

# Douglas County Food Policy Council Recommendations for the 2024 Douglas County Legislative Statement

## Food Programs and Systems.

- **Farm to School.** We stand behind efforts that will increase funding for Farm to School programs.
- **Cottage Foods.** We support the review of “cottage food regulations” to identify barriers for value-added producers and encourage the Legislature to champion clear, easily understandable statutes that would promote entrepreneurship and drive economic activity.
- **Statewide Food, Farm, and Policy Council.** We favor efforts to form a food council at the state level, providing multi-sector review of and influence over food policies that concern the whole state.
- **Land Access to Young Farmers.** We support the *Farmers Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act (S.2340 and H.R. 3955)*. We support policies that provide resources and incentives for young, first-generation, and BIPOC farmers, including programs that assist these farmers in accessing land.
- **Food Systems Entrepreneurship.** We support workforce development policies and programs that encourage and support food system entrepreneurs.
  - We recommend Douglas County Administration staff to include Food Systems Entrepreneurship under the “Workforce Development” section of the 2024 Legislative Statement and support programs that serve Food Systems Entrepreneurship. We support living wages and support workforce development that support food systems.
- **Clear and Fair Food Sales Taxes.** We support food sales tax policy with clear definitions and that is fair to producers, wholesalers, and low-income consumers. We support a review of the definition of “food” to ensure it is inclusive of “specialty products” made by Kansas producers, such as canned goods and packaged meat products.
- **Agrioltaics.** We support state-level agrioltaics policy recommendations.

## Social Services.

- **WIC.** We urge the federal government to fully fund the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), including the increased Fruit and Vegetable Cash Value Benefit.
- **SNAP.** We support state and federal measures to increase access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for eligible individuals and families, including reducing administrative burdens. In contrast, we oppose efforts to increase the hoops people must jump through to receive needed food assistance.
- **School Meals.** We support free school meals for all USD 497 students. Additionally, we encourage policy that brings us closer to free meals for all students in Kansas schools, regardless of ability to pay. We also support changes to regulations that reduce the burdens of school meal debt for students and their families.
- **Medicaid Expansion.** We support efforts to expand Medicaid.