As the prevalence of obesity, diabetes, and other nutrition-related diseases reach dangerous highs, state and local governments are taking steps to address nutrition in their communities and workplaces. Establishing nutrition standards for foods purchased with government funds and served on government property is emerging as a promising approach.

State and local government nutrition standards can positively affect the eating habits of people working for or visiting government agencies, can help shape social norms, and can influence the practices and formulations of food companies.

State or local policies could address food sold or provided through:
- government cafeterias
- vending machines
- conferences and government events
- parks and recreation facilities
- highway rest stops
- childcare facilities
- correctional facilities
- public hospitals
- public colleges and universities
- senior centers
- homeless shelters

*Did you know? In 2008, nearly 17 million Americans were employed by state and local governments. Improving the food offerings at state and local government workplaces could significantly improve the diets of those employees. To learn how many people your state or local government employs, visit the U.S. Census website.*

Examples of state and local policies:

**Los Angeles:** Any vending machines within county facilities must be stocked with 100% healthier food and beverage options, consistent with the State of California’s Nutrition Guidelines.

**Massachusetts:** Through Executive Order, all state agencies that purchase or serve food must comply with nutrition guidelines established by the Department of Public Health. The guidelines aim to guarantee that “persons served by such agencies are offered a broad choice of healthy, balanced meals and snacks.”

**Virginia:** The State legislature introduced a bill in January 2010 to develop and implement nutrition standards for foods purchased and served by state agencies and institutions.

**New York City:** Food purchased and sold by city government agencies, including childcare centers, nursing homes, and correctional facilities, must meet city nutrition standards.

**Alabama:** The State Board of Education instituted nutrition standards for school foods in cafeterias, vending machines, and snacks.

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