

## Kent County Food Policy Council Policy: Community Feedback Summary



In 2018, eight community feedback sessions helped build this policy framework. Food Policy Council members will use this community feedback to establish actionable policy priorities.

<p><b>Food Equity, Justice and Sovereignty are priorities in Kent County</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poverty causes food injustice; living wage and affordable housing issues intersect with food justice</li> <li>- Barriers to healthy eating including food deserts, cost, and cheap processed foods</li> <li>- Interventions to improve food access must be culturally appropriate</li> <li>- Non-profits should focus on upstream solutions rather than band-aid approaches</li> <li>- Racism is woven into the food system, addressing racism addresses food inequity</li> <li>- Those most impacted by food injustice are not currently part of the conversation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health, Nutrition and Food:</b> A healthy food system means all have access to healthy, nutritious food in Kent County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A healthy food system is just and equitable</li> <li>- Health care professionals and health systems should encourage preventive practices</li> <li>- Incentives such as tax breaks for donating unhealthy food need to end</li> <li>- We need more healthy corner stores and Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs)</li> <li>- Current programs (i.e., Double Up Food Bucks, WIC, SNAP benefits, etc.) should expand</li> </ul>
<p><b>Food Systems Planning:</b> A good food system (that is healthy, green, fair and affordable) includes zoning, prioritization, and implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policies around beekeeping and backyard chickens need more flexibility</li> <li>- Farmland requires greater preservation efforts at the local, State, and Federal levels</li> <li>- The true cost of food is often not reflected in its price</li> <li>- Farmers and government need to work collaboratively on good food planning</li> </ul>
<p><b>Food Waste Reduction is possible through policy solutions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Residential and commercial food waste reduction is needed (i.e., incentives, education, curb-side composting, bulk/low-waste purchasing for individuals, etc.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Food Systems and Workforce Development:</b> Food workers need policies that foster protection and growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policies should foster training, jobs, internships, and business development</li> <li>- Food festivals, restaurant week, etc. should increase awareness of food work</li> <li>- Essential food workers are vulnerable and need greater protection</li> </ul>
<p><b>Good Food Production:</b> Kent County’s food production should promote the values of good food</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Land access and high cost are barriers for increasing local food production</li> <li>- Production can be environmentally friendly</li> <li>- Mentorship programs to support good food production/farming are needed</li> <li>- Larger commodity production is often incentivized over smaller farms</li> </ul>
<p><b>Local Food Procurement:</b> Kent County should increase capacity for local production</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communities should have greater access to local farms</li> <li>- Kent County needs its own definition of “local”</li> <li>- Larger institutions often access food from large entities limiting options for smaller growers</li> </ul>