
COOK COUNTY GOOD FOOD PURCHASING PROGRAM

2020 & 2021 UPDATE

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ABOUT GFPP

Cook County became the **third local government in the U.S.** to approve a resolution promoting the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) in May 2018.

The program provides a metric-based framework for food procurement that advances a healthy, sustainable, and equitable food system through **five core value categories**: Local Economies, Environmental Sustainability, Valued Workforce, Animal Welfare, and Nutrition.

Cook County's resolution emphasizes purchasing food from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) owned business and/or from low to moderate-income communities to **build economic sustainability for all**. Over time, food vendors that supply food to Cook County Government sites will work to meet higher Good Food Standards in each value category.

Cook County Government spends more than \$15 million on food every year. What would it look like if food purchases were investing in an equitable food system that built local community health and wealth? Cook County is leading this bold vision by implementing the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP).

GFPP PROCESS

Cook County departments & agencies:

- Submit food purchasing data to the Center for Good Food Purchasing for annual assessments
- Include GFPP language in new solicitations for food-related services
- Develop and follow Good Food Action Plans to achieve higher points in the Good Food Standards
- Work toward a higher GFPP star rating over time
- Track progress and celebrate success.

PARTICIPATING COUNTY DEPTS & AGENCIES

The following departments and agencies procure food for public meal programs, concessions, vending, catering, and special programs:

- **Cook County Health**
- **Cook County Office of the Chief Judge (Juvenile Temporary Detention Center)**
- **Cook County Sheriff's Office (Jails)**
- **Cook County Bureau of Asset Management (Vending)**

GFPP CORE VALUES

RACIAL EQUITY * TRANSPARENCY * ACCOUNTABILITY

LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

Support diverse, small to mid-sized food producers in the region.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Work with producers who provide healthy & humane conditions for farm animals.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Reduce carbon footprint and source from producers that use sustainable methods.

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.



GFPP IN PROGRESS: 2020 & 2021

COOK COUNTY BUREAU OF ASSET MANAGEMENT

Cook County Bureau of Asset Management, which manages the County's vending and concessions contracts, incorporated GFPP language into the 2019 IL Business Enterprise Program for the Blind Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU specifically included updated nutrition standards, which align with GFPP as well as statewide recommendations for healthy vending supported by the Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors. The MOU goes through December 2024 and covers vending in 15 Cook County sites and includes 131 total vending machines. Unfortunately, GFPP implementation efforts with vending, including the collection of 2019 baseline food purchasing data, were tabled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on the vending environment.



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

Cook County Health (CCH) is working with their food service management vendor, Morrison Management, to finish collecting 2019 food purchasing data. The process was disrupted in March 2020 by COVID-19, but is back on track for completion in Fall 2021. This data will be used for a GFPP Assessment and to develop a Good Food Action Plan.

CCH is also participating in the Good Food in Healthcare Cohort with other Chicagoland hospital systems. CFPAC and the Alliance for Health Equity at the Illinois Public Health Institute, with support from The Doula Part, launched the cohort in May 2021. The goals of this cohort are to explore hospital food procurement processes and good food purchasing strategies, as well as strengthen relationships between hospitals and local BIPOC owned farms and businesses.

GFPP IN PROGRESS: 2020 & 2021

COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Cook County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) worked with their current food service management vendor, CBM Premier, to compile and submit 2019 food purchasing data from Cook County Jails to the Center for Good Food Purchasing for a GFPP Assessment in Summer 2021. We anticipate receiving the Center's report in early Fall 2021 and will begin developing a Good Food Action Plan based on the report's findings.

In Fall 2020, CCSO also worked with the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, CFPAC, and CCDPH to incorporate GFPP language and specific GFPP evaluation criteria of bids in their Request for Proposal (RFP) for Jail Food Services. CCDPH served as a GFPP subject matter expert on CCSO's RFP Evaluation Committee in Winter 2020, and provided recommendations based on each bidder's responsiveness to GFPP criteria. Due to issues with contract negotiations, CCSO will be re-releasing their food service management RFP in Winter 2021. This new RFP will again include GFPP language and evaluation criteria, and CCDPH will support in reviewing the new bids on their responsiveness to GFPP.



COOK COUNTY JUVENILE TEMPORARY DETENTION CENTER

Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC) submitted 2019 food purchasing data to the Center for Good Food Purchasing in Summer 2020 and received their GFPP Assessment in Fall 2020.

JTDC's first GFPP Assessment aligned closely with the average municipal agency. There were several notable highlights from the analysis report including:

- JTDC is already investing over \$144,000 of their annual food spend in local food businesses and producers;
- They are working with many locally-owned food distributors (many of which are Minority and/or Women Owned Business (MWBE) certified);
- JTDC is working with a large number of unionized companies in their food supply chain, and is very close to achieving a point in the Valued Workforce Standard.

Since Fall 2020, JTDC has worked with the Center, CCDPH, and CFPAC to develop their Good Food Action Plan. JTDC is currently exploring ways to incorporate more whole grain snacks, reduce red meat, and incorporate more seasonal recipes. Staff are also exploring ways to sync their menu with garden education activities that are happening on site. Additionally, JTDC has worked with partners to incorporate GFPP language into new food product solicitations for Poultry, Frozen Foods, and Meat.

COOK COUNTY GOOD FOOD TASK FORCE

CCDPH and CFPAC continued to convene virtual quarterly meetings of the Cook County Good Food Task Force throughout 2020 and 2021. Task force members include relevant Cook County departments and agencies as well as local leaders in the Cook County food system.

The goal of the County Good Food Task Force is to discuss challenges, share solutions, celebrate successes, and identify collective opportunities to advance GFPP implementation in Cook County.

With direction from Good Food Task Force members, CCDPH and CFPAC hosted the Cook County Food Summit virtually in October 2020. This three-day Summit featured a public progress update on the County's GFPP implementation and included panels, workshops, cooking classes, and virtual field trips focused on building a more just and equitable food system in the region. Over 250 attendees participated in the event live, and over 750 people registered for the event overall.

COOK COUNTY GOOD FOOD TASK FORCE MEMBERS

COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

- Office of Cook County Commissioner Alma E. Anaya
- Cook County President's Office
- Cook County Dept of Environment and Sustainability
- Cook County Dept of Planning and Development
- Cook County Health
- Cook County Land Bank Authority
- Cook County Office of the Chief Judge
- Cook County Office of the Chief Procurement Officer
- Cook County Sheriff's Office
- Housing Authority of Cook County
- Forest Preserves of Cook County

FOOD SYSTEM STAKEHOLDERS

- Alliance for Health Equity
- Brookfield Zoo
- Chicago Botanic Gardens
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency on Planning
- Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives
- Food Chain Workers Alliance
- IFF
- Illinois Association of Blind Merchants
- Illinois Stewardship Alliance
- Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
- Openlands
- Opportunity Knocks
- Proviso Partners for Health
- South Metropolitan Higher Ed Consortium
- South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
- United Food & Commercial Workers
- Urban Growers Collective
- USDA
- Warehouse Workers for Justice
- West 40 Intermediate Service Center

METRO CHICAGO'S GOOD FOOD PURCHASING INITIATIVE

In addition to supporting Cook County Government's implementation, CCDPH and CFPAC are working with the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and other core partners to lead a broader umbrella initiative that recognizes implementing GFPP alone is not enough.

The Good Food Purchasing Initiative (GFPI) not only works on advancing GFPP with public departments and agencies, but also aims to develop a more racially equitable food supply chain that can serve Cook County institutions with high quality food. In addition, GFPI aspires to make good food the norm in all institutions across

Metro Chicago-- inviting hospitals, higher education, and other "anchor" institutions to join the effort to invest in community health and wealth through their food spend. [Read the 2020 GFPI Annual Report here.](#)

EQUITABLE SUPPLY CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

As a part of their GFPI efforts, CFPAC hosted several workshops for local growers and food producers related to GFPP in the Fall 2020. Workshops included a training on the Food Safety Modernization Act as well as an overview of how to become Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certified, which institutional food distributors often require of the produce growers they buy from. In March 2021, CFPAC partnered with University of IL Extension to host "[Too Small for Wholesale? Think Again,](#)" a webinar about how smaller farmers can leverage GFPP to supply institutions.



BUILDING A GOOD FOOD CULTURE ACROSS COOK COUNTY

CFPAC, CCDPH, CDPH, and their partners have also been conducting outreach to more local institutions to talk about their GFPP implementation and learn about aligned efforts and interests. CCDPH and CFPAC keynoted the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium (SMHEC)'s Student Sustainability Summit (October 2020) and presented to finance directors and food service staff about GFPP in April 2020.

In May 2021, CFPAC partnered with the Illinois Public Health Institute and Zuri Thompson of The Doula Part to launch a Good Food in Healthcare Cohort. Currently several local healthcare systems are participating in the cohort to explore good food purchasing strategies: Cook County Health, Advocate Aurora, Rush University Medical Center, Northwestern Medical, Loyola Medicine, Swedish Hospital/ NorthShore University Medical Center, and Lurie Children's Hospital.

EVALUATING IMPACT

GFPI partners are working with the Roosevelt University Policy Research Collaborative to coordinate the evaluation of GFPI activities. Researchers from DePaul University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago State University, and University of Illinois-Chicago are involved in leading GFPI research. The GFPI Theory of Change and Evaluation Framework, developed in 2019, [can be found here.](#)

WHAT'S NEXT

GFPP AHEAD

CCDPH and CFPAC will continue to work with CCH, CCSO, and JTDC to track and analyze their food purchases, create Good Food Action Plans, and tackle plan recommendations. Partners anticipate both CCSO and CCH's baseline GFPP Assessments to be completed by the end of 2021, and JTDC to complete a second GFPP Assessment at the end of 2022. Opportunities to incorporate GFPP language into vendor solicitations, RFPs, and contracts will further be identified and acted on with support from CCDPH and CFPAC.

FOOD GROWER & BUSINESS OUTREACH

CFPAC's Supply Chain Development Specialist is working on a **GFPP Guide for Food Growers and Businesses** (to be published in Fall 2021), which will share more information about GFPP and help local growers better understand institutional market channels. In December 2021, CFPAC will also be piloting a "Buyer/Supplier Mixer" to help build relationships between local BIPOC growers, GFPP-enrolled institutions, and food vendors who are contracted with institutions.

With a new grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CCDPH and CFPAC will also be working with the Cook County Good Food Task Force to identify local food businesses and organizations that are building food system resiliency in suburban Cook County. Funding will be used for capacity building activities associated with projects that are providing healthy, locally-sourced meals to food insecure communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the longer term aim of building more growers and businesses equipped to sell to County institutions.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In Summer 2021, CFPAC, CDPH, and CCDPH hired consultants at the Groundswell Alliance to help them engage over 100 food system leaders in a planning process to prioritize how the initiative's resources and capacity should be allocated through 2024. The resulting plan will provide a roadmap to ensure that GFPI activities are on the right track toward creating a more just and equitable procurement process that ensures good food is a right for all.

CHICAGO FOOD JUSTICE SUMMIT: FEBRUARY 2022

CFPAC and CCDPH will be partnering in February 2022 to host the Chicago Food Justice Summit, which will serve as a gathering point for Cook County gardeners, farmers, food justice advocates, and public officials to dig into the challenges and opportunities for building a more just, sustainable, and racially equitable food system.



BE IN TOUCH



KEY PARTNERS

Cook County's GFPP implementation is led by the Cook County Department of Public Health in partnership with the Chicago Food Policy Action Council and Center for Good Food Purchasing.

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