

Establish a NYS Council on Food Policy

- End hunger among low-income New Yorkers!
- Promote a vibrant local food and farm economy!
- Enhance coordination between government agencies and citizens to improve food policy planning!



Why Create a NYS Food Policy Council? A Council would address a broad range of problems affecting our entire food system: disappearing farmland and inner city supermarkets, increasing poverty and hunger, diminishing family farms, economic opportunity, the environment, inadequate green space, and diet-related health problems. Dozens of programs attempt to reduce hunger, strengthen local agriculture, and reduce nutrition and health problems. The programs would benefit from increased coordination pursuant to food policy planning. The Council would also provide government agency representatives with the opportunity to meet and interact with citizens and each other on food and agricultural policy.

What Would a Council do? The legislation A 10461 (Ortiz) / S 7618 (Young) would create a NY State Food Policy Council to develop comprehensive, coordinated state food policies with the goal of providing a plentiful, accessible, affordable, safe and nutritious food supply, comprised of locally produced foods as much as possible, so that all citizens of the State are able to eat a healthy diet and avoid hunger and have the opportunity to support a vibrant local farm and food economy.

The Council would conduct activities such as making recommendations of state policies, programs and actions to meet the following goals: reducing and eliminating hunger by providing affordable, nutritious food, from local producers whenever possible; the adoption of diets by New Yorkers that promote health and prevent disease, using local foods whenever possible; increased consumer demand for NY farm and food products; a profitable food producing system which maximizes production of nutritious foods, protects the environment, and provides sufficient income for farm families and farm workers; economic viability for food processing, marketing and distribution industries that support NY agriculture; and, increased effectiveness and coordination of food, farm and nutrition programs.

Other Council's have been able to: Implement "Farm to School" programs; Increase EBT equipment to process Food Stamps at farmers' markets; Develop simplified application for Food Stamps; & Improve research, monitoring, and evaluation efforts to help communities assess and strengthen food security.

Structure: The Council would consist of the Commissioners or Directors of many agencies including Health, Agriculture & Markets, Temporary & Disability Assistance, Education, Children & Family Services, Economic Development, Labor, Transportation, Environmental Conservation, and others. At least 3 council committees would be established: hunger and food insecurity; nutrition and health; and agriculture and food industry. An Advisory Board to the Council of at least 15 members representing the issue areas of agriculture, anti-hunger, nutrition, food businesses, and labor would be established.

Get Involved! A Council existed during the Cuomo administration. Re-establishing it has received bipartisan support as well as the endorsement of the NYS Farm Bureau, dietetic groups, anti-hunger organizations and sustainable agriculture groups. To become involved in supporting the Council, contact Hunger Action.



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