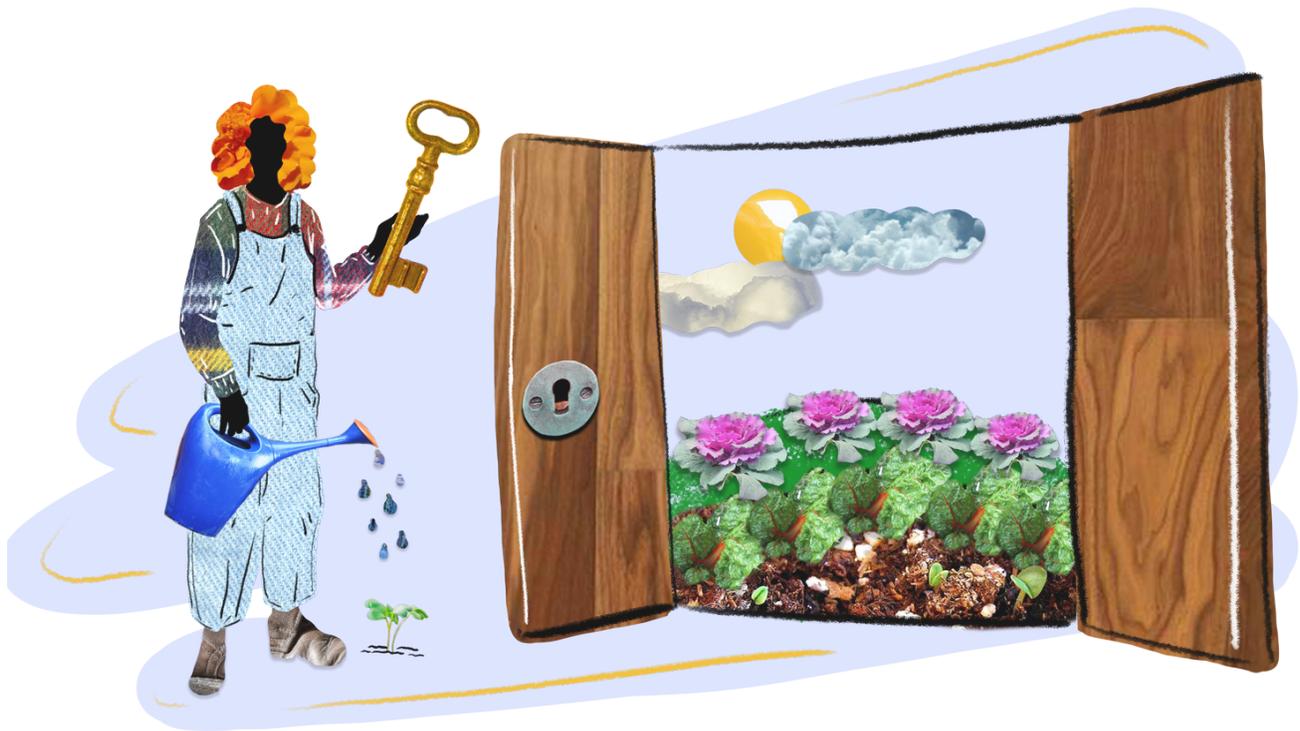


Good Food Purchasing Initiative of Metro Chicago

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**CHICAGO
FOOD POLICY
ACTION COUNCIL**

Contents



2	Good Food Purchasing Initiative Overview
5	Good Food Purchasing Program Implementation
8	Leveraging the Good Food Purchasing Program for Supply Chain Development
11	Creating a Culture of Good Food Across All Institutions
12	New Publications and Public Resources
13	Good Food Purchasing Initiative Evaluation
14	What's Next
16	Thank You and Acknowledgements



GFPI OVERVIEW:

ADDRESSING FOOD SYSTEM INJUSTICES

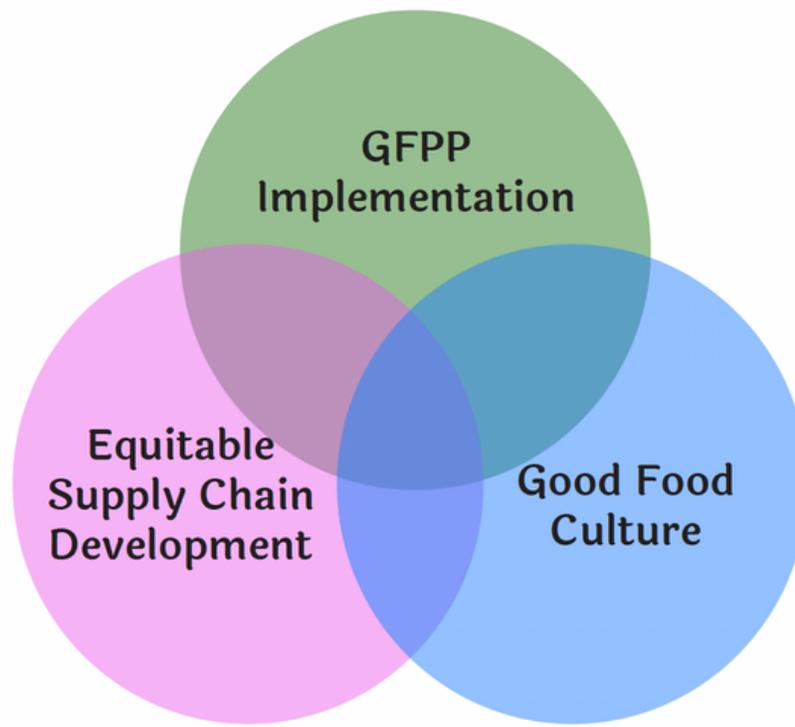


The Good Food Purchasing Initiative of Metro Chicago (GFPI) works to ensure that the **places that feed our communities** purchase food that advances a good food system for all. A good food system provides **healthy, fair, local, humane, and sustainable food** through **racially equitable, transparent, and accountable supply chains**.

Our food is grown, processed, transported, prepared, and accessed in the confines of a racialized, capitalist system. This system of ideas, culture, policies, and institutional processes benefits few at the expense of many, with racial identity being statistically the largest predictor of privilege and access in our society. In the Metro Chicago area, for example, while 16% of households overall are food insecure, that number increases to 29% of Black households and 24% of Latinx households (Greater Chicago Food Depository 2022). Racism and white supremacy has been effectively wielded by those with wealth and power to divide working people and disproportionately oppress Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and People of Color. We see this clearly in the food sector, where Latina and Black women only make 50-53 cents for every dollar earned by white men (Food Chain Workers Alliance 2011).

As a product of this racialized economic and cultural system, we have seen a small handful of corporations consolidate power & profit in the food system from the exploitation of labor, land, animals, and community. Even in the face of these injustices, people and places structurally excluded from access and opportunity have continued to work together to imagine and build a more liberatory foodshed. With their immense purchasing power, local institutions and sites that feed community members have an opportunity to invest their food dollars in a system that promotes racial and social equity, transparency, and corporate accountability. Public institutions, hospitals, senior centers, colleges, and other community sites can be a driving force for building the infrastructure for a thriving local & regional economy that equitably benefits workers, animals, public health, and the environment. As critical sites for food access in their communities, institutions can ensure that the good food they purchase is also more accessible to all; that it celebrates the growers and producers of that food while honoring the vibrant, healthy food cultures & traditions amongst hospital patients, seniors, families, and students.

GFPI OVERVIEW



- **Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) Implementation:**

- Fully implementing the Good Food Purchasing Policy with the City of Chicago, its Sister Agencies, and Cook County Government

- **Supply Chain Development:**

- Developing a racially & socially equitable regional food supply chain that can meet increasing institutional demand for good food
- Supporting pathways for BIPOC food producers and food businesses to scale operations for sales to public and community-based meal programs, cafeterias, and concessions

- **Creating a Culture of Good Food in All Institutions:**

- Normalizing values-based procurement across all community-based “anchor” institutions in the Chicago region, including hospitals, higher ed institutions, cultural institutions, senior living facilities, and others
- Engaging both institutional food service staff and Chicagoans served by institutional meals in the Good Food Purchasing Initiative

GFPI OVERVIEW

In partnership with the Center for Good Food Purchasing (“the Center”), the City of Chicago and Cook County’s public meal programs and food environments are implementing the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP). With a focus on racial equity, transparency and accountability, GFPP shifts institutions’ food purchasing dollars toward five core values:



01

Local Economies

Strengthen regional food economies to create thriving good food businesses and living wage jobs

02

Environmental Sustainability

Reduce the environmental impacts of food production

03

Valued Workforce

Promote fair treatment for food system workers

04

Animal Welfare

Ensure the humane treatment of animals (and reduce overall meat consumption)

05

Nutrition

Encourage healthy food procurement and preparation and a healthy food service environment

IMPLEMENTATION AND PROCESS

Chicago City Council, Chicago Public Schools, and Chicago Park District adopted GFPP in 2017, followed by Cook County Government in 2018. Together, these local jurisdictions collectively purchase over \$118 million in food through meal programs and vending, and it's estimated that purchases exceed \$300 million if concessions and public special events are included.

GFPP Assessments: Cook County Department of Corrections received and reviewed their GFPP Baseline Assessment in November 2021, and began developing a Good Food Action Plan. Chicago Public Schools and Cook County Health finished collecting their food purchasing data and submitted it to the Center for Good Food Purchasing for analysis in fall 2021. A note that both of their baseline assessments were completed in early 2022.

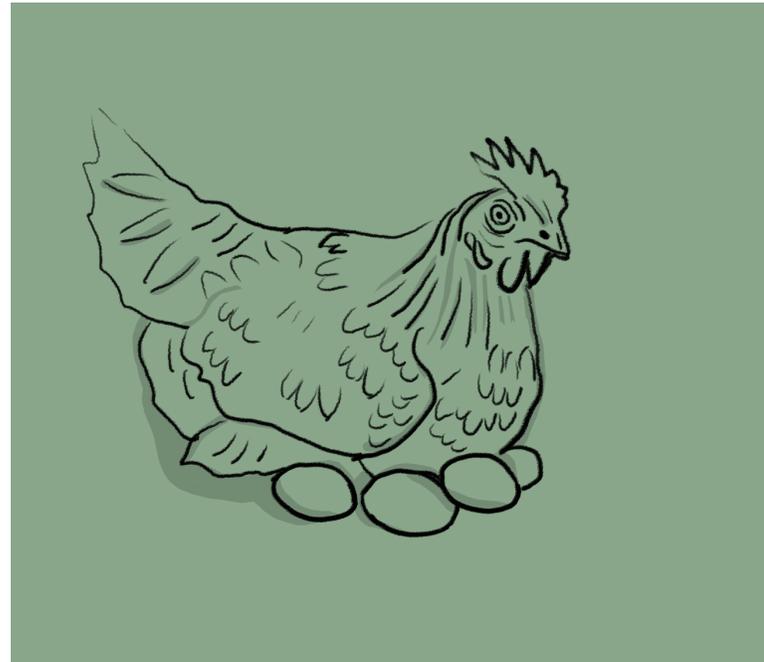


GFPP Pledge Exploration: Partners are exploring strategies to implement GFPP with departments and agencies where the traditional GFPP process is less feasible, as is the case where the agency leases to multiple concessionaires or hosts food vendors at public festivals and special events. Partners are exploring a variation of GFPP, the Good Food Purchasing Pledge, in those settings. In 2021, CFPAC and IPHI launched a pilot of the Pledge with the Oak Park/Austin-based food pantry Beyond Hunger to evaluate how the Pledge can be utilized for action and change.



IMPLEMENTATION AND PROCESS

GFPP Action Planning & Change Making: Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center received their GFPP Baseline Assessment in September 2020 and began implementing their Good Food Action Plan in 2021. They are starting off their GFPP journey by reviewing their menus to identify areas where they can replace sugary snacks, reduce red meat, and include more seasonal and culturally appropriate recipes. Chicago Public Schools and Chicago Park District have been undergoing similar menu review processes as a starting point in their carrying out their Good Food Action Plans.



Solicitation & Contract Revisions: GFPP Coordinators are revising their organization's Request for Proposals (RFPs) and solicitation processes for food vendors. Administrators are including new language in calls for food services and food suppliers so that proposals and bids are evaluated on how well the bidder can meet GFPP Standards, provide transparent data, and build racial equity in the supply chain. Chicago Public Schools, the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, and Chicago Department of Family & Support Services's Senior Home-Delivered Meal Program all drafted GFPP language for new solicitations in 2021.



Photo courtesy of Alexy Irving

IMPLEMENTATION AND PROCESS

Chicago & Cook County Good Food Task Force Meetings: In addition to one-on-one support with departments and agencies, CCDPH and CFPAC hosted three virtual Cook County Good Food Task Force meetings throughout the year to address major challenges and opportunities in GFPP implementation with Cook County administrators and community partners. CCDPH also partnered with CFPAC to organize and host two meetings on GFPP, one for Cook County leadership and one for the public, as a part of Cook County Racial Equity Week, September 13-17th, 2021. Over 135 people registered for the public event, with 71 attendees participating live. A recording of the meeting [can be found here](#).

The Chicago Good Food Task Force met in June 2021. The City's Task Force is currently undergoing a transition as the Chicago Mayor's Office's new Chicago Food Equity Council is launching a Procurement Working Group as outlined in the [City of Chicago's Food Equity Agenda](#). This working group, which will be initially co-chaired by CDPH and CFPAC, will provide a new home and support for moving GFPP forward across the City's departments and Sister Agencies.

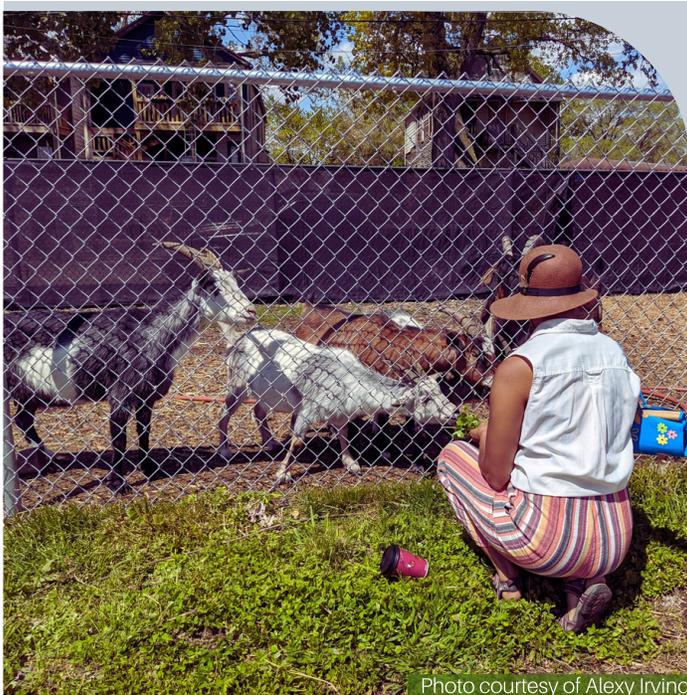


Photo courtesy of Alexy Irving

Note on Pandemic Impediments:

COVID-19 continued to disrupt the GFPP implementation process for several departments and agencies whose meal or concessions programs significantly changed (or altogether halted) during the pandemic. While all departments and agencies experienced some degree of supply chain disruptions, fluctuations in numbers served, and service delivery model shifts, Chicago City Colleges, Chicago Park District, and Cook County Bureau of Asset Management were experiencing significant program suspension in 2021, which temporarily halted their GFPP implementation.

SUPPLY CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

GFPI coordinators and partners are working to foster more racially and socially equitable supply chains across the region so that the increased demand for good food that GFPP generates will benefit emerging farms and food businesses, especially those owned and operated by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).



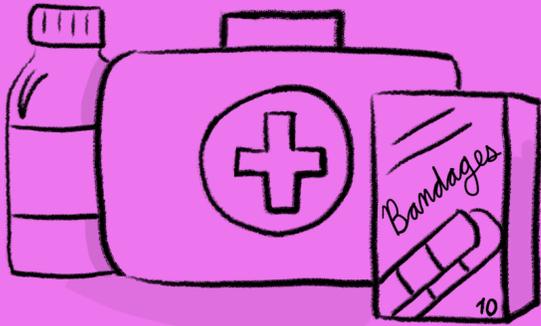
GFPI Guide for Growers & Food Businesses: In December 2021, the Chicago Food Policy Action Council published “The Good Food Purchasing Initiative of Metro Chicago’s Guide for Growers and Food Businesses: Selling to Your Community’s Institutions.” [The guide can be found here.](#)

This resource will support local growers and businesses who are considering sales of food products to community nutrition programs that serve students, seniors, hospital patients, and other residents - opportunities being created by the GFPI and the Good Food Purchasing Policy resolutions adopted by the City of Chicago and Cook County.

The guide also includes a relationship map of all the current institutions in the Metro Chicago area that are committing to GFPP, along with who their main contracted food suppliers currently are. [Access the Kumu map here.](#)

GFPP Producer Training Planning Team: CFPAC continued to convene a GFPP-focused producer training planning effort with partners at Urban Growers Collective, University of IL Extension’s Local Food & Small Farms Team, Advocates for Urban Agriculture, and Illinois Stewardship Alliance. The organizations regularly met to discuss how to take a coordinated approach to educating and engaging producers about the emerging market opportunities created by GFPP. In March 2021, they planned and hosted a workshop on “Too Small for Wholesale? Think Again” as part of University of IL Extension’s Winter Webinar Series. The group also contributed to planning and providing technical assistance on food safety and business planning at the Buyer/Supplier Mixer (noted on page 10) in December 2021.

SUPPLY CHAIN DEVELOPMENT



Supply Chain Coordination Effort Across Great Lakes: CFPAC regularly convened supply chain development specialists from across the Midwest in an effort to explore how GFPP implementation with City of Chicago and Cook County agencies can facilitate the growth of equitable and sustainable food systems at a regional scale.

Institutional Investment Accelerator: CFPAC, the Chicago Mayor’s Office, and the Illinois Institute of Technology are representing Chicago in a national cohort of six cities and regions working to leverage institutional resources for racially equitable food systems transformation. The Accelerator is organized by the Wallace Center’s Food Systems Leadership Network. [Learn more about the collaborative effort here.](#)

Food Hub Feasibility Study: Illinois Institute of Technology’s (IIT) Professor Weslyne Ashton, with support from Research Assistants Jahanzaib Qureshi and Veronica Paz Soldan, continued to investigate the potential for a cooperatively run, BIPOC-owned food hub to support bringing locally grown produce to institutions enrolled in GFPP. They released a national analysis of food hubs, conducted interviews with other food hub developers, and released a survey to producers in partnership with Professor Howard Rosing at DePaul University. Their findings will be published in May 2022.



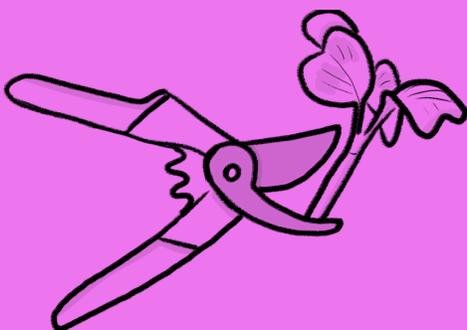
SUPPLY CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

Buyer/Supplier Mixer: In partnership with the Chicago Botanic Garden’s Windy City Harvest, CFPAC organized a three-day Buyer/Supplier Mixer on December 8-10, 2021, to foster relationships between local growers, distributors, food service providers, and meal program administrators. Over 80 people participated during the course of the event, including 30 farmers and food businesses.

The event content covered information about GFPP, food safety regulations, business planning support, and help navigating Minority & Women-Owned Business Certification (MWBE) for the City of Chicago and Cook County. Participants also discussed how local growers can better connect with food educators and literacy specialists working in the Chicago area. The third day of the event brought stakeholders from across the supply chain together for an “Offers and Needs Marketplace” facilitated by the Kola Nut Collaborative’s Mike Strobe.



GFPI Food Worker Evaluation Project: CFPAC is collaborating with the Roosevelt University Policy Research Collaborative, HEAL Food Alliance, and Food Chain Workers Alliance in developing a project to support GFPI’s impact on local food workers’ rights, working conditions, and wages. The partners are currently working with a team of six local worker centers and labor organizations to create a plan on how best to engage food chain workers, provide outreach and training, and leverage the Good Food Purchasing Policy to strategically support workplace organizing and new worker-led cooperative business models.



CREATING A CULTURE OF GOOD FOOD

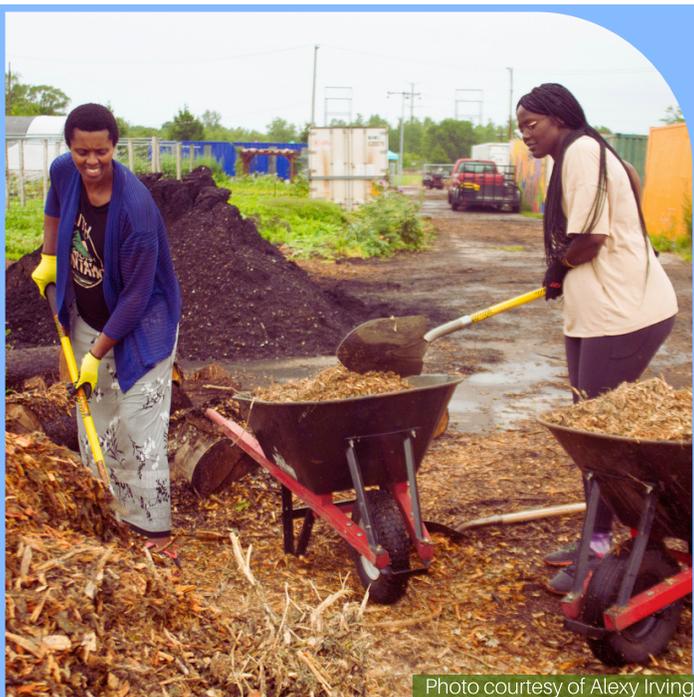
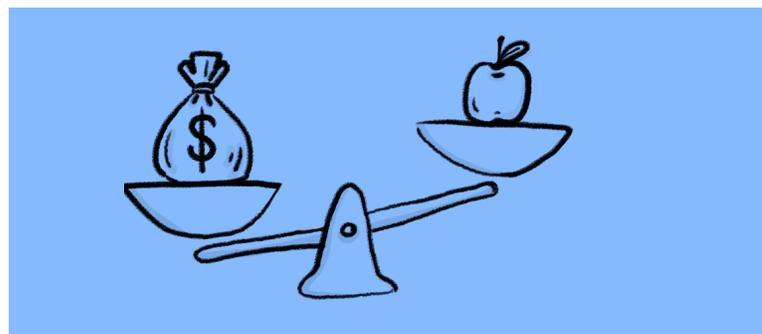


Photo courtesy of Alexy Irving

Good Food in Healthcare Cohort: In May 2021, CFPAC collaborated with the Illinois Public Health Institute’s Alliance for Health Equity to launch a Good Food in Healthcare Cohort. With support from national partners at Health Care Without Harm, the organizations are partnering with consultants at The Doula Part to facilitate regular working group meetings and meet one-on-one with local healthcare systems to introduce them to the GFPP framework and support their own good food purchasing goals and practices. Partners also collaborated with specialists at Basil’s Harvest to develop a Good Food in Healthcare Pathways Guide to support hospitals with making shifts toward investing in an equitable and sustainable food system.

Good Food Purchasing & Food Pantries Pilot: In collaboration with the IL Public Health Institute, CFPAC co-organized a virtual workshop for local food pantries on “Promoting Community Health through Nutrition Guidelines” in April 2021. Based on interest from attendees, IPHI and CFPAC launched a quarterly call of food pantries who are looking to strengthen nutrition guidelines for the food they supply as well as explore good food procurement practices. CFPAC is collaborating with Beyond Hunger, a food pantry based in Oak Park, on piloting what a “Good Food Purchasing Pledge” might look like in the context of an entity that both purchases food but also relies on donated products.

Cohort members met 3 times in 2021, focusing on the GFPP values of Local Economies, Nutrition, and Environmental Sustainability. They will continue to meet in 2022 with meetings focused on Valued Workforce and Animal Welfare, as well as planning for a cross-sector collaborative approach to address common procurement barriers to good food purchasing.



NEW PUBLICATIONS & PUBLIC RESOURCES

- CFPAC published an Issues and Opportunities Brief in December 2021 that outlines the major challenges the initiative's partners have experienced in achieving the goals and outcomes of GFPI.

- CFPAC published the GFPI Guide for Growers & Food Businesses, both as a hardcopy and online interactive version.

- The Chicago Food Equity Council released their Food Equity Agenda, which includes procurement as a key lever for change.

- CCDPH released their 2021 Annual Report

- CCDPH organized a public meeting as part of Cook County's Racial Equity Week to share updates on GFPP implementation

EVALUATING THE GOOD FOOD PURCHASING INITIATIVE

CFPAC continued to partner with the Roosevelt University's Policy Research Collaborative to coordinate evaluation of the overall impacts of GFPI on the local food system and ensure all research team members are in communication with one another. To this end, research members of the GFPI Evaluation Team continued to map the landscape of food production, processing, warehousing, and distribution channels across the regional foodshed to understand the current state of the system. Evaluators also tracked the outputs of GFPI-related trainings and events to understand their impact on participating farms, food businesses, supply chain intermediaries, food purchasing institutions, and other stakeholders.

Evaluators also continued to identify gaps in the research currently underway in areas that GFPI is aiming to create impact. The team has specifically identified the need for development of evaluation plans to track the impact of GFPI on food chain workers and meal program recipients, as well as track how broader procurement processes are shifting to better align with GFPP goals.

GFPI Evaluation Team members:

- Laura Nussbaum-Barberena, Roosevelt University
- Jessica Walter, Roosevelt University
- Weslyne Ashton, Illinois Institute of Technology
- Veronica Paz Soldan, Illinois Institute of Technology
- Daniel Block, Chicago State University
- Howard Rosing, DePaul University
- Angela Odoms-Young, Cornell University (formerly of University of Illinois Chicago)



WHAT'S NEXT?

JUNE 2021

Strategic planning consultants at the groundswell alliance convened core and advisory planning committees that involved over 30 participants from partner organizations and supply chain stakeholders.

3 Focus Groups
13 One-on-One
Interviews



Three-Year Action Plan:

- Align public procurement tools to GFPP
- Develop pathways towards a racially equitable food supply chain
- Focus organizing efforts on three targeted institutions to provide "proof points"
- Develop a sustained leadership and decision-making structure that will ensure GFPI is being informed and led by those most impacted by its activities.

MID 2022

**Will Complete
GFPP Assessments:**
Chicago Public Schools,
Cook County Health

**Will Continue
GF Action Plan
Development:**
Cook County Juvenile
Temporary Detention Center,
Cook County Jails,
Chicago Emergency Food
Assistance Program,
Chicago Park District

**Will Complete
Baseline Assessments:**
Chicago Department of Family
& Support Services' Home
Delivered Meal Program,
Chicago City Colleges

MID - LATE 2022

Supply-Chain Development

- Host additional Buyer/Supplier Mixers to open new market opportunities for local BIPOC growers and food businesses
- Release a Spanish-language version of the Guide for Growers
- Launch a GFPI Community Fund to support farms and food businesses in selling to wholesale and institutional markets

Good Food in Healthcare Cohort

- Focused workshops on GFPP values: Valued Workforce and Animal Welfare
- Cross-sector planning to address common procurement barriers

GFPI Food Worker Impact Project

- Hire a project coordinator by June 2022
- Launch series of learning & listening sessions with food chain workers

GFPI NETWORK

An ecosystem of partners work together on GFPI, with logistical coordination from staff at the Chicago Food Policy Action Council. Partners include:



GFPP Implementation Coordinators

- Chicago Department of Public Health
- City of Chicago Food Equity Council
- Cook County Department of Public Health
- Chicago Food Policy Action Council
- Center for Good Food Purchasing

Good Food in Healthcare Working Group Members

- Alliance for Health Equity & Illinois Public Health Institute (Co-Organizer)
- The Doula Part (Coordinator)
- Basil's Harvest (Partner)
- Healthcare Without Harm (Partner)
- Rush University Medical Center (Member)
- Swedish Hospital / NorthShore University Health System (Member)
- Advocate Aurora Health (Member)
- Northwestern Medicine (Member)
- Lurie Children's Hospital (Member)
- Loyola Medicine (Member)

Supply Chain Development Partners

- Advocates for Urban Agriculture
- Chicago Botanic Garden
- Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability
- Illinois Stewardship Alliance
- Proviso Partners for Health
- Real Foods Collective
- The Common Market
- University of IL Extension's Local Food & Small Farms Team
- Urban Growers Collective
- USDA Food & Nutrition Service- Midwest Regional Office

GFPI Food Worker Impact Project Partners

- Roosevelt University Policy Research Collaborative (Co-Organizer)
- Food Chain Workers Alliance (Co-Organizer)
- Food Chain Workers Alliance (Co-Organizer)
- HEAL Food Alliance (Co-Organizer)
- Chicago Jobs With Justice
- Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project
- UIC Center for Healthy Work
- Warehouse Workers for Justice

GFPI Evaluation Team

- Roosevelt University Policy Research Collaborative
- DePaul University Steans Center
- Chicago State University
- Illinois Institute of Technology

Public Institutions Implementing GFPP:

- Chicago Public Schools
- Chicago Park District
- Chicago Department of Family & Support Services
- Chicago City Colleges
- Chicago Housing Authority
- Chicago Department of Aviation
- Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events
- Chicago Department of Assets, Information & Services
- Chicago Department of Procurement
- Cook County Department of Corrections
- Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center
- Cook County Health
- Cook County Bureau of Asset Management

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GFPI of Metro Chicago thanks the following funders for their generous contributions to this work:

- IL State Physical Activity & Nutrition Grant, IL Public Health Institute
- Food Land Opportunity Grant, Chicago Community Trust & Kinship Foundation
- Local Food Promotion Program, United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service
- IL Specialty Crop Block Grant, IL Department of Agriculture
- The Rockefeller Foundation
- Health Care Without Harm
- Panta Rhea Foundation



ILLINOIS TECH



CHICAGO FOOD POLICY ACTION COUNCIL

GET INVOLVED

For more information on the Good Food Purchasing Initiative or to sign up for our quarterly newsletter, please [visit our website.](#)



For additional questions or to learn more about implementing Good Food in your organization or company, **contact the GFPI of Metro Chicago team:**

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