



# THE DIALOGUE

## The Kentucky Hunger Dialogue Newsletter



### WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL KHD FELLOWS!

Please help us in welcoming our first-ever Kentucky Hunger Dialogue Fellows! The Kentucky Hunger Dialogue Fellowship program is supported with funds from EngageKY's AmeriCorps Volunteer Generation Fund grant, EngageKY+. AmeriCorps is a federal agency dedicated to fostering national service and volunteerism. The funding supports the development and sustainability of the Kentucky Hunger Dialogue Fellowship, providing fellows with resources such as mentorship, specialized training, and funding for self-designed campus projects.



**Ashia Hilliman**  
Northern Kentucky  
University



**Mallory Sparks**  
University of  
Kentucky

### A LITTLE ABOUT OUR FELLOWS

**Ashia Hilliman** is an upcoming food justice organizer who works with various organizations across Kentucky, such as Change Today, Change Tomorrow, FUEL NKU, and AmeriCorps, to address youth and community hunger. From food pantries to farmer's markets, Ashia works on the ground to help people get fed. Having worked and volunteered with youth organizations in their hometown in Louisville, Ashia now works in Northern Kentucky to address hunger on college campuses. Studying animation at Northern Kentucky University, Ashia fights daily against the starving artist stereotype, one shared meal at a time.

**Mallory Sparks** is a junior at the University of Kentucky studying Spanish on a pre-healthcare track. After graduating, she would like to get a master's degree in public health and plans to go to dental school and become a dentist in the state of Kentucky. Sparks is a Presidential Scholar, fellow of the Lewis Honors Rising Leaders Program, member of the Medical Spanish Affinity Group and Student Sustainability Council, and is actively involved in research. She is currently working under the mentorship of Dr. Juan Canedo from the College of Medicine on a project assessing HPV vaccine uptake and rates of cervical cancer.

APRIL 2025



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### COLLEGE FOOD PANTRIES AND FARMERS MARKETS: A POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP

To combat food insecurity among students, many colleges are forming partnerships between campus food pantries and local farmers markets. These collaborations provide students with access to fresh, nutritious food while supporting local farmers.

Through these partnerships, food pantries receive donations of surplus produce or purchase fresh goods at discounted rates. Some campuses even offer vouchers for students to use at farmers markets, promoting healthier eating habits. This ensures that students have access to fresh fruits, vegetables, and other essential foods that may not always be available in traditional food pantry stocks.

Beyond food access, these partnerships create opportunities for community engagement and education. Students can connect with local farmers, learn about sustainable food systems, and participate in nutrition workshops. By strengthening the link between food pantries and farmers markets, colleges take a proactive step toward addressing student hunger while fostering a culture of sustainability and healthy living.

# Join US!

Would you like to be involved in the planning of the 2026 Kentucky Hunger Dialogue? The planning group meets monthly to co-create the one-day event. Planning meetings include creating the day's agenda, inviting guest speakers, reviewing workshop proposals, and helping create interactive group activities.

Contact Mindy Wilson at [mindy.wilson@engageky.org](mailto:mindy.wilson@engageky.org) to be added to the planning group!



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