



Sun River Health & Feeding Westchester

With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organization (AAPCHO) launched “Building Cross-Sector Partnerships to Address SDOH: Design Sprints.” Using human-centered design concepts, NACHC and AAPCHO facilitated four design sprint cohorts with community health centers and their cross-sector partners to tackle social drivers of health challenges in their communities and advance health equity. Each cohort focused on one aspect of the RWJF Theory of Change framework (purpose, data, governance, finance) to strengthen both emerging and established partnerships, and foster alignment between sectors.

About: Sun River Health



Sun River Health is the largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in New York State. The mission of Sun River Health is to increase access to comprehensive primary preventative care and improve the health status of the community especially for the underserved and vulnerable.

About: Feeding Westchester



Feeding Westchester is a food bank that serves Westchester County and is part of the Feeding America Network. The mission of Feeding Westchester is to nourish our neighbors in the fight against hunger and to lead a unified effort for a hunger-free New York State. Feeding Westchester has a rich history of addressing hunger in communities through hunger and food assistance programs such as fresh markets and food pantries services. Feeding Westchester also offers programs such as nutrition workshops, and SNAP and WIC enrollment.

Design Sprints: Highlights

Sun River Health collaborated with Feeding Westchester to address the high-volume of people experiencing food insecurity within the communities surrounding Sun River’s Westchester sites. The team comprised of a nutritionist, program manager, clinical and operational leadership, Americorps members, frontline staff, and promotoras serving the community. Through the design sprints, the two organizations formed a partnership focusing on developing an impactful food security and nutrition program for their shared populations, including screenings, referrals, fresh produce distributions, and connections to enabling services. Using an evidence-based model for integrating health and social care, this partnership’s programs resulted in a 63% diabetes improvement rate for participants and improved food security metrics.

Moving Forward

By participating in the Design Sprint, Sun River Health and Feeding Westchester were able to have the space and dedicated time to collaborate with each other and be strategic about their program vision. Moving forward, both organizations plan on working together to refine their data strategy to create a holistic picture of social and clinical program impact. This data will be shared with their community for continuous program improvement and funders to sustain this important work.