



# Alaska Food Policy Council



health.  
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prosperity.

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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# Alaska Food Policy Council

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 akfoodpolicy

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## AFPC GOVERNING BOARD 2022



December 2022, Hybrid Face-to-Face AFPC Board of Directors Meeting (not pictured: Marissa Wilson)

## INTERFEATURE



**OUR 2022 SUMMER INTERN, WILL KESSLER,** joined us remotely from Huntsville, Alabama. He is a senior at College of the Holy Cross in New England, majoring in political science with a minor in Russian studies. He's a staff writer for the College's opinion magazine and a senator in the Student Government Association. He assisted on various projects, including reviewing Alaskan community food system reports, researching food organization funding opportunities, and helping us update our website and outreach tools. Many thanks to Will!

## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Robbi Mixon**, Homer

### CHAIR

**Amy Seitz**, Executive Director, Alaska Farm Bureau, Soldotna

### VICE-CHAIR

**Ronalda Angasan**, Alaska Village Initiatives Agriculture Program Director, Anchorage

### SECRETARY

**Melissa Chlupach**, Dietetics & Nutrition Assistant Professor, University of Alaska Anchorage

### TREASURER

**Melissa Sikes**, Natural Resource Education Specialist, Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District

### MEMBERS

**Danny Consenstein**, Food System Consultant, Anchorage

**Cara Durr**, Director of Public Engagement, Food Bank of Alaska, Anchorage

**Tikaan Galbreath**, Technical Assistance Specialist - Alaska Region, Intertribal Agriculture Council, Anchorage

**Glenna Gannon**, University of Alaska Fairbanks

**Kyle Hill**, President Alaska Commercial Company, Anchorage

**Lorinda Lhotka**, Section Manager, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Food Safety and Sanitation, Fairbanks

**Rachael Miller**, Assistant Professor of Business, Alaska Pacific University/ Director, FRESH, Anchorage

**Heidi Rader**, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Associate Professor, Cooperative Extension Service, Tanana Chiefs Conference

**Sara Renard**, Greenhouse Coordinator, Alaska Seeds of Change, Anchorage

**Marissa Wilson**, Director, Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Homer

**Evie Witten**, Founder, Evie's Brinery, Anchorage



# 2022–2025 BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED!

**PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR TWO NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS, SERVING A THREE-YEAR TERM, 2022–2025!** Glenna and Kyle bring diverse skills, perspectives, and experiences to the board, allowing us to continue to grow and meet our mission. Thank you so much for your service!



## **GLENNA GANNON, UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS**

Glenna Gannon was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska to the daughter of a midwest farmer and multiracial father with a passion for wild harvesting food and medicinal plants. Since 2010, Glenna has worked as an educator for the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program at the Tanana Chiefs Conference and is currently an assistant professor of sustainable food systems at UAF. In this capacity, she is involved with numerous projects that focus on high-latitude agriculture, and food security for both rural and urban populations around the state.

Glenna earned dual degrees, B.A. in Anthropology and B.F.A. in Art from UAF, earned a Masters of Environment and Sustainability science from the University of Saskatchewan, and in 2020 began taking advanced courses in Agriculture Science and Education from Oregon State University.



## **KYLE HILL, PRESIDENT ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY**

The Alaska Commercial Company is a retailer that provides groceries and general merchandise in 33 stores throughout rural Alaska. Prior to taking on this role, Kyle held leadership positions in the private and non-profit sectors including Vice President of Strategy at the North West Company, Executive Director of Teach For Canada, and a Project Leader at the Boston Consulting Group.

Kyle holds a Bachelor of Science (Physics) from Mount Allison University, and a Masters and PhD (Physics) from the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He and his wife Cecelia live in Anchorage, and they enjoy shopping at Farmers Markets on weekends and eating Alaska-grown and Alaska-raised food wherever possible.

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND A FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER



I OFTEN GET ASKED,

“ What does the Alaska Food Policy Council do? ”

**THOUGH THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS THAT WE INFORM,** advocate, and connect, the deeper answer involves deep listening to communities, inclusive network weaving, and cultivating environments for changing and building food systems through nonpartisan research and policy recommendations.

2022 has been a year of tremendous growth for our organization. With a generous gift from the foundation **MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger**, I became our first-ever full-time executive director. We hosted another successful **virtual conference**, authored a statewide **Food Security Action Plan**, were awarded grants to develop a food system-focused **AmeriCorps** program and a **food hub working group**, and produced and co-authored the **Governor’s Food Security and Independence Task Force** report. Our working groups and committees are active, engaged, and impactful, a true testament to the power of collective action.

Throughout our twelve-year history as an organization, AFPC has accomplished a lot with very few resources and a whole lot of heart from our volunteers: our board, committees, and working groups. To celebrate our current successes and promising future,

it is vital to look back at where AFPC has been. To do so, we’ve asked a stellar storyteller and founding board member Danny Consenstein to share some reflections from helping to build AFPC over the past decade.

Danny, a long-time AFPC Board member and founder, was termed off the Governing Board this past December 2022—he served every possible moment allowed by our by-laws. Danny has lived and worked in Alaska since arriving from NYC in 1969. Like many Alaskans, he has a diverse professional background, working in construction, commercial fishing, public policy, and nonprofit management. He’s lived in Fairbanks, Juneau, and Anchorage, and traveled to many of Alaska’s remote villages. Danny has made many important contributions to AFPC and to improving Alaska’s food system.

*Danny leaves us with a few thoughts about his time with AFPC.*

—Robbi Nixon, AFPC Executive Director



## “A Season of Growth and Deepening Roots”

**I LOVE WATCHING THINGS GROW. ALMOST EVERY** year since my cabin days in Fairbanks, I plant a backyard vegetable garden. There's something magic about seeds transforming into plants under the intense Alaskan sun, and the satisfaction of harvesting and eating delicious greens, peas, or broccoli. It's hard work, but you get to enjoy the results. I also love to share the garden bounty.

In 2009, my public policy professional career brought me to lead the **USDA Alaska Farm Service Agency**. I had a steep learning curve in going from backyard gardens to understanding Alaska's food production challenges and opportunities. My bosses in Washington, D.C. urged me to use our federal programs to help create jobs and pull the country out of the 2008 recession. I had the tools to help the economy and expand agriculture in Alaska.

I also felt the buzz of the growing local food community and the fun at farmers markets. Michelle Obama's kitchen garden at the White House captured the hopeful mood of the Nation. Healthy food was hip. USDA was not just for farmers, it could help build healthy communities in Alaska. I was searching for a way to connect the dots.

That connection came from a surprising place. Before the CDC was known for leading the fight against COVID, it was focused on reducing obesity. One CDC strategy was to make healthy food more accessible to everyone. In 2010, Alaska's obesity program director, **Diane Peck**, contacted me about starting a food policy council in Alaska. She had secured funding from the CDC to launch the project. **I liked the idea of gathering Alaska food stakeholders to work together to create jobs and build healthy communities.**

The magic happened later that year in a downtown Anchorage hotel ballroom. Passionate foodies, farmers, and health and hunger advocates gathered to explore the power of collaborating to build a stronger food system. They saw a future in Alaska that was less vulnerable to food supply disruptions from the next earthquake

or late barge delivery. A future with more young Alaska farmers. With fewer kids going to school hungry. With less incidence of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and other food-related diseases. **The seed was planted.**

The Alaska Food Policy Council continued to build on that first gathering by organizing small community town hall meetings in communities from Nome to Juneau, and large statewide conferences to network, share, educate and connect Alaskans concerned with food security.

The Council has used the collective power of this statewide network to educate policymakers in Juneau, Anchorage and Washington, D.C. about **how to build a strong economy and healthy communities through food system improvements**. Governors and mayors are paying attention. This year, Governor Dunleavy said improving food security was one of his top priorities!

Like my garden, the Council has grown from an all-volunteer board to hiring a full-time Executive Director. Its annual budget has grown and our programs are expanding across the state. We're seen as one of the best-run non-profits in the state. With a strong engaged board, active committee work, and tight financial management, policies, and procedures, we're set up to sustainably increase our staff and program work even further in the future.

Last summer, I planted tiny sunflower seeds in my garden. By the fall, they were way over the top of the fence, at least 10 feet tall, with beautiful yellow and orange petals, and pollinators and birds buzzing around. **I get so much joy out of watching things grow.** With the help of all the many past Board members and partners, especially the early founders, Diane Peck, from the Alaska Department of Health, and Alli Harvey, from the Alaska Center, it's been so fulfilling watching AFPC mature and grow. **The future is bright for this strong, sustainable organization!**

—Danny Consenstein, AFPC  
Founding Board Member

## SPOTLIGHT:

### INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ALASKA'S FOOD BANK NETWORK GRANTS



The Food Bank of Alaska was awarded \$6 million from the State of Alaska to support the capacity and infrastructure needs of Alaska's statewide anti-hunger network. Funds were awarded through a competitive grant process, with 43 organizations from across Alaska receiving awards. Projects included new building construction, space modifications and expansions, refrigeration and freezer capacity, vehicles, warehouse equipment such as forklifts or pallet jacks, energy efficiency upgrades, processing or cooking facilities, and more. This funding comes at a critical time in which Alaska's food bank network has seen unprecedented levels of hunger amid the COVID-19 pandemic, rising costs, and rapid inflation.

Food Bank of Alaska developed a rigorous and multilayered evaluation process which included the formation of an external review committee. The external review committee included representatives from the Alaska Food Policy Council, as well as the Rasmuson Foundation, Mat-Su Health Foundation, RurAL Cap, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and Alaska Commercial Company. "We are honored to support these important organizations that play a critical role in Alaska's anti-hunger network," said Food Bank of Alaska CEO Jim Baldwin. **"This grant's concentration on capacity building will allow us to more effectively serve people and better meet the need in communities across the state."**

There was a tremendous response to this grant opportunity, with 81 applications submitted totaling over \$28 million in requests. Although not all proposals were funded, the application process has allowed us to identify other projects that would have a meaningful impact. The Food Bank of Alaska, the Alaska Food Policy Council, and our other partners who worked on securing this fund are incredibly grateful to the Alaska Legislature and the Governor for making this competitive grant process possible.

A list of the projects that were funded can be found here: [foodbankofalaska.org/infrastructuregrant](https://foodbankofalaska.org/infrastructuregrant)

**THIS PAST YEAR WE HAVE SEEN CONTINUED IMPACTS TO THE FOOD SYSTEM FROM COVID-19,** the war in Ukraine, increases in the cost of living, labor shortages, supply chain issues, and more. As Alaskans grapple with these challenges, increasing the production of local food and improving access to healthy foods for Alaskans rise higher on topics of interest to legislators and the Administration. The Alaska Food Policy Council worked with other like-minded organizations to keep the conversation of building a better food system at the forefront of policymakers minds. In 2022, we participated in Food Security Week activities in Juneau, pushed for key legislation and budget items, and produced a candidate survey. These efforts paid off with big wins in Juneau.

### FOOD SECURITY WEEK

AFPC and partners highlighted issues around food access, production, and investment opportunities with a series of lunch and learns, a reception, and meetings with key legislators.



### POLICY AND BUDGET WINS

**HB 298:** Establishes a Food Strategies Task Force and the Forgivable Loan Program for farmers.

**HB 168:** Requires the Department of Health to offer an online application process for food access benefits.



**HB 347:** Protects personal and business information on animal records maintained in the Office of the State Vet.

### BUDGET

- \$1,250,000** was designated from the Fish and Game Funds to be used for wildlife management surveys and assessments that will seek to provide information that will help enhance food security by **understanding the natural fish and game resources.**
- \$3,000,000** was given to the Food Security Agriculture Incentive program which provides funds for the Alaska Division of Agriculture to continue its program of **giving grants, loans, and financial incentives for agricultural investment, supporting and growing the food industry** in the state.
- \$600,000** was given to the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) dedicated to starting **new school breakfast programs and expanding existing ones** to ensure that children who may not have access to breakfast at home get the food they need in the morning, providing a level of food security for children.
- \$10,000,000** was given to Food Bank of Alaska for **infrastructure capacity for Alaska's statewide food assistance network.** Of this, \$4,000,000 was designated for Food Bank of Alaska's innovation center, and \$6,000,000 was designated as grants for partners statewide to increase their capacity and efficiency.
- \$500,000** was designated for the Alaska Farmers Market Association, which helps ensure that **farmers markets can operate effectively** as they provide a space for people to exchange local food products, benefiting local farmers and helping to establish a local food system that can resist outward changes. This funding will provide double SNAP, WIC, and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) benefits at markets statewide.

### CANDIDATE SURVEY



AFPC produced a candidate survey, sent to all candidates with emails and responses shared with voters. It's important for voters to understand where potential policymakers stand on food security issues. We received 50 responses from candidates in the 2022 election cycle. Candidate responses can be found on our [website blog](#).

# 2022 REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM PARTNERSHIP: PROJECT REPORT AND FOOD SECURITY ACTION PLAN RELEASED



**IN 2020, AFPC WAS AWARDED A USDA REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM Partnership program.** According to the USDA, “The Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP) program supports partnerships that connect public and private resources to plan and develop local or regional food systems... RFSP supports public-private partnerships that plan and develop relationships between local and regional producers, processors, intermediaries, and institutional markets or institutional food service operations through local and regional producers and local and regional food systems...”

This innovative pool of funding meant the federal government allocated resources towards meaningful dialogue, an often overlooked yet crucial precursor to action or implementation. AFPC is dedicated to building resilient food systems WITH all Alaskans—so we started at the community level, recruiting community or “node” leaders from 13 areas around the state. For the next two years, AFPC hosted network development and food systems planning meetings (all virtual due to COVID).

Our project, titled **Growing Connections and Building Networks for Greater Food Security** resulted in a formalized, statewide network of food leaders and a Food

Security Action Plan for the State of Alaska. Intended to be non-prescriptive, we listened to people on the ground and then aggregated what we heard. The **Action Plan** was developed as a resource to support grants and food project development.

The report details our process, lessons learned, challenges, and recommendations, as well as highlights success stories from most of the participating communities.

Grant activities included:

- The identification and strengthening of regional food systems networks;
- Providing network education and leadership development;
- Engaging residents in the process of collaboration and ideation around food systems solutions;
- Establishing communication and resource-sharing ecosystem. At the state level, grant funds and activities have catalyzed a dynamic food systems network with the potential to scale across the state.

These activities aided the group in achieving the three proposed objectives outlined in the initial grant application, which are as follows:

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Improved connection, communication, and collaboration of food system organizations/ local food policy councils, statewide for collective action to improve Alaska’s food system. Join the Alaska Food System Network for more!

**OBJECTIVE 2:** Identification of community food systems assets, barriers, and capacities, to foster connection and collaboration.

**OBJECTIVE 3:** Statewide food security action plan, informed by regional Alaskan nodes representing a wide range of locations and stakeholder groups.

Excitingly, we have already learned of relationships and projects outside this funding that stemmed from the RFSP process. That’s the power of the Alaska Food Systems Network: for more Alaskans to help each other learn and grow our food system in ways that make the most sense to them and their communities.

The best part? We’re just getting started. This funding pool includes both planning and implementation grants, and AFPC intends to pursue the latter in early 2023. Funding would contribute to community-led projects, developed and discussed during the 2-year planning grant, educational efforts about community food projects, grant administration, and more. Check out the **AFPC blog** for more about this project and to download the 62-page report.



# TASK FORCE REPORT + HB298 OUTLOOK

**IN EARLY 2022, GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY ISSUED** Administrative Orders 331 and 334, which established the Alaska Food Security and Independence Task Force, “responsible for recommendations on how to increase all types of food production and harvesting in Alaska, and to identify any statutory or regulatory barriers preventing our state from achieving greater food security.”

The 22-member Alaska Food Security and Independence Task Force was created with 20 members (two of whom are AFPC board members) and two non-voting legislators, with expertise spanning Alaska’s food system. The group began meeting during the summer of 2022 and soon enlisted the services of the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Alaska Food Policy Council to organize, research, and write the final report.

The report was drafted over three months on behalf of the Alaska Food Security and Independence Task Force and was directly informed by member input, ideas, feedback, and experiences. The report should be used as a tool for building policies and programs to strengthen and grow the state’s food system for all Alaskans. Throughout the drafting process, Task Force members regularly revisited the Administrative Order’s mission and discussed the balance and relationship between food security and economic opportunity. As such, it is AFPC’s hope that the report is used as a tool for evaluating and improving the food system beyond market-based dialogue.

The report includes critical background context as well as sections addressing each directive.

The final report is due out in early 2023. A digital, interactive version of the report will be updated and maintained by the Department of Natural Resources ARC-GIS department and can be reviewed at [alaskafoodsystems.com](http://alaskafoodsystems.com).

## LOOKING AHEAD...

In September 2022, Governor Dunleavy launched the **Office of Food Security** under Administrative Order 338. This follows a recent trend of counties, boroughs, and states establishing their own localized offices to prioritize food within policy and budget development, rather than treat food security as an outcome. Alaska’s OFS has not been allocated any additional resources at the time of this report, however at least two food security roundtables were held in 2022 to foster dialogue about innovation and investment in Alaska’s food infrastructure from groups around the country.

In a promising bipartisan and multi-branch approach, **House Bill 298** passed during the 2021–22 Alaska State legislative session, which establishes the **Alaska Food Strategy Task Force** that will ideally act as a continuation and expansion of Governor Dunleavy’s Food Security & Independence Task Force.

The task force will launch in 2023 and include 36 individuals representing various aspects of the food system, including legislators and relevant state commissioners. Notably, the Alaska Food Policy Council has two designated seats on the executive board!



## FOOD SECTOR CONTEXT:

- WILD FOODS
- ACCESS
- PRODUCTION
- PREPARATION & CONSUMPTION
- PROCESSING
- DISTRIBUTION & AGGREGATION
- WASTE & RECOVERY

## DIRECTIVES:

- WILD FOODS & INCREASING ABUNDANCE
- INSTITUTIONAL PROCUREMENT OF LOCALLY HARVESTED & PRODUCED FOOD
- FISHERY SHORTFALL & DISASTER RESPONSE
- PRODUCER BARRIERS TO LAUNCH, SCALE, & ACCESS MARKETS
- PREPARING FOR DISASTER: FOOD CACHES
- ALASKA FOOD SYSTEM RESEARCH NEEDS





“EVERYBODY EATS:  
NOURISHING OUR CULTURE,  
OUR HEALTH, OUR FUTURE”

## AFPC CONFERENCE

MARCH 17-19, 2022

**THE SIXTH SESQUIENNIAL ALASKA Food Festival and Conference** event previously took place in Anchorage in 2014 and 2016, in Fairbanks in 2017 and Homer in 2019. In 2020 and again in 2022, the conference was scheduled for Anchorage before going virtual due to the pandemic. In addition to the Alaska Food Policy Council, the 2022 event was co-sponsored by the **Intertribal Agriculture Council** and the **University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) Dietetics and Nutrition Program**.

The Conference was attended by over 300 people, over half of whom were located in rural/ off-road system areas, a testament to the accessibility of virtual and hybrid events. We hosted almost 70 sessions, including a film screening, keynote speakers, sessions ranging from traditional foods to climate change, and our first ever youth-focused track! Through the generous support of our sponsors, we were able to provide 63 scholarships. Conference recordings can be **viewed on our website**.



# ALASKA FOOD HERO AWARDS



## CYRUS HARRIS AND THE MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION TRADITIONAL FOODS

The team at the **Maniilaq** Traditional Foods program has worked together to provide *niqipiaq* to Elders at the **Utuuqanaat Inaat** long-term care facility in Kotzebue since 2015, through a state-permitted traditional food processing and cold storage facility known as the **Sigluaq**. In 2021, the team made years of hard work from countless helping hands a reality by achieving State of Alaska approval for serving seal oil.



### SALLY SWETOF AND THE TRADITIONAL FOODS & WELLNESS PROGRAMS AT APIA

The ***Traditional Foods and Wellness Programs*** at ***Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association*** work in tandem to carry out food-related initiatives and are dedicated to supporting the health and wellness of the Unangax people. Current projects are focused on working with Elders and community leaders to preserve traditional food knowledge and address food access and food security throughout the region.



### THE WRIGLEY'S, ALASKA FLOUR COMPANY

The Wrigley's use sustainable farming practices on their 1,700-acre farm, on which they raised five children. In 2011, their hard work, perseverance, and passion for nutritious, locally grown products paid off when they founded the ***Alaska Flour Company***, the only commercial flour mill in Alaska, providing healthy, locally grown food options. (The next nearest mill is more than 1,500 miles away.)



## 2023 CONFERENCE

### SAVE THE DATE

**THE ALASKA FOOD POLICY COUNCIL'S** goal is to create a healthier, more secure, and more self-reliant Alaska by improving our food system. One of our primary means for doing this is through convening an every 18-month Alaska Food Festival and Conference. The goals of this event are to:

**INCREASE** awareness of Alaska food issues among the general population;

**PROVIDE** training, resources, and networking opportunities to increase involvement in local food issues by community members and decision-makers; and

**INCREASE** connections and build community between the public, Alaska food businesses, NGOs, governmental entities, Tribal entities, and others to support local economic development and innovative solutions.

As the saying goes, **we are stronger together**, so for our 7th conference edition, we will be combining our Food Festival and Conference with the Alaska Farm Convention & Trade Show, hosted by the Alaska Farm Bureau and Western SARE! You won't want to miss this food and farm extravaganza!

Please save the date for our upcoming 2023 event, **November 10–12th, Anchorage.**



ALASKA  
FOOD HERO  
AWARDS

READ MORE ABOUT THE WORK  
OF THE ALASKA FOOD HEROES AT  
[AKFOODPOLICYCOUNCIL.ORG/AKFOODHEROES](https://AKFOODPOLICYCOUNCIL.ORG/AKFOODHEROES)



## AFPC PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES ALASKA



For decades, St. Francis House Food Pantry (SFH)—Catholic Social Services Alaska’s (CSS) oldest program—has helped our neighbors avoid hunger by providing emergency supplies of food for low-income households. In the last several years, CSS’s role in Anchorage’s food system expanded further as its Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS) developed an innovative agricultural program, which now supplements the food distribution of SFH. This collaboration between SFH and RAIS has resulted in meaningful connections for the people we serve across the Anchorage food system.

In 2007, RAIS began the Fresh International Gardens (FIG) program—a refugee-run farming co-op that helps new Alaskans develop English-language and small business skills, access fresh vegetables, and earn supplemental income with the core focus of promoting wellbeing in refugee communities. The program expanded its capacity in 2019 with the opening of Grow North Farm (GNF) alongside Anchorage Community Land Trust. GNF provides a space for refugees to lease farmland and develop independent agricultural businesses, continuing on the trajectory they started with FIG.

RAIS’s agricultural programs (FIG and GNF) are effective on their own, but in collaboration with St. Francis House Food Pantry, the positive outcomes for our community are exponential. One of the main successes of this collaboration is leveraging federal food access programs. Since 2014, St. Francis House has distributed Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program coupons, which eligible senior citizens can exchange for produce at any local farmer’s market. In the summer of 2022, more than 250 low-income seniors received these coupons through SFH and purchased locally-grown, nutritious produce. At GNF, farmers are able to accept these coupons as well as transactions via the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

This summer, the GNF farmstand offered an additional “double-up” program where SNAP recipients received a 50% discount on all vegetables, creating more opportunities for people to source their food locally. In the 2022 market season, the Anchorage Health Department partnered with GNF and funded a “fresh bucks” program, which provided additional veggie coupons at GNF to SNAP and WIC recipients who were already shopping onsite. This resulted in almost \$8,000



of additional revenue for the refugee farmers at GNF. Altogether, these programs provide access to locally grown produce to populations who otherwise may not be able to afford nutritious food.

Catholic Social Services’ annual Grow Local, Give Local (GLGL) campaign represents another collaborative opportunity for SFH and RAIS. Beginning in 2020, this annual fundraiser collects donations from the community to provide the SFH food pantry with funds to purchase vegetables from farmers in the FIG program. To date, the GLGL campaign has raised almost \$32,000 and has brought over 8,000 pounds of locally-grown produce to SFH clients.

Beyond increasing food access, the collaboration between SFH and RAIS creates meaningful connections between our neighbors in a shared food system. This supports Catholic Social Services’ broader commitment to not only meet basic needs but also to support the relationships and well-being of our community and our food system, connecting us all in a network of mutual support.

**THE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE** follows issues important to building a more sustainable food system in Alaska, and engages with policymakers and the public to increase awareness of these issues. The committee submits recommendations to the Governing Board on what AFPC's priorities should be for the year, works on comments or suggestions to submit on these issues, and works with other organizations to coordinate efforts in Juneau for Food Security Week. The Advocacy Committee has also taken on developing a candidate survey to use as a way to let voters know how their candidates feel about food system issues.



**THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE** is responsible for outreach and the outward-facing communications of the AFPC. Members work together to aggregate content and create newsletters, create and post social media content, oversight and recommendation of AFPC web pages including writing blogs or recruiting for contributions, draft and distribute press releases, promote the Alaska Food Festival and Conference and other special events, and create and maintain the AFPC Annual Report. If you are creative, enjoy writing and making social media posts, this committee is for you.



**THE CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE** helps to plan the semi-annual Alaska Food Festival and Conference, one of AFPC's key outreach and networking events that allow us to connect, inform, and advocate on the food system. Committee work includes choosing a venue, working with catering, recruiting and coordinating presenters, promoting the conference, recruiting sponsors, soliciting silent auction donations, coordinating volunteers, and much more! It is somewhat demanding committee work, but enriching- you will be part of something that you can be proud of. If you like figuring out the little details, coordinating people, and creating special events, this committee is for you.



**THE INDIGENOUS FOODS COMMITTEE** meets on the third Thursday of every month.

The diversity that exists across Alaska's landscape is reflected in the diversity that exists between Tribes. Yet, there are things that connect us all, no matter the culture, language, or history. We all eat. What we eat and how we eat is something that defines us, and it is something that connects us. Over the past year, the Indigenous Foods Committee has continued to refine the scope and strategic plan for the committee to help ensure that the priorities being pursued were meaningful to the committee members. Priorities include identifying and supporting policy that helps ensure continued access to traditional use harvest areas, increased opportunities for funding and technical support, and strengthening relationships between the State of Alaska and Tribes to support food sovereignty and security.



**THE FOOD WASTE COMMITTEE'S** goals for 2022 included:

**BE A FORUM** for knowledge sharing about food waste solutions across Alaska

**CONNECT** people who share a focus on food waste solutions in their region

**CELEBRATE** businesses and institutions that are invested in food waste solutions

**ENCOURAGE** other businesses and institutions to pursue food waste solutions

We addressed these goals by hosting monthly meetings that emphasized regional representation and knowledge sharing. We also encouraged regional representatives to conduct outreach in their community and identify individuals or institutions that were practitioners of food waste solutions. Some of these practitioners were then highlighted in articles that the Food Waste Committee contributed to the monthly AFPC blog. The culmination of our efforts have resulted in a public document that serves as a "living archive" for food waste solutions in specific regions across the State. In the new year, we plan to emphasize recruitment of regional representatives, outreach to businesses/institutions that could implement existing food waste solutions, and continued celebration of those that are already taking action!





## IN 2023, WE WILL LAUNCH A BRAND NEW STATEWIDE WORKING GROUP FOCUSED ON ALASKA'S FOOD HUBS!

**THE USDA LOCAL FOOD PROMOTION PROGRAM (LFPP) "FUNDS PROJECTS THAT DEVELOP, COORDINATE, AND EXPAND** local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer to consumer marketing to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products."

In autumn 2022, AFPC was awarded an 18-month LFPP planning grant: Alaska Food System Research and Knowledge Sharing: Growing Connections for Local Food to facilitate food system research and educational opportunities, to increase viable and sustainable local food production and distribution through a network for Alaskan Food Hubs. Project objectives are:

**TO ENHANCE** and improve food hub operations statewide through the creation of an Alaskan Food Hub Working group, to share best practices, and explore solutions to food hub challenges, through monthly work sessions and professional development opportunities

**TO CREATE** an Alaskan Food Hub Recommendations Report and an Alaska Food Hub Operations & Safety Manual, for better food safety outcomes, collaboration, operations, sales, and movement of local food throughout Alaska

**TO PROVIDE** Peer-to-Peer learning opportunities by attending the Fall 2023 Alaska Food Festival & Conference, with sessions dedicated to food hub operations, food safety, local food production, and marketing, with Food Security Micro Grant, Specialty Crop Block Grant, and other USDA Grant Grantees Showcases, to share ideas for replicable projects and initiatives aimed at increasing local food production

[Learn more about our project here.](#)



**ARCTIC  
HARVEST  
DELIVERIES**



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our 2022 budget was our most robust to date, thanks to our successful conference, generous donations, and new projects. Check out our overview to the left and some of the highlights below, from our Fundraising Committee.

In 2022, we focused on building AFPC's capacity with resources to hire our first full-time Executive Director. Composed of both Governing Board and community members, this committee prioritized grant funding and updating our model for financial sustainability.

Highlights include:

**OUR MARCH 2022 FOOD FESTIVAL AND CONFERENCE—EVERYBODY EATS: NOURISHING OUR CULTURE, OUR HEALTH, OUR FUTURE.** This virtual event was extremely successful both in meeting our mission to Connect, Inform, and Advocate for a healthier, more robust food system and in helping us reach fundraising goals.

**PURSUING AND RECEIVING GRANTS** to support community-focused programs, policy work, and organizational capacity-building. Find more information about these awards on the [AFPC website](#)

**FISCAL SPONSORSHIP TRAINING** with The Foraker Group. While AFPC does not have a fiscal sponsorship program, we are always learning about how to best support our community.

**LAUNCHED OUR NEW MERCHANDISE STORE**, full of AFPC merchandise

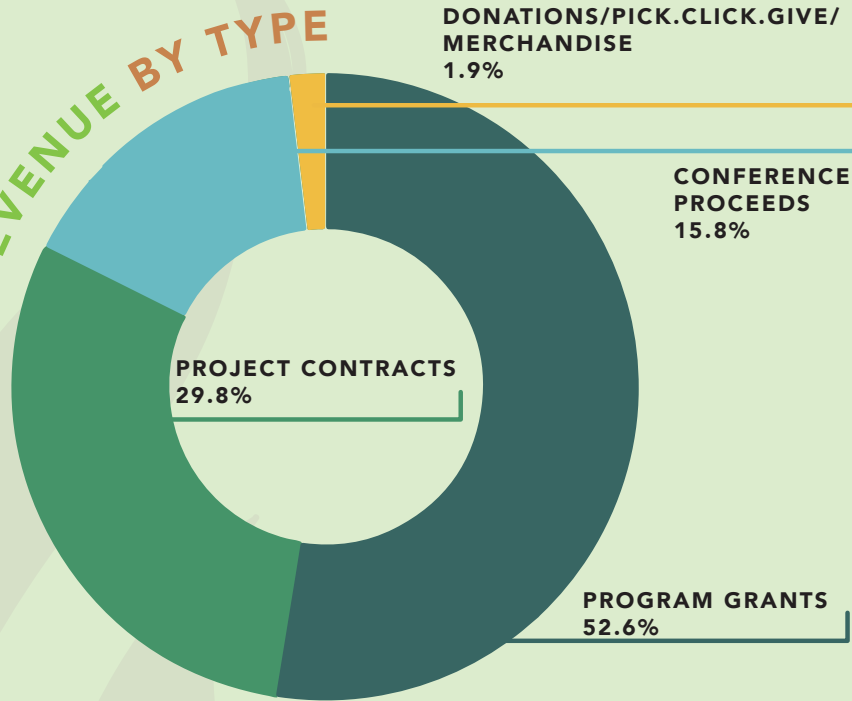
Heading into 2023, the Fundraising Committee is committed to three top priorities:

**FINANCIAL** support for the Alaska Food Festival & Conference

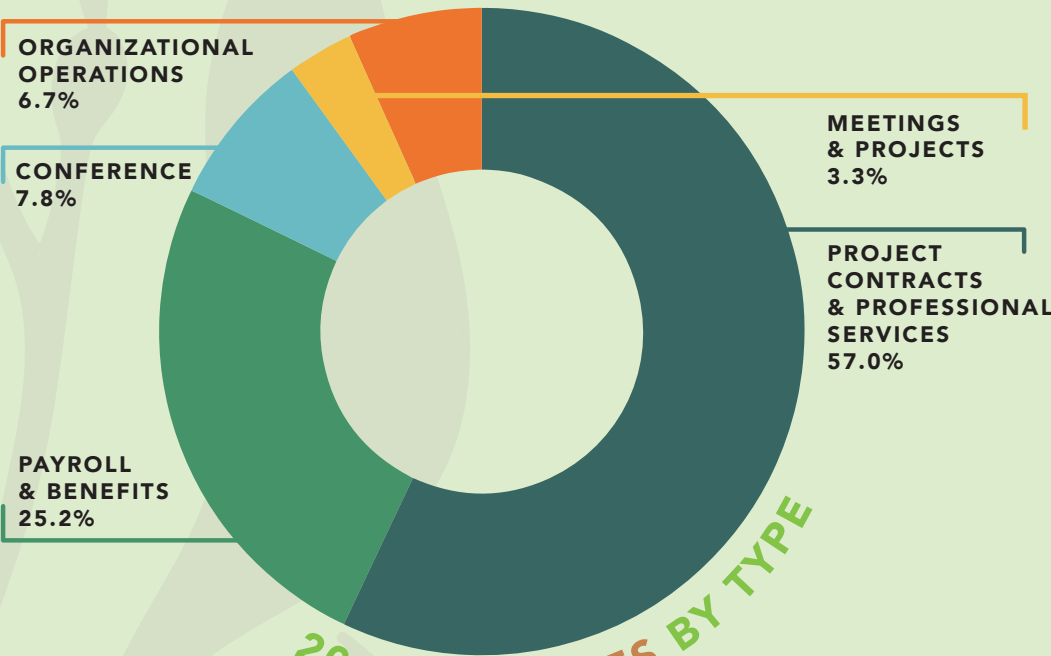
**PRIORITIZING** funding opportunities that align with AFPC values

**WELCOMING** new corporate funding partners

## 2022 REVENUE BY TYPE



## 2022 EXPENSES BY TYPE



***If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the fundraising committee, sponsoring our conference, or becoming a corporate funding partner, please reach out!***





**HELP US MEET OUR MISSION TO: CONNECT, ADVOCATE, AND INFORM ALASKANS ABOUT OUR FOOD SYSTEM.**

Consider donating on our website and selecting AFPC as your annual Pick.Click.Give. nonprofit of choice.

AFPC IS A SMALL BUT MIGHTY organization, with a 15-member all-volunteer board, and as of September 2022, a full-time Executive Director. We depend on volunteers to help with outreach, special projects and events, to provide services like bookkeeping, and to help with fundraising.

With great assistance from Katya Koteff and her team of financial wizards at **Koteff Accounting Group**, we have developed our bookkeeping and reporting processes. We've accomplished quite a bit with volunteer dedication, a handful of grants, and generous individual donations.

Thank you.



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS, COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS! OUR WORK IS ONLY POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF MANY ORGANIZATIONS, AGENCIES, AND INDIVIDUAL DONORS.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 GRANTORS:



AND OUR 2022 CONFERENCE SPONSORS:



## LOOKING FORWARD

Wrapping up my first year serving as the Alaska Food Policy Council Chair has been very rewarding, despite the challenges Alaska, and the world, continue to face that are impacting our food system. From uncertainty in the supply chain to labor shortages, continuing impacts from COVID to cost of living increases; there are so many challenges to our food production as well as growing difficulties in people's ability to access affordable and healthy foods. Despite all the challenges we've been experiencing, there have been many bright spots!

Alaskans are resilient, and when we work together, can accomplish much! With all the issues we're seeing around the food system, the need to improve it and make it more sustainable is becoming at the forefront of Alaskans' minds. Working together, organizations focusing on food and farming, had a lot of wins in Juneau, from infrastructure funding to important policies passing the legislature. While there is a long way to go before having a stable food system, I am feeling hopeful that this coming year we'll see an increase in engagement and support for building a resilient food system. I see so many opportunities to find inventive and creative ways to cope with today's challenges.

As an organization, the future of AFPC is so bright; it's an exciting time to get to serve as the chair of this organization! We have a dedicated and powerful board and will be going into our first year with a full-time Executive Director! Looking ahead to 2023 I am full of hope and excitement for food systems work, as well as for this great organization.

—Amy Seitz, AFPC Board Chair



**Alaska Food  
Policy Council**

**health. self-reliance. prosperity.**

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