



Exploring Economic and Health Impacts of Local Food Procurement

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A key learning from the study is that in order to develop a strong and sustainable locally-determined food system, institutions need to first establish relationships, build systems infrastructure, and adopt public and private policies. Additionally, efforts require leaders, systems, and programs that are flexible, innovative, and able to respond to opportunities. The study identified some common strategies for impactful local food procurement across all types of institutional purchasers and sectors:

Networks

- Building respectful, trusting relationships between food service directors/institutions and local farmers, producers, and businesses (however the institution or its supportive networks define “local”).
- Establishing clear and reliable purchasing agreements that offer producers a fair price while being sustainable for all members of the value network.

Education

- Offering professional development opportunities for food service staff on preparation of raw foods and reductions of waste food.
- Conducting health education with other staff (clinicians, food bank client-service staff) and conveying the links between nutrition and health.
- Providing farmers’ with education about food safety protocols.

Marketing

- Marketing local food programs to parents, constituents, customers, and community members to gain political and financial support and public relations benefits.
- Highlighting the local farmers/producers/businesses that are featured in meals served in the cafeteria, sold in retail stores through tie-in initiatives, and in food provided to clients.
- Marketing the availability and wisdom of buying local foods more generally.

Links

[Full Report](#)

[Executive Summary](#)



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