



COLORADO FOOD SYSTEMS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020

Presented to:

Governor Jared Polis

Kate Greenberg, Commissioner of  
Agriculture

House Agriculture, Livestock, and  
Natural Resources Committee

Senate Agriculture and Natural  
Resources Committee



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# A YEAR IN REVIEW

## | 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 22-member Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council, established by House Bill 19-1202, was appointed by Governor Jared Polis via Executive Order A-2019-332 on September 18, 2019. The Council first met on November 21, 2019.

In the first quarter of 2020, the Council focused on on-boarding its new membership, electing leadership roles, and developing foundational governing documents in accordance with the requirements of HB18-1198: Best Practices For State Boards And Commissions.

By January 31, 2020, the Council had formally adopted a set of By-Laws and by May 7, 2020 the Council had formally adopted a set of Operating Procedures, a 2020-2021 Strategic Direction, and a Charter for its first four Committees.

As a result of COVID, the Council decided to pause its Committee work in July and re-organize itself into a set of Working Groups for a 100-day "sprint". Between Committees and Working Groups, the Council hosted 39 public meetings in 2020 in addition to 5 public meetings of the full Council.

By the end of 2020, the Council had formally voted to approve two Issue Briefs outlining critical food system issues with important implications for state agencies, legislators, and the executive branch.

- » The ["Colorado Mid-Scale to Small Meat Value Chain" Issue Brief](#) was released in September of 2020 and sought to summarize key challenges for Colorado's meat value chains as experienced by consumers, producers, and mid-scale to small processors, and to identify several potential policy opportunities to support the continued growth, improvement, and innovation of these meat value chains. Early results from this effort include influencing discussions about proposed legislation for the 2021 legislative session.
- » The ["Capturing Federal & State Dollars for Colorado's Food System" Issue Brief](#) was released in December of 2020 and sought to understand if Colorado had fully leveraged both state and federal resources to support its food system prior to and during the COVID pandemic. Early results from this effort include encouraging Colorado's new application for the federal WIC farmers market nutrition incentive program, which was recently approved for Colorado.

The Council also developed a draft issue brief exploring the regulatory treatment of Colorado's agricultural workers. That draft is currently being circulated for public comment.

Throughout 2020, the Council also collaborated closely with the Colorado Office of Emergency Management State Feeding Taskforce, Economic Development Council of Colorado, Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger, the Colorado Food & Food Systems Response Team, the CSU Food Supply Task Force and others. The Council also joined the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) as one of three presenters for the CDA's Meat Processing Stakeholder Town Hall to share the Council's "Colorado Mid-Scale to Small Meat Value Chain" Issue Brief.

The Council's Committees and Working Group have also been significantly enriched by the participation of dozens of subject matter experts and engaged stakeholders from organizations including but not limited to Colorado State University's Regional Economic Development Institute, Colorado State University Extension, CSU's Food Supply Task Force, Colorado Food Policy Network, Frontline Farming, Project Protect Food Systems, Nourish Colorado, Colorado's Good Food Purchasing Program Coalition, and Colorado Legal Services's Migrant Farm Worker Division.



# STATE OF THE STATE'S FOOD SYSTEM

From empty shelves at grocery stores, to closures at meat processing and produce packhouses, to rapid changes across restaurants, schools, and food manufacturers supply chains, almost every corner of Colorado's food system was impacted in 2020.

For example, over the past year many:

- » Colorado food producers experienced rapid collapses in global export markets and in local direct sales to restaurants and institutions (like schools); yet, many also experienced a surge in purchases directly from consumers
- » Colorado food processors and distributors rapidly re-aligned their production systems to move from commercial packaging for large scale users to smaller, retail packaging that are acceptable for household use
- » Colorado food retailers like restaurants and grocery stores experienced dramatic shifts in their operating costs and struggled to remain agile in response to public health measures
- » Colorado food service institutions, like schools, hospitals, and universities, transformed their core operating processes in many cases replacing buffets, salad bars and serving lines with unpredictable volumes of pre-packaged grab-and-go foods
- » Colorado food banks and food pantries experienced unprecedented increases in demand, some serving as many people during the peak months of 2020 as they did in all of 2019. Massive, temporary infusions of food from the USDA supported this growing need, but limitations to volunteer and administrative support strained distribution infrastructure

*“...Colorado families have experienced an enormous spike in food insecurity, with Hunger Free Colorado estimating that as many as 29% of Coloradans are currently food insecure, up from 9.6% in 2019.”*

Colorado's food system was also impacted by multiple significant changes in state and federal resources and policies. New federal resources and programs, like Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) required state agencies to rapidly adapt data systems across multiple agencies in order to meet new requirements and rapidly deploy resources (e.g. P-EBT). Federal waivers required a significant amount of staff time from state agencies, like



infusions of food from the USDA supported this growing need, but limitations to volunteer and administrative support strained distribution infrastructure

Most concerning, Colorado families have experienced an enormous spike in food insecurity, with Hunger Free Colorado estimating that as many as 29% of Coloradans are currently food insecure<sup>1</sup>, up from 9.6% in 2019.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Data from Hunger Free Colorado's September 2020 COVID Food Insecurity Survey. More info at <https://www.hungerfreecolorado.org/covid-hunger-survey/>

<sup>2</sup>Data from Colorado Health Institute's "An Uneven Burden: Food Insecurity in Colorado". More info at <https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/research/uneven-burden-food-insecurity-colorado>



CDE, CDHS, CDPHE, who had to request, refine and negotiate many waivers on a case-by-case basis. As the pandemic continued, agencies also had to request extensions and modifications to best serve Colorado communities. The constant challenges of tracking changing waiver timelines and requirements sometimes created delays, but in the end extraordinary program flexibility was eventually granted by federal agencies. Important work to assess the impacts of these waivers and which could be sustained into the future is yet to be completed. Additionally, dramatic decreases in the state revenue forecast and therefore budget also led to difficult cuts, like the loss of funding for HB19-1132: the local school food purchasing program (a Colorado farm to school pilot program). The program was unfortunately defunded during a time of increased volatility for local farm businesses and increased needs for school feeding programs, who were being asked to reach larger numbers of kids and families than ever before.

Early in 2020, Governor Polis issued a prescient proclamation calling 2020 the Year of Local Food. Looking back on this unusual year, with such a range of challenges across food and ag sectors, one positive outcome has been a renewed focus on local food systems and a growing appreciation of the multiple ways local and regional food systems serve as a tool for comprehensive community resilience.

*Organizations like COFSAC also play an important role in supporting resilience as part of the social “connective tissue”, enabling experts and agencies to track and adapt to rapidly changing landscape, particularly like what was required throughout 2020.*

Recent national research highlights how short supply chains and local markets helped local and regional food systems (LRFS) be nimble and remain connected to customers throughout the pandemic<sup>3</sup>. Yet LRFS still only constitutes a tiny portion of national agricultural production and food sales—about 3% of total sales from 7.8% of U.S. farms. Moreover, while some types of food and beverage manufacturers grew over the past 15 years, the decline of others (like small animal slaughtering and processing plants which shrunk by 7%) may have worsened the disruptions felt when larger plants faced COVID-related slowdowns. A resilient Colorado food system will likely require reversing this trend - helping Colorado’s LRFS grow in volume and achieve enhanced stability through prosperity.

Looking forward to 2021, there are many opportunities to leverage additional federal COVID relief to support Colorado’s food system and to continue exploring lessons learned from the past year, including lessons learned from the impacts of federal rule waivers. In 2021, the Council will also continue to monitor and evaluate responses to: rising food insecurity rates, unemployment rates, restaurant and food business closures, tightening business conditions for small and mid-scale producers (especially due to market consolidation), land use impacts from development, climate change and water scarcity, and rural economic disruptions.

Though change is inevitable, the rapidity and uncertainty of the disruption due to COVID highlighted the need for Colorado to prioritize food system resilience in its budget, policies, and programs. The disruptions of the last year may be unique in their manifestation but are not likely to be rare as we deal with the challenges of the coming decades. Colorado’s ability to feed its citizens, sustain its agricultural producers, and bounce forward from times of volatility requires a rich and diverse mosaic of thriving food system participants.

<sup>3</sup>Thilmany et al. 2020. “Local Food Supply Chain Dynamics and Resilience during COVID-19”. Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy. 26 October 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aep.13121>



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# | COUNCIL MEETINGS & EVENTS

The Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council met five times during the 2020 calendar year in: January, May, July, October and December. The January in-person Council meeting was hosted by the Colorado Department of Agriculture in Broomfield, CO and the remaining Council meetings were hosted as online public meetings using Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, COFSAC committees hosted 18 public meetings and COFSAC working groups hosted an additional 21 public meetings during the 2020 calendar year.

# | COUNCIL FOCUS AREAS

In 2020, the major activities of the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council unfolded in three successive phases.

1. Phase 1 was primarily internally focused on Council formation and cohesion. This phase culminated in the development of By-Laws, Operating Procedures, and a Strategic Direction for 2020-2021.
2. Phase 2 began with the development of a Committee Charter and formal chartering of four committees: Healthy Food Access Committee, Institutional Purchasing Committee, Colorado Supply Chain and Promotion Committee, and Mapping Long-Term Food and Agricultural Trends Committee. A 10-step process was developed to guide Committee work from issue analysis through developing issue briefs and/or policy advisories.
3. Due to COVID and the substantial disruptions to the food system and substantial increase in the need to serve a growing number of food insecure individuals and families, in Phase 3 the Council formed COVID Responsive Working Groups, the: Meat Supply Chain Working Group; Capturing Federal & State Dollars Working Group; Food and Farm Workers Working Group; Waivers and Universal School Meals Working Group; and Food Processing & Distribution Infrastructure Working Group. The efforts of these working groups yielded two final issue briefs and one draft.



# OUTCOMES

## | 2020 ISSUE BRIEFS

In 2020, two issue briefs were adopted by the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council. These Issue Briefs are intended to provide an objective review of key issues impacting the Colorado food system and to highlight policy, regulatory, and/or programmatic opportunities for improvement at the state level that could be led by the state government and partner organizations. Issue Briefs are not intended to be advocacy statements nor comprehensive recommendations.

A third Issue Brief exploring the regulatory treatment of Colorado's agricultural workers was also developed and is currently being circulated for public comment.

### "Colorado Mid-Scale to Small Meat Value Chain" Issue Brief

Released in September of 2020, The "Colorado Mid-Scale to Small Meat Value Chain" Issue Brief sought to summarize key challenges for Colorado's meat value chains as experienced by consumers, producers, and mid-scale to small processors, and to identify several potential policy opportunities to support the continued growth, improvement, and innovation of these meat value chains.

- » To best support Colorado consumers, the state could clarify direct market regulations where a lack of clear information may currently limit consumers' ability to purchase meat from animals processed at Custom Exempt facilities.
- » To best support Colorado meat producers, the state could support the development of new processing capacity; explore policy options for public institutions and state funded food purchases to intentionally and preferentially buy meat products from Colorado producers; enhance marketing support for Colorado meat; and investigate input, processing, and market consolidation.

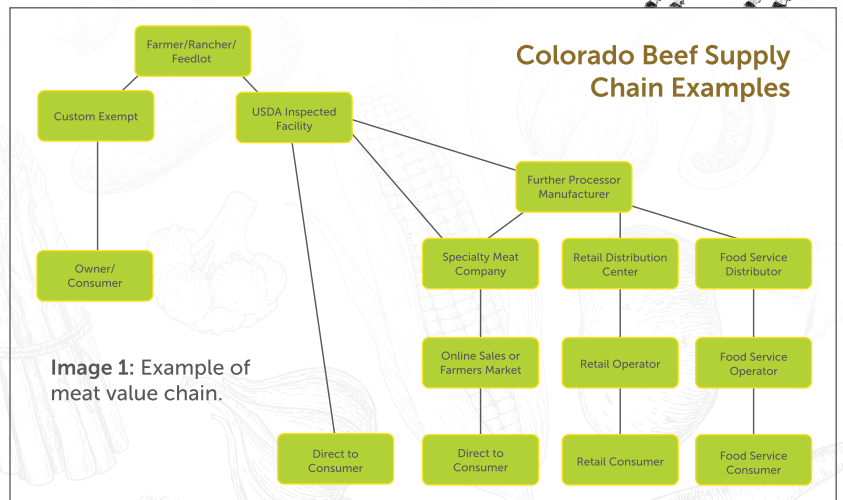


Image 1: Example of meat value chain.



- » To best support Colorado meat processors, the state could enhance the staff capacity of skilled technical assistance providers; align workforce development, state incentives, and economic development programs to support processors; provide incentives for processors; and ensure environmental regulations are scale appropriate.

The research included in this issue brief would not have been possible without the support of staff and resources from the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado State University, Colorado Beef Council, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and feedback from industry partners. For the full issue brief, please visit: <https://cofoodscouncil.org/white-papers/>

**“Capturing Federal & State Dollars for Colorado’s Food System” Issue Brief**

Released in December of 2020, the “Capturing Federal & State Dollars for Colorado’s Food System” Issue Brief sought to assess if Colorado had fully leveraged both state and federal resources to support its food system prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic. The issue brief also highlighted key opportunities for improving Colorado’s ability to acquire resources in support of the state’s food system.



Prior to COVID, Colorado received at least \$1.5B per year from the federal government and \$54M per year from the state government in support of Colorado’s food systems and communities. On average over the last 5 years, Colorado received ~\$1.0B per year for “Food Security and Hunger Relief” programs with 2/3 (~\$700M) specifically from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). On average over the last 5 years Colorado also received at least \$539M per year from the federal government for “Farm Viability & Farm-based Economic Development” efforts, with about 40% of that amount (\$216M/year) received by Colorado as part of the USDA Risk Management Agency’s commodity-based insurance programs.

- » To improve Colorado’s capture of federal resources, the most significant opportunity (\$235M+/year) is maximizing statewide enrollment in the federal SNAP program. Additionally, Colorado likely has an opportunity to substantially increase its capture of federal National School Lunch Program resources by increasing the number of schools utilizing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).
- » Another important opportunity for Colorado is better competing in and capturing resources from federal competitive grant programs, like the USDA Farm to Food Bank and the USDA Senior Farmers

**Table 1: 5-year Average of Federal “Food Security and Hunger Relief” Entitlement Spending in CO**

	5-Year Average (2015-2019)	% of Total
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	\$706,204,729	68%
National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	\$133,179,076	13%
School Breakfast Program (SBP)	\$47,941,861	5%
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	\$80,509,799	8%
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	\$24,552,921	2%
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)	\$22,697,613	2%
Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Program	\$8,515,520	1%
All Other Entitlements	\$13,891,309	1%
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,037,492,829</b>	



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Market Nutrition, USDA Value-Added Producer Grant program as well as the USDA Local Agricultural Marketing Program (LAMP). State agencies can help Colorado by: providing direct technical assistance; aggregating annual public reporting on funding secured by each competitive program and assessing how that compares to national benchmarks; analyzing the return on investment for public agencies and CSU Extension efforts that support competitive federal grant acquisition; and providing available state resources as match for federal grants.

During COVID, Colorado received at least \$3.6B from the federal government (some of which was re-allocated by the state government) in support of our food systems and communities. Colorado received at least \$3.3B for COVID-related "Food Security and Hunger Relief" when including the \$2.8B in enhanced unemployment, another \$416M from SNAP maximum allotment allowance, and \$50M from P-EBT. Colorado also received at least \$270M for COVID-related "Farm Viability & Farm-based Economic Development" efforts including \$150M USDA Direct Payments through CFAP1 and \$118M SBA PPP forgivable loans to Colorado ag-businesses. Surprisingly Colorado companies were only awarded \$476,257 (about 0.01% of the total program) for the purchase of USDA CFAP Farmers to Families Food Boxes.

*"Colorado received at least \$3.3B for COVID-related "Food Security and Hunger Relief" when including the \$2.8B in enhanced unemployment, another \$416M from SNAP maximum allotment allowance, and \$50M from P-EBT."*

- » To improve Colorado's capture of federal COVID Response resources, state agencies can support this work by comparing results with other states and engaging national leaders to build the case for support for rule changes that would help Colorado achieve parity in its receipt of federal awards. Additionally, state and federal leadership is needed to push for a better understanding of the extreme disparity in contracted awards, like those for the CFAP Food Boxes, where Colorado companies received only 0.01% of funds.
- » Pervasive data gaps in CFAP, PPP, and EIDL make impacts on small/mid-sized farms and ranches and specific marginalized populations impossible to determine. Information is needed to fill critical public transparency gaps that are prohibiting oversight and analysis particularly for the CFAP Farm to Family Food Boxes (which had nearly no public data on food sources or destinations), CFAP Direct Payments (which lacked information on farm size breakdown), and EIDL (which lacked detailed information on industry breakdown).

The research included in this Issue brief would not have been possible without the support of staff and resources from the Colorado Food & Food Systems Response Team and Colorado State University's Regional Economic Development Institute.

For the full issue brief, please visit: <https://cofoodsystemscouncil.org/white-papers/>





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# COLLABORATIONS

Per its enabling legislation, one of the Council's key duties is collaborating with other local, regional, and state efforts to support Colorado's food system. To that end, the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council and its members supported the following efforts in 2020:

## Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger

Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council staff and members participated in the weekly COVID-19 Hunger Partners Calls, Bi-Weekly State Policy Committee, Bi-Weekly Federal Policy Subcommittee, and provided support for data collection efforts for Workgroup 2&3.

## Colorado Department of Agriculture

Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council Executive Committee members presented the "Colorado Mid-Scale to Small Meat Value Chain" Issue Brief at the Department's Meat Processing Stakeholder Town Hall.

## Colorado Food & Food Systems Response Team

Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council staff and members participated as one of 14 founding members with the purpose of supporting Colorado farmers and ranchers as they respond to current and potential market disruptions due to COVID-19. Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council staff and members drafted weekly federal and state policy response memos throughout the summer and also helped oversee the ~\$2.37 million in publicly and philanthropically funded Respond and Rebuild grants which focused on the needs of small- and mid-size growers, beginning farmers and ranchers, veteran farmers, farmers of color, LGBTQ+ farmers, and female farmers. The Council's "Capturing Federal & State Dollars for Colorado's Food System" Issue Brief was significantly supported by the work of the Colorado Food & Food Systems Response Team's policy subcommittee and contract policy analyst.

## Colorado State University Food Supply Task Force

The CSU Task Force on Colorado Food Supply was established by Blake Naughton, Vice President for Engagement and Extension, to provide data-driven analysis to support the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Governor, and the Colorado Legislature in their response to food supply chain issues related to COVID-19. The Task Force is working to conduct research and gather information in several key areas:

1. **Food access/security** – Work with an ongoing Future of Food and Ag grant, in partnership with the City of Denver, continues to explore the change in food insecurity and innovative food distribution strategies during COVID, which connects with COFSAC's continuing work with the Blueprint to End Hunger;
2. **Designating food retail establishments as 'essential services'** – the Governor signed an order declaring a number of industries and occupations as 'essential services'. The team did early analysis and work to understand the childcare, health, farm/ranch, and other implications of this order;
3. **Food supply chain workforce readiness** – workforce needs in the food supply chain are shifting. This work describes the sectors that are losing employment and those that are growing, and how we might support emergency job training. The work in #2 and #3 justify the need for the agricultural worker issue brief in development by COFSAC; and
4. **Consumer expenditure and farm market access** – Social distancing has changed the way in which U.S. households procure food. For example, we have seen a large shift from food away from home to



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food at home expenditures. How consumers spend their dollars has important impacts on farm/ranch access to markets. This work looks at how consumer spending has shifted and discusses implications for producers' access to markets, and also with context from COFSAC, highlights implications for supply chain needs among farms and ranches (processing capacity, online platforms).

#### **Colorado Office of Emergency Management**

Attended and provided updates at the Weekly State Feeding Taskforce that was convened to support rapid communication and dissemination of COVID related hunger and food security response.

#### **Colorado Water Conservation Board**

A collaborative public webinar was also offered with team members from the Colorado Water Conservation Board and University of Colorado Masters of the Environment Students to help assess progress made on the Colorado Water Plan's measurable objectives and actions since 2015 and provide initial feedback on potential updates including new measurable goals related to agricultural water use.

#### **Economic Development Council of Colorado**

Communities across Colorado suffered critical disruptions to their food supply chain in 2020, from empty shelves in grocery stores to the closure of critical food system infrastructure. In response to its members' request for support, the Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC) partnered with the Council and others to host a workshop with economic developers across Colorado seeking economic development opportunities to strengthen the food system and thus community resiliency. The feedback and engagement from the first workshop led to another seven community specific workshops aiming to identify and catalyze specific economic development investment opportunities and another statewide workshop, that included Senator Jerry Sonnenberg, to explore economic development opportunities specific to meat processing.

#### **University of Colorado – Boulder Masters of the Environment Student Projects**

To support the Council's rapid assessment of the state policy landscape and key issues, student-driven research projects explored: soil health, institutional purchasing, poultry processing, biodiversity and habitat preservation, and food assistance programs. A collaborative public webinar was also offered to share the results of the institutional purchasing team's work.

#### **University of Colorado Public Administration Graduate Student Capstone**

To support the Council's rapid assessment of the state's historical food policy landscape, a student-driven capstone project researched and analyzed all the agricultural bills considered by the Colorado General Assembly between 2016 and 2020. This work yielded significant insights into the role of states as laboratories for food and agricultural policy experimentation.





## | COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council recommends that state leaders continue aggressively responding to the food system disruptions caused by COVID. In the short term, meeting immediate community food needs is critical as hunger has tripled in our communities and many time-limited federal response programs are currently preventing hunger from becoming much more widespread. Additionally, short term relief programs that support food system workers and companies from farms to restaurants are critical to ensure that our food economy is prepared to rebound. Throughout the response and, looking forward, the Council recommends that state leaders seek opportunities to strengthen Colorado's overall resilience to future disruptions by acknowledging the vulnerabilities of our current highly-concentrated food system, and seeking new ways to support shorter, more inclusive, and more localized value chains while celebrating the value of connecting local foods to local markets and local families.

To support these efforts the Council would like to explore ways to better:

- » Advise the Governor's office regarding food-related pandemic responses;
- » Advise state agencies who value multi-stakeholder food system-related perspectives;
- » Advise state legislators on the pros/cons of potential food-related legislation;
- » Help state leaders convene diverse sets of stakeholders for listening sessions and participatory analysis of food system regulatory and/or policy issues; and
- » Compile and highlight potential best practices from peer states working on similar issues.

## | COUNCIL NEXT STEPS

In 2021, the Council will focus on: increasing school meal participation through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and universal school meals; local food procurement from state/public institutions; encouraging grant funded innovations for farmers and food companies; and protecting farmland for producers. By the end of 2021, the Council plans to publish 1-2 additional issue briefs and develop a strategic action plan for the next 3+ years.





# THE COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

(AS OF 12/19/2020)

### CHAIR: JULIE MOORE

Director of Nutrition & Education, Colorado Beef Council (Representative of nutrition expert, licensed physician, or registered dietitian)

### VICE CHAIR: NATHAN KARL TROUDT

Farmer and Meat Processing Industry (Representative of food wholesalers or food retailers and as a direct market retailer)

### MARCI RENEE COCHRAN

Pueblo Food Project (Representative of federal food assistance program)

### GRANT KENDALL MATTIVE

Farmer, Worley Family Farms (Representative of agricultural production and as a member who sells agricultural products to a public school or school district)

### ELIZABETH “LIZA” GRACE MARRON

Executive Director, San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition (Representative of expertise in federal food and nutrition service programs and in rural community and regional development programs or community and economic development)

### BRYAN H. TRUJILLO

Manager of Community Health, Centura Health (Representative of institutional procurement from a health care setting)

### JOSEPH PATRICK CONREY

Farmer, Little Thompson Farms (Representative of agricultural production and as a specialty crop producer)

### GABRIEL “GABE” ALAN DISBROW

Chief Operating Officer, Leevers’ Supermarkets (Representative of food wholesalers or food retailers)

### MARC JACOBSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hunger Free Colorado (Representative of expertise in federal food and nutrition service programs)

### BRIAN C. COPPOM

Executive Director, Boulder County Farmers Markets (Representative of a food distributor or a food hub)

### NICOLE MARIE CIVITA, JD, LLM

Sustainable Food Systems Specialization Lead, Graduate Faculty, Masters of the Environment Program, University of Colorado at Boulder (Representative of an academic institution who specializes in economic systems, agriculture, or health care)

### ANN L. COOPER

Founder and President of the Board, Chef Ann Foundation (Representative of institutional procurement from an educational setting)

### CAROLINE ELLIE BUSHNELL

Associate Director, Corporate Engagement, The Good Food Institute (Representative of a local nonprofit community organization engaged in farm-to-school programs or local food systems)

### WENDY PETERS MOSCHETTI

Director of Strategic Initiatives, Nourish Colorado (Representative of a statewide healthy food systems organization)

### KRISTI BRENNAN

School Nutrition Unit, Colorado Department of Education



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## TRACY MILLER

Nutrition Services Branch Chief, Prevention Services Division,  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

## STEVE SILVERMAN

Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, Colorado Department  
of Agriculture

## KARLA MARACCINI

Division Director of Food and Energy Assistance, Office of  
Economic Security, Colorado Department of Human Services

## DAWN THILMANY

Associate Director of Community Economic Development,  
Office of Engagement, Colorado State University

## GREG THOMASON

Rural Prosperity Manager, Eastern Region Business  
Development, Colorado Office of Economic Development

## | VACANCIES

- » Representative recipient of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- » Representative of a statewide anti-hunger organization

## | STAFF

### BLAKE ANGELO

Department of Agricultural Economics, Colorado  
State University

### NICOLE FRANKLIN

Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, Colorado  
State University

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## | COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Jon Padia, Representative for the Colorado Department of Education, left the Department in September 2020. The Colorado Department of Education has recommended Kristi Brennan for Jon's seat on the Council. As a team member of the School Nutrition Unit, Kristi has been with the Colorado Department of Education for the past four years and brings substantial experience with the Colorado blueprint to end hunger initiatives, farm to school, meal quality and culinary initiatives, dietetic internships, smarter lunchrooms, and school wellness policies.

The Council currently has two vacancies as Mary Sanders, representative of recipients of a federal food assistance program and representative recipient of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and Lynne Telford, representative of a statewide anti-hunger organization, have both resigned their position with the Council. Recruitment efforts are ongoing for both seats and recruitment efforts are seeking to also expand geographic representation outside of the Front Range.



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