



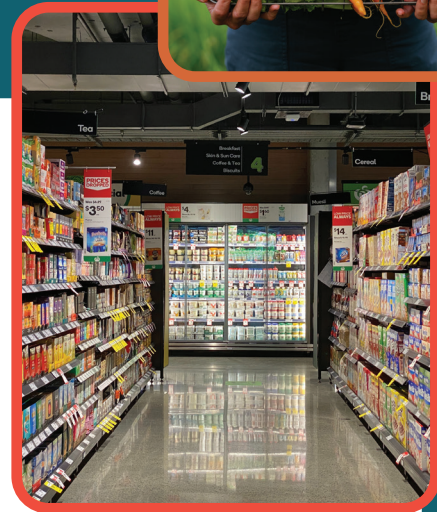
Alaska Food Policy Council 2024 Policy Priorities

The Alaska Food Policy Council's goal is to create a healthier, more secure, and more self-reliant Alaska by improving our food system. We can help to achieve this through targeted policies and investments, to create a diverse and resilient food economy. This legislative session, let's keep these priorities in mind so that together, we can build a thriving Alaska Food System.



Ensure and Improve Food Accessibility & Security

- Keep \$4.5M in the budget for food bank purchases
- Keep funding in the budget for additional staffing at the Division of Public Assistance
- Support SNAP improvements: Implement Broad Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) Support HB196, HB198, SB149
- Increase capacity at DEED Child Nutrition Services to implement Summer EBT in 2025
- Implement a Free School Meals for All program
- Improve food security for Alaska's active military & veterans



Sustainably Grow Alaska's Agriculture Industry

- Establish an Alaska State Department of Agriculture
- Improve producer and manufacturer access to capital through Alaska's Agriculture Revolving Loan Fund
- Fund the Agriculture Forgivable Loan Program
- Fund a Technical Assistance position at the AK Division of Agriculture
 - Fund University of Alaska agriculture research programs and the AK Cooperative Extension
 - Fund Alaska's Soil & Water Conservation Districts



priorities continued on back

More Opportunities to Build A Thriving Food System

Improve Coordination to Reduce Barriers for Alaska's Food Transportation and Distribution Systems

- Adequately fund the Alaska Marine Highway System for functional scheduling and reliable operations
- Create an Alaska Supply Chain Coordination Council



Recognize Tribal Sovereignty in Alaska's Food System

- Ensure Tribal consultations and representation in new or revised policies, mariculture leases, state land leases, and land-use planning for agricultural development
- Support Tribal self-determination for administering federal programs, including USDA nutrition programs



Increase Procurement of Alaska-Sourced Foods

- List Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation Shellfish Sanitation program as an essential service
- Update and improve Alaska Grown procurement laws and procedures



Why These Priorities? Why Now?

Our priorities were developed through the Governor's 2022 Food Security & Independence Task Force Report, the 2023 AK Legislative Food Strategies Task Force Report, and AFPC's 2022 Alaska Food Security Action Plan. These studies brought together stakeholders and experts from across Alaska, providing us with an opportunity to move forward strategically and improve food security for Alaskans through targeted budget allocations and policy implementation.

Food accessibility is a real challenge for Alaskans because of our geography, our policies, our growing seasons, and much more... but we also have unique opportunities that can help support the foundation for building food economies that work for everyone.

EVERYBODY EATS.



Contact and connect: advocacy@alaskafoodpolicycouncil.org