

Binghamton Farm Share Around the Corner: Pilot Project

Brief Description

Similar to many cities across the country, several of Binghamton's neighborhoods that have the highest rates of families in poverty and lowest rates of car ownership also lack access to affordable, healthy foods. Binghamton's North Side has been designated by the USDA as a food desert, and despite efforts by local officials and grassroots organizers, this neighborhood has been without a supermarket for over 15 years. Committed to addressing this issue of inequity, community partners have been working together to find alternative ways to improve food access for residents while also supporting local producers. The *Binghamton Farm Share Around the Corner* Pilot Project will provide residents of the North and West sides of Binghamton with convenient access to local produce on a weekly basis from June through October. Farm shares of produce will be available at the below locations at a regular day each week between the hours of 3-7pm:

- Roosevelt Elementary School, 9 Ogden St (*North Side*)
- Binghamton Housing Authority's Carlisle Apartments, 150 Moeller St (*North Side*)
- Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network, 457 State St (*North Side*)
- Tabernacle United Methodist Church, 83 Main St (*West Side*)

Shares can be purchased with SNAP benefits, which will be matched dollar for dollar through grant funds provided by the City of Binghamton's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Every other week at each location, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County will provide cooking demonstrations and food samples featuring items from that week's farm share. In addition, free nonperishable items will be available at the end of the month to help reduce food insecurity, which often arises in SNAP recipient households at the end of the month.

VINES will be managing this project in partnership with the United Way of Broome County, Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship (CADE), and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County. Funding for a modified pilot project (2 pick-up locations) has been secured, and the full pilot project (4 pick-up locations) will be possible pending additional grant funds from the NYS Fresh Connect Food Box Pilot program. The announcement for this grant is expected the first week of May.