



## **End Hunger Connecticut! Receives \$130,000 Grant from Tufts Health Plan Foundation to Improve SNAP Experience for Older Adults**

**Hartford, CT — December 21, 2020** — End Hunger Connecticut! (EHC!) is excited to announce it was awarded a three-year “Policy and Advocacy Grant” in the amount of \$130,000 from Tufts Health Plan Foundation to implement its proposed project, *“Improving SNAP Experience for Older Adults to Increase Food Security.”*

The award is one of 10 new community grants totaling \$1.325 million to fund projects aligned with the Foundation’s commitment to advancing policies and practices that support healthy aging. The grants engage older people in systems-level change to remove barriers responsible for inequities in communities across the region. Tufts Health Plan Foundation is the only regional funder exclusively focused on healthy aging.

“Many older adults face economic uncertainty in normal times, and COVID-19 has exacerbated this situation,” said EHC! Executive Director Robin Lamott Sparks. “COVID has truly exposed the economic fragility of many of our families, friends and neighbors, and we are so grateful to the Foundation for supporting this project which will help us increase food security amongst older adults throughout the state.”

EHC! will use the grant funds over the three-year period to provide training in peer-to-peer outreach for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly named food stamps); leverage its existing bilingual (English & Spanish) SNAP Call Center to assist with the application/redetermination process; and identify issues for administrative advocacy to improve the SNAP application and redetermination experience for older Connecticut residents.

“We are seeing trends – notably food insecurity and the need to ensure our long-term services and supports system advances healthy aging,” said Nora Moreno Cargie, president of Tufts Health Plan Foundation and vice president for corporate citizenship at Tufts Health Plan. “We’ve seen the consequences of generations of systemic racism; we hope these grants will create space to listen and hear older people as they promote policy solutions that make sense for all of us.”

EHC! is dedicated to eradicating hunger and promoting healthy nutrition through outreach, public education, and advocacy. EHC! enhances the visibility and coordination of food assistance programs crucial to any effort to improve food security by partnering with several state and local officials, schools, and community-based organizations. This project will engage multiple partners across Connecticut and leverage work already being done to ensure wellness and improve program accessibility for older adults in the state.



### **More About EHC!**

*End Hunger Connecticut!, the only statewide anti-hunger nonprofit in Connecticut, is dedicated to eliminating hunger and promoting healthy nutrition through outreach, public education, and legislative and administrative advocacy. By partnering with national organizations, state and local agencies and leaders, schools, and community-based organizations, EHC! enhances the visibility and coordination of federal food assistance programs that are crucial to any effort to improve food security while increasing both family well-being and the amount of federal funding available to the state. EHC! also engages in strategic outreach, capacity building, and provides technical assistance on food and nutrition programs. Its bilingual (English & Spanish) SNAP Call Center also operates 7 days/week and is available for extended appointments for anyone in need of SNAP assistance, even during the challenges of COVID-19. Call toll-free for SNAP assistance at (866) 974-SNAP (7627), learn more about statewide work and services at [www.endhungerct.org](http://www.endhungerct.org), and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).*

### **More About Tufts Health Plan Foundation**

*Established in 2008, Tufts Health Plan Foundation supports the health and wellness of the diverse communities we serve. The Foundation has given more than \$45 million to Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island nonprofits that promote healthy aging. The Tufts Health Plan Foundation funds programs that move communities toward implementing age-friendly policies and practices that are relevant, focus on older adults and include them in community solutions. Visit [www.tuftshealthplanfoundation.org](http://www.tuftshealthplanfoundation.org) or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).*

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### **Press Contacts:**

#### ***End Hunger Connecticut!***

Robin Lamott Sparks, Executive Director  
[rlamottsparks@endhungerct.org](mailto:rlamottsparks@endhungerct.org)

#### ***Tufts Health Plan Foundation***

Alrie McNiff Daniels  
617-301-2715