

# Healthy Food Purchasing and Food Service Policies for Public Facilities

State and local governments and publicly funded institutions purchase, serve, and sell food through a myriad of settings, including worksites, parks and recreation centers, universities, healthcare facilities, shelters, correctional facilities, senior centers, and childcare. These entities are a consistent source of food for millions of people in the United States, and some disproportionately serve populations that experience inequitable access to healthy food.

Implementing healthy food procurement and food service guidelines is an evidence-based strategy to improve the food environment in these settings. Major health authorities, including the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [World Health Organization](#), support this strategy. Governments and anchor institutions also hold significant purchasing power that could be better leveraged to support healthy eating and promote a more sustainable, equitable, and just food system.

CSPI is seeking proposals for state or local campaigns that aim to ensure foods purchased and served by public entities and sold on public property meet evidence-based standards for nutrition and potentially other values.

*Applications can be submitted for up to \$70,000 in direct costs\* for a duration of up to 18 months and can support non-lobbying and lobbying activities.*

## **We will consider the following types of policies:**

Healthy food purchasing & food service policies: The policy requires the adoption and implementation of evidence-based nutrition standards for foods served and/or sold by public entities or on public property in the jurisdiction of a state or local government. Foods *served* covers meal programs where the government or institution is paying for the food and the consumer choices are limited, *i.e.*, a correctional facility, senior feeding program, or the foods served to patients in hospitals. Foods *sold* covers any places where the consumer is selecting and purchasing food, *i.e.*, an employee cafeteria, concession stand, or vending machine.

## **Major policy components and considerations:**

- Coverage
  - **Option 1:** Comprehensive: all agencies and facilities under the jurisdiction of a state or local government are under one healthy food purchasing and food service policy. Policy covers all foods served and all foods sold (see above).
  - **Option 2:** Implement the healthy food service policy one agency at a time. Below is a list of potential priority settings that serve dependent populations and present an opportunity to advance health equity.
    - Correctional facilities (adult and youth)
    - Senior feeding programs
    - Public hospitals

- State and local parks and recreation departments (often charged with administration of feeding programs for children)
  - Shelters and transitional housing facilities
- We will NOT consider policies that only apply to vending machines on public property.
- Standards
  - Legislation or executive orders need not spell out the specific standards for nutrition and other values; rather, it may defer to another entity such as the health department or a task force to develop the standards. The standards should be incorporated into relevant administrative policy and contracts.
  - **Nutrition:** The policy must address healthfulness of foods and beverages as sold or served.
    - Nutrition standards must be aligned with the most current *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.
    - The policy will ideally require periodic updating to stay current with research and/or updates to the DGA.
    - The policy may indicate an existing or model standard that will be adopted or adapted, such as the [Food Service Guidelines for Federal Facilities](#).
  - **Values-based food purchasing:** The policy may also address standards for values in addition to nutrition in food purchasing (e.g., local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare, racial equity, transparency).
    - We welcome applications for campaigns that seek adoption of the [Good Food Purchasing Program \(GFPP\)](#) for settings other than K-12 schools (see above) through a binding government policy. However, since GFPP primarily addresses foods as-purchased, the policy must combine GFPP with standards for foods as-served, such as the [Food Service Guidelines for Federal Facilities](#).

**Policies that prohibit state or local public entities from procuring, serving, or selling sugary drinks:**

The cities of San Francisco and Berkeley, California have both adopted policies prohibiting the procurement of sugary drinks with city funds and prohibiting the service or sale of sugary drinks on city property. We are seeking applications from communities interested in adopting similar policies.

**Please Note:**

- *This campaign opportunity does not target K-12 schools. We have a separate opportunity for state & local healthy school food campaigns coming soon.*
- *If you are considering a local (city or county) policy campaign in Florida, Kansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, or Wisconsin, please consider whether your proposed policy may be preempted by state law (more information [here](#)) before applying. Please reach out to us at [grants@cspinet.org](mailto:grants@cspinet.org) if you have questions.*

## Key Application Priorities

- **Funded campaigns must seek to secure a binding government policy** (including legislation, executive order, regulation, agency guidance, or contract). Voluntary or programmatic initiatives are not eligible.
- Applications are from diverse organizations who are either representative of the population for which a policy is focused or are directly partnering with individuals and or community organizations representing the population. If application is from a white-led organization, we recommend that a minimum of 25% of your grant supports organizations and/or individuals from communities most impacted by health disparities.
- We will prioritize funding campaigns to secure policies that will impact the greatest number of people. For example, a comprehensive policy will reach more people than a policy for one government agency; and a policy that pursues healthy food service guidelines in correctional facilities in a state with high rates of incarceration will positively impact more people than a state with lower rates of incarceration.
- Projects are informed by community needs and applicant organizations partner with diverse stakeholders.
- We are particularly interested in applications to lead a campaign to secure a comprehensive healthy food service policy for New York State, where CSPI is currently supporting an active bill ([S4644A/A5682A](#)). Note that we would also consider an Executive Order a win for such a campaign.

## Additional resources for applicants:

- [A Roadmap for Comprehensive Food Service Guidelines](#)
- [Healthy Food Service Guidelines: An Impactful Strategy for Promoting Health in Institutions](#)
- [Strategies to Optimize Food and Nutrition in Correctional Facilities](#)

**The deadline for Letter of Interest (LOI) submission is April 1, 2022. All LOIs should be submitted through CSPI's Online Grant Management System.**

For information on how to apply online, please visit our [website](#). More details about our grantmaking are also available in our 2022 Grant Applicant Guide. For any other questions you may have about this specific funding opportunity or our application process in general, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [grants@cspinet.org](mailto:grants@cspinet.org).

*\* In recognition of the disproportionate impact of gaps in operational funding for smaller nonprofits, we have implemented a tiered Indirect Cost rate structure. Indirect costs will be added on top of submitted project budgets:*

- 12% indirect costs for grantees with annual budgets over \$5 million
- 15% indirect costs for grantees with annual budgets \$1 million up to \$5 million
- 20% indirect costs for grantees with annual budgets under \$1 million