



MARION INSTITUTE

Health from a Different Perspective.

CONNECTOR
SERIES

BIOMED
PROGRAMS

GROW
EDUCATION

GREENHOUSE
INITIATIVES

SOUTHCOAST
FOOD POLICY COUNCIL



MARION INSTITUTE
SOUTHCOAST FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

SFPC Quarterly Meeting February 2024



Agenda

- Land Acknowledgement
- Historical SFPC Review
- Review 2023 successes
- Review of Annual SFPC Events
- 2024 Focus on policy, training, and education
- Review Legislative Priorities
- Action Alert
- Questions and Next Meeting May 21

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land is the traditional unceded territory of the Wapanaak (Wampanoag). Pre-English invasion, this place, its gifts of fertile soil, waters, wildlife and beauty, had already 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 further acknowledge the lands the Cape Verdeans, African Americans, and Latinx people farmed in this area that have been lost to them through structural racism. 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. May food be just one of the many connections we use in our work to repair relationships with Indigenous, and People of Color and of all Nations living here today.

SFPC Historical Review

Marion Institute 30 years old- BioMed Program, Grow Education, Southcoast Food Policy Council, Frogfoot Farm

2019-2020:

Food Network moved to a Food Policy Council under the MI, weekly meetings during a pandemic to coordinate ER responses

2021 :

Hired staff, convened Community Advisory Board (CAB), published Food System Assessment SE MA (FSA)

2022:

CAB used FSA in dialogical decision-making to identify 27 priorities, 4 Working Groups (Food Access, Policy, Education, Capacity Building), one priority in each group, recruiting more people

2023 SFPC Successes

- Developed or deepened relationships with 8 state legislators.
- Advocated with over 75 letters of support and letters of written testimony.
- Launched the Eat Local Southcoast Challenge - 199 participants with a 4.6-star rating,
- Continued our partnership lift through the September Action Month.
- Hosted Virtual Food Summit with 113 registrants: Food Recovery and Food Waste and Its Impact on the Environment.
- Incubated Frogfoot Farm-Neighbors Feeding Neighbors, and a base of operation for the Gleaning Program.

2024 SFPC Plans



SFPC Annual Events

- ❖ Eat Local Southcoast Challenge (July-August)
- ❖ Hunger Action Month (Partnership lift in September)
- ❖ Food Summit (October)
- ❖ Statehouse Advocacy and Lobbying- Agriculture Day, HIP Day etc.
- ❖ SFPC Quarterly meetings- Policy and Advocacy trainings
- ❖ Continue to engage the public in advocacy through the one-click tech of Action Network
- ❖ Legislative Breakfast (January)
- ❖ Candidate Forum (every other year for the state level in September)

Direction Change towards more engagement in Policy

Legislative Priorities:

Food Access:

- ❑ An Act Encouraging the Donation of Food to Persons in Need
- ❑ An Act Establishing basic needs assistance to MA Immigrant residents
- ❑ An Act Relative to an Agricultural Healthy Incentive Program

Capacity Building

- ❑ An Act Establishing Farm-to-School Grants
- ❑ An Act Supporting Farm and School Partnership program in school meals

Policy – group will re-name

- ❑ An Act Promoting Equity in Agriculture
- ❑ An Act protecting our Soil and Farms from PFAS
- ❑ An Act Relative to Raising the Minimum Wage Closer to a Living Wage in the Commonwealth
- ❑ MA Food System Budget items
- ❑ Congressional Farm Bill (every five years)

Education and Communication

- ❑ An Act to Promote Food Literacy

Action Alert



Several critical food security bills have successfully made it out of the Joint Committees and are now in the House Ways and Means Committees. However, they need to make it through the budget process to have a chance at gaining a favorable floor vote.

Contact your legislators today and ask them to talk to their House and Senate Ways and Means colleagues to fully fund these four bills.

Click on the links to read the Fact Sheets.

[An Act relative to an Agricultural Healthy Incentives Program](#)

[An Act establishing Basic Needs Assistance for MA Immigrant Residents](#)

[An Act Establishing Farm-to-School Grants](#)

[An Act Encouraging the Donation of Food to Persons in Need](#)

Thanks to Project Bread Moving the Needle Grant, use our New and Quick technology to contact your state legislators!

Take Action!

March 26 HIP Lobby Day



HIP- Healthy Incentive Program

If you are SNAP eligible, you automatically are in HIP, which is a \$1-\$1 match to spend on vegetables and fruit only from local farmers, farm stands, mobile markets or where there is a HIP Vendor. HIP is state funded so we are asking for this to be a permanent part of the budget.

March 26, come with us to the Statehouse to meet with legislators to support funding for HIP.

Registration in Chat.

Questions?

Next meeting: May 21, 12 noon

- Includes: Policy Training, Issue Briefing, Action Alert, Updates on Working Groups
- What do you want to hear/see in the May SFPC Quarterly meeting?
- Contact sfpc@marioninstitute.org