

Institutions Buying Food for Health & Equity

A more just food system through the power of procurement

Large institutions, like government agencies and hospitals, purchase a lot of food and drinks every day. These institutions are an important source of food, since Americans eat more than one-third of their calories outside the home. If the purchasing decisions of large institutions are driven by good food values, it will benefit community wellness, the local economy, and the environment.



FOOD SYSTEM FACTS



LOCAL ECONOMIES: Every dollar spent on local food generates another \$0.40–\$1.60 of economic activity.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: If US public schools reduced their meat purchases by 30%, they could reduce their carbon footprints by 700 million kgs at no extra cost.



VALUED WORKFORCE: One out of every 7 workers in the US works along the food chain, yet many of these jobs come with low pay. Procurement policies can help improve their conditions.



HEALTH & NUTRITION: Children are eating more fruits and vegetables at lunch due to the updated nutrition standards in the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act.



ANIMAL WELFARE: Higher welfare standards for farm animals are also good for public health and the environment.



DIVERSITY IN BUSINESSES: Supplier diversity programs help counteract disparities in access to opportunity for diverse businesses, including ones that are owned by women, people of color, veterans, and people with disabilities.

LEARN MORE!

Food Service Guidelines for Federal Facilities: [cdc.gov/obesity/strategies/food-serv-guide.html](https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/strategies/food-serv-guide.html)

EXCEED: The Tool for Using Healthy Food Service Guidelines: [exceedtool.com](https://www.exceedtool.com)