION INSTITUTE
SOUTHCOST
FOOD POLICY COUNCIL**

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2026 FOOD SUMMIT

Growing Together



CARAT Insights + Partner Impacts Across Southeastern MA

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Food System Assessment Overview
3. CARAT Process and Preliminary Takeaways
4. County Lead Comments
5. Speaker Panel
 - a. Martha's Vineyard Fisherman's Preservation Trust - Shelley Edmundson
 - b. Chatham Harvesters - Brett Tolley
 - c. Sustainable Nantucket - Posie Constable
 - d. SEMAP - Brad Fesmire
6. Q&A
7. Closing Comments



MARION INSTITUTE
SOUTHCOAST FOOD
POLICY COUNCIL

A mission to connect, convene, and advocate for local food producers, consumers, and community members who seek policy and systems that strengthen our regional food system, improve community health, and eliminate food insecurity



MARION INSTITUTE SOUTHCOAST FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

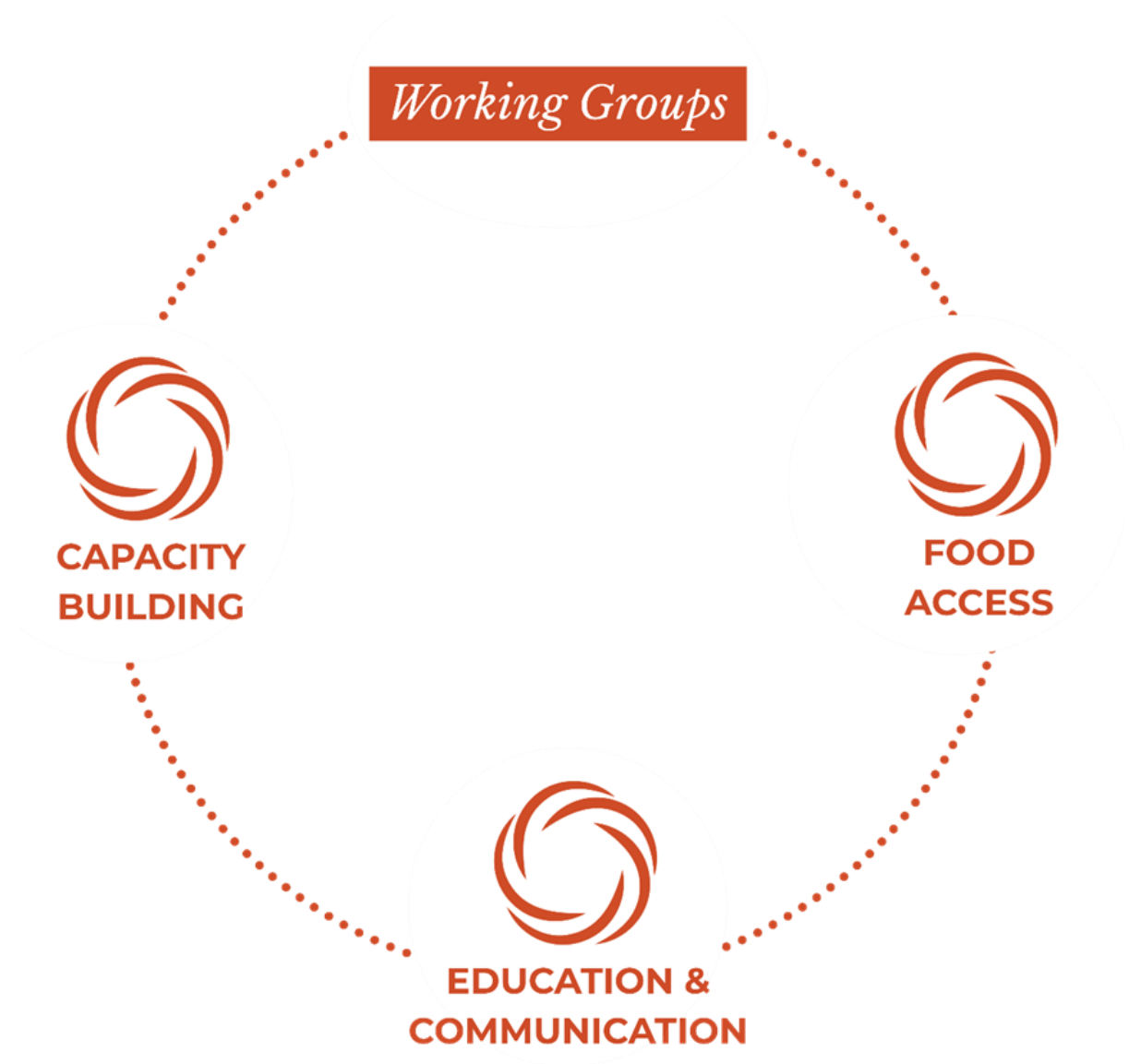
Promote nutrition security and a resilient, equitable food system.

2000+ members-at-large

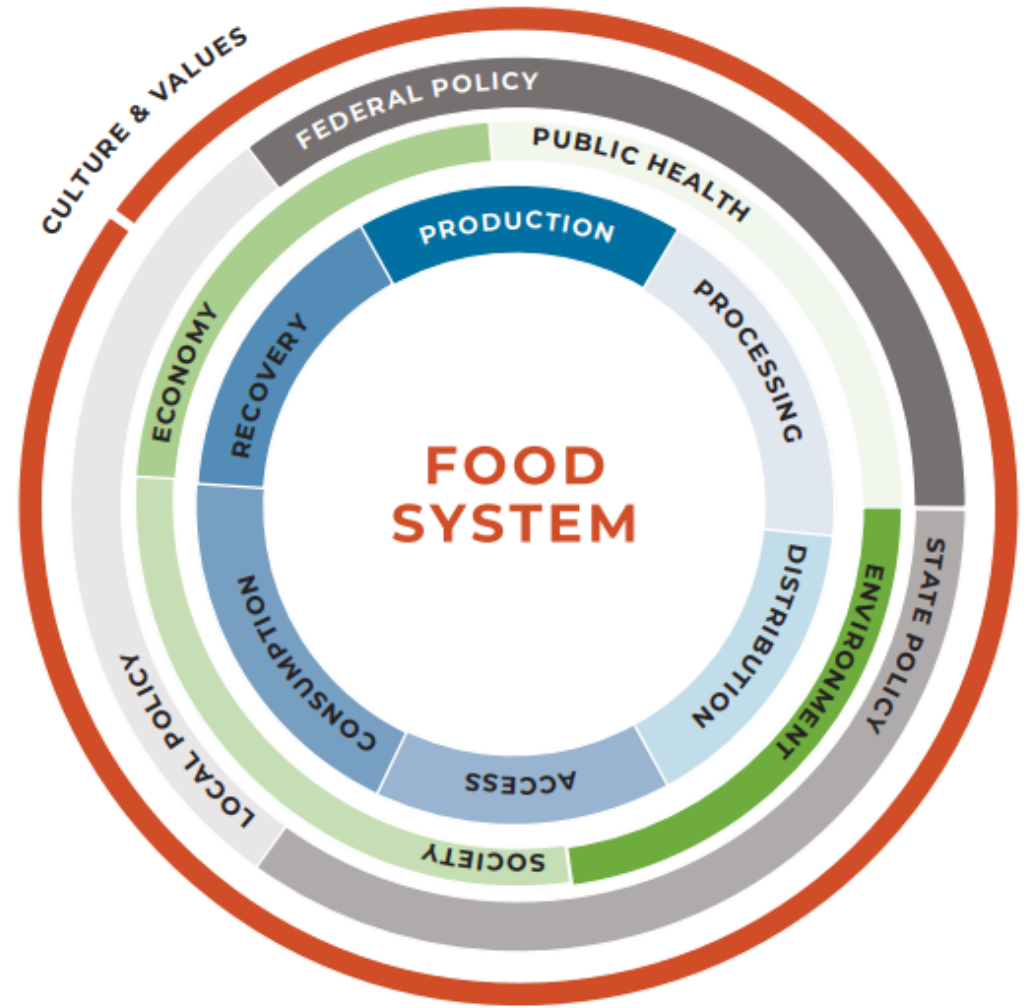
35+ Community Advisory Board

3 main working groups with specific priorities in:

- Education & Communication
- Food Access
- Capacity Building



What is the role of food policy councils in the food system?



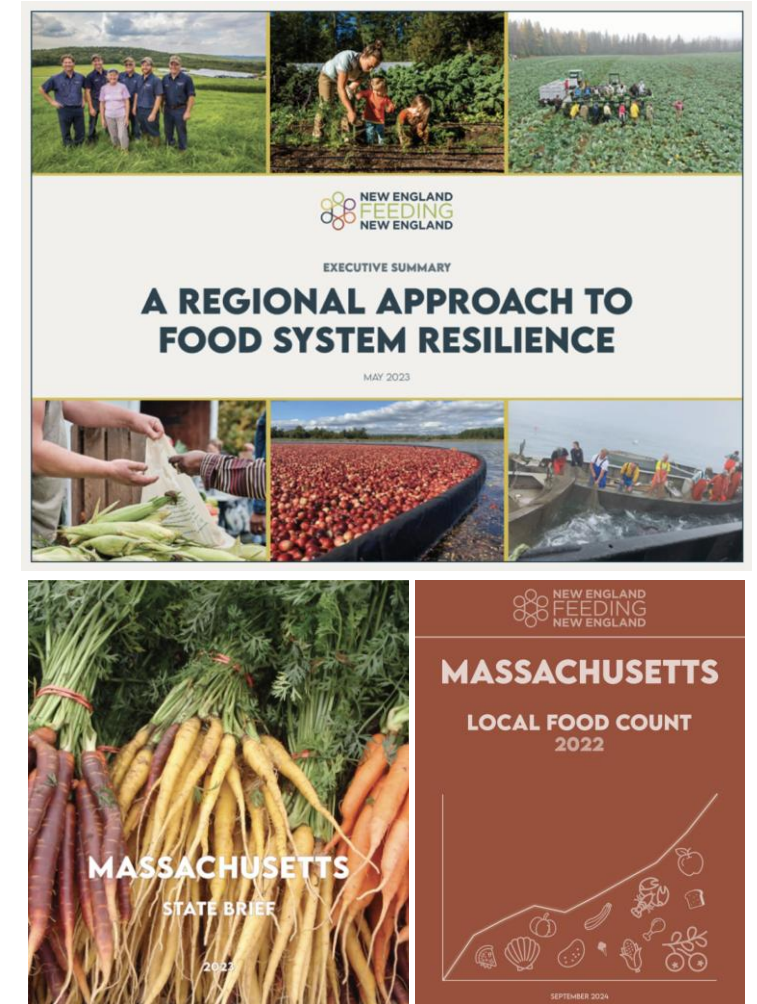
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Regional Planning

New England Food System Planners Partnership

New England Feeding New England

- What would it take for 30% of the food consumed in New England to be regionally produced by 2030.
- How much do New Englanders spend on local food?
- What can each New England state do to increase regional resilience?
- Is New England's food system moving in the right direction?
- Seven (7) common food systems challenges including lack of planning for long-term food supplies



2026 Food System Assessment

A Shared Foundation for Regional Action

Launching Fall 2026, the Southeastern MA Food System Assessment will bring together:

DATA

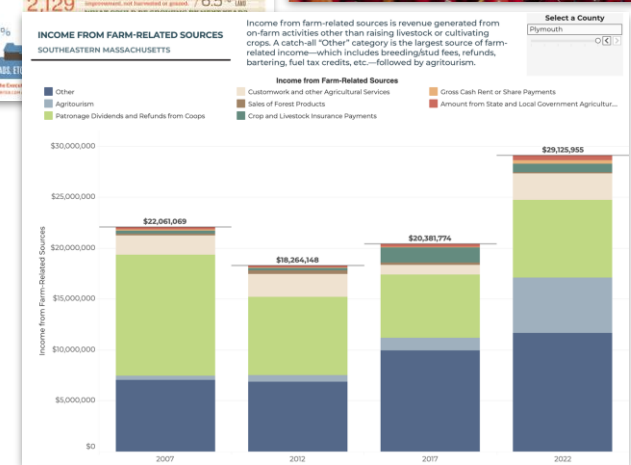
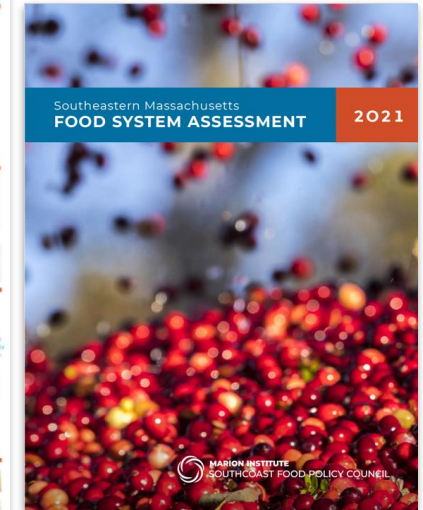
Secondary research examining the region's food system, resources, infrastructure, and conditions.

COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE

CARAT “social infrastructure” insights gathered from communities across six counties.

THE RESULT

A shared language and strategic foundation to guide regional food-system coordination, investment, and action over the next five years.



Community and Agriculture Resilience Audit Tool



1. Natural Resource Management, Use, Conservation, and Preservation of Ecosystems and Farmland
2. Community Health and Well-Being
3. Community Self-Reliance in Food
4. Distributed and Democratic Leadership
5. Focus on Local Farmers, Food Processors, and Food Distributors
6. Food Sovereignty
7. Place-Based Economics

County Partners

Bristol County Lead + Coordinator

Marion Institute

Liz Wiley, Executive Director

Rita Higgins, CARAT Project Manager

Christine Smith, Southcoast Food Policy
Council Coordinator

Emma DeCola, Community Relationship
& CARAT Research Support

CoP Facilitator

Northbound Ventures Consulting

Holly Fowler, Co-founder & CEO

Barnstable County Lead

Cape Cod Cooperative Extension

Andrea Scarpellini

Food Access Coordinator, CCCE

Dukes County Lead

Island Grown Initiative

Noli Taylor, Co-Executive Director

Caroline Pam, Co-Executive Director

Nantucket County Lead

Sustainable Nantucket and Nourish Nantucket

Posie Constable

Managing Director, Sustainable Nantucket

Meg Browsers

Executive Director, Nourish Nantucket

Norfolk County Leads

Bay State Community Services,
South Shore Food Bank, Town of Randolph

Ania Amedee

Mass in Motion Coordinator, Bay State
Community Services

Michelle Tyler

Town Planner, Town of Randolph

Pam Denholm

Executive Director, South Shore Food Bank

Plymouth County Lead

Old Colony Planning Council

Joanne Zygmunt

Senior Planner, Comprehensive
Planning and Sustainability

Bill Napolitano

Resilience and Sustainability Planner

CARAT Process



Convene



Dig



Distill



Analyze



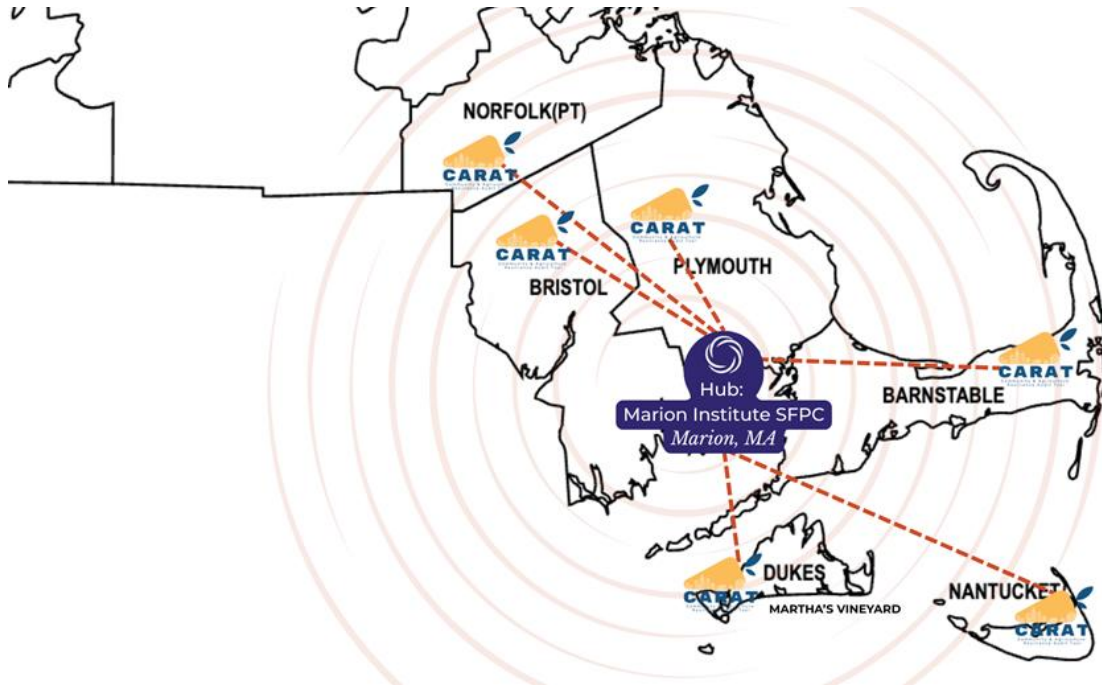
Amplify



Prioritize



Convene



Form Community Advisory Boards

Review all seven themes
10-12 meetings
~7 months



Dig

33

Emergency Plans include Service to Isolated Communities

We have **emergency plans that include networks to communicate with underserved and/or isolated communities** to distribute emergency food resources as needed.

Bristol County Resource - Policy, Program, Practice	Organization
Coastline Elderly Client Network	Coastline Elderly
Grassroots Networks	Mujeres Victoriosas
Hub for smaller pantries	United Way NB
Volunteer Training Program	City of Norton Community Emergency Response Team



Distill

33

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No Findings

Not being discussed or considered OR we just can't find anything (yet).

Being Considered

One or more groups are discussing or advocating for a policy or program but no formal plan or funding is in place

Being Implemented

A policy, practice, program, or investment addressing the problem or opportunity exist for less than 3 years, and it may not have long-term funding and/or enforcement

Established

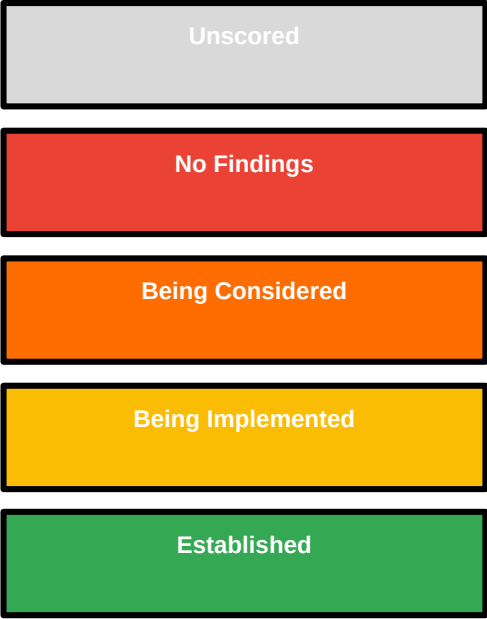
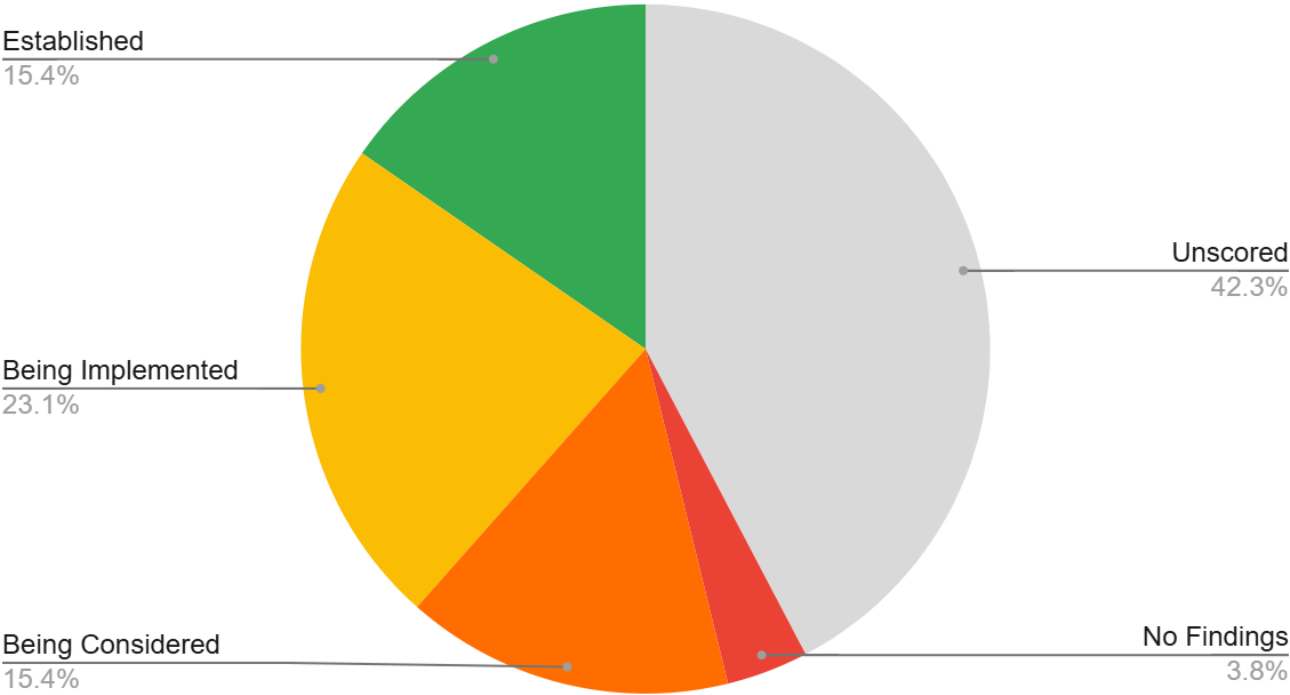
Several organizations are working together or have prioritized this indicator, policy or programs are in place for more than 3 years and are enforced, and there is sufficient long-term funding

Bristol County Snapshot

Community Health + Wellbeing

Theme 2:
26
Indicators

Bristol

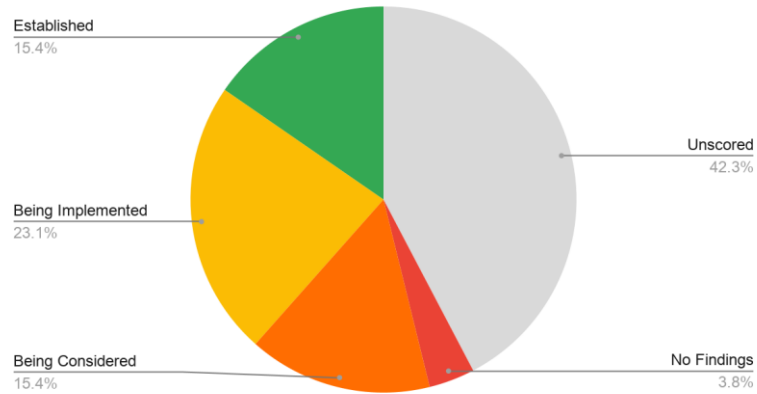


Regional Snapshot

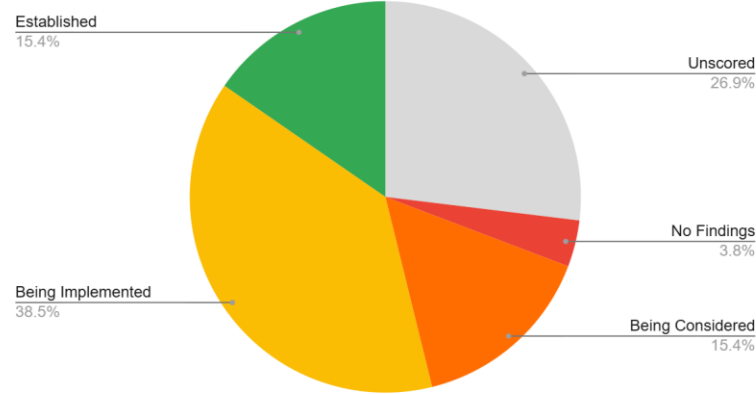
Community Health + Wellbeing

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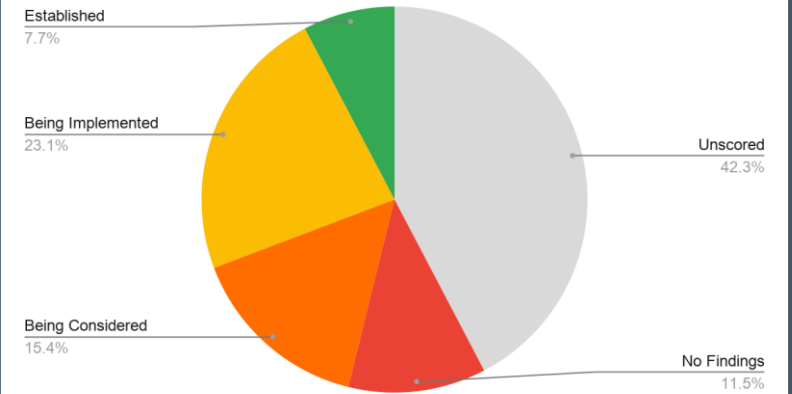
Bristol



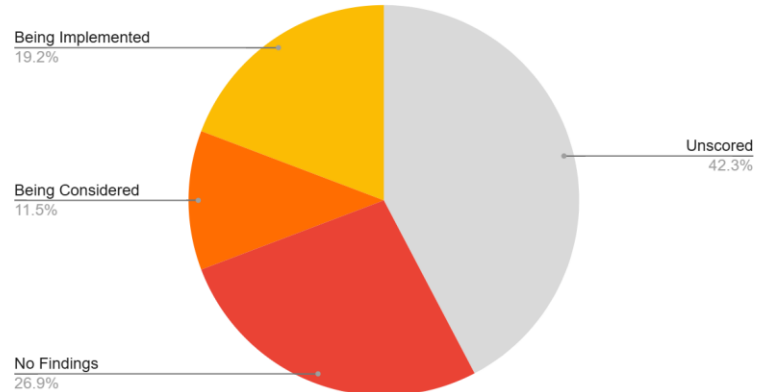
Barnstable



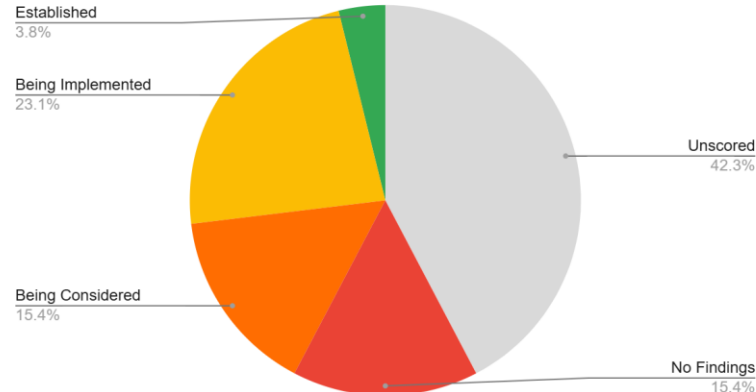
Dukes



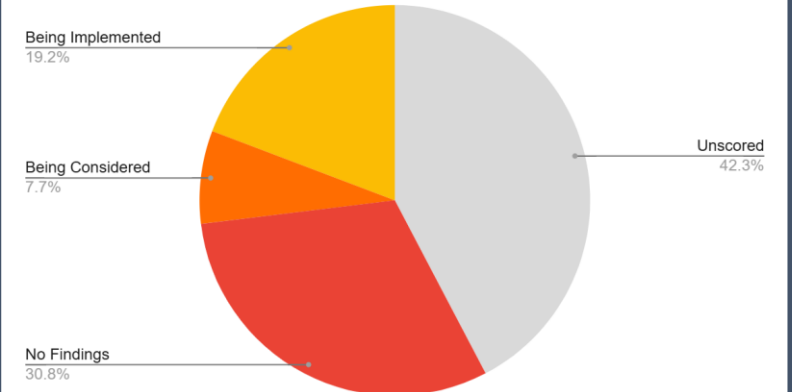
Nantucket



Norfolk

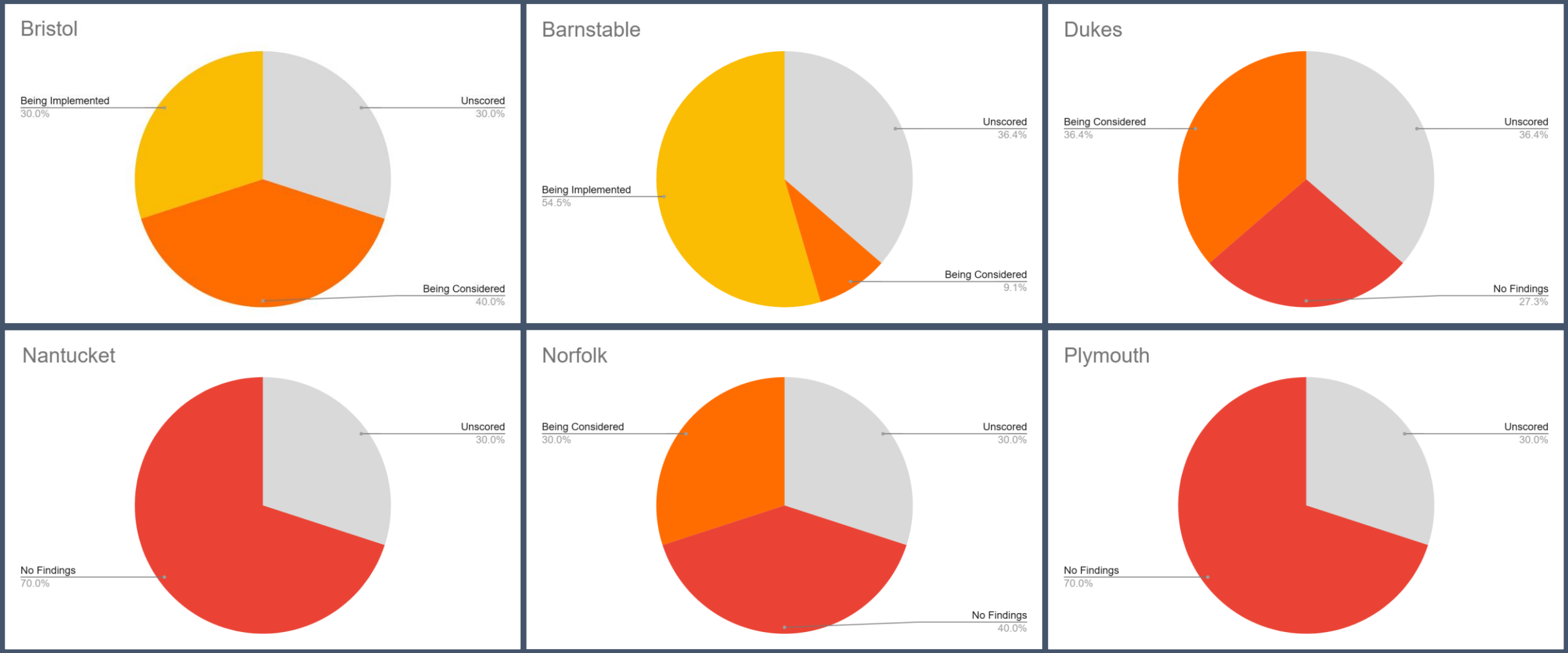


Plymouth



Community Health + Wellbeing

Subsection: Food Access and Emergency Planning



Preliminary Regional Gaps

- Emergency planning for food access
- Farm and Sea to Institution
- Soil Health Support
- Specific programs to support marginalized community members (grants, land access, grant support)
- Organizations dedicated to food system policy advocacy
- New Farmer Programs and Farmland Protection Strategies
- Protecting our Water Resources

Preliminary Takeaways

- Importance of community buy-in from the beginning
- Power of regular connection with County Partners
- Importance of the county Community Advisory Boards and having space for food system conversations across sectors
- Leadership can be found in unexpected places
- Importance of ongoing Data Management and Stewardship
- Food system resilience work is never done...it is dynamic and evolving

Next Step - Local Food Action Plans based on 2026 Food System Assessment results

Today's Speakers

- **Shelley Edmundson, Martha's Vineyard Preservation Trust** – Executive Director
- **Brett Tolley, Chatham Harvesters** – Co-founder and General Manager
- **Posie Constable, Sustainable Nantucket** – Managing Director
- **Brad Fesmire, Southeastern MA Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP)** – Community Engagement & Program Director
- **Moderated by – Rita Higgins, CARAT Project Manager**

Dock to School





Shelley Edmundson

Executive Director

Martha's Vineyard
Preservation Trust





Brett Tolley
Co-Founder + General
Manager

Chatham Harvesters



New Farmer Support





Brad Fesmire

Community Engagement +
Program Director

Southeastern Massachusetts
Agricultural Partnership





Posie Constable
Managing Director

Sustainable Nantucket



Thank you and Take Action!

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listserv



This will also be emailed to you post meeting.