

# CHICAGO GOOD FOOD PURCHASING PROGRAM

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

*The Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) aims to ensure that institutional food purchasing advances an equitable, healthy, fair, local, humane, and sustainable food system and creates good food access for all.*

### GOOD FOOD PURCHASING

In 2017, Chicago adopted the Good Food Purchasing Policy, leveraging more than \$300 million in government food procurement to advance a more transparent, equitable, and healthy food system. The Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) directs City of Chicago departments and sister agencies to assess current purchasing, set goals, and take progressive action over time in five value categories: nutrition, local food economies, fair treatment of workers, environmental sustainability, and animal welfare.

The City of Chicago was the first city outside of California to take the bold move of comprehensively adopting GFPP for all City departments and sister agencies that procure food.

In 2018, Cook County Government joined the City of Chicago in adopting GFPP, with the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) taking the lead on Cook County's implementation. Together, CDPH, CCDPH, and their partners at the Chicago Food Policy Action Council (CFPAC) are partnering to successfully implement GFPP across both governments as part of their shared Good Food Purchasing Initiative (GFPI).

### GFPI OBJECTIVES

- Fully implement GFPP with public departments & agencies;
- Foster a more racially and socially equitable regional food supply chain to meet the demand for good food;
- Normalize values-based procurement in community-based institutions, like hospitals & higher ed, across the region.



## GFPP PARTICIPATION

Each City department and agency that procures food aims to:

- Submit food purchasing data annually for analysis by the Center for Good Food Purchasing (CGFP);
- Insert GFPP language into new vendor solicitations and contracts;
- Develop action plans to achieve higher points in the Good Food Standards set for each value category, which are based on certifications and best practices;
- Work towards a star rating, which requires at least one point in each value category;
- Track cumulative progress and celebrate success;
- Participate in quarterly Chicago Good Food Task Force meetings.

## GOOD FOOD TASK FORCE

- CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY\*
- CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT\*
- CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS\*
- CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO\*
- DEPT. OF AVIATION\*
- DEPT. OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS & CONSUMER PROTECTION
- DEPT. OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS & SPECIAL EVENTS\*
- DEPT. OF FAMILY & SUPPORT SERVICES\*
- DEPT. OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
- DEPT. OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES\*
- DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH
- DEPT. OF FLEET & FACILITY MANAGEMENT\*
- CHICAGO FOOD POLICY ACTION COUNCIL

\* INDICATES TASK FORCE MEMBER PROCURES FOOD

## GFPP CORE VALUES

EQUITY. TRANSPARENCY. ACCOUNTABILITY.

- **LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES**  
Support diverse, small to mid-sized food producers in the region.
- **FAIR TREATMENT OF WORKERS**  
Source from suppliers that provide safe working conditions and fair compensation for all food chain workers and producers.
- **NUTRITION**  
Promote health & well-being through meals provided in public settings.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**  
Reduce carbon footprint and source from producers that use sustainable methods.
- **ANIMAL WELFARE**  
Work with producers who provide healthy & humane conditions for farm animals.

## KEY ACTIVITIES: 2019

### GOOD FOOD TASK FORCE

The objective of Chicago's Good Food Task Force is to share information, exchange best practices, and identify cross-cutting approaches to reach GFPP's goals of an equitable, values-based food chain that creates living wage job opportunities and increases access to good food for all.

Chicago's Good Food Task Force met in April, June, and October 2019. At each Task Force meeting, CDPH and CFPAC provided a deeper dive into the GFPP Standards set by the Center for Good Food Purchasing, with the last two meetings going into a deeper dive of the Environmental Sustainability (June) and Local Economies (October) value categories.

October's meeting focus on Local Economies was held at the Hatchery, a non-profit food incubator and shared commercial kitchen space supported by Acción and the Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago (ICNC) in Garfield Park. Acción's Senior VP of External Affairs provided background on how their micro-loans and curriculum for local food entrepreneurs aligned with Chicago's GFPP goals. At this same meeting, Illinois Stewardship Alliance's Executive Director provided Task Force members updates on the forthcoming *Buy Fresh Buy Local Guide*, which will assist public departments and agencies in finding local food producers in the region.

### GOOD FOOD PURCHASING AWARD LEVELS

STAR RATING	POINTS
★	5-9
★★	10-14
★★★	15-19
★★★★	20-24
★★★★★	25+

### NEW CONTRACTUAL LANGUAGE

City departments and sister agencies are working to incorporate GFPP standards into their Request for Proposals and new food service management contracts.

### BASELINE DATA ASSESSMENTS

Departments and sister agencies conducted baseline assessments to understand current food purchasing practices and drafted action plans. To date, Chicago Public Schools and Chicago Park District have completed their baselines, while other departments and agencies are in the process of collecting food purchasing data so they can complete an assessment in 2020.

### ACTION PLANNING

With support from the Center for Good Food Purchasing, departments and sister agencies worked with CDPH and CFPAC to create realistic and timebound action plans.

## GFPP COMMUNICATIONS

**CDPH & CFPAC presented information about GFPP and the broader Good Food Purchasing Initiative to a number of stakeholders over the year, including:**

- 14th Annual Chicago Food Policy Summit  
CDPH & CFPAC, 2/15/2019
- FamilyFarmed’s Good Food Festival  
CDPH & CFPAC (with CCDPH), 2/22/2019
- Center for Good Food Purchasing’s  
Power of Procurement Summit  
CDPH & CFPAC (with CCDPH), 5/16/2019
- Cook County Department of Public  
Health’s Food Summit  
CFPAC (with CCDPH), 10/4/2019
- USDA Direct Agricultural Marketing  
Summit  
CDPH & CFPAC (with CCDPH), 10/8/2019
- IL Department on Aging Meeting  
CDPH & CFPAC, 10/17/2019
- IL Alliance to Prevent Obesity’s Annual  
Meeting  
CDPH, 11/13/2019
- Community Food Systems Conference  
CFPAC, 12/10/2019

*From Top: Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot endorsing GFPP during her mayoral campaign; the Power of Procurement Summit’s Chicago Plenary; Marlie Wilson (CFPAC Good Food Purchasing Project Manager) with speakers from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Food Chain Workers Alliance, Austin Unified School District (TX), & Farmworker Association of Florida at the Community Food Systems Conference.*





## GFPP IN PROGRESS: DEPARTMENT & AGENCY SNAPSHOTS

### CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS (CPS)

CPS provides over 350,000 students with meals every day as part of school breakfasts, lunches, snacks, and suppers. In June 2017, CPS adopted GFPP as part of their new wellness policy. Food service vendor Aramark collected food purchasing data from SY2017-18 and received a

baseline GFPP assessment from CGFP in summer 2018. CPS developed a GFPP Action Plan, with support from CDPH, CFPAC, and CGFP, for the school district to make progress towards achieving a 1 star rating in GFPP by SY2020-2021.

Based on their action plan, CPS has since implemented the following:

- Shifted to the use of compostable cutlery and trays
- Eliminated the use of straws (unless medically necessary)
- Increased their purchase of locally grown foods
- Introduced Meatless Mondays to reduce the carbon footprint related to meat consumption and increase beneficial nutrition outcomes of a plant-forward diet
- Sent letters to request more information from suppliers who were found to have health & safety and/or wage & hour violations.

This progress builds on the ongoing efforts of the CPS Office of Student Health & Wellness to ensure students have access to the highest quality school meals and holistic food and agricultural education. This includes the CPS Farm to School Program, which engages students in school gardening, encourages food and nutrition education, and introduces students to local farmers through initiatives like Illinois Harvest of the Month. CPS has also been sourcing antibiotic-free chicken drumsticks from Miller Poultry (IN). CPS is currently working with Aramark to comply with the food purchasing data request for SY2018-19 so they can undergo their next annual reassessment.



## GFPP IN PROGRESS: DEPARTMENT & AGENCY SNAPSHOTS, CONTINUED

### CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT (PARKS)

Parks is a sponsor of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), which are federally-funded programs that provide nutritious meals to low-income children. In 2018, Parks provided over 1,250,000 meals to Chicago's youth. Parks completed their first GFPP baseline assessment in October 2019, and have been working with CDPH, CFPAC, and the Center on a GFPP Action Plan to reach one star in the GFPP Rating System by Summer 2021. As part of their Action Plan, Parks is continuing to roll out a composting effort across their summer food sites to reduce food waste. Parks has also integrated language about the GFPP in their new *Invitation for Bid* for food service vendors that will be released in Spring 2020.

### CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO (CCC)

CCC contracts with Fooda, Inc. to manage cafeterias for all City Colleges. Their 2018 contract with Fooda highlighted their GFPP goals, and CDPH & CFPAC plan to work with CCC in 2020 to adapt the GFPP process to Fooda's unique business model, which involves subcontracts with small caterers and restaurants to provide meals. In addition, CCC Washburne Culinary Institute purchases food items for their catering and academic programs and is committed to purchasing more local, healthy, fair and sustainable products. Due to several changes in leadership in 2019, Washburne was unable to complete their baseline data collection, but plans to continue making progress in 2020.

### DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION (CDA)

CDA manages the contracts for concessionaires serving over 100 million air travelers annually at Chicago's O'Hare and Midway International Airports. CDA's Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM) provides guidance to concessionaires and tenants in sustainable operations and maintenance practices, and includes an associated rating system. This point-based rating system recognizes concessionaires that pursue certification under the GFPP.

### DEPARTMENT OF FLEET & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT (2FM)

2FM manages the contract for all vending machines on City of Chicago property as well as the concessions on Chicago's Riverwalk. When the vending contract expires, 2FM is planning to add language about GFPP to their new Request for Proposals.

## GFPP IN PROGRESS: DEPARTMENT & AGENCY SNAPSHOTS, CONTINUED

### DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS & SPECIAL EVENTS (DCASE)

DCASE oversees multiple venues where food is sold to the public, including City Markets, neighborhood festivals, Millennium Park, and Taste of Chicago. In 2019, DCASE explored a GFPP pilot at Taste of Chicago, allowing all vendor applicants to opt into the GFPP process. Almost half of all applicants voiced interest in the program and ultimately five food vendors participated in GFPP, working with CFPAC and CDPH to assess opportunities to bring in more healthy, local, and sustainable items.



DCASE also plays a vital role DCASE will continue to pilot GFPP at Taste of Chicago in 2020 with the goal of engaging more Taste food vendors in a more vendor-friendly, streamlined process.

in supporting local producers through their farmers markets. To better support small businesses and food entrepreneurs, DCASE partners with CFPAC on their annual Chicago Food Policy Summit to provide tools for navigating the City Markets program.

DCASE & CFPAC held the 2019 Summit at the South Shore Cultural Center on February 15th, which drew its largest participation with over 400 urban farmers, local food businesses, government officials, healthcare partners, and policy advocates.

GFPP IN PROGRESS: DEPARTMENT & AGENCY SNAPSHOTS, CONTINUED



DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & SUPPORT SERVICES (DFSS)

DFSS annually provides over 3 million home delivered meals to senior citizens, in addition to another 800,000 senior congregate meals. DFSS also provides food to pantries and homeless shelters across the city through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

DFSS has integrated GFPP language into their current TEFAP contract with the Greater Chicago Food Depository, who purchases produce and distributes donated foods from the USDA to food pantries and homeless shelters. CDPH and CFPAC collected a sample of their food data and have shared it with the national Center for Good Food for a baseline analysis of the program, which is anticipated for completion in early 2020.

DFSS has also been working with their main vendor for the senior home delivered meals and congregate meal sites, Open Kitchens, to transition to an electronic inventory management system so they may comply with GFPP food purchasing data requests.

Open Kitchens expects to have the technology in place to share this information for a baseline assessment of senior meals in 2020. CDPH & CFPAC have also worked with DePaul University to analyze food purchasing trends from data collected by the five cultural centers who provide culturally appropriate meals to senior citizens. The cultural centers will be continuing to explore opportunities to connect with urban farmers in the region in 2020.



## WHAT'S NEXT

CDPH and CFPAC will continue to support City departments and sister agencies in completing GFPP assessments, updating contract language, and developing GFPP action plans. Chicago Good Food Task Force meetings will continue quarterly so that departments and agencies can collaborate and share strategies across the City of Chicago. In addition, CDPH, CFPAC, and their partners will be developing resources to support local producers and food businesses, especially women, beginning

farmers, and businesses of color, to provide education on the emerging market opportunities related to GFPP. CDPH, CCDPH, and CFPAC will continue to invite other community-based institutions, including hospitals, higher ed institutions, and cultural institutions, to join the Metro Chicago GFPI. Researchers in the Midwest Consortium on Equity & Race in Food (MCERF), will support CDPH, CCDPH, and CFPAC with evaluating the impact of GFPI on the Metro Chicago area and the surrounding local food system.

## KEY PARTNERS

The City of Chicago's GFPP is part of the broader Good Food Purchasing Initiative of Metro Chicago, a collaboration led by Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), Chicago Food Policy Action Council (CFPAC), and the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH).

The City of Chicago's GFPP implementation is coordinated by CDPH with support from CFPAC.

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**CHICAGO  
FOOD POLICY  
ACTION COUNCIL**

