

Trenton Health Team

We can make food pantries more accessible for people with disabilities

Matthew Broad

Our IHC project is focused on improving accessibility of free food resources in Mercer County. The barriers that people with disabilities face when accessing the free food resources could be anything from transportation barriers, getting to and from the free food resources. It could be the time of day. A person might not be able to get to the resources during the time that they're open. And then there's also the information barrier, so understanding what resources are available and if there are any eligibility concerns with accessing that resource.

We co-facilitate a group called the Trenton Food Stakeholders. As part of that group we have a wide variety of organizations. So we have the food bank Mercer Street Friends. We have individual food pantries. We work with a local family farm, Snipes Farm. We work with academic institutions, organizations that do work around community development or urban agriculture. We are really the convener, the backbone, of that group, and we provide a lot of data and support to our partners. But a lot of the on-the-ground work is actually done through the food pantries or other organizations.

James Allen

Our partnership with the Trenton Health Team ... I'm gonna call them the data crunching folks, okay? We'll provide a service. They crunch the data. They show us things that we may not have the time to see.

Our goal with Trenton Health Team was to point out food deserts, point out a map so you can go to the website you can find out where there's food available at, to try to find out a way to make those deserts oases.

Matthew Broad

We are looking at the physical pantry accessibility but also working with the volunteers and the staff to provide training for disability awareness and sensitivity, so that when folks use the pantry they have the best experience possible

Leticia Hernandez

Working with the Trenton Health Team has helped us to be more inclusive. We now have more knowledge as to how we can service people with different needs. It was a great blessing, because we want to make sure that people have accessibility to our pantry.

Matthew Broad

IHC funding has made it possible for us to build connections with people with disabilities and disability service providers and incorporate those organizations into our Trenton Food Stakeholders.

Jonathan Snipes

Our farmers are happiest when they know that the food they're producing is going to the most vulnerable people. For us now to know that Trenton Health Team has a project to make pantries more accessible to people with disabilities, that's just another level up of making access for food for people who really need it the most.