



2019 Annual Report

The Council:

The Local Food Advisory Council was formed midway through 2017, after the legislation creating it was signed into law. The Council is set to sunset in 2022. The Council is comprised of 13 voting members and an unspecified number of non-voting members. There are currently four non-voting members. Rep. Stephen Handy (R-Layton) and Sen. Gene Davis (D-Salt Lake) are the Council co-chairs. The third required Legislative member is Rep. Marie Poulson (D-Salt Lake). One employee from the Utah Department of Health and one employee from UDAF are appointed by their respective agency leadership. The other eight members are appointed by the Governor from applications received at the Governor's website boards.utah.gov.

The current council members are:

- Representative Steve Handy (R-Layton) (co-chair)
- Senator Gene Davis (D-Salt Lake) (co-chair)
- Representative Marie Poulson (D-Salt Lake)
- Bjorn Carlson, Blue Tree Farms, Bluebell, Utah
- Shayn Bowler, Utah Natural Meat, West Jordan, Utah
- Carly Gillespie, produce farmer, Heber City, Utah
- Jordan Riley, Riley Farms, Perry, Utah
- Alison Einerson, Urban Food Connections of Utah
- Sterling Brown, Utah Farm Bureau
- Gina Cornia, Utahns Against Hunger
- Dr. Kelsey Hall, Utah State University
- Heather Borski, Utah Dept. of Health
- Kerry Gibson, Commissioner, Utah Dept. of Agriculture and Food

Non-voting members:

- Colleen Dick, Onchenda Global Cooperative
- Ashley Patterson, Wasatch Community Gardens
- Symbria Patterson, Red Acre Center
- Dr. Ruby Ward, USU

Council Goals:

- Promote vibrant, locally owned farms
- Promote strong communities and healthy eating

- Enhance thriving local food economies
- Improve local food access to all Utahns

Council Accomplishments

The Council and its workgroups worked throughout 2018 to learn more about our local food systems and determine where the council can make a difference. Through presentations created by work group members delivered to the full council, the council decided to take four of the needs/projects to the Legislature as requests for appropriations during the 2019 General Session.

The four proposals submitted by Rep. Handy as part of the RFA process were:

- Utah Produce Incentives Program (New funding for the existing program running out of federal grant funding. \$400,000 requested and approved as an ongoing appropriation)
- Incentivizing Local Purchasing in School Meals (New pilot grant program to be able to help local school districts afford more local fresh food in school meals. One-time \$250,000 request—not funded)
- Food Hub Start-Up Seed Money Grant Program (New one-time grant program designed to help private entities with a fraction of the start-up costs needed to start a local food distribution company. \$250,000 requested—not funded)
- One Full-time employee to help coordinate the three above efforts (New employee funding request—not funded).

Utah Produce Incentives Report:

The state appropriation for produce incentives has proven incredibly significant this year. The Utah Double Up Food Bucks (DUFEB) program increased the incentive amount available to participants from \$10 to \$20 and anticipates \$100,000.00 of incentive redemption in farmer's markets this summer alone. The Utah Department of Health established the Utah Produce Rx program where healthcare providers are able to give vouchers for fruit and vegetables to patients experiencing food insecurity. Currently, Association of Utah Community Health (AUCH) community health centers and the University of Utah Wellness Bus providers are participating. Participants are able to redeem these vouchers both at farmers markets and in grocery stores. The most notable success is the award of the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) grant from the USDA. The Utah Department of Health was recommended to receive \$2 million dollars over the next 4 years to expand the DUFEB program. This award required a one-to-one match of all federal dollars, and without state funding it would not have been possible to apply. The state and federal funds will allow Utah DUFEB to join the growing number of states that expand produce incentive programs into retail grocery stores. This is expected to significantly increase the number of participants as well as give participants greater access to healthy produce and boost purchasing of local fruits and vegetables by grocery retailers.

Incentivizing Local Purchases in school Meals and Food Hub Start-up proposals report:

Representatives from the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) have been researching and refining these proposals the past several months, with the support and input from the Local Food Advisory Council. UDAF has committed to including the Incentivizing Local Purchasing proposal in its proposed budget for the coming session. The Council and UDAF are still considering discussing whether UDAF will also include the Food Hub proposal or if it will again be proposed in the RFA process.