

[Date*]

Dear Mayor Hancock,

On behalf of the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council, we request you adopt the Good Food Purchasing Program by Executive Order to improve city food purchasing.

What are we asking you to do?

- Adopt the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) by Executive Order for the Denver Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and the City and County Jails to lead the way in creating a transparent and equitable food system built on five core values: local economies, health, valued workforce, animal welfare, and environmental sustainability.
- Ensure new GFPP-compliant city food purchasing standards prioritize racial and other forms of equity by specifically encouraging contracts with vendors that actively increase equity in the food system by, among other things, providing living wages to all employees, supporting disadvantaged communities, hiring people with arrest or conviction records, or contracting with firms led by minority, disabled, and/or women-owned.

Why should Denver do this?

Adopting the GFPP will:

- Help Denver achieve the goals and priorities in the Denver Food Vision and Executive Order 123 Sustainability Goals and provide a monitoring and verification mechanism to ensure accountability;
- Provide a framework for creating a transparent, equitable, vibrant, and sustainable food system, including improved working conditions for laborers, increased hiring of women and people of color, and protecting the region's natural resources;
- Ensure the ~\$3.5 million budget for the programs mentioned above is spent consistently with values in the Denver Food Vision
- Ensure Denver's most vulnerable populations are receiving equitable access to healthy and nutritious food; and
- Set a precedent and example for other regional institutions to leverage their institutional procurement power to create a transparent, equitable, and sustainable food system.

Which of your current goals would this action help to accomplish?

- Denver Food Vision (Vibrant, Healthy, and Resilient Pillars)
- Denver 2020 Sustainability Goals (Food)
- Mayor's Equity Platform
- Goals of the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment
- Creating a diverse and equitable economy and delivering a progressive and modern Denver by improving the climate.

The complete Mayoral Advisory follows. Please contact us if you have any questions or feedback at denversfpc@gmail.com or through Laine Cidlowksi, Food Systems Administrator at DDPHE, at laine.cidlowksi@denvergov.org

Sincerely,

Kristin Lacy, Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council Co-Chair

Reuben Gregory, Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council Co-Chair

Fatuma Emmad, Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council Working Group Co-Chair

Damien Thompson, Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council Working Group Co-Chair

Helen Silver, Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council Working Group member

MAYORAL ADVISORY

To: Mayor Hancock

From: Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council (SFPC)

Date: **

Re: Adopting the Good Food Purchasing Program for Denver’s Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Jails

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Denver Food Vision (“Food Vision”) is the foundation for creating a healthy, vibrant, resilient, and inclusive food system in Denver. It guides City and County of Denver (“the City”) policies affecting the food system and informs daily decisions in existing programs. Notably lacking from the Food Vision and city policies is a mechanism to track the City’s progress towards the goals set forth in the Food Vision. Adopting the Good Food Purchasing Program (“GFPP”) for city food procurement not only offers an opportunity to make progress towards the Food Vision’s goals, but also a mechanism to ensure transparency and accountability.

The GFPP is a flexible process in which the City consults with the Center for Good Food Purchasing to identify food system priorities and develop action plans to meet GFPP requirements. Around the country, cities and institutions have adopted the GFPP and seen the following benefits: 1) cost savings; 2) increased environmental sustainability and resilience; 3) more resilient local economies; 4) increased equity; and 5) more nutritious meals for children (see Appendices 4,5, & 6 for more detail). In addition to the GFPP five pillars, the SFPC also recommends the City ensure new GFPP-compliant city food purchasing standards prioritize racial and other forms of equity by incorporating language into the Executive Order such as that adopted by the City of Boston and Cook County, IL. These standards specifically encourage contracts with vendors that actively increase equity in the food system by, among other things, providing living wages to all employees, supporting disadvantaged communities, hiring people with arrest or conviction records, or contracting with firms led by local, minority, disabled, and/or women-owned (see Appendix 1).

Adopting the GFPP would impact approximately \$3.5 million spent on food by the City, affect ~180,000 meals provided through City Food Programs, and improve the daily lives of thousands of children participating in City Food Programs and ~2,100 inmates which collectively represent some of the City’s most at-risk and vulnerable populations. Meeting only the GFPP’s baseline requirements would ensure a significant amount of money is directed into the local economy. By simply adopting the baseline requirements of GFPP standards, \$525,000 will be directed into the local food economy in Year 1, growing to \$875,000 in Year 5 – totaling a ~\$3.95 million over the course of five years to support local Colorado food businesses and producers and farmers.¹ While adopting the GFPP for the City Food

¹ The Local Economies value of the GFPP standards provide two pathways to meet the baseline requirements. The one calculated above draws from the requirement where a city chooses to source from “Level 1 sources,” generally larger scale

Programs and Jails would support several priorities and strategies in the Food Vision, it directly pertains to the 2030 goals that 1) 25% of food purchased by public institutions in Denver comes from Colorado (Vibrant Pillar) and 2) 75% of youth and adults eating at least 1 serving of fruit and vegetables per day (Healthy Pillar).

We urge the City to join other city leaders around the country by:

1. Adopting the GFPP through an Executive Order for the Summer Food Service Program (SFPS), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) (collectively “City Food Programs”) and the City and County Jails (Jails);
2. Contracting with the Center for Good Food Purchasing to complete a baseline assessment for the City Food Programs and the Jails;
3. Subsequently implementing GFPP standards in accordance with City goals and timeline; and
4. Integrating measures explicitly supporting racial and other forms of equity into the new purchasing requirements, such as those adopted by the City of Boston and Cook County, IL.

I. ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Denver Food Vision² sets laudable and achievable goals to ensure the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of Denver’s food systems. Lacking, however, is a mechanism to ensure the City is indeed achieving these goals. The Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) provides such a mechanism by ensuring institutional accountability and transparency regarding City food procurement practices and their consistency with established City policy. Further, adopting the GFPP would advance progress towards goals, priorities, and strategies outlined in the Food Vision’s Vibrant, Healthy, and Resilient pillars, as well as other City priorities such as the Mayor’s Equity Platform³, the City’s 2020 Sustainability Goals⁴, and the five goals laid out in Denver Department of Public Health’s Strategic Plan Goals (2017-2019)⁵.

Therefore, the SFPC recommends the City of Denver adopt the GFPP by Executive Order for the City Food Programs and Jails and adopt additional requirements to ensure that the new city food purchasing standards prioritize racial and other forms of equity. This would provide nutritious meals for children and 2,152 inmates, representing a total food budget of \$3.5 million dollars, and would direct ~\$3.395 million into the local economy over five years. Additionally, incorporating equity-specific measures into the new purchasing standards would support the Mayor’s Equity Platform by encouraging

companies. The second option requires a city to source contract with medium scale sources, but requires that a small percent of the food spend go to these sources. The Center for Good Food Purchasing will work with the City to determine which pathway best achieves the City’s goals.

² Denver Mayor's Office. (2017). Denver Food Vision. Retrieved from https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/771/documents/CH/Final_FoodVision_120717.pdf

³ Denver Mayor's Office. (2019). State of the City. Retrieved October 2, 2019, from <https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/mayors-office/programs-initiatives/state-of-the-city.html>

⁴ Denver Office of Sustainability. (2019). 2020 Sustainability Goals. Retrieved from <https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/office-of-sustainability/2020-sustainability-goals.html>

⁵ Denver Public Health. (2018). Strategic Plan 2017-2019 (Year 3). Retrieved from <http://www.denverpublichealth.org/-/media/dph-files-and-docs/about-us/strategic-plan/denver-public-health-strategicplan-2019.pdf?la=en&hash=A72818546378A5522CDA9C68E206128D2E904422>

investment in Denver’s disadvantaged communities and local minority, disabled, and/or women-owned firms.

A. Summary of the GFPP Framework and Process

The GFPP is an institutional food-sourcing framework that provides a flexible, metric-based framework for leveraging large institutional purchasing power to improve the food system for public benefit. Institutions serving food to the public commit to improving their supply chains year over year, in at least five key “value” areas or “pillars.” GFPP’s Version 2.0 standards include five value areas⁶:

- **Local Economies** – institutions source foods from local and regional suppliers which are family- or cooperatively-owned and within a certain size limit.
- **Environmental Sustainability** – institutions source foods that improve environmental sustainability.
- **Valued Workforce** – institutions source foods from suppliers meeting fair labor standards.
- **Animal Welfare** – institutions source either fewer animal foods or animal welfare-certified foods.
- **Nutrition** – institutions source healthy foods and beverages, which meet specific nutritional requirements.

A growing number of cities are also adding further requirements that pertain to racial and gender equity and transparency (Appendix 1), and we are recommending that Denver do the same.

The Center for Good Food Purchasing (the “Center”) is the independent administrative arm of the GFPP framework. The Center works directly with institutions to conduct baseline analyses of their current food-sourcing practices, compare these against GFPP’s baseline requirements, and develop a gap analysis. With this information, the Center helps institutions develop action plans for meeting sourcing goals. Follow-up assessments are conducted annually by the Center for all GFPP-participating institutions. Within the contract for the baseline assessment, the Center can provide consulting with the City and SFPC to review the results, strategize priority areas, and report findings back to the community as necessary.

B. Summary of the Food Vision

In October 2017, the City released its Food Vision, which sets forth the path to achieving a sustainable, equitable, and resilient food system. Based on significant stakeholder engagement, the Food Vision is broad and based on four pillars: 1) Inclusive Denver, which seeks to create strong neighborhoods that reflect unique food cultures; 2) Healthy Denver, which seeks to develop a food system that promotes health for everyone; 3) Vibrant Denver, which seeks to build a strong regional food economy; and 4) Resilient Denver, which seeks to support diverse and environmentally-regenerative, climate-smart food systems that protect the region’s natural resources. Supporting these four pillars are 12 priorities, 59 strategies, and 12 winnable goals for 2030. The Food Vision is meant to guide day-to-day decision-making around City programs and policies that affect the Denver food system.

⁶ Appendix 1 contains a summary of the GFPP Standards; Appendix 7 contains the full GFPP Standards.

C. Alignment of GFPP Values with the Food Vision

While adopting the GFPP would no doubt support several goals in the Food Vision, it will specifically further the following:

Food Vision Goal	GFPP Alignment
<p>Inclusive Denver: Connected, inclusive communities can better organize and advocate for food environments that best reflect their values and help address the needs of our most vulnerable populations and underserved neighborhoods.</p>	<p>Valued Workforce pillar of GFPP is the very essence of what creates inclusive cities. Often, the same individuals who work in food production are also the most vulnerable in food access. Valued workforce is a pillar that helps build the capacity of communities to make healthier and more culturally-aligned choices.</p>
<p>Healthy Denver: Promote healthy food environments and education for youth. Goal: 75% of youth and adults eat at least 1 serving of fruits and vegetables per day.</p>	<p>Nutrition pillar of GFPP promotes health and well-being by requiring contracts that provide generous portions of vegetables, fruit, whole grains, and minimally-processed food.</p>
<p>Vibrant Denver: Spur innovation and entrepreneurship across food and agricultural industries. Goal: 25% of City food purchases be locally produced or processed.</p>	<p>Local Economies pillar of GFPP prioritizes small and mid-sized agriculture and food processing operations within a local area or region, supporting local economies.</p>
<p>Resilient Denver: Promote environmentally regenerative and climate- smart food systems.</p>	<p>Environmental Sustainability pillar of GFPP specifically requires institutions to either 1) reduce the carbon footprint of food purchases or 2) purchase food from producers certified as using practices that protect important natural resources, such as USDA Organic or the Whole Foods Responsibly Grown Program. While each GFPP pillar is separate, as discussed in more detail in Appendix 5, the City could simultaneously ensure it supports local sustainable agriculture by devoting some or all of food dollars spent on local food purchases to producers that meet the GFPP’s environmental requirements.</p>

D. Alignment of GFPP Values with Other City Goals

The GFPP supports other City policies and goals related to equity, green businesses and sustainability. Consistent with Mayor Hancock’s Equity Platform, the GFPP would provide employees with citywide standards and tools to integrate racial equity into food procurement practices. The GFPP would also support the Certifiably Green Denver program, under which the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment promotes free resources to assist businesses in becoming certifiably green, by offering GFPP as another incentive to businesses engaged in sustainable practices. Additionally, the City’s 2020 Sustainability goals recognize the important role Denver must play in modeling appropriate institutional

behavior. By adopting the GFPP, the City's leadership would inspire institutions in the Denver metro area, around Colorado, and beyond.

E. The Experience of Other Cities and Institutions with GFPP

To date, ten cities or their institutions have adopted the GFPP in some form, including four city- and county-wide commitments (Los Angeles; Chicago; Cook County, IL; and Boston) and eight school districts or park districts (San Francisco Schools; Chicago Schools; Oakland Schools; Chicago Park District; Washington, D.C. Schools; Cincinnati Schools; Austin Schools and Los Angeles Schools).⁷ Impacted regions now include the West Coast, Midwest, Northeast, Southwest and Mid-Atlantic. In total, these commitments touch some 2 million meals served daily and \$500 million worth of food annually.⁸

Early-adopting cities committed to the five core GFPP pillars, while more recent adopters have added further standards focused on racial equity (such as through preferred vendor arrangements) and public transparency (by requiring public oversight through advisory boards which GFPP institutions take recommendations from and/or and report progress to). These additions are explicitly included in cities' and institutions' ordinances, resolutions, and other policy adoption mechanisms.⁹ Adopting the GFPP has effectuated numerous benefits in institutions and their surrounding communities, namely significant economic, environmental, social, and health benefits. As a result, other cities and institutions are considering or in the process of adopting the GFPP (Appendix 2).

F. Stakeholder Engagement Conducted for this Advisory

Since 2017, the City has convened several well-attended stakeholder meetings to discuss GFPP and its potential impact on city purchasing. Several meetings have occurred with City procurement staff who have shown interest and support in pursuing GFPP. Other institutions serving Denver residents are also supportive of GFPP, including Children's Hospital, Denver Public Schools, Regis University and the University of Denver. Statewide and national organizations working towards GFPP adoption in Denver include: LiveWell Colorado; the Colorado Enterprise Fund; Colorado State University; the Union of Concerned Scientists; the Center for Good Food Purchasing; the American Grassfed Association; and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Local organizations include Frontline Farming, and the United Food & Commercial Workers Local 7. Among these partners, there is a GFPP coalition forming, members of which continue to meet, collaborate with and support the work of the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council and this mayoral advisory

⁷ Center for Good Food Purchasing. (2019). Local Coalition Building. Retrieved from <https://goodfoodcities.org/cities/>; Center for Good Food Purchasing . (2019). Retrieved from Good Food Purchasing Program - News : <https://goodfoodcities.org/news/>

⁸ Center for Good Food Purchasing. (2019). Good Food Purchasing Program. Retrieved from <https://goodfoodpurchasing.org>

⁹ Boston (<https://gfpp.app.box.com/s/4tbrpjmfw39vzzrbikjrveen7qywgkp>); Cook County, IL (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17QqiYqDwpuQZ7R5s9RRfuIBROXMhkLK2/view?ts=5afaf02b>); New York City (<https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4085857&GUID=EDF31855-D0A9-4735-AD23-51B37751F28A&Options=ID|Text|&Search=>)

I. POTENTIAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Adopting the GFPP, including the additional provisions regarding racial and other forms of equity, for the City Food Programs and the Jails would have several significant impacts. First, the GFPP would provide a much-needed verification and accountability framework to ensure that the City is indeed making progress towards goals in the Food Vision, which notes insufficient data to measure progress towards goals and forecasts continued insufficient data for measurement.¹⁰ Second, the GFPP would improve the lives of a significant number of Denver’s most vulnerable populations and ensure food expenditures are in line with the City’s values. The City Food Programs include two federal child nutrition programs, which serve ~180,000 meals annually, and the Jails house ~2,152 inmates, totalling an overall food spend of ~\$3.5 million annually, a significant amount of money the City could direct towards achieving Food Vision goals. Meeting only the baseline requirements of the GFPP would direct \$525,000 into the local economy in Year 1 and ~\$3.395 million over the course of the first five years.¹¹ Further, as discussed below, this could have a significant impact on racial equity and vulnerable or underrepresented populations.

A. Supporting Vulnerable Populations

The alignment of GFPP with sustainability goals of the City and its current administration provides a tremendous opportunity to leverage procurement processes to significantly impact vulnerable communities and promote systemic changes statewide related to racial, ethnic, and economic inequities, as these are often experienced by vulnerable people throughout the food system. Implementation of the GFPP would significantly boost to the racial equity platform Mayor Michael Hancock introduced in his 2018 State of the City address: “We will be taking an even stronger role in connecting people to opportunity, so no one is left behind.” Specifically, the City’s food procurement processes will impact some of the region’s most vulnerable populations, including:

- **Agricultural and other food system workers:**

GFPP implementation would have a significant impact on food system workers, providing an ethically-informed context and accountability framework to support farm workers, 80% of whom are undocumented, by supporting the food production businesses who value the labor of farmers and orient their ownership, production, compensation and other systems to demonstrate this ethic.

- **Children and Seniors**

Values-based standards such as GFPP help set benchmarks for access to more nutritious food that will support work being done already through the Department of Public Health and the Environment’s Food in Communities Initiative. By focusing the power of the City’s purchasing in helping shape complete food

¹⁰ The Denver Food Vision can be read at

https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/771/documents/CH/Final_FoodVision_120717.pdf

¹¹ As noted above, the GFPP standards provide two pathways to meet the baseline requirements. The one calculated above draws from the requirement where a city chooses to source from “Level 1 sources,” generally larger scale companies. The second option requires a city to source contract with medium scale sources, but it requires that a small percent of the food spend go to these sources. The Center for Good Food Purchasing will work with the City to determine which pathway best achieves the City’s goals.

environments on the community level, where we live, and continuing to leverage existing community resources such as schools and religious institutions, the City can more effectively deliver food-based services and nutritious, local produce where children and elders can most readily access it.

B. Improving Racial Equity

The food system is just one of the social systems in the US and globally through which populations experience inequity and discrimination based on race or ethnicity. Working with the Center for Good Food Purchasing will allow the City to begin measuring racial equity throughout the food system and begin to set truly impactful goals. These goals may include, for example, all people, including people of color, with access to healthy food they can afford, farmers of color with the ability to own economically- and environmentally-sustainable farms, and partnering with public and/or private institutions to implement additional food system policy that supports a more socially and racially equitable food system.

C. Leading by Example

The City has specifically recognized the important role it plays in modeling and catalyzing others to take part in creating a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system. With the GFPP, the City has an opportunity to catalyze a movement for values-based institutional procurement across the region. Several institutions around the city and state are exploring ways to strengthen their institutional food procurement, including Children's Hospital, Boulder Valley School District, Regis University, and University of Denver (Appendix 3). The City's adoption of the GFPP would provide valuable modeling and support for these efforts.

In sum, implementing the GFPP for the City Food Programs and Jails is an important first step to achieving the Denver Food Vision's goals of procuring 25% of city food purchases locally, creating a stronger regional food economy, and positioning Denver as an institutional role model. By adopting the baseline standard under the GFPP's Local Economies Pillar, the City of Denver could direct \$525,000 into the regional economy in Year 1. By Year 5, this amount would increase to \$875,000 annually and continue thereafter. These numbers are not inconsequential, particularly given the multiplier effect of these purchases. Finally, shifting menus to plant forward options can offer significant savings on a per meal basis.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

SUMMARY OF GFPP STANDARDS AND PROCESS

The GFPP is a multi-step process in which the implementing institution consults with the Center for Good Purchasing (“the Center”) to develop action plans designed to achieve the institution’s food system goals in a flexible and cost-effective manner. As described more fully below, the first step is to contract with the Center for Good Food Purchasing to conduct a baseline assessment. The Center then works with the implementing institution to identify how to best meet the GFPP standards while focusing on its food system priorities. The GFPP requires that for each of the standards, the implementing institution meet a baseline requirement. Implementing institutions can then focus on their priorities by meeting more stringent standards in the different value categories. After completion of the baseline assessment, the Center conducts annual assessments of the institution’s progress and provides feedback.

A. Baseline Assessment

Baseline assessments are conducted by the Center for a fee, through a contract arrangement. The initial assessment may occur either before an institution has committed to GFPP adoption, concurrently, or even following a commitment. The baseline assessment varies in scope and cost depending on the number of institutions involved and their volume of sourcing. However, the process generally takes , beginning with the gathering extensive product and process records from vendors and sub-vendors; the questions asked of vendors are provided by the Center.

B. The GFPP Values

The following lays out the general requirements of each of the GFPP’s five core values and additional requirements that institutions have added with respect to racial equity and transparency.¹²

- **Local Economies**

Institutions devote a percentage of their annual food spend to products from suppliers within the “local” region (defined by each GFPP campaign). Suppliers must also be family- or cooperatively-owned and within a certain size limit. If vendors/suppliers are unable to meet the requirements, the institution may reach baseline compliance by having the vendor submit a plan to reach the standards (at a minimum of the baseline level) by the end of Year 1. Extra points are available for such practices as sourcing food that is both raised and processed locally and for institutions with a long-term plan to encourage and invest in value chain innovation among suppliers.

- **Environmental Sustainability**

¹² The complete standards are contained in Appendix 7.

Institutions either devote a percentage of their annual food spend to foods with low environmental impact, or decrease their water and carbon footprints by shifting to plant-forward menus, in addition to performing a food waste audit. If vendors/suppliers are unable to meet the requirements, the institution may reach baseline compliance by having the vendor submit a plan to reach the standards (at a minimum of the baseline level) by the end of Year 1. Extra points are available for such practices as participating in the Meatless Monday program, and using compostable service items.

- **Valued Workforce**

Institutions verify their food vendors' (including all the vendors' suppliers') adherence to labor laws while increasing their percentage of annual food spend devoted to products from "fair food" suppliers. Extra points are available for such practices as the institution maintaining an anonymous labor violation reporting system for workers, and the institution adopting a "living wage" policy for direct employees.

- **Animal Welfare**

Institutions either source a lower volume of animal product (defined as red meat, poultry, eggs and/or dairy), or devote a certain percentage of their annual animal product food spend to animal welfare-certified foods, as defined by select third-party-audited certification programs. Extra points are available for vegetarian-only meals; vegan-only meals; and devoting at least 50% of the institution's annual animal product food spend to animal welfare-certified products.

- **Nutrition**

Institutions select a combination of the following approaches: sourcing healthy foods; maintaining a healthy food service environment (such as through selective food and beverage offerings and pricing); supporting initiatives that expand access to healthy food among low-income residents and/or communities of color; and preparing foods healthfully. Extra points are available for such approaches as nutritional menu labeling and portion control strategies.

- **Racial and Other Forms of Equity**

Some discrete equity-related standards already exist as options within GFPP's codified standards (such as serving culturally-appropriate foods; supporting initiatives that expand access to healthy food to low-income residents and/or communities of color; promoting employment or business opportunities for low-income entrepreneurs of color or disadvantaged communities; and purchasing from "Socially Disadvantaged Farmers/Ranchers or WMBEs.") However, cities are increasingly adding comprehensive equity requirements to their GFPP ordinances and resolutions, arguably creating the equivalent of a sixth value category. We strongly urge that Denver do the same. Cities' specific requirements vary, but the following are examples of current standards:

- **Boston**¹³ – *“Encourage prospective food vendors to invest in our disadvantaged and minority Communities by developing bonus scores for Requests for Proposal reviews for prospective vendors who demonstrate a track record of hiring and investing in local*

¹³ Boston City Council. (2019, March 15). Docket #0139, An Ordinance Regarding Good Food Purchasing Standards in the City of Boston. Retrieved from <https://www.universalhub.com/files/goodfood.pdf>

disadvantaged communities; provide living wages to all their employees, including frontline food workers; are local minority, disabled, and/or women-owned businesses; and are local producers and processors operating in low-income communities and employing non-toxic, environmentally sustainable methods”

- **Cook County, Illinois**¹⁴ – “Cook County Departments and agencies are tasked with developing multi-year action plans that will address these inequities by pursuing one or more of these possible strategies:
 - *Encourage businesses to grow food organically and engage in bio-dynamic agriculture, developing incentives for Requests for Proposal reviews and other potential supports during the contracting period; and*
 - *Encourage prospective food vendors to invest in and hire from Priority Communities by:
 - (1) *developing bonus scores for Requests for Proposal reviews for prospective vendors demonstrating a track record of hiring and investing in such communities; and*
 - (2) *assisting prospective vendors in navigating tax incentives and other financial programs designed to increase investment in disadvantaged communities; and*
 - (3) *Encourage conveyance of publicly-owned vacant properties (land and buildings) to local minority owned and/or controlled social enterprises and/or community land trusts for urban agriculture and other food related enterprises in an equitable fashion by setting ownership goals for minority owned and controlled enterprises; developing incentives for Requests for Proposal reviews; exploring possibilities for technical assistance and financial assistance, including tax incentives; and*
 - (4) *Encourage hiring people with arrest and conviction records by developing incentives for Requests for Proposal reviews, exploring options for technical assistance and financial assistance, including tax incentives; and*
 - (5) *Engage local universities, social enterprises and small consulting firms with demonstrated expertise in providing technical assistance to emerging and/or disadvantaged businesses;”**

- **Transparency**

Similar to the additional equity standards some have adopted, cities have been voluntarily adding a transparency-focused standard to recent GFPP ordinances and resolutions, to ensure adequate public oversight of and access to the implementing institutions’ contracts and implementation. The specific

¹⁴ Cook County (IL) Board of Commissioners. (2018). Proposed Resolution 18-1650: To Adopt the Good Food Purchasing Policy. Retrieved from <https://drive.google.com/file/d/17QqiYqDwpuQZ7R5s9RRfuIBROXMhkLK2/view?ts=5afaf02b>

requirements vary, but generally involve the creation of a public oversight board. The following are examples from current standards:

➤ Cook County, Illinois¹⁵

“...the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) convene a taskforce that includes all relevant Cook County Departments and Agencies involved in the procurement or service contracting of foods, including but not limited to, Offices under the President, the Office of the Chief Judge, the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, the Office of the Sheriff, the Cook County Health and Hospital System, the Chicago Food Policy Action Council, the Center for Good Food Purchasing, and other relevant diverse stakeholders”

“... the taskforce report its progress to the Health and Hospital Committee within 12 months of the adoption of this resolution, and then report annually on implementation progress”

“... the taskforce will host an annual public hearing where diverse community stakeholders and residents can ask questions and provide feedback on implementation, including due diligence reporting data to verify compliance, measure progress, and celebrate successes”

➤ Boston¹⁶

- *“4.9.3 Transparency. Good Food Purchasing Policy reflects multiple values of diverse stakeholders. Therefore, maximum transparency, along with adequate time for public review and comments, are essential to ensure the best possible outcomes for department and agency procurement decisions to reflect GFPP values to the greatest degree possible, and to charter an ever-improving path towards greater sustainability in Boston food procurement. Departments and agencies must therefore balance the legitimate confidentiality needed for maintaining the integrity of a fair, competitive process with the right of the public to have adequate time with and access to all relevant information, in order to provide meaningful comments to the departments and agencies and their respective final decision-makers for the purpose of improving the implementation of the Good Food Purchasing Policy in the future.”*

- *“A representative from the Office of Neighborhood Service, as a representative of City constituents, shall serve as a member of the department or agency team evaluating responses to procurement requests.”*

¹⁵ Cook County (IL) Board of Commissioners. (2018). Proposed Resolution 18-1650: To Adopt the Good Food Purchasing Policy. Retrieved from <https://drive.google.com/file/d/17QqiYqDwpuQZ7R5s9RRfuIBROXMhkLK2/view?ts=5afaf02b>

¹⁶ Boston City Council. (2019, March 15). Docket #0139, An Ordinance Regarding Good Food Purchasing Standards in the City of Boston. Retrieved from <https://www.universalhub.com/files/goodfood.pdf>

- *“Within 60 days of final approval and acceptance of responses to procurement requests, the department or agency shall hold a public hearing on the final response chosen.”*
 - *At least 30 days prior to the public hearing, the department or agency shall make available for public comment on an agency website:*
 - *The department or agency's evaluation process and rationale for selection of the final response;*
 - *All successful and unsuccessful responses to procurement requests, along with all supporting information, including but not limited to, the GFPP scoring method, for all responses;*
 - *Except that no confidential business information protected by the State will be included in the release of the information required in these subsections.*
 - *The agency shall compile and forward all public comments, along with the public hearing record, to the Community Advisory Council created in Section 4-9.4.*
- **4-9.4. Community Advisory Council.** *The head of the respective department or agency shall convene a Community Advisory Council comprised of community stakeholders, including a minimum of one representative from each of the GFPP value categories, including those as delineated in Section 4-9.1 to support the departments and agencies in the process of implementation as laid out in this ordinance and ongoing as requested by departments and agencies.*
- **4-9.5. Reporting.**
 - *Participating City Departments and agencies shall provide annual progress reports, including compliance data, to the City Council. Such progress reports shall be made readily available to the public online and in print by request.*
 - *Within two years of completion of the baseline assessments, each participating department and agency will begin requesting an annual assessment from the Center for Good Food Purchasing. The departments and agencies will hold public annual hearings where they will present their GFPP assessment, to receive public comment on the progress made by each respective department or agency, and associated suppliers, toward more sustainable procurement under the Good Food Purchasing Program. Community stakeholders will have sufficient time to ask questions and make public comment. All department or agency assessments will be made available publicly available online at Boston Public Libraries in print form at least 30 days prior to the hearing.*

APPENDIX 2

ADOPTION OF GFPP BY OTHER CITIES AND INSTITUTIONS

Ten cities or their institutions have completed GFPP policy adoptions. As a result of the benefits experienced by these institutions and their surrounding communities, a number of additional cities and institutions are piloting GFPP and otherwise considering policy adoption. These include Minneapolis; St. Paul; Los Angeles County; Buffalo; San Francisco City/County; Santa Clara County; City of Austin; and University of Texas at Austin.

New York City is the latest municipality to introduce GFPP legislation, in this case as part of a series of food equity bills.¹⁷ The legislation's scope includes all city agencies executing food procurement contracts.¹⁸ Once implemented, the shift will impact nearly 240 million meals and snacks served annually.¹⁹ The New York City Department of Education's food procurement contracts alone – which are responsible for feeding over one million children daily– total over \$700 million per year. As the U.S.'s largest city, housing some of the most populous institutions, New York City's commitment to GFPP sets a new standard. Once its adoption goes into effect, it will represent by far the largest GFPP commitment to date and will affirm other cities' capacity to do the same.

¹⁷ New York City Council. (2019, August 1). Speaker Corey Johnson Unveils Plan to Combat Food Inequity in New York. Retrieved from <https://council.nyc.gov/press/2019/08/01/1786/>

¹⁸ New York City Council. (2019). Legislation - details: A local law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to creating a good food purchasing program. Retrieved from <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4085857&GUID=EDF31855-D0A9-4735-AD23-51B37751F28A&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=>

¹⁹ CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute. (2019). Bringing the Good Food Purchasing Program to NYC. Retrieved from <https://www.cunyurbanfoodpolicy.org/news/2019/5/23/bringing-the-good-food-purchasing-program-to-nyc>

APPENDIX 3

DENVER AREA INSTITUTIONS EXPLORING SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT FRAMEWORKS

The following are institutions within the region exploring ways to increase the sustainability of their food procurement.

Children's Hospital

Executive Chef and Food Security Coordinator are leading efforts to explore how to leverage their \$680,000 purchasing power to promote more local (supporting Colorado producers like Growers Organic), healthy (promoting nutritious foods for both patients and employees, environmentally-sound (promoting antibiotic-free meats)

- Partners: Colorado Healthy Hospital Compact

Boulder Valley School District

Executive Chef Ann Cooper led efforts to complete the GFPP baseline assessment in 2016 and BVSD is certified as the first 5-star institution with the Center for Good Food Purchasing, investing more than \$890,700 in local Colorado farmers or 41% of their total food purchases.

- Partners: School Food Project

Regis University

Regis is already involved with several sustainable practices, especially through Bon Appetit as their provider who is exploring becoming GFPP-certified as a private company.

University of Denver (DU)

DU Sustainability Director Chad King is leading efforts to partner with Sodexo (food provider) to pilot implementation of sustainable food policies at the university. This has the attention of Sodexo leadership.

APPENDIX 4

ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO INSTITUTIONS AND LOCAL ECONOMIES

The Vibrant Pillar of the Food Vision specifically recognizes that purchasing local foods and connecting to the regional food system is critical to supporting the “creation, expansion, and economic strength of Denver food businesses.” Accordingly, a key strategy laid out in the Food Vision is to “advance city efforts and influence other institutions to preferentially purchase from local and/or healthy food and beverage businesses.” A critical element of implementing this strategy is achieving the 2030 Winnable Goal that “25% of food purchased by public institutions in Denver comes from Colorado.” The City’s 2020 Sustainability goals likewise call for the municipal government to source 25% of its food locally. Thus, the City recognizes that directing its own purchasing power to local foods, and thereby influencing other institutions to do the same, is critical to sustainability and economic vitality.

The City Food Programs and the Jails together have a combined budget of ~\$3.5 million. Option 1 of the baseline requirements of the Local Economies Pillar of the GFPP require that institutions spend at least 15% of the food budget on designated large scale entities in Year 1 with a requirement that the local food spend increase to 25% by Year 5.²⁰ Meeting only these baseline requirements of the GFPP Local Economies Pillar (Option 1) would direct \$525,000 to local producers and processors in Year 1, with an additional increase of \$70,000 per year until Year 5. This would total ~\$3.395 million over the course of the first five years. Option 2 of the baseline requirements allows for a lower percentage of food spend to be directed into the local economy (5% for Year 1 with a 2% increase every year thereafter), but the standards require that these monies be directed at medium scale producers.

Further, these estimated impacts are conservative estimates. Though limited studies have been conducted on economic impacts of local food purchasing from major institutions such as schools, Christensen & Jablonski²¹ showed, in addition to the absolute food dollars spent on local foods, farm to school programs can have an economic output multiplier effect ranging from 1.45 to 1.48 and an employment output multiplier effect ranging from 1.96 to 3.35.²²

²⁰ If an institution is unable to meet the requirement of 15% local food spend, then the institution may meet the baseline requirement by submitting a plan to achieve compliance.

²¹ Christensen, L., & Jablonski, B. (2017). Economic Impacts of Farm to School. Retrieved from <http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/EconomicImpactReport.pdf>

²² Several other studies demonstrate the transformative power that institutional food procurement can have on regional food economies. Kane, D., Kruse, S., Ratcliffe, M., Sobell, S., & Tessman, N. (2010). The impact of seven cents. Retrieved from https://ecotrust.org/wp-content/uploads/7-Cents-Report_FINAL_110630.pdf; Christensen, L., & Jablonski, B. (2017). Economic Impacts of Farm to School. Retrieved from <http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/EconomicImpactReport.pdf>; Pesch, R. (2014). Assessing the potential farm-to-institution market in central and northeast Minnesota. Retrieved from <https://conservancy.umn.edu/handle/11299/171633>; Roche, E., Becot, F., Kolodinsky, J., & Conner, D. (2016). Economic contribution and potential impact of local food purchases made by Vermont schools. Retrieved from https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/Farm_to_School_Institution/Economic%20Contribution%20of%20Farm%20to%20School%20in%20Vermont%20.pdf

The experience of various cities similarly demonstrates that adopting the GFPP standards would be an effective way to strengthen Denver’s local food economy. In 2018, the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) received the first-ever five-star rating under the GFPP framework and was named the 2018 Good Food Institutional Hero by the Center for Good Food Purchasing.²³ Since adopting the GFPP, BVSD has invested \$890,700 in the Colorado economy by purchasing locally – totaling over 41% of BVSD’s total food spend.²⁴ Further, almost 10% of these local purchases come from farms within 200 miles of the BSVD and have been incorporated into 2.19 million meals per year.²⁵

The experience of the LA Unified School District (LAUSD) likewise demonstrates the transformative power of institutional food purchasing on local economies. Within 5 years of adopting and implementing the GFPP, LAUSD was able to purchase 20% of its food locally and its purchase of local fruits and vegetables increased from 9% to 75%.²⁶ This alone created more than 221 jobs in the regional agricultural sector.²⁷ Further, LAUSD directed more than 12% of its food dollars towards contracts meeting GFPP’s labor and equity standards, an important point because ensuring that benefits to the regional agricultural laborers and their communities can be overlooked.²⁸

The potential for cost savings on a per meal basis is also a significant benefit of adopting the GFPP. The case of Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) shows that even those institutions with strained budgets can lead the way in supporting local food systems. With an initial budget of \$1.25 per meal,²⁹ OUSD was able to save 1% per meal after adopting the GFPP for a total of \$42,000 over two years.³⁰ Meat reduction was the largest source of these cost-savings, though OUSD’s purchases of pork and beef actually

²³ Center for Good Food Purchasing. (2019). Lunchroom leadership in Boulder Valley. Retrieved from <https://goodfoodpurchasing.org/lunchroom-leadership-in-boulder-valley-first-ever-5-star-rating-awarded/>

²⁴Center for Good Food Purchasing. (2019). Lunchroom leadership in Boulder Valley. Retrieved from <https://goodfoodpurchasing.org/lunchroom-leadership-in-boulder-valley-first-ever-5-star-rating-awarded/>

²⁵Center for Good Food Purchasing. (2019). Lunchroom leadership in Boulder Valley. Retrieved from <https://goodfoodpurchasing.org/lunchroom-leadership-in-boulder-valley-first-ever-5-star-rating-awarded/>

²⁶Union of Concerned Scientists. (n.d.). Purchasing Power. Retrieved from <https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2017/11/purchasing-power-report-ucs-2017.pdf>; Stephens, A. (2016, January 7). Tracking the ripple effects of LA’s Good Food Purchasing Program. Retrieved from <https://www.policylink.org/equity-in-action/la-good-food-purchasing-program>

²⁷ Union of Concerned Scientists. (n.d.). Purchasing Power. Retrieved from <https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2017/11/purchasing-power-report-ucs-2017.pdf>; Stephens, A. (2016, January 7). Tracking the ripple effects of LA’s Good Food Purchasing Program. Retrieved from <https://www.policylink.org/equity-in-action/la-good-food-purchasing-program>

²⁸ Union of Concerned Scientists. (n.d.). Purchasing Power. Retrieved from <https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2017/11/purchasing-power-report-ucs-2017.pdf>; Stephens, A. (2016, January 7). Tracking the ripple effects of LA’s Good Food Purchasing Program. Retrieved from <https://www.policylink.org/equity-in-action/la-good-food-purchasing-program>

²⁹Center for Good Food Purchasing. (2019). OUSD aims to put its money where its values are. Retrieved from <https://goodfoodpurchasing.org/ousd-aims-to-put-its-money-where-its-values-are/>

³⁰Hamerschlag, K., & Kraus-Polk, J. (2017). Shrinking the carbon and water footprint of school food: A recipe for combating climate change. Retrieved from https://1bps6437gg8c169i0y1drtgz-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FOE_FoodPrintReport_7F.pdf

increased.³¹ Similarly, other institutions adopting a plant-forward menu showed significant savings. For instance, by switching to only plant-based meals, the Maricopa County Jail in Arizona was able to feed inmates for approximately \$0.50 per meal and save an estimated \$817,000 per year.³² These savings are significant for institutions with limited budgets, and their significance will likely grow if the production costs of food (e.g., water, energy, agricultural inputs, and labor) increase.

In sum, implementing the GFPP for the City Food Programs and Jails is an important first step to achieving the Denver Food Vision's goals of procuring 25% of city food purchases locally, creating a stronger regional food economy, and positioning Denver as an institutional role model. By adopting the baseline standard under the GFPP's Local Economies Pillar, the City of Denver could direct \$ 525,000 into the regional economy in Year 1. By Year 5, this amount would increase to \$ 75,000 annually and continue thereafter. All told in the first five years, ~\$3.395 million would be directed into the local economy. These numbers are not inconsequential, particularly given the multiplier effect of these purchases. Finally, shifting menus to plant forward options can offer significant savings on a per meal basis.

³¹Hamerschlag, K., & Kraus-Polk, J. (2017). Shrinking the carbon and water footprint of school food: A recipe for combating climate change. Retrieved from

https://1bps6437gg8c169i0y1drtgz-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FOE_FoodPrintReport_7F.pdf

³²Hamerschlag, K., & Kraus-Polk, J. (2017). Shrinking the carbon and water footprint of school food: A recipe for combating climate change. Retrieved from

https://1bps6437gg8c169i0y1drtgz-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FOE_FoodPrintReport_7F.pdf and sources cited therein.

APPENDIX 5

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF ADOPTING GFPP

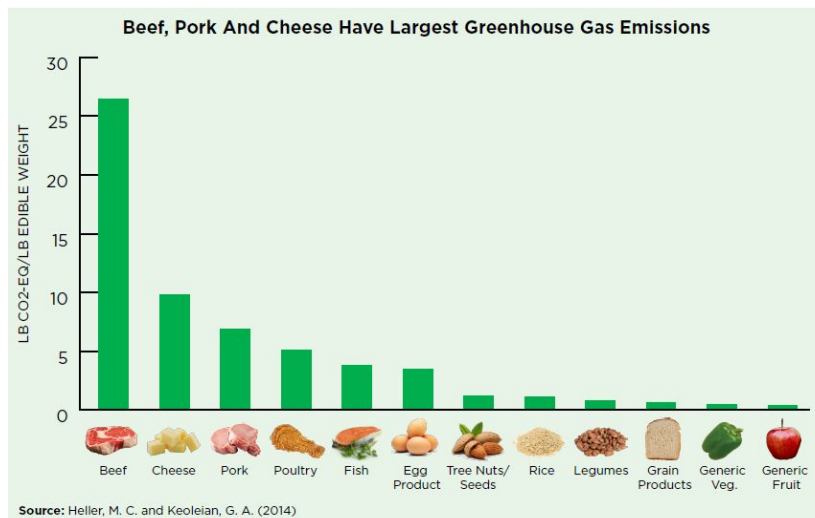
The Food Vision correctly recognizes that preserving and enhancing the region’s agricultural resource base by protecting prime agricultural land and supporting regenerative and climate-smart food systems is critical. The Environmental Sustainability and Local Economies Pillars of the GFPP can work synergistically to ensure the current and future resilience of Denver’s regional food system. Not only are the GFPP standards in-line with the Food Vision, the experience of other Cities amply demonstrates that adopting the GFPP results in a significant water and carbon footprint reductions.

The Environmental Sustainability Pillar of the GFPP provides two pathways for using food as a vehicle to reduce an institution’s environmental footprint. Option 1 calls for directing 15% of total food spend to environmentally sustainable producers, such as those that are pesticide free or organic. Option 2 calls for reducing an institution’s carbon and water footprint by both adopting a plant-forward menu and implementing a food waste reduction plan. This section first discusses how the GFPP has helped other institutions reduce their carbon and water footprints and then discusses how Denver might utilize these standards to achieve the Food Vision’s goal of a resilient food system.

Reduced Carbon and Water Footprint

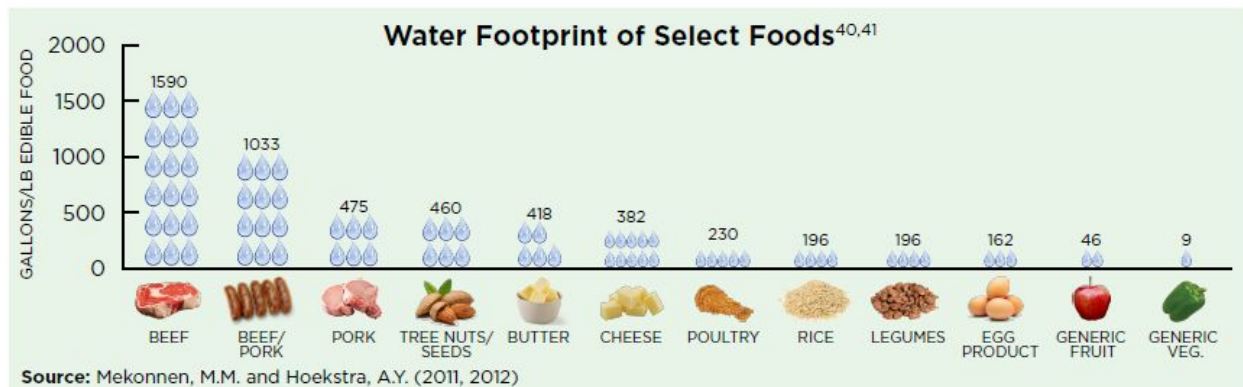
By requiring institutions to reduce the carbon footprint of meat, poultry, and dairy purchases, Option 2 of the GFPP Environmental Sustainability standards implicitly calls for reduced purchases of animal products. Plant forward menus not only have nutritional benefits but also generally require less energy and water to produce (Figures 1 & 2).

Figure 1. Carbon footprint of common foods ³³



³³ Source: Hamerschlag, K., & Kraus-Polk, J. (2017). Shrinking the carbon and water footprint of school food: A recipe for combating climate change. Retrieved from https://1bps6437gg8c169i0y1drtgz-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FOE_FoodPrintReport_7F.pdf and source cited therein.

Figure 2. Water footprint of common foods.³⁴



Accordingly, institutions adopting the GFPP or similar standards have shown significant declines in their carbon and water footprints. For instance, the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) reduced the carbon footprint of its entire foods service by 14% or 600 metric tons,³⁵ the equivalent of 1.47 million vehicle miles or the average energy used by ~72 homes.³⁶ OUSD also reduced its water footprint by 6% for a total of 42 million gallons.³⁷ Despite moving towards a plant forward menu, OUSD was able to increase overall purchases of beef and pork and direct these dollars to sustainable sources.³⁸

Similarly, adopting the GFPP resulted in significant environmental benefits for the LA Unified School District (LAUSD). In accordance with the GFPP standards, LAUSD reduced its purchases of industrially produced meat by 28%.³⁹ This resulted in an annual GHG reduction of 22% and a savings of more than 14 gallons per meal, which for the district amounted to 1 billion gallons annually.⁴⁰

³⁴ Source: Hamerschlag, K., & Kraus-Polk, J. (2017). Shrinking the carbon and water footprint of school food: A recipe for combating climate change. Retrieved from https://1bps6437gg8c169i0y1drtgz-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FOE_FoodPrintReport_7F.pdf and source cited therein.

³⁵ Hamerschlag, K., & Kraus-Polk, J. (2017). Shrinking the carbon and water footprint of school food: A recipe for combating climate change. Retrieved from https://1bps6437gg8c169i0y1drtgz-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FOE_FoodPrintReport_7F.pdf

³⁶ Amounts calculated using US EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator. US EPA. (2018). Greenhouse gas equivalencies calculator. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>

³⁷ Hamerschlag, K., & Kraus-Polk, J. (2017). Shrinking the carbon and water footprint of school food: A recipe for combating climate change. Retrieved from https://1bps6437gg8c169i0y1drtgz-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FOE_FoodPrintReport_7F.pdf

³⁸ Hamerschlag, K., & Kraus-Polk, J. (2017). Shrinking the carbon and water footprint of school food: A recipe for combating climate change. Retrieved from https://1bps6437gg8c169i0y1drtgz-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FOE_FoodPrintReport_7F.pdf

³⁹ Union of Concerned Scientists. (n.d.). *Purchasing Power*. Retrieved from <https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2017/11/purchasing-power-report-ucs-2017.pdf>

⁴⁰ Union of Concerned Scientists. (n.d.). *Purchasing Power*. Retrieved from <https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2017/11/purchasing-power-report-ucs-2017.pdf>

Regional Food System Resiliency and the GFPP

The City of Denver has a significant opportunity to use municipal food procurement to protect and enhance the region's natural and agricultural resource base. As noted above, the GFPP's Environmental Sustainability standards provide two options, with Option 1 requiring the purchase of food from sustainable sources. The environmental standards put forth by GFPP include USDA Organic, American Grassfed Association, and reductions in harmful pesticides and herbicides. These farming practices generally support "climate smart" and "environmentally regenerative agriculture" as called for in the Resilient Pillar of the Denver Food Vision.

If the City were to apply the GFPP environmental criteria to its local food purchases, it would simultaneously meet its goals for institutional procurement and creating a resilient regional food system. As discussed in Appendix 4, adopting the GFPP baseline standards would result in an annual investment of \$875,000 per year after Year 5 into locally purchased foods and these purchases would have significant employment and economic multiplier effects in the region. By combining local purchasing with the GFPP's sustainable sourcing requirements, Denver would be leveraging the same dollars to support those farmers actively working to protect and enhance Colorado's land and water resources.

In sum, adopting the GFPP would have significant environmental benefits. Adopting a plant-forward menu could significantly reduce the City's carbon and water footprints. Further, leveraging food dollars spent locally on sustainably produced food would protect the City and Colorado's agricultural resource base by encouraging climate smart and environmentally regenerative food production.

APPENDIX 6

PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFITS

The five pillars of the GFPP work synergistically to create overall improvements in public health at both the individual and community levels. For instance, the Environmental Sustainability standards reduce GHGs, improve land health, and reduce pollutants from agricultural production in our air and water ways. The Nutrition standards aim to promote health and well-being by encouraging meals that are plant-forward and have minimal processing and additives. Through policies such as the Healthier City Vending Machines Executive Order, Denver has made great strides in improving the health of its residents. Adopting the GFPP standards for the Denver Great Kids Program would build upon this strong effort. As the Healthy of the Denver Food Vision recognizes, after school programs are an important influence on the food Denver children consume and identifies “continu[ing] and expand[ing] access to healthy after school and summer meals programs” as critical strategy (Denver Food Vision, p. 20).

Implementing the GFPP through the Denver Great Kids Program would further the Food Vision’s goals and priorities by providing healthy meals for some of Denver’s most vulnerable children. Several studies show that schools and associated programs play an important role in promoting overall healthy eating habits that eventually lead to better health outcomes and better academic performance.⁴¹ Denver’s children are struggling and would greatly benefit from improved menus at supplementary meals. As of 2017, 15.6% of Denver children ages two to 17 are obese and 14.6% are overweight.⁴² These numbers have remained steady since 2012,⁴³ indicating an overall lack of progress on the issue. Hispanic and black children and those living in poverty or low-income families are more likely to be obese and overweight.⁴⁴ In fact, since 2012, the percentage of obese Black and Hispanic children have actually increased (Figure 3).

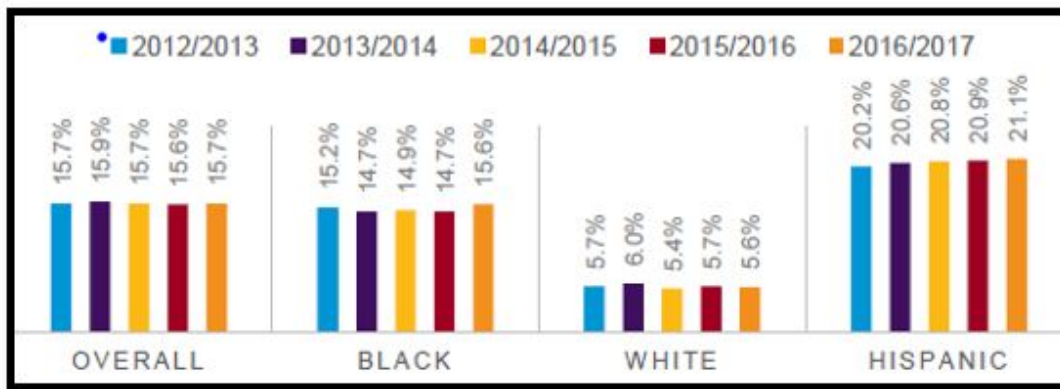
⁴¹ The Pew Charitable Trusts; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. (2016). *Healthy school lunches improve kid's habits*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2016/04/healthyschoollunchesimprovekidshabits.pdf>; Taber, D., Chriqui, J., Powell, L., & Chaloupka, F. (2013). Association between states laws governing school meal nutrition content and student weight status. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 167(6), 513-519. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4147666/>; Anderson, M., Gallagher, J., & Ritchie, E. (2017). School lunch quality and academic performance. Retrieved from https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2938761##

⁴² Denver Children's Affairs. (2018). The Status of Denver's Children: A Community Resource - 2018. Retrieved from https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/713/documents/data-resources/StatusOfDenversChildren_2018.pdf Denver Public Health. (2017). Denver childhood obesity and monitoring report 2012-2016. Retrieved from <http://www.denverpublichealth.org/-/media/dph-files-and-docs/community-health-promotion/health/dph-pdf-2016-denver-childhood-obesity-report-20180427.pdf?la=en&hash=F396168F750CF2B80C813A35824B1C3D33CE5621>

⁴³ Denver Children's Affairs. (2018). The Status of Denver's Children: A Community Resource - 2018. Retrieved from https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/713/documents/data-resources/StatusOfDenversChildren_2018.pdf

⁴⁴ Denver Children's Affairs. (2018). The Status of Denver's Children: A Community Resource - 2018. Retrieved from https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/713/documents/data-resources/StatusOfDenversChildren_2018.pdf; Denver Children's Affairs. (2013). Denver Child Health Fact Sheet. Retrieved from https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/713/documents/2014_Data--Lisa/Denver%20Child%20Health%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf; Denver Public Health. (2017, October 2). Childhood obesity rates. Retrieved from <http://www.denverpublichealth.org/community-health-promotion/healthy-eating-active-living/childhood-obesity-rates>

Figure 3. Prevalence of Childhood Obesity by Race/Ethnicity, Children Ages 2 to 17.⁴⁵



Data as to the direct influence that adopting GFPP has on desired outcomes is still limited. Nonetheless, school programs adopting the GFPP show a positive student response to healthier meals, particularly when students are involved in menu development.⁴⁶ Oakland Unified School District reports that “Generally, it’s been a positive reaction. We’re careful with how we do rollouts of new recipes – we test at the secondary and elementary school level to make sure that students like the dish.”⁴⁷ Boulder Valley School District likewise reports a positive response from students and parents.⁴⁸ Several other school districts have recently adopted the GFPP including Boston Public Schools (2019), Austin Independent School District (2019), Cincinnati Public Schools (2019), Washington DC Public Schools (2019), and Chicago Public Schools (2017). As these schools implement the GFPP, evidence of the direct health impacts of GFPP on school children will likely grow as well.

In sum, implementing the GFPP in the Denver Great Kids program will likely further the Denver Food Vision’s priorities of promoting health among children – particularly the City’s most vulnerable – and tackling the pernicious public health issue of childhood overweight and obesity rates. Finally, this mayoral advisory proposes implementation of the GFPP for the City and County Jails. Though only peripheral to the Denver Food Vision’s explicit goals, improving the nutrition of this likewise vulnerable population is an essential indicator of the City’s progress towards true equity and sustainability.

⁴⁵ Denver Children's Affairs. (2018). The Status of Denver's Children: A Community Resource - 2018. Retrieved from https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/713/documents/data-resources/StatusOfDenversChildren_2018.pdf (Fig. 51).

⁴⁶ Wong, K. (2017, March 9). Less meat, better food, happier kids: Oakland Unified reinvents its school lunch. *Civil Eats*. Retrieved from <https://civileats.com/2017/03/09/less-meat-better-food-happier-kids-oakland-unified-reinvents-its-school-lunch/>

⁴⁷ Wong, K. (2017, March 9). Less meat, better food, happier kids: Oakland Unified reinvents its school lunch. *Civil Eats*. Retrieved from <https://civileats.com/2017/03/09/less-meat-better-food-happier-kids-oakland-unified-reinvents-its-school-lunch/>

⁴⁸ Boulder Valley School District. (n.d.). Farm to school. Retrieved from <https://food.bvdsd.org/programs/farm-to-school>