



# MARION INSTITUTE

Health from a Different Perspective.

**CONNECTOR**  
SERIES

**BIOMED**  
PROGRAMS

**GROW**  
EDUCATION

**GREENHOUSE**  
INITIATIVES

**SOUTHCOAST**  
FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

# Land Acknowledgement



We make visible and acknowledge that this land is the traditional unceded territory of the Wapanaak (Wampanoag) and Massadchu-es-et (Massachusetts). We have benefitted from this place, its fertile soil, waters, wildlife, and beauty that sustained Indigenous tribes for 12,000 years. We honor and respect the precious food sources discovered, harvested and cultivated by Native peoples and remain grateful to them for their connectedness to this land and their food traditions. We make these acknowledgements with intention, and accept the responsibility of all we continue to learn. We will honor the resources which sustain us today through their protection and cultivation. May food be just one of the many connections we use in our work to repair relationships with Indigenous, People of Color, and of all Nations living here today.

# Agenda April 14, 2022

- 1.) Introduce CAB, Chair and Co-Chairs**
- 2.) Summary of what has been done between Jan and April,  
Questions or observations**
- 3.) Working Groups, invitation to join, questions**
- 4.) Food Equity Advisors, questions**
- 5.) Legislative Updates, questions, New Call to Action**
- 6.) Grant opportunity: MA Community Health and Aging Funds**
- 7.) Community updates**
- 8.) Next Quarterly meeting, July 7, 12 noon**

# Community Advisory Board and Leadership



- **Adele Sands, Bristol County Agricultural High School**
- John “Buddy” Andrade, Old Bedford Village Development Corp.
- Christine Sullivan, Coastline Elderly
- Rachel Davis/Courtney Shea, Southcoast Health
- Dale Leavitt Ph.D., Roger Williams University
- Darlene Dymsha, RDLDN, Greater New Bedford Community Health Center
- David Perry, Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry
- Deirdre Healy, UMass Dartmouth Office Leduc Center for Civic Engagement
- **Emily Breen, Massachusetts Community Health and Healthy Aging Funds**
- Erin Hovan, Rochester Resident
- Gioia Maria Persuitte, MPA, New Bedford Health Department
- Ian Abreu, City of New Bedford
- Ivan Brito, M.O. L.I.F.E., Inc.
- Jacob Miller, Senator Mark Montigny
- James McKeag, Mass Development
- Jowaun Gamble, Community Youth Empowerment
- Karen Schwalbe, SEMAP
- Leimary Llopiz, YWCA Southeastern MA
- Lisa Rahn, YMCA Southcoast
- Marissa Perez-Dormitzer, Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District
- Pam Kuechler, PACE
- **Peter Muise, Resident of Marion, Massachusetts**
- Richard Vacca, Town of Plymouth
- Rob Shaheen, New Bedford Public Schools
- Sarah Labossiere, City of Fall River
- Stephanie Perks, Coastal Foodshed
- Stephanie Taylor, Martha's Vineyard Vegan Society Inc.
- Victoria Grasela, United Way of Greater New Bedford
- Wendy Garf-Lipp, United Neighbors of Fall River
- Liz Wiley, Marion Institute
- Christine Smith, Marion Institute

# Working Groups

The **Education and Communication Working Group** will be charged with creating campaigns that improve understanding and action around building a sustainable, equitable food system. Having access to food education and resources will empower Southcoast MA residents to make informed choices that support their health, community, and the public policy work of the Southcoast Food Policy Council.

Local Food System  
HIP Funding and SNAP Gap  
Food Waste/Recovery/Labeling  
Living Wages  
Accessible/Affordable Farmland  
Climate Change

When Meeting Monthly: 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 2pm

# Working Groups

The **Policy Working Group** will lead the way to forming a more resilient regional food system by bringing together community voices as we engage legislators in a coordinated effort. Food policy is the backbone of our food system. Leading joint advocacy plans - at the federal, state, and local level - can significantly impact how public policies serve public interests.

HIP Funding, SNAP-Gap- Common Application  
Partially cooked & Ready to eat foods  
Food Waste/Recovery/Labeling  
Living Wages in Food System  
Accessible/Affordable Farmland  
Farm to School \*

When Meeting Monthly: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays at 11 am

# Working Groups

The **Food Access Working Group** will ensure food security and increase food access to healthy, culturally relevant foods to all residents of the Southcoast of Massachusetts. Food access is multi-dimensional and requires that consumers have physical (they can get to it), economic (they can afford it or get it for free), cultural (it is appropriate to their values), and physiological (it is health-promoting) access to food choices that support an active, healthy life for all its members.

Increase number of mobile markets  
Green/Living spaces/urban Agriculture  
Increase support to communities of color to start farm or business  
Survey SE MA to identify farmable properties  
Gleaning  
Farm to Pantry and more local food options

When meeting Monthly: 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 10am

# Working Groups

The **Capacity Building Working Group** seeks to increase local food production, processing, distribution, consumption, and food recovery. By collaborating with local farmers, businesses, community members, and other key stakeholders, we will create and sustain markets for local agriculture and fisheries through streamlining food delivery and distribution channels, and building infrastructure that will promote a resilient, regional food system.

Regional Food Innovation District

Increase refrigerated and storage spaces

Building Networks that make local food accessible

When Meeting Monthly: 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays at 9:30am



# Advocacy: MA Food System Budget



- **Healthy Incentive Program** (4400-1004): \$20,000,000 (increase from FY21) **Yes at \$18M**
- **Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program** \$30,000,000 (bond funded in FY21 and FY22) **Not funded and no amendment will be filed so it is dead.**
- **UMass Extension** (2511-0100): \$620,570 (new) *Not funded, but amendment will be filed.*
- **Local Food Policy Councils** (2511-0100): \$250,000 (new) *Not funded, but amendment will be filed.*
- **Department of Agricultural Resource (MDAR) staffing:** (2511-0100) \$300,000 increase **Not funded and no amendment will be filed so it is dead.**
- **Buy Local Agriculture Organizations** (2511-0100) \$750,000 **Yes at this amount**
- **Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline** (4400-1001) \$850,000 **Yes at \$900M**
- **Project Bread's Child Nutrition Outreach Program** (7053-1925) \$700,000 **Yes at this amount**
- **Massachusetts Food Trust** (2511-0100) \$300,000 **Yes at this amount**
- **Mass Farm to School** (2511-0100) \$120,000 **Yes at this amount**
- **MA Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)** (2511-0105) \$30,000,000 **Yes at this amount**
- **Senior Farmshare Program** (9110-1900) \$75,000 **Yes at this amount**
- **School Meals Extension** (7053-1925) \$120,000,000 **Yes, at \$110M**
- **Mass in Motion** (4513-1111) Maintain FY22 **Same amount**

# Take Action Today

Hello Rep ---,

My name is ---- and I am part of the Southcoast Food Policy Council, a program of the Marion Institute. I am reaching out to urge you to support amendment #242 in the House Budget. Around 20 food policy councils exist across the state and they work, often without funding, to help address food insecurity at the regional or city level. These councils bring together public health organizations, food pantries, urban ag groups, food rescue, institutions, schools, farmers, and people experiencing food insecurity to share information and strengthen their communities.

Our food policy council has completed the 2021 Southcoast Food System Assessment; coordinated information sharing in the region, helped connect and coordinate a food assistance program during COVID; supported healthier schools through the Farm to School and GROW Education work; and engaged residents to help strengthen their community.

Food policy councils need funding to continue to do their important work. Additional funding would enable our council to provide stipends for community members to participate; create an outreach strategy to draw more community members in Working Groups.

Thank you for considering supporting amendment #242 to strengthen local food policy councils.

Your name and address

# Next Meeting

## **Quarterly SFPC Members-At-Large Meeting**

**July 7, 12 noon**

**Working Group Updates and legislative  
advocacy training**

**[spfc@marioninstitute.org](mailto:spfc@marioninstitute.org)**