



# Nourish Colorado STRATEGIC PLAN 2025 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



# Start here

Before diving into this summary, we suggest following along with our map and section markers. Our summary builds upon itself from beginning to end.

Nourish Colorado is made up of changemakers. We believe we can affect the best change when we are deeply involved in food systems work.

## The Problem: Disparities in our food systems



Page 5

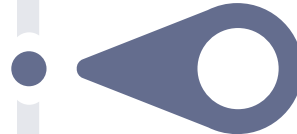
We have determined our Theory of Change, and how we plan to make food equitable and accessible.

## Our goals, projects and activities



Pages 7-17

We have established a vision for the future that serves as our guiding North Star. Every action we take, regardless of how long it takes, must align with this direction.



## Meet Nourish

Pages 3 & 4

People in our country are hungry, and the problem isn't the quantity of food. The inequities in our food systems runs deep and need to be addressed in order to have equitable and nutritional food access for all.



## Our Theory of Change

Page 6

We have developed 5 strategic goals built from our Theory of Change. All of our projects and activities are done with at least 1 of these goals in mind.



## If all is said and done, what could the future look like?

Pages 18 & 19

## Glossary

We work with and have developed many programs. See a capture of all mentioned throughout this summary in our Glossary.

Page 20





# Meet Nourish Colorado, an organization driven to change the current food system.

## Our Mission

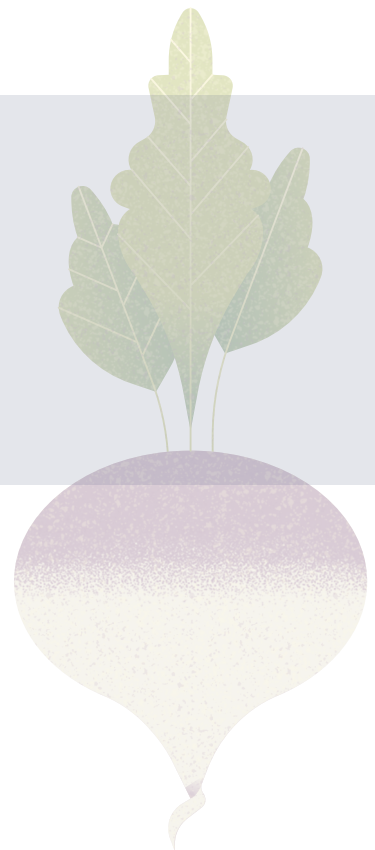
We strengthen connections with and between farms, ranches, and communities so that all Coloradans have equitable access to fresh, nutritious, local foods.

## Our Vision

We envision Colorado communities where fresh and local foods enrich the lives of all.

## Our Values

- Connections
- Systems Change
- Equity
- Transparency
- Adaptability
- Sharing Power
- Solutions
- Learning



# Our Teams

**Nutrition Incentives**, who partners with food retailers and growers throughout the state to help individuals experiencing economic insecurity increase their purchasing power to get fruits and vegetables while supporting Colorado growers. We currently operate three programs:

- Double Up Food Bucks
- Colorado SNAP Produce Bonus Program
- Colorado Nutrition Incentives Program

**Healthy Food in Institutions**, who helps institutional meal programs such as K12 School Districts, Early Care Programs, Older Adult Meal Programs and more, source and serve nutritious and delicious meals. Our Chef team provides training, resources, connections, and more to support our institutions with procuring, storing, prepping, and serving fresh, local foods through programs such as:

- Local Procurement Colorado (LoProCO)
- State of Colorado Local Food Program
- Regional Food Systems Partnership
- Culinary Training

**Nutrition Education**, who up until October 1, 2025, partnered with organizations across the state to implement the Cooking Matters curriculum and supports Policy, Systems, and Environment (PSE) work through SNAP-Ed. Without SNAP-Ed, we are doubling down on our values, honoring the incredible impact that SNAP-Ed had in our state, learning from past successes, and working with our partners to chart a new path forward.

**Farm & Food Policy**, who advances a comprehensive policy agenda that supports the transformation of our food system into one that is sustainable, equitable, and health-promoting where access to nutritious food is the norm. Our policy agenda is informed by partners across Colorado, including community coalitions, program partners, local, state and national organizations, and other policy experts. Nourish Colorado is a proud member of [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#), [Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council](#), and Good Food for All Collaborative, participant in Blueprint State and Federal Policy Committees, and partner of [National Farm to School Network](#). *See our policy accomplishments to date, [here](#).*

**Robust Operations**, who lead our behind-the-scenes efforts to keep our programs going. From fundraising, board relations, and finances, to staff support, justice, diversity, equity and inclusion work.





# The reality is that there are disparities in our country's food systems.

With community food environments promoting less nutritious, highly processed food, economic insecurity and limited individual purchasing power, federal support for less nutritious commodities, and lengthy supply chains that create a disconnect between people and their food, we are living in a system of inequities that lead to critical disparities. Those living with lower incomes cannot afford to eat the nutritious food that they have a right to have.

Inequities start as early as the seed, and exist all the way until food reaches the table.

Only 3% of farmland in the United States is dedicated to growing fruits and vegetables, a long-known necessity for humans to live a nutritious lifestyle. In order for a family to be able to purchase the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables per year, they would need to spend nearly 3 times what lower-income families spend on food as it is. There are significant disparities in this country concerning who can affordably access what kinds of foods.

Beyond nutrition, inequalities exist on farms themselves. Over 98% of farmland in the United States is owned by white farmers, and at least 88% of farmworkers identify themselves as Latino or Indigenous. A farmworker's average annual income falls between \$20,000-\$24,999, while 1/5 of farmworkers and their families fall below the poverty line. Not only is the necessary labor being done without much compensation, but the farm industry has an annual value of over \$500 billion, with a profound majority going to white farmland owners. Not to mention, we exist in a country with continuous poverty and low wages. Even working full time, a parent earning the 2022 Colorado state minimum wage of \$12.56 per hour will fall significantly short of meeting a family with children's basic needs.



Colorado annual  
minimum wage salary



Colorado self-sufficiency annual  
salary for single parent with 2 kids



# Our work is built to address these disparities.



How do we do this? It starts with pinpointing the food inequities we feel are critical to address, and build an action plan from there. This is our Theory of Change. Here's what we've mapped out to address, and build an action plan from there.

## 1. Determined systemic issues and food inequities that we feel are critical to address:

### Poor Food Environments

Community food environments promote less nutritious, highly processed food

### Compromised Nutrition

Economic insecurity and limited individual purchasing power leads to compromising on nutritious food

### Food System Imbalance

Imbalance in the food system resulting from federal supports for certain commodities

### Disconnection

Food system consolidation and lengthy supply chains create a disconnect between people and their food

## 2. Created theories for how we might address these issues head on:

Strengthen Nutritious Food Environments

Increase Economic Power for Households to Purchase Nutritious Foods

Channel Resources to Nutritious Foods, Vibrant Farms, and Strong Communities

Increase Consumer Engagement with the Food System

## 3. Brainstormed examples of how we might turn practice into permanency:

# THEORY OF CHANGE

Increase capacity of school district staff to cook from scratch and purchase local foods through local food and culinary trainings

Connect households with limited budgets directly to local growers through WIC produce box program

Develop equity mapping to better understand and track where grant monies and incentives are directed and who benefits

Implement statewide SNAP incentive initiative through Double Up Food Bucks

State legislation creates the Local School Food Program in Dept of Ed to increase school funds for local purchases and provide culinary training

Increase WIC produce benefit through Child Nutrition Reauthorization and expand who can accept WIC benefits in CO state department rule-making

Federal Farm Bill includes increased funds for local and regional systems and more equitable applications

Seek pilot funds through legislation to fund Dept of Human Services technology to pilot integration of incentives on EBT cards

Dept of Ed sustains farm to school FTE and increased reimbursements for school meals becomes universal

WIC benefits reflect household nutritional needs and direct market operations can accept WIC benefits

Research dollars, credit/lending, and subsidies are equitably invested in local food systems, produce growers, beginning, and farmers of color

SNAP benefits are universally increased to better reflect household nutritional needs and to increase purchase of produce

# We believe we can affect the best change when we are deeply involved in the work.



From our Theory of Change, we have developed 5 organization-wide strategic goals. The following pages dive into past and current activities planned to achieve each goal. Keep in mind, each team contributes towards each goal, and many projects and activities overlap with partners and programs. The following pages provide some project examples and highlights, and are not representative of all our work to date. Stay up-to-date with all of Nourish's happenings through [our blog and newsletters](#).

## Strategic Goal 1

Identify communities where Nourish programs can have the greatest **impact** on advancing equity for Colorado residents and farmers based on community need and local assets

## Strategic Goal 2

Assess opportunities to prioritize, deepen education about, and take action to advance **justice and equity** in all layers of Nourish Colorado's work and culture

## Strategic Goal 3

Develop **diverse partnerships** to increase awareness of programs to potential participants that will elevate community needs and unique solutions

## Strategic Goal 4

Provide **technical assistance, training, and resources** for food producers and providers to create healthy food environments

## Strategic Goal 5

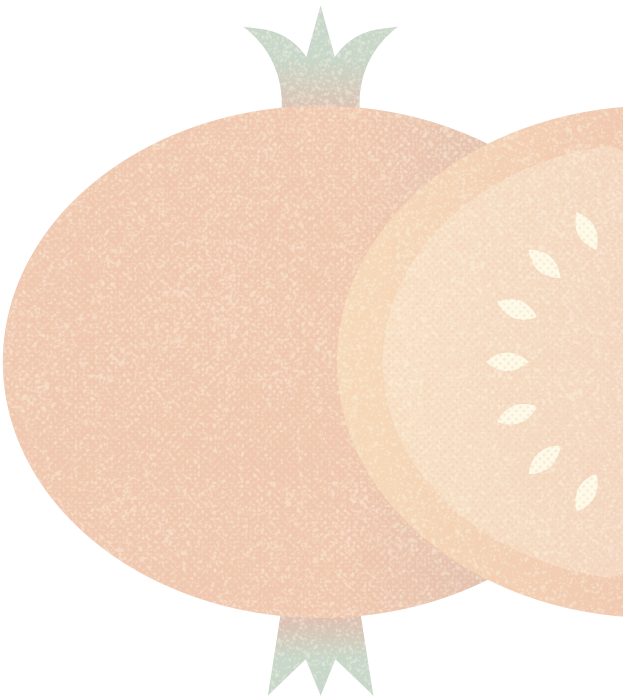
Lead state and federal **policy advocacy** to improve and advance organizational goals



- Identify communities where Nourish programs can have the greatest impact on advancing equity for Colorado residents and farmers based on community need and local assets

Example Project	Major accomplishments in 2024	Current 2025 activities
Provide direct nutrition education via Cooking Matters curricula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added a new satellite partner to cover metro Denver area nutrition education needs (Metro Caring)</li> <li>• Supported over 15 Train the Trainer Partners with direct education and PSE activities</li> <li>• Exceeded our reach goals for direct education in our first full year of program implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reach 4800 participants through dozens of partnerships (goal currently on track)</li> </ul>
Increase connections between local growers and program participants and partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held 2 regional workshops in Southeast CO resulting in new buyer/producer connections, connections to partners, and successful grant applications</li> <li>• Successfully secured a Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) grant designed to support the process of increasing market channel access for locally grown produce and develop a value-added product that features local foods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold final regional workshop in Southeast CO</li> <li>• Continue to provide professional training and on-site support to K12 school districts and older adult meal program providers, agricultural producers, and partners</li> <li>• Develop and distribute a market analysis survey for value-added products and moving towards creating a reverse</li> </ul>
Increase awareness and use of local food programs by eligible individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoted the Pilot Local Food Program grant application in Spring of 2024, which ended up with 7 new providers for Year 4 (SY24/25), 4 of those directly attributed to our promotion efforts</li> <li>• Had 32 Local Food Program participating providers, with 25 of those returning from previous years.</li> <li>• Provided culinary trainings and recipe development support to school districts, developing more than 20 institutionally-tailored recipes that feature local foods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide coordinated support to counties in awareness, marketing and technical assistance</li> <li>• Promote the Year 5 Local Food Program Pilot extension to current participants and additional school food authorities</li> <li>• Continue standardization of recipes that feature local foods</li> </ul>

Example Project	Major accomplishments in 2024	Current 2025 activities
Expand Colorado Nutrition Incentives Program (CNIP) reach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secured limited funding to maintain a smaller version of the program in the Southwest region, ensuring continuity despite overall funding cuts.</li> <li>Preserved and strengthened relationships with 8 farm/aggregator partners and 9 agency partners.</li> <li>Demonstrated the program’s adaptability by scaling operations to available resources while keeping impact in a key region of the state.</li> <li>Built a foundation to expand again when new funding opportunities become available.</li> </ul>	On hold
Increase understanding of and participation in farmers markets and CNIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosted feedback listening sessions for CNIP</li> <li>Hosted 4 symposium events across the state for Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb)</li> <li>Conducted outreach across all counties that offer DUFb in partnership with CDHS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and maintain on-boarding materials and resources for local growers</li> <li>Partner with community organizations in Rocky Ford, Fort Morgan, Denver and Grand junction to pilot a regional navigator model to promote nutrition incentives programs</li> </ul>



# Strategic GOAL 2:

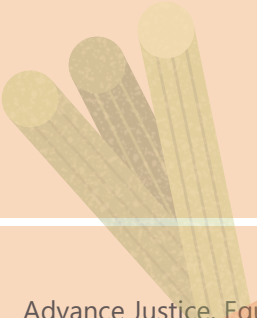

## JUSTICE & EQUITY



Assess opportunities to prioritize, deepen education about, and take action to advance justice and equity in all layers of Nourish Colorado's work and culture

Example Project	Major accomplishments in 2024	Current 2025 activities
Provide nutrition education to meet unique community needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivered all Cooking Matters curricula during the National transition to The Food Trust</li> <li>Offered the CORE as a tested and evaluated curricula moving forward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer flexible options for curricula delivery including virtual and Cooking Matters at the Store modified for farmers markets</li> <li>Support Spanish language programming, culturally relevant food education and trainings, and leverage the knowledge and experience of community partners to provide culturally relevant nutrition education support</li> </ul>
Implement innovative educational strategies using technology platforms to deliver food skills education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created a satellite partner resource hub on Nourish website where partners can access necessary documents, share resources, communicate, and collaborate</li> <li>Offered handouts resources and social media content</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide education content in both English and Spanish, through Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram</li> <li>Support the Eat Better Together Social Marketing campaign</li> </ul>
Create a more equitable and inclusive selection process for partners contracted with to implement and advance the program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched an easy-to-use interest form for potential vendors/retailers, shared by partners and navigators to simplify and expand recruitment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equip and train regional navigators to identify and recruit new partners to implement the DUFBI program.</li> <li>Remove barriers to DUFBI access by engaging in more community events, increasing awareness, and partnering with organizations trusted in local communities.</li> </ul>



Example Project	Major accomplishments in 2024	Current 2025 activities
<p>Advance language justice and remove barriers; develop recipes and resources to support usage of Indigenous foods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritizing offering resources in Spanish and trainings in Spanish when needed</li> <li>• Translating the Farm to Loading Dock Landscape Assessment into Spanish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a “Using Traditional Indigenous Foods in School Meals” Resource for the Guidebook</li> <li>• Include live interpretation support at culinary trainings</li> <li>• Include live interpretation and side by side Spanish/English slides for the May Farm to Loading Dock National Webinar</li> </ul>
<p>Manage Colorado SNAP Produce Bonus (CSPB) Program with Double Up Food Bucks</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched the program at 2 farmers markets in July: Larimer County farmers market in Fort Collins and Backyard Market in Black Forest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure a smooth transition with the new program while determining strategies to connect DUFb and CSPB.</li> <li>• Identify barriers for partners during the transition from one program to the other, based on pilot experience.</li> <li>• Advocate for flexibility and policy changes at USDA to support an equitable transition, with a focus on rural farmers and partners.</li> <li>• Successfully transition and onboard to CSPB: 41 farmers, 5 brick-and-mortar retailers, 36 farm sales locations (including farmers markets and farm stands/stores)</li> </ul>
<p>Advance Justice, Equity, Diversity &amp; Inclusion (JEDI) work within all areas of work</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiated organization-wide awareness building on what JEDI is and what it means in food systems work</li> <li>• Began organization-wide assessment of internal and external areas of strength and needed growth to advance JEDI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create internal JEDI Steering Committee that coordinates and support monthly all-staff JEDI meetings and captures assessments and action plans to advance JEDI</li> </ul>

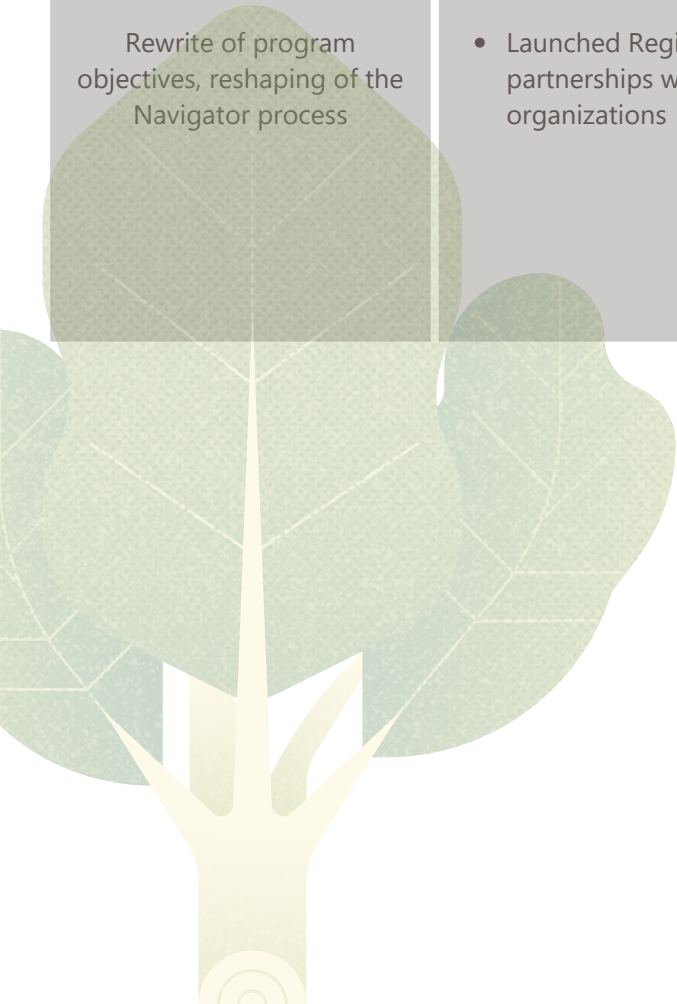
# Strategic GOAL 3:

## DIVERSE PARTNERSHIPS

Develop diverse partnerships to increase awareness of programs to potential participants that will elevate community needs and unique solutions

Example Project	Major accomplishments in 2024	Current 2025 activities
Nutrition education partners will integrate PSE strategies alongside direct education efforts by advocating for and implementing changes to enhance healthy eating and active living.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked with local organizations to support community gardens, gardening classes, breastfeeding support, maternal health, and healthy beverage policies.</li> <li>• Created an order form for our Food Skills Education flyers so that partners can order recipe cards and educational materials to distribute at their leisure.</li> <li>• Distributed thousands of materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with food banks and food pantries in support of implementation and/or enhancement of PSE changes.</li> <li>• Work with 3 produce prescription partners</li> </ul>
Create cohort of producers, institutions, rural grocers, and local partners in Southeast CO to move the needle on farm to institution work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built and launched a regional Farm to Institution bid for the Southeast CO cohort (*we were unable to move forward with awarding a vendor due to uncertainty at the Federal and State level surrounding funding)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support the cohort in Southeast CO with training, technical assistance, resource development, connections, and more.</li> <li>• Create and test Food Hub routes in Southeast CO</li> </ul>
Statewide landscape assessment of potential community partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed an equity mapping tool that reflects the allocation of resources for all incentives programs by county. This equity mapping guided our change, identified areas with the highest potential for growth and the greatest need for food access programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize the equity mapping tool to guide expansion of nutrition incentive programs and allocate resources strategically.</li> <li>• Implement a year-round interest form targeted to counties where no incentive programs currently exist.</li> <li>• Engage with organizations in regions with minimal reach to identify potential partners, better understand local needs, and listen to community feedback.</li> <li>• Assess program presence and impact statewide and develop a process to evaluate regional needs, partner capacity, and determine which incentive program is the best fit for each area.</li> </ul>

Example Project	Major accomplishments in 2024	Current 2025 activities
Working with local partners to identify interested SNAP shoppers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnered with community-based organizations in low-income, low-access areas</li> <li>Built relationships with regional food justice champions while sharing power and providing funding to sustain their valuable work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host community events in partnership with regional navigators to connect community members to DUFB retailers and increase program awareness.</li> <li>Engage local organizations by providing outreach materials to share with their clients.</li> <li>Strengthen relationships with regional navigators, supporting their professional growth through opportunities such as social media amplification, professional development, and statewide recognition of their work.</li> </ul>
Rewrite of program objectives, reshaping of the Navigator process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched Regional Navigator partnerships with 3 community based organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand regional navigator partnerships from 3 in 2024 to 7 in 2025, working with community-based organizations</li> <li>Train and equip navigators to deepen their understanding of DUFB requirements for stores and vendors, enabling them to effectively support retailer outreach.</li> <li>Provide navigators with toolkits, monthly meetings, and year-round training to strengthen their capacity and ensure consistent, high-quality support for partners.</li> </ul>





# Strategic GOAL 4:

## ASSISTANCE, TRAINING & RESOURCES

Provide technical assistance, training, and resources for food producers and providers to create healthy food environments



Example Project	Major accomplishments in 2024	Current 2025 activities
Continue to support Local Food Program (LFP) partners and other K12 meal providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified which of the 32 districts in the LFP need services</li> <li>Maintained communication to support them</li> <li>Supported 12 rural charter schools with kitchen infrastructure assessments to increase healthy food access</li> <li>Supported 10 charter schools in DPS with kitchen infrastructure assessments to increase healthy food access</li> <li>Presented on The Guidebook at the National Annual Nutrition Conference in Boston</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide support to school year 2024-25 LFP cohort districts</li> <li>Support 12 rural charter schools with equipment purchases and necessary training</li> </ul>
Deepen awareness of the varying needs, resources, and infrastructure our agricultural producers and food hubs need to access institutional markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalized the Landscape Assessment, promoted it out, conducted a Statewide Webinar on Oct 25th and continued plans for hosting a national webinar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold the National Farm to Loading Dock Webinar, using the results from the landscape assessment to inform the Values Based Procurement research process which started in Oct 2024.</li> </ul>
Supporting agricultural producers/food hubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created the <a href="#">Colorado Local Food Program Guidebook!</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide agricultural producers/food hubs with technical assistance and marketing resources to promote their locally grown crops with consistent marketing channels</li> </ul>

# Strategic GOAL 5:



## POLICY ADVOCACY

Lead state and federal policy advocacy to improve and advance organizational goals

Example project	2024 update	Current 2025 activities
<b>Improve Produce Access for Low Income Households</b>		
<b>Strengthen GusNIP (Federal)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized 2 site visits of federal delegation staff at partner Double Up sites; Secured co-sponsorship of GusNIP bills by 4 Representatives and 1 Senator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with national coalitions to update messaging on the impact of nutrition incentive programs for farmers and local economies and to identify a path forward for new GusNIP marker bills</li> </ul>
<b>Advocate for a national vision for EBT integration (Federal)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participated in and/or led 3 national coalitions focused on scaling SNAP incentives; Continues to support CDHS in impact data collection of CO SNAP Produce Bonus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to co-coordinate the Statewide Expansion Coalition to identify a sustainability plan for EBT integration</li> </ul>
<b>Increase WIC FMNP funding (Federal)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participated in national coalitions and initiated relationship with National WIC Assc to establish strong, shared goals around WIC FMNP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare for an eventual Farm Bill with recommendations to expand WIC FMNP</li> </ul>
<b>Make HFIF a permanent program under CDPHE and work towards increased funding (State)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JBC orbital bill, HB24-1416, passed to make Healthy Food Incentive Program a permanent program under CDPHE.</li> <li>Funding is unfortunately limited to \$500K due to this year's budget shortfall of \$200M.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and maintain HFIP; Continue to meet with Governor's Office and state legislators to raise awareness of the multiple positive impacts of nutrition incentives</li> </ul>

### Support Local Food Systems

#### Increase equitable access to local food systems supports, like LAMP (Federal)

- Worked with Rep Caraveo's and Sen Bennet's offices to lead letters to the USDA requesting continued funding for the LFPA and LFS programs. USDA announced additional funding in late 2024.

- Work with entire Colorado delegation to find opportunities to create a new USDA procurement program that would purchase local foods for local anti-hunger efforts.

#### Host educational series to engage with legislators (Federal & State)

- Provided briefings on existing food programs in Colorado for Governor's office and state legislators

- Update information on the status of food programs in Colorado due to state and federal budget cuts
- Hold briefings for Governor's Office and legislators on what has changed and what has been lost

### Increase Funding and Technical Assistance for School Food

#### Increase federal contribution to school meal costs

- Secured an additional \$250,000 from the state legislature for the CO Healthy Food Incentive Program to purchase local produce
- Secured co-sponsorship from 4 federal Representatives and 1 Senator for expansion of the grant that funds Double Up Food Bucks; Secured lead sponsorship of the Farmers Market Revitalization Act (increasing nutrition programs for older adults) from 1 Senator and 1 Representative
- Secured federal co-sponsorships of an additional 6 nutrition-focused bills

- Strengthen GusNIP
- Advocate for a national vision for EBT integration
- Increase WIC FMNP funding Enhance Senior FMNP
- Change state rules to expand retailers that can accept WIC benefits; Make Healthy Food Incentives Fund (HFIF) a permanent program under CDPHE and work towards increased funding
- Maintain/Increase state funding for CNIP-WIC Older Adults Programs through white paper and concept paper and educational series creation
- Maintain/Increase state funding for Double Up Food Bucks through white paper and concept paper and educational series creation

#### Strengthen school meal quality and simplify administrative processes

- Led the passage of CO HB23-1008: Food Accessibility, creating a tax credit to support the small business recovery and resilience grant program; Monitored or supported 9 state food systems bills (8 passed)
- Secured co-sponsorship of the Local Farms & Food Act from 1 Senator and 3 Representatives; Secured lead sponsorship of the Farmers Market Revitalization Act (increasing nutrition programs for older adults) from 1 Senator and 1 Representative; Hosted 2 site visits in CO with federal Representatives

- Host educational series to engage with legislators and create food systems graphic to create awareness of CO's food system
- Increase equitable access to local food systems supports, like LAMP
- Help facilitate site visits with Members of Congress and food systems education for the delegation



Example Project	Major accomplishments in 2024	Current 2025 activities
<b>Ensure longevity of Local Food Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosted several site visits to showcase LFP</li> <li>Wrote 3-part blog series on history, impact, and next steps for the LFP</li> <li>Planned and convened a 12/2 "meet and greet" between state legislators, local policy makers, and schools and farmers that have participated in LFP to share the impacts of the program, with 5 state legislators and several local schools in attendance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with Hunger Free CO to move a new HSMA ballot measure forward that would fully fund LFP</li> <li>Secure LFP pilot funding for now</li> <li>Identify multiple paths for a partial or fully funded LFP</li> </ul>
<b>Implement Values-Based Procurements</b>		
<b>Develop values-based state requirements for public purchases of food</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secured 9-month policy intern to develop a roadmap for a state-level values-based procurement policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a comprehensive analysis of the flow of public procurement of food in CO</li> <li>Assess what is working or not with large public institutional procurement to integrate more "values"</li> <li>Develop a multi-year strategic plan for collecting data and creating a state policy to guide public food procurement</li> </ul>
<b>Work with delegation to support Farm Bill marker bills that support direct purchasing of local produce</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held site visits to show impact of f LFPA, of WIC FMNP, and of DUFB.</li> <li>Worked with both offices to develop an organizational sign-on to encourage USDA to continue LFPA funding, securing 1/5 of national signups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host meetings between farmers and members of congress to elevate loss of federal investment</li> <li>Coordinate sign-on letters with partners to call for release of canceled or frozen food systems funding;</li> <li>Advance opportunities to develop a new USDA procurement program that would support local farmers and feed communities.</li> </ul>
<b>Increase Funding for SNAP and WIC</b>		
<b>Enhance overall federal food benefit programs leading to universal food benefit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinated a virtual briefing of the federal delegation with several CO organizations on how food access and food benefits program flow down to the state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with local and national organizations to elevate the impact and importance of federal nutrition benefit programs</li> <li>Weekly social media posts highlighting the impact of federal investment in communities</li> <li>Integrate support for federal nutrition benefits into weekly Rooted in Action alerts</li> </ul>

# If we keep fighting for positive change in food access and food systems, we believe we can live in a society where...



## Food and nutrition are integrated as a core function of public education.

- Food and nutrition education are in school core curriculum
- Culinary experts are valued, compensated and carry the same benefits as educators
- Meal times are guaranteed to ensure adequate time to sit, enjoy, and eat before recess
- Meals and snacks reflect the history and culture of students and surrounding communities
- Meals are credited in ways that incentivize scratch-based cooking
- Food costs are reimbursed at rates high enough to cover quality food and skilled work
- Government agencies that implement this work are well-funded and equipped to support these changes

**How do we do make this vision a reality? *Prioritize work in institutions and nutrition education.***

## Federal government provides one universal food benefit that guarantees access to all the nutritious foods people desire.

- Incentives are integrated into food assistance programs
- Eligibility and application processes for all food assistance programs are unified and streamlined
- The USDA Food Plans are increased to provide a robust foundation for adequate amounts of nutritious foods
- Counties are funded and required to employ nutrition benefit navigators
- Government agencies that implement this work are well-funded and equipped to support these changes
- Ultimately, in 30+ years, universal health care that provides universal food benefit

**How do we make this vision a reality? *Prioritize work in incentives and nutrition education.***



## Public dollars actively help build a resilient food system that provides affordable access to fresh and local foods.

- Direct market operations have free and easy access to technology and systems to accept all food assistance benefits
- Food assistance programs are structured and adequately funded to incentivize local and fresh foods (e.g., school food reimbursement rates, SNAP incentives)
- Government agencies that implement this work are well-funded and equipped to support these changes

**How do we make this vision a reality? *Prioritize work in incentives.***

## Those who grow and harvest our food are honored with all the resources needed to ensure their personal livelihoods and sustainability of their work.

- Public dollars for food are set aside and directed for young, new, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, immigrant, and women growers (owners and workers)
- State and federal agencies provide training, technical assistance, and resources focused on farm equity
- Land and water access policies favor equitable (re) distribution of natural resources
- Local and state programs provide incubator and training programs for new farmers

**How do we make this vision a reality? *Prioritize work in institutions.***

# Glossary

<b>CACFP</b>	Child and Adult Care Food Program
<b>CDPHE</b>	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
<b>CNIP</b>	Colorado Nutrition Incentives Program
<b>FMNP</b>	Farmers Market Nutrition Program
<b>FSE</b>	Food Skills Education
<b>JEDI</b>	Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
<b>LFP</b>	Local Food Program
<b>LoProCO</b>	Local Procurement Colorado
<b>PSE</b>	Policy, Systems, and Environment
<b>RSFP</b>	Regional Food Systems Partnership
<b>SFAs</b>	School Food Authorities
<b>SNAP</b>	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
<b>WIC</b>	Women, Infants, and Children