

2022 LOCAL FOOD POLICY PRIORITIES

These policy priorities were compiled by the Executive Policy Committee of the Local Food, Healthy Kids initiative. This group of Iowa farmers and producers, food hub managers, early education professionals and other stakeholders work to ensure access to local foods for Iowa's youngest populations.



BOOST SUPPLY

Increase access to loans and grants for producers who are focused on growing local produce, proteins and dairy; provide access to land for new and beginning farmers.

OUR ASK:

- * Invest \$1 million into the Value-Added Ag Grant Program (Choose Iowa Marketing and Promotion Grant Program), allowing grant funds to be utilized for infrastructure improvements including food transportation, safety, storage, and processing.
- * \$1 million for the Butchery Innovation and Revitalization Fund.
- * Continue to support the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit program.



GROW DEMAND

Fund a purchasing incentive for schools and early care centers to provide meals and snacks prepared with locally sourced product.

Invest in farm to school and ECE programs (Farm to School and Early Care Coalition) that provide training and tools to facilitate local food procurement across the state.

OUR ASK:

- * Invest \$1 million into that Farm to School program to fund meals for served with locally sourced food.
- * Allocate \$150,000 for the Local Food and Farm Program to increase the capacity of Iowa's local food systems.



IMPROVE MARKETS

Support financial assistance for building capacity at Iowa food hubs for operational improvements, transportation, processing and packaging and storage facilities for fruits, vegetables and dairy.

Create incentives and provide state assistance for food hubs, food co-ops, farm organizations and local food councils to promote and generate larger market opportunities for farmers to sell products across the state.

OUR ASK:

- * Establish a statewide grant program for Iowa's food hubs to provide funding for infrastructure, including food distribution trucks, food storage and processing equipment.