



**Harvard**  
**Food Law and Policy Clinic**  
A Division of the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation

# **Actions & Accomplishments of U.S. Food Policy Councils**

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# Harvard

## Food Law and Policy Clinic

A Division of the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation

- Serve clients
- Train students
- 4 Main Policy Areas:
  - Community Empowerment
  - Sustainable Food Production
  - Food Access & Obesity Prevention
  - Reducing Food Waste



# Overview

- **Active FPCs & their activities**
  - New York State Council on Food Policy
  - Virginia Food System Council
  - Hawai'i Food Policy Council
  - Los Angeles Food Policy Council
  - Oakland Food Policy Council
- **Our Recommendations**

# Categories of Activities

- **React to Legislation and Regulations**
- **Conduct Research**
- **Provide Guidance & Release Publications**
- **Seek Grant Funding**
- **Host Convenings**
- **Sponsor Educational Campaigns**
- **Miscellaneous**





# NEW YORK

**New York State Council on Food Policy (NYS CFP)**

**<http://www.nyscfp.org/>**

# NYS CFP MEMBERSHIP

- Composed of 21 members appointed by the Governor
  - State agency heads
    - Department of Agriculture & Markets; Department of Health; Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance; Department of Economic Development; Office for the Aging; State Education Department; & the Consumer Protection Board
  - Dean of NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell
  - Anti-hunger advocate
  - Food assistance organization representatives
  - Nutritionist
  - School food administrator
  - Farm organization
  - Food industry representatives



# NYS CFP WORK GROUPS

- Members delegated to 1 of 4 work groups organized by key food policy issue areas, based on their area of expertise and interests
  1. Maximize participation in food and nutrition assistance programs
  2. Strengthen the connection between local food products and consumers
  3. Support efficient and profitable agricultural food production and food retail infrastructure
  4. Increase consumer awareness and knowledge about healthy eating and improve access to safe and nutritious foods
- Work groups provide status to Council Chair
- Non-Council individuals invited to join work groups

# NYS CFP Activities

- REACT TO LEGISLATION & REGULATIONS
  - Make recommendation the the Governor on state regulations, legislation, and budget proposals
  - Commented on USDA Proposed Rule for the NSLP/SBP
- PROVIDE GUIDANCE & RELEASE PUBLICATIONS
  - Respond to public queries via website
  - NYS Food Procurement Guidelines
- GRANT FUNDING
  - USDA Farm to School Federal Grant
- MISCELLANEOUS
  - Listening Sessions
  - Annual Report to Governor







# VIRGINIA

Virginia Food System Council (VFSC)  
<http://virginiafoodsystemcouncil.org/>

# VFSC Activities

- PROVIDE GUIDANCE & RELEASE PUBLICATIONS
  - Respond to public queries
  - Publish guidelines and toolkits
    - Legal Guide to Farming
- HOST CONVENINGS
  - Virginia Urban Agriculture Summit
  - Food Security Summit
- EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS
  - Farm to Institution Initiative
- MISCELLANEOUS
  - Listening Sessions
  - \$10/week Campaign





# Hawai'i

**Hawai'i Food Policy Council (HFPC)**

**<http://www.hawaiifoodpolicycouncil.org/>**

# HFPC Activities

- REACT TO LEGISLATION & REGULATIONS
  - Publicize bills
  - Encourage resident testimony
  - Food Policy Watchdog
  - Co-sponsor state bills
- HOST CONVENINGS
  - Distinguished Speaker Series
  - Meet & Greet with food innovators





# LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC)

<http://goodfoodla.org/>



# LAFPC Activities

- REACT TO LEGISLATION & REGULATIONS
  - Publicize bills
- HOST CONVENINGS
  - Food Waste Conference
  - Good Food Gathering
- PROVIDE GUIDANCE & RELEASE PUBLICATIONS
  - Good Food for All Agenda
  - Healthy Neighborhood Market Network
- MISCELLANEOUS
  - Listening Sessions



# LAFPC Strategic Priorities

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES
Equitable access to healthy food for underserved communities	<b>A)</b> Increase the number of healthy food retailers operating in neighborhoods with limited healthy food choices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host 3 multi-lingual Healthy Neighborhood Market Network trainings for at least 100 market owners annually.</li> <li>• Launch the first healthy food purchasing cooperative in LA, which aggregates the buying power of small stores in low-income “food desert” neighborhoods to improve their access to distribution services and more affordable fresh produce for their stores.</li> <li>• Convene and staff Healthy Food Retail &amp; Food Equity Working Group to advance policy recommendations and community projects related to equitable food access and economic development.</li> </ul>
	<b>B)</b> Create a city-wide permit system for sidewalk vending as a way to support viable economic opportunities for food entrepreneurs; increase healthy food options in underserved areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with LA Street Vending Campaign Steering Committee to establish a city-wide permit system for sidewalk vendors including a “Healthy Food Vending Program.”</li> </ul>
	<b>C)</b> Achieve universal acceptance of CalFresh/EBT and WIC vouchers at all farmers’ markets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene Farmers’ Market for All Working Group to increase the number of farmers’ markets accepting public nutrition benefits through policy solutions and technical assistance, which offers incentives to qualified healthy food vendors.</li> </ul>
	<b>D)</b> Support the transformation of vacant, blighted land in low-income neighborhoods into community-serving and food growing spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene the Urban Agriculture Working Group to advance policy solutions that support new gardens and urban farms on public and private lands.</li> </ul>



# OAKLAND

**Oakland Food Policy Council (OFPC)**

**<http://oaklandfood.org/>**

# OFPC Activities

- CONDUCT RESEARCH
  - Create GIS map of areas with high concentrations of food insecurity
- PROVIDE GUIDANCE & RELEASE PUBLICATIONS
  - Step-by-Step Guide to Starting a Mobile or Cottage Food Business
  - Cultivating Resistance toolkit
  - Food Justice Curriculum
- HOST CONVENINGS
  - Candidate Forums
- MISCELLANEOUS
  - Define “healthy food”
  - Equity checklist





# OUR RECOMMENDATIONS





# Recommendations

- **REACT TO LEGISLATION & REGULATIONS**
  - Comment on state and federal legislation & regulations
  - Publicize bills and regulations
- **CONDUCT RESEARCH**
  - What are the gaps in MA law?
  - Map resources & identify deficiencies
- **PROVIDE GUIDANCE & RELEASE PUBLICATIONS**
  - Publish guidance documents
  - Respond to queries
- **EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS**
  - Host trainings, webinars
- **GRANT FUNDING**
  - Monitor (and apply for) food-related grants
- **MISCELLANEOUS**
  - Listening Sessions

# **Stay Connected with the Food Law and Policy Clinic**

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