



Charter of the Council on Hunger and Food Policy

The New York State Council on Hunger and Food Policy will play a key role in advising the state on policies and programs to improve access to food, including healthy, locally-grown food.

Established by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in 2016, this Council has a permanent focus on anti-hunger issues in New York. Experts from throughout the state who represent state and municipal agencies, academia, nonprofits and agricultural industries, are expected to advise the state on strategies to expand access of locally-grown foods to food insecure communities.

The Council on Hunger and Food Policy will:

- Reinforce the importance of collaboration between government, not-for-profits and businesses across the state to work together to address hunger and food insecurity.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of current state policies and programs that aim to expand access to healthy and affordable food.
- Recommend to the state action to expand agricultural production and value-added processing, to increase institutional purchase, and to develop new outlets for local food in underserved communities.
- Identify mechanisms to help farmers donate foods to vulnerable New Yorkers through food banks, food pantries and other means.
- Ensure that all children in New York State schools have easy access to free or affordable breakfasts and lunches. Improve upon efforts to make school meals healthy and locally-grown, and incorporate nutrition education into school curriculums.
- Recommend actions for the State that improve the availability of an adequate food supply and access to locally grown affordable, fresh and nutritious food to its residents, including children via school meal programs, emergency food providers, and those individuals in areas considered food deserts.