Food Action Plan

BOULDER & BROOMFIELD COUNTIES

2026

Food Security Network

The Boulder Broomfield Food Security Network has produced a long-term plan for a vibrant food future, by organizing across counties, communities, cultures, and systems.

TO THE PEOPLE OF BOULDER AND BROOMFIELD COUNTIES:

With contributions from dozens of organizations and hundreds of people who work and live across our two counties, we're excited to present the Food Action Plan of Boulder and Broomfield Counties. This plan was developed through collaboration among many community-serving organizations, local agencies and units of government, food system leaders, advocates, residents, and the Boulder Broomfield Food Security Network. It sets forth priorities and actions aimed at building a more resilient, just, and sustainable food system for our region. We believe that communities thrive when everyone works together toward a shared vision of equity, prosperity, and well-being for all.

Our two counties boast a dynamic food system including:

- A lively and diverse culinary scene
- Local food and producer enterprises
- Community-driven, culturally significant hunger relief efforts
- An ecosystem of nonprofits, public agencies, and educational programs addressing food systems challenges
- Ongoing collaboration between passionate people devoted to strengthening the ties between community, resilience, food, agriculture, and gastronomy

The Food Action Plan of Boulder and Broomfield Counties positions us to tackle food-related challenges strategically and sustainably. Through implementation, we intend to:

- Ensure fair access to nutritious food for all
- Support local food culture, production, and distribution
- Foster healthy food skills
- Promote food sovereignty
- Build a healthier and more equitable food system

Achieving these goals will require cooperation among local governments, public agencies, local organizations, commercial partners, and engaged coalitions and advocates. Success hinges on alignment across sectors and ongoing community involvement. Realizing the strategies outlined in the Food Action Plan depends on your support and buy-in, which is essential for creating a healthier, more equitable, and climate-resilient region.

Food Security Network will oversee, support, and coordinate the plan's rollout, while also monitoring progress and ensuring accountability. We greatly appreciate the leadership and commitment shown by those who helped shape this vision and those who will help bring it to life.

In partnership,

Food Security Network

Boulder Broomfield Food Security Network

We value the many ideas contributed to our Food Action Plan and trust that collective action—locally and globally—can drive progress in food justice and environmental sustainability.

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The Food Action Plan of Boulder and Broomfield Counties was developed by the Boulder Broomfield Food Security Network–a regional coalition of grassroots and grasstops leaders who are impacted by and care deeply about ensuring every person within our region has reliable, convenient access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally relevant food.

The Boulder Broomfield Food Security Network is a culturally diverse coalition that cultivates a *genuino*, *transparente*, and liberating space to authentically and effectively address systemic food access in our community. We learn, grow and thrive by acknowledging inequities and oppressions while honoring our differences to build *confianza* and foster systems of shared *poder* and leadership.

Executive Summary

The Boulder Broomfield Food Security Network (BBFSN) is proud to share this Food Action Plan for Boulder and Broomfield Counties with residents of the region and food systems leaders across sectors, organizations, and local governments. Developed by a diverse coalition of community members and agency partners, this strategic roadmap aims to ensure reliable, convenient access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally relevant food for all by addressing root causes of food insecurity in the two counties.

Despite regional abundance, many residents face barriers to affordable and convenient food access, coupled with other challenges such as high living costs, loss of farmland, and climate variability. Formed six years ago, BBFSN builds on a strong history of collaborative food security work. This plan moves beyond charity, focusing on systemic inequities through policy, systems changes, power-sharing, and community-led creative solutions, guided by justice, liberation, and community sovereignty.

The plan outlines four goals, based on research and community engagement conducted by BBFSN:

GOAL 1: Healthy Food Access: Ensure nutritious, accessible, affordable, and culturally desirable food for all–linking public health, economic opportunity, and dignity.

GOAL 2: Food Infrastructure: Develop robust local food system infrastructure, including locally owned food and farm enterprises, for growing, processing, storing, distributing, and preparing food.

GOAL 3: Food Sovereignty: Cultivate an equitable, community-led local food system focused on racial/economic justice and self-determination.

GOAL 4: Healthy Food Skills: Empower community members with skills and resources to find, grow, make, preserve, and prepare healthy food options.

Community-identified strategies encompass affordable transportation, local food/farm enterprise development, supportive local policies and regulations, land preservation, and creation of much needed, lasting community food assets.

Successful implementation of this plan by many partners across the two counties will result in centering food, equity, prosperity, and health into all planning and decision-making, moving from isolated organization-specific interventions to systemic transformation across places, systems, and priorities. BBFSN invites collaboration from all community members, organizations, businesses, and local governments to build an equitable, resilient, and responsible regional food system, ensuring food access, supporting local producers, and protecting natural food systems.

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“With hunger and food costs on the rise, our community’s strength lies in working together. When advocates, food access organizations, and local government join forces, we can build neighborhoods where healthy, affordable food is within everyone’s reach.”

Kim Da Silva
CEO
Community Food Share

Introduction

Boulder County and Broomfield County sit at the crossroads of mountain, prairie, and plains—a landscape defined by small family farms, community and backyard gardens, regional population centers, and a swathe of people and agencies deeply engaged in food, sustainability, and health. Despite this abundance, too many people experience barriers to accessing nutritious, affordable, and culturally desirable food. That's why the Boulder Broomfield Food Security Network (BBFSN) exists: to bring together grassroots community leaders, local governments, and local healthy food-focused programs and agencies to address the root causes of food related issues in the region, such as hunger, health, cultural harm, and economic injustice. BBFSN seeks to apply innovative and proven approaches that build the collective power of people most impacted by food insecurity, to forge strategic alignment among relevant partners, and to foster a thriving local food system.

Formed 6 years ago, BBFSN conducted a robust research process to identify key issues that affect many community members of both counties, including:

- **High cost of living** which stretches many residents' budgets to meet basic needs, such as healthy food, housing, and transportation.
- **Wide-ranging, ongoing disruptions to the local and national food system**, including the COVID-19 pandemic, bird flu, Marshall Fire, federal cuts to SNAP Ed, supply chain issues, a mass shooting at Boulder's King Sooper's supermarket, immigration raids by ICE, the closure of multiple local food retailers, and more.
- **Uneven access** which means some residents who live in regional urban centers may have multiple grocery options, while rural and lower-income neighborhoods often rely on more limited access to the food they want and need.
- **Loss of farmland and processing capacity**, where development and land use pressures and infrastructure gaps limit the capacity for local food production and distribution.
- **Climate variability** where drought, heat, wildfires, and flooding can disrupt supply chains and strain local producers and entrepreneurs.

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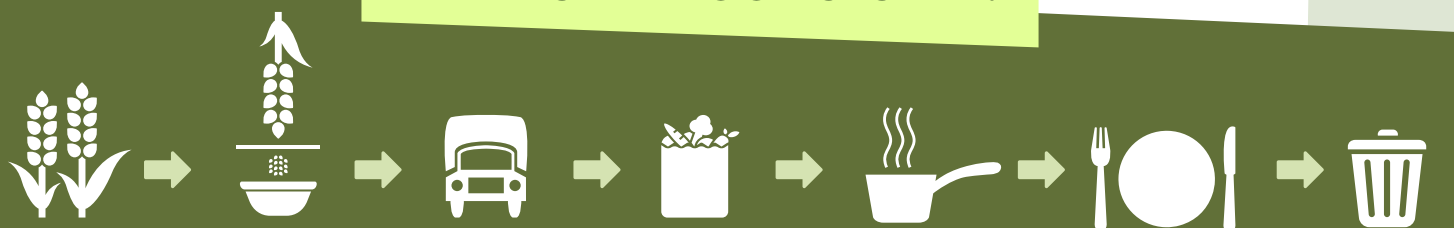
Food access work across both counties has long been collaborative. BBFSN and its members have aligned community food access programs, supported regional food recovery networks, and built partnerships between growers, pantries, food retailers, and public agencies over the past several years.

Yet more is needed, and more can be done for our region's food system, particularly at a time of significant changes in federal food access programs and food-focused funding streams. Our ability to maintain a nutritious diet is shaped by a variety of factors, including income, education, transportation, employment opportunities, economic development, housing, land use, and the environment. Implementing the strategies contained in this Plan can significantly improve physical, social, economic, and regulatory environments, thereby increasing access to affordable, nourishing foods.

The Food Action Plan of Boulder and Broomfield Counties provides a multi-faceted strategic path forward for the region's food future. Designed to address the above issues, the Plan is informed by BBFSN's values, people with lived expertise and community advocates, and a collaborative leadership model. With the publication of this plan, BBFSN joins hundreds of coalitions and geographies across the United States that produce food systems development plans to guide a coordinated and strategic approach to actualizing a desired food future for their communities. Existing documents for the region already include language on food access, the environment, and agriculture. Numerous initiatives and organizations currently undertake an array of efforts to address food insecurity, local food systems development, and healthy eating. Moreover, local laws, policies, and plans establish the long-term vision for land use, economic development, and sustainability.

The Food Action Plan of Boulder and Broomfield Counties integrates these types of priorities and efforts, complementing past and existing initiatives by providing actionable, community-identified, proven strategies that local governments, community-serving organizations, programs, and partners can integrate into updates or implementation steps—from zoning changes for urban agriculture to incentives for local food procurement and waste reduction.

WHAT IS THE FOOD SYSTEM?



Each component of the food system is shaped by policies, decisions, activities, knowledge, resources, groups, relationships, sectors, and organizational structures.

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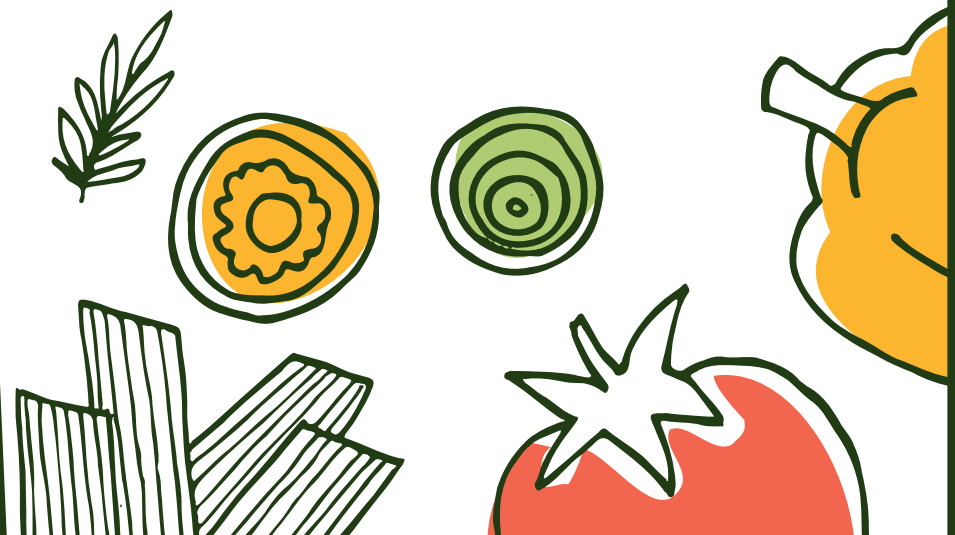
Successful implementation of the strategies in this Action Plan will enable communities across the two counties to bolster:

- Affordable, safe, and reliable transportation to food sources
- Support for small- and medium-sized food and farm enterprises
- Zoning that supports nutritious food infrastructure
- Access to and preservation of land for food production
- Robust opportunities for food skills development
- Development of community food assets (such as community gardens, pollinator-friendly habitats, food hubs, and farmers' markets)

We are living in a time when communities across the United States are grappling with major shifts in federal priorities and significant budget cuts affecting key food access, local food systems, and nutrition education programs, combined with rapidly escalating cost of living. Implementing and elevating constructive and proven changes at the local level can help offset the impacts faced by many members of our community. Now, more than ever, there's a clear need across our two counties to ensure equitable access to affordable, nutritious food, while supporting the growth and development of the local food system.

Systems change depends on aligning multiple levers—policy, practice, relationships, and culture—across institutions and levels of governance. By embedding food, equity, and health considerations into all aspects of planning and decision-making, communities can move from isolated interventions to systemic transformation that ensures healthy, affordable, and accessible food for all. Transforming local and regional food systems requires action across organizational, municipal, county, and regional levels; each holds unique levers for systems change that–when aligned–can create more equitable, resilient, and nourishing food environments.



Systems change happens when grassroots leadership and government policy align for the good of the community long into the future.

Community advocates bring lived experience, identify barriers, and organize creative solutions. Planners and policymakers shape ordinances, budgets, and programs that can remove those barriers. By coordinating across these roles, Boulder and Broomfield Counties can advance food equity and strengthen local resilience together.

Why do we need a Food Action Plan?

BBFSN and area partner agencies gather and use data to understand the barriers and opportunities associated with the local food system, with a special focus on hunger and access to affordable, healthy food. These data help define the scope and nature of food-related challenges for the two counties, as well as inform the goals and associated strategies in the Food Action Plan.

Cost of living in Colorado continues to rise, making it difficult for many to meet their basic needs...

- 89% of Coloradans indicate that the rising cost of living is a serious issue. (2025 Pulse: Colorado Health Foundation Poll)
- 39% of Coloradans report they are just getting by or really struggling financially (2025 Pulse: Colorado Health Foundation Poll)
- 40% of Coloradans report they are somewhat worse or much worse off financially than they were a year ago. (2025 Pulse: Colorado Health Foundation Poll)

Food insecurity across Boulder County and Broomfield County is a growing problem...

- Broomfield FISH–a local social service agency– has experienced an increase of 34% in client visits and a 112% increase in the number of clients between 2019 and 2024. (Broomfield FISH 2024 Annual Report)
- In Boulder County, 1 out of 10 children are food insecure, with childhood food insecurity increasing by 40% over the past year. (Boulder County Well Being Scorecard 2024)

Healthy food access across Boulder County and Broomfield County remains a persistent barrier...

- 23.5% of Boulder County residents do not have reliable access to healthy foods. In Broomfield County, 54.3% of residents do not have reliable access to healthy foods. (2022 American Community Survey; Colorado Equity Compass Navigator)

“Local policies, combined with comprehensive and ordinance plans, are intended to improve peoples’ lives. What better way to fulfill this purpose than policies and plans that improve health and increase access to nutritious food?”

Guyleen Castriotta
Mayor
City of Broomfield

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What's Important to Understand About the Food Action Plan?

Through this Food Action Plan, BBFSN members are speaking with one powerful voice to encourage our neighbors and partners across the region to prioritize healthy food access and local food systems development, by including and implementing the recommended strategies contained in this plan.

Why does the Food Action Plan have goals for our two counties' local food system? The Food Action Plan of Boulder and Broomfield Counties offers four goals to strengthen our regional food system, designed to span multiple sectors and issues. The goals are based on research and deep, structured planning and deliberation by BBFSN, with the engagement of many community members, food systems actors, initiatives, and organizations. These goals are accompanied by clear objectives and associated, proven strategies that are designed to help achieve these aims.

Where did the strategies come from? The strategies contained in this Food Action Plan come from the community: people who face challenges to nutritious food access; people who work to build a thriving local food system; and people who understand the power of collaborative advocacy to change our region's food future for the better. These strategies are based on specific barriers, needs, and opportunities in Boulder and Broomfield Counties, identified by BBFSN through background research. They align with the goals identified during the planning process.

We can select strategies and implement them? Yes! Organizations, agencies, and partnerships can select and carry out one or more strategies that they are interested in and well-positioned to implement. To be sure, each agency, community, and jurisdiction is different. Some policies in this Food Action Plan are more needed or better suited for certain communities and organizations. **Each community can select strategies contained in this document that are responsive to the greatest needs and opportunities within their jurisdiction, neighborhood, organization, or cultural community.** For example, a health system that serves one county can roll out a new or expanded Food Is Medicine program.

The Food Action Plan is designed to be iterative. As new needs emerge and our local food system evolves, we will continue to adjust the approach and focus in coming years.

“Prioritizing marginalized communities in food system planning is essential. Policy and advocacy must address their needs, and inclusive community feedback is crucial. Local governments, community-based organizations, and grassroots advocates can collaborate to cultivate a thriving local food system for all.”

Damien Thompson,
Sustainable Food Systems Specialization Lead
University of Colorado—Boulder

Goals

GOAL 1: Healthy Food Access: Ensure nutritious, accessible, affordable, and culturally desirable food for all–linking public health, economic opportunity, and dignity.

GOAL 2: Food Infrastructure: Develop robust local food system infrastructure, including locally owned food and farm enterprises, for growing, processing, storing, distributing, and preparing food.

GOAL 3: Food Sovereignty: Cultivate an equitable, community-led local food system focused on racial/economic justice and self-determination.

GOAL 4: Healthy Food Skills: Empower community members with skills and resources to find, grow, make, preserve, and prepare healthy food options.

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Healthy Food Acccess

Food is nutritious, accessible, affordable, and culturally desirable for all members of our community.

Healthy food access is the foundation of food justice—linking public health, economic opportunity, and dignity. By strengthening benefit programs, bolstering affordability and convenience of food sources, and aligning associated local policy, we move toward a system where good food is a public good—not a privilege. These types of healthy food access investments improve overall community health, reduce healthcare costs, and keep food dollars circulating locally. As a result of implementing these strategies, everyone who lives, works, learns, and plays in Boulder and Broomfield Counties can easily obtain the food that nourishes their bodies, reflects their cultures, and supports local producers.

OBJECTIVE 1

Increase availability of and access to affordable, culturally preferred, nutritious food

STRATEGIES

1.1.1. Permit and reduce barriers for mobile produce markets/carts, such as food trucks, palateras, farm stands, and cut fruit vendors

1.1.2. Establish and enforce a healthy foods ordinance that requires small footprint food retailers (such as dollar stores, corner stores, and convenience stores) to stock nutritious options while offering storeowners incentives (such as stipends, tax credits, or grants), free equipment, and technical support to nudge healthy choices, accept federal food benefits, and provide attractive merchandising and adequate refrigeration.

1.1.3. Ensure comprehensive, convenient access to transportation for people with mobility issues, such as micro transit options, so they are able to easily and efficiently get to affordable, healthy food retailers.

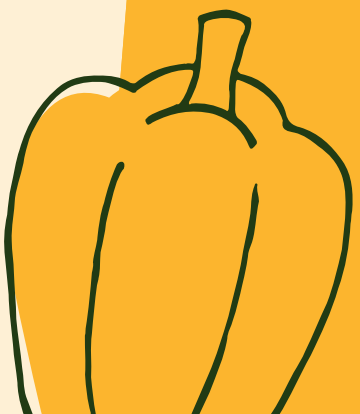
1.1.4. Require or encourage affordable healthy food retail in or near designated housing units/communities, with a focus on strengthening healthy food access for seniors and people with disabilities and mobility challenges.

1.1.5. Create municipal initiative to attract and retain fresh-food retailers in low-income and underserved areas, including incentives such as tax credits and financing.

1.1.6. Improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to all food markets.

1.1.7. Assist in the development of mutual aid-style fresh food barter networks among community members.

1.1.8. Institutionalize Food is Medicine programs through local healthcare providers.



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1.1.9. Establish healthy meetings policy with nutrition guidelines for foods and beverages at local worksites and community anchor institutions (e.g. schools, local government, parks and recreation, hospitals, universities, etc.).

1.1.10. Implement and enforce mandates and best practices around breastfeeding in relevant settings (such as campuses, worksites, public managed facilities, hospitals, etc.).

OBJECTIVE 2

Maximize participation, cultural competency, and nutritious options in food access programs

STRATEGIES

1.2.1. Assess and strengthen delivery of federal food access initiatives and programs.

1.2.2. Implement food insecurity screenings at patient care appointments for all healthcare appointments, providing referrals and resources for eligible patients.

1.2.3. Ensure all farmers markets in Boulder and Broomfield Counties accept SNAP, WIC, Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers, and Colorado SNAP Produce Bonus tokens.

1.2.4. Develop and deploy collaborative promotional strategy across all farmers markets in Boulder and Broomfield Counties to raise consumer awareness about food access program benefits acceptance.

1.2.5. Serve as a core source of support for coordinated efforts and collaboration to expand integrated nutrition and food security across Boulder and Broomfield Counties.

1.2.6. Implement and sustain collaborative food purchasing and procurement practices across food access programs.

1.2.7. Develop, deploy, monitor, and continue to evolve culturally relevant, multilingual outreach by food access programs.

OBJECTIVE 3

Reduce food waste

STRATEGIES

1.3.1. Enact food waste rescue and recovery policy (include prepared foods and food scraps).

1.3.2. Provide comprehensive education via municipal and county government waste reduction programs to shift resident, landlord and business behaviors toward reducing food waste.

1.3.3. Coordinate efforts and collaboration to scale up food waste prevention and recovery.

BIG WIN!

Brújula, a grassroots group of food systems leaders in Longmont, partnered with community members to gather stories and experience real-life immersion into the challenges of healthy food access for people with disabilities living in Longmont. After analyzing these experiences, they developed recommendations to improve relevant policies and systems. Collaborating with Growing Gardens, a local community-supported agriculture (CSA) farm, Brújula provided 20 boxes of locally grown, healthy food to people with disabilities.

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Food Infrastructure

Our local food system infrastructure, including locally owned food and farm enterprises, has the capacity needed to grow, process, store, distribute, and prepare the nutritious, culturally desirable, affordable food we want and need.

A robust food infrastructure connects producers, processors, retailers, and eaters through shared facilities, expanded outlets, and efficient distribution systems. It can include heritage and alternative forms of food production (such as indoor, urban, and rooftop production; agroforestry; and agrovoltaics). It creates jobs, reduces waste, and builds climate resilience and develops locally owned food and farm enterprises. By investing in storage, processing, and transportation capacity, our region can retain more value locally, become more food self-sufficient, and respond more quickly to emergencies, while mobilizing relevant non-food businesses.

OBJECTIVE 1

Grow the viability of local producers and food entrepeneurs

STRATEGIES

2.1.1. Permit and reduce barriers for mobile produce markets/carts, such as food trucks, palateras, farm stands, and cut fruit vendors. (NOTE: This strategy is also included as strategy 1.1.1)

2.1.2. Revise landscaping and nuisance ordinances to permit production of non-ornamental, native and edible plants on residential lots and city-managed properties.

2.1.3. Establish and enforce zoning regulations to preserve prime agriculture lands; permit vacant or underdeveloped lots for small-scale agricultural production (such as market and community gardens); and protect wildlife habitat for food production, hunting, gleaning and gathering.

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2.1.4. Establish comprehensive zoning codes and associated investments and incentives to encourage agricultural activity on vacant lots (such as market gardens, community gardens, and urban farms) and indoor grow facilities.

2.1.5. Create model "food enterprise zone" incentives and zoning designations for urban food production, value-added and food processing, and healthy food retail conversions.

2.1.6. Review and refine ordinances to allow for local food, beverage, and farm-related enterprises.

2.1.7. Establish policy that protects food production as a human right.

2.1.8. Establish bidding and contractual requirements for and provide incentives to developers to allocate space for food production and food micro-enterprises.

2.1.9. Develop and deploy promotional strategies and programs that incentivize and support BIPOC growers and food entrepreneurs.

2.1.10. Ensure emergency planning policies, procedures, and infrastructure development incorporate nutrition guidelines and relevant facilities, such as commercial kitchens that can be used for disasters and for commercial incubator kitchen programs.

2.1.11. Increase local, sustainable, and equitable procurement policies and practices in schools, hospitals, residential facilities, childcare settings, and university campuses.

BIG WIN!

Boulder Broomfield Food Security Network established the Collaborative Sourcing Group, composed of food pantries across both counties to combine their resources to strengthen their purchasing power for the healthy foods most desired by our community. Longmont Food Rescue, Harvest of Hope, OUR Center, Nederland Food Pantry and Broomfield FISH are working together to make this happen.

OBJECTIVE 2

Build capacity of small growers

STRATEGIES

2.2.1. Facilitate contracts with regional wholesale food distributors and institutional purchasers (such as school districts, hospitals, food access programs, and universities) for urban farms located in Boulder and Broomfield Counties.

2.2.2. Provide wraparound, culturally relevant technical support to urban growers, including production planning, production skills, business planning, and operations management for urban and indoor growers.

2.2.3. Improve equitable access to land for food production, including expansion of community-controlled land trusts and grower-owned co-operative for food production.

2.2.4. Increase community wealth building opportunities across the food system.

2.2.5. Offer peer to peer learning and networking opportunities.

2.2.6. Support coordinated efforts and collaboration to increase the viability and innovation of local food businesses.

2.2.7. Support coordinated efforts and collaboration to create a technical assistance & business assistance network across food businesses.

BIG WIN!

The BBFSN's Policy Committee created food access recommendations, based on collection of data and community stories, for the City of Boulder's 2025 Comprehensive Plan updates. These recommendations have accompanied community engagement and advocacy strategies to ensure these recommendations are included in the comprehensive plan.

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Food Sovereignty

Our local food system is equitable—developed, led by, cared for, owned by, and maintained by the people, with the people.

Food sovereignty is about shifting power: ensuring that the people most affected by food insecurity have ownership, leadership, and voice in decisions that shape the food system. Boulder and Broomfield Food Security Network centers racial and economic justice, land access, and community self-determination. By building power and ownership among those historically excluded from decision-making, we cultivate a food system that is more equitable, resilient, and reflective of our shared values. These strategies are designed to ensure that BBFSN flourishes and that the future of our local food system rests in community hands.

OBJECTIVE 1

Build and maintain BBFSN

STRATEGIES

3.1.1. Support coordinated efforts and collaboration to build a resilient food system.

3.1.2. Provide continuous research, cultural competency, innovative brainstorming, best practices, and creative collaboration.

3.1.3. Develop food systems subject matter expertise, policy and advocacy know-how, and collaboration and leadership skills of coalition members and partners to advance Food Action Plan strategies.

3.1.4. Create and maintain and inclusive, diverse, and effective community of stakeholders to advance shared agendas for food systems change.

3.1.5. Develop bold, flexible, and lasting sources of funding.

3.1.6. Increase community-led food system planning and policy efforts.

3.1.7. Diversify food system leadership and invest in BIPOC leaders.

OBJECTIVE 2

Build greater food sovereignty and community participation in and control of the local food system

STRATEGIES

3.2.1. Adopt food sovereignty ordinance, aligned with models from other U.S. cities.

3.2.2. Provide policy development support and policy advocacy as requested and needed to community-led land reparations policy initiatives.

BIG WIN!
Boulder Broomfield Food Security Network drafted a Food Justice Statement that provides guiding values to inform local food systems initiatives and local food systems development. Many BBFSN partners have adopted this statement. BBFSN also creates a welcome, inclusive environment at all events by providing simultaneous interpretation.

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Food Skills

Community members have the healthy food skills and related resources they want and need to find, grow, make, preserve, and prepare nutritious, culturally desirable options.

When people have the knowledge, confidence, and resources to grow, preserve, and prepare food, they can make healthy choices that align with their cultural traditions and personal values. Food skills strengthen self-reliance, foster intergenerational learning, improve well-being, and deepen connections between neighbors, farmers, and local food traditions.

OBJECTIVE 1

Increase availability of food skills learning opportunities across the community

STRATEGIES

4.1.1. Conduct a community-wide food skills education landscape analysis; create and deploy a cross-agency food skills education plan.

4.1.2. Establish partnership among organizations that provide food skills education to create a coordinated, cross-agency culturally competent, multilingual program promotion with resource navigation support.

4.1.3. Create and develop an innovate, culturally attuned community kitchen center with partners and community members at the table, for community by community.

4.1.4. Establish an easy to access, culturally attuned mobile education kitchen (such as a Charlie Cart) and associated resources, widely available to organizations, programs, and individuals across the community and hosted by a community-serving organization.

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4.1.5. Implement culinary medicine programs through local healthcare providers that equip people with diet-related health issues with nutrition and cooking know-how.

4.1.6. Integrate food, gardening, and nutrition education, including cooking and growing skills, into public school curricula at all levels

4.1.7. Support nutrition counseling and garden education for at-risk groups

4.1.8. Support the development of neighborhood networks of volunteers to provide peer-to-peer education and empowerment to food insecure community members to improve their health.

4.1.9. Educate and engage local and state elected representatives and public officials on the importance of having a sustainable local food system.

4.1.10. Support expansion of training, continuing education credits, and incentives to early childcare providers who incorporate culturally attuned food skills education into their programs.

BIG WIN!
Chef Ann Foundation's partnerships with schools in Boulder and Broomfield counties have successfully transformed school meal programs by increasing access to scratch-cooked, nutritious meals made with fresh, local ingredients. These initiatives have not only improved student health and engagement but also built lasting capacity for sustainable, equitable food systems within the districts.

Implementation of this goal will begin with the completion of a community-wide food skills education landscape analysis, which will include identification of the top food skills education priorities. These priorities will be implemented in collaboration with local organizations.

“The Boulder Broomfield Food Security Network’s Food Action Plan has organized across counties, communities, systems, and cultures to chart a long-term, effective plan to ensure a thriving, just food system for the region by using innovative methods and authentic, equitable engagement.”

Erika Wey
Facilitator
Boulder Broomfield Food Security Network

Conclusion

Food is more than nourishment—it is connection, culture, and care. The Food Action Plan of Boulder and Broomfield Counties invites everyone in our community to participate in building a regional food system that is equitable, resilient, and rooted in shared responsibility. Implementing this plan will require collaboration among governments, nonprofits, businesses, and residents. Progress will be measured through transparent evaluation and shared accountability.

BY ADVANCING THE STRATEGIES DESCRIBED IN THIS PLAN, WE CAN ENSURE THAT:

- Everyone has reliable access to nutritious, affordable, and culturally relevant food.
- Local producers and food workers are supported and fairly compensated.
- The natural systems that sustain our food supply are protected for future generations.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

- Join a BBFSN working group.
- Support our local farms, cooperatives, and food enterprises.
- Volunteer with food access and recovery programs.
- Advocate for and implement relevant strategies described in this Food Action Plan for your organization or community.

A resilient food system is built by all of us—for all of us.

For more information on how to get involved, go to www.bbfsn.org!

“The Colorado Health Foundation has invested in the development of the Boulder Broomfield Food Systems Network through a coalition approach centering community first solutions. With this investment, Boulder Broomfield Food Systems has produced their Food Action Plan as a way to organize and empower local advocates with lived experience to make effective changes to systems and policies that span the local food system across the region. This Food Action Plan showcases the importance of other funders and supporters to commit resources to foster change brought forth by community most impacted.”

Nikte Contreras
Program Officer
Colorado Health Foundation

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Food Security Network

Let's explore the Boulder Broomfield Food Security Network

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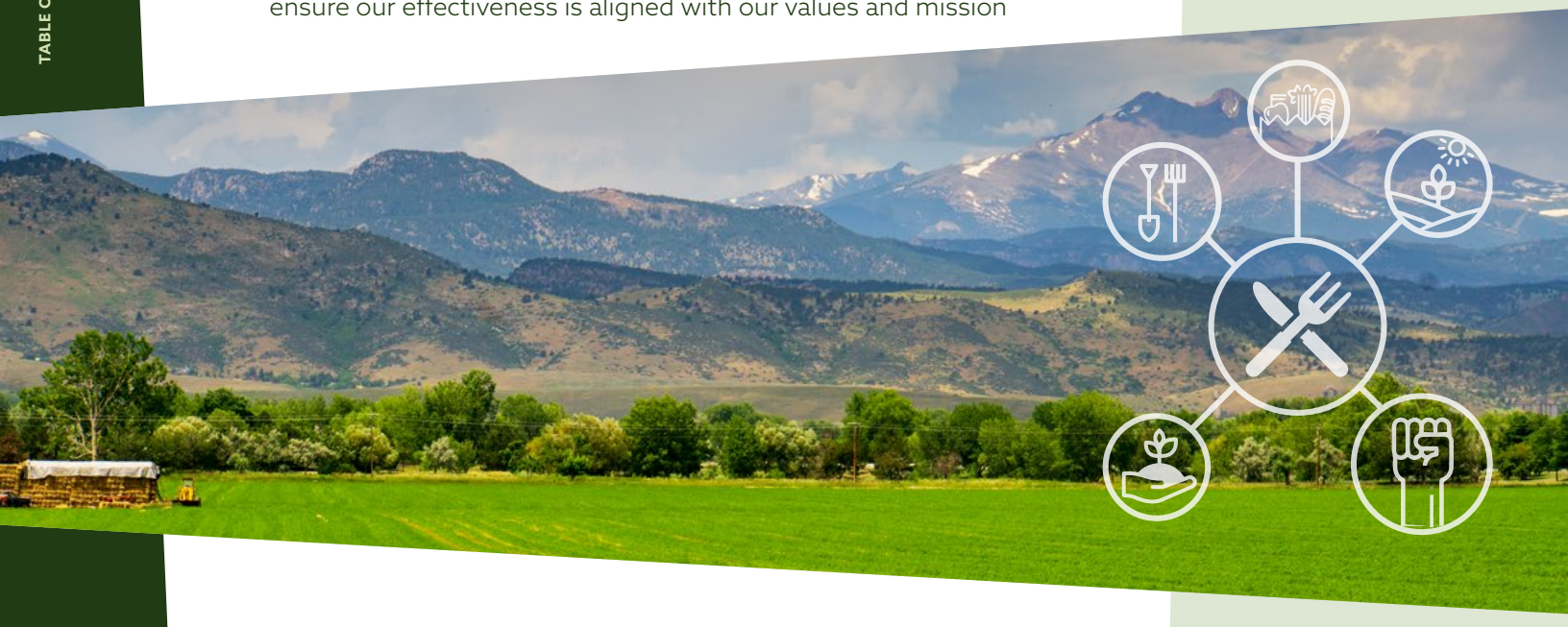
What is the Boulder Broomfield Food Security Network?

The Boulder Broomfield Food Security Network liberates grassroots leaders to identify and address food access issues and foster a thriving, equitable, resilient food system–fostering trust and collaboration among all stakeholders. We catalyze innovative strategies, mobilize collective action, and close resource gaps, by:

- Developing, supporting, and advocating for policy that aligns with our values, mission, and priorities at the local and state level
- Spearheading efforts to facilitate joint food purchasing among local food access programs
- Informing partner agencies and organizations across the two counties about food access challenges
- Partnering with grassroots, food-focused initiatives across the two counties to improve access to affordable, nutritious food for those most impacted by food insecurity
- Providing leadership development and capacity building opportunities for our members to steward change
- Producing a two-county Food Action Plan to guide changes to policies, systems, and environments in coming years
- Seeking resources for our work and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of our portfolio of efforts
- Continuing to evolve our decision-making and leadership model to ensure our effectiveness is aligned with our values and mission



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Why does the Boulder Broomfield Food Security Network take a 'food systems' approach to their work?

A local food system encompasses the entire network of individuals and organizations involved in producing, processing, distributing, and consuming food within a specific geographical area. BBFSN is organized to ensure all members of the region have reliable, convenient access to affordable, nutritious, culturally desirable food by implementing strategies that address the root causes of hunger and that foster a thriving, resilient local food system. By strengthening local food infrastructure, supporting local producers, and centering community members, this approach builds a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable food future that benefits everyone.

What are important concepts that guide the decision-making and work of the Boulder Broomfield Food Security Network?

BBFSN is guided by a deep commitment to justice, liberation, and community sovereignty—principles that move beyond charity toward systemic change. Rather than focusing on downstream solutions like emergency food programs, we work upstream to address the root causes of food insecurity.

We recognize that while charitable efforts may save people from immediate crises, true justice requires understanding and transforming the structures that create inequities in the first place. Like the unseen roots of a tree, our work digs deep—into policy, power, and systemic design—to nourish lasting change that supports the health and autonomy of entire communities.

For us, liberation means building the collective power to shape one's own food system and future. Sovereignty, in turn, looks different for every community and every organization; it reflects the right of each to define and pursue its own path toward wellbeing and self-determination.

By centering justice, liberation, and sovereignty, the Network distinguishes itself from charity-based models—grounding our decisions not in temporary relief, but in the pursuit of enduring equity and systemic transformation.

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Statements that Matter

BBFSN is guided by numerous statements that express our values, beliefs, and guiding principles about the work we do, the way we collaborate, and how we center the priorities and leadership of community members:

FOOD JUSTICE STATEMENT

Food access is central to all components of well-being. Food is a universal necessity. The Food Security Network is committed to advancing equity in all areas of our work. We recognize that our efforts must be rooted in acknowledging and addressing systemic inequities to ensure community-wide food justice.

We acknowledge that many within our community have historically and systematically been excluded and discriminated against because of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, ability, country of origin, language, economics, age, education, political affiliation and/or geography.

We recognize that this discrimination deeply influences the accessibility of delicious, nutritious, fresh, locally produced, culturally attuned, preferred, shame-free, affordable, and abundant food, and we commit to actively addressing these barriers within our community.

Land Acknowledgment

The Food Security Network of Boulder and Broomfield Counties recognizes the many contributions of Indigenous peoples within our front range region. The FSN acknowledges that much of our food justice work resides on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Hinónoʼéí (Arapaho) people, and that 50 contemporary tribal nations lived, camped, hunted, and traded here for centuries, and many are still here today. Through forced removal of Native peoples and the colonization of the land, settler colonialism has created devastating long-term impacts. While the FSN can never undo or rectify the devastation brought on Indigenous peoples, we commit to continuously learning, improving and collaborating with our Indigenous relatives to restore traditional foodways and cultural food practices locally and nationally.

This Land Acknowledgement Statement was created in collaboration with Harvest of All First Nations and serves as a living document.

Glossary of Terms

Coalition: A formally organized alliance of groups and individuals working collectively toward shared objectives, such as improving food access or advancing food policy.

Collaboration: Partnerships across organizations, communities, and sectors that share resources, goals, and accountability to achieve food system transformation.

Culturally Desirable Food: Foods that reflect a community's traditions, heritage, and preferences, and that are grown, prepared, and shared in ways that honor those identities.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Principles and practices ensuring that all people—particularly those historically marginalized—have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from the food system.

Environmental Change: Shifts in physical or social environments that make healthy, sustainable choices easier, such as building community gardens or changing the footprint of a food pantry to enable it to offer fresh, healthy items to clients.

Food Accessibility: The ability to obtain healthy and culturally relevant food regularly and reliably, including proximity, location, safety, and transit options.

Food Affordability: The ability of all people to purchase nutritious food without compromising other basic needs such as housing, healthcare, or transportation.

Food Insecurity: A lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life due to economic or systemic barriers.

Food Justice: A movement and framework focused on eliminating inequities in food access, labor, and land ownership, ensuring that all people benefit equitably from the food system.

Food Quality: The safety, freshness, taste, and nutritional value of food products, influenced by how food is grown, handled, and prepared.

Food Skills: The practical knowledge needed to safely grow, select, store, and prepare nutritious food, including gardening know-how, budgeting, menu planning, cooking, and preservation.

Food Sovereignty: The right of people to define their own food systems—including how food is produced, distributed, and consumed—prioritizing local control, equity, and environmental stewardship.

Food Availability (Quantity, Type, and Variety – QTV): A measure of food availability reflecting how much food exists (quantity), what kinds of food are available (type), and the range of options accessible (variety).

Food Security: A state in which all people have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and preferences.

Local Food System: The network of growers, processors, distributors, and consumers that produce, sell, and eat food within a defined geographic area, including supporting infrastructure and policies.

Nutritious Food: Foods that support health and well-being, including fruits, vegetables, grains, proteins, and other items that meet evidence-based dietary standards.

Policy Change: Amending or enacting rules, ordinances, or funding priorities to improve food system outcomes at local, regional, or state levels.

Systems Change: Shifting the underlying structures, relationships, and mindsets that shape outcomes within the food system—addressing root causes rather than symptoms.

Waters of Systems Change: A framework describing the deeper forces that shape systemic transformation: power sharing, mental models, relationships, and resource flows.

The Food Action Plan of Boulder and Broomfield Counties was created in partnership with:

A Precious Child

ACL Boulder and Broomfield Counties

All Roads

Allenspark Pantry

Boulder Bridge House

Boulder & Broomfield Counties' CSU Extension

Boulder Community Hospital

Boulder Community Hospital Foundation

Boulder County Agency on Aging

Boulder County Farmer's Market

Boulder County Public Health

Boulder Food Rescue

Boulder Fruit Rescue

Boulder Housing Partners

Boulder Valley School District

Broomfield FISH

Broomfield Housing Alliance

Broomfield WIC

Brújula Comunidad

Carniceria Chihuahua

Climate Justice Collaborative of Boulder County

Coal Creek Meals on Wheels

CU Basic Needs Center

Community Food Share

Deshaciendo Nudos. Untangled

El Centro Amistad

Emergency Family Assistance Association

Flatiron Foodshed Partnership

Growing Gardens

Harvest of All First Nations

Harvest of Hope

La Barata

Lafayette Farmer's Market

Longmont Food Rescue

Longmont Meals on Wheels

Longmont Youth Center

Meals on Wheels Boulder

Mother House

Nederland Farmer's Market

Nederland Food Pantry

OUR Center

ROUND Pantry

Social Venture Partners of Boulder County

St. Vrain Valley School District

The Refuge

Tgthr

And...many community members across both counties, who contributed their time, stories, ideas, and leadership to ensure the Food Action Plan of Boulder and Broomfield Counties reflected the needs, creativity, and desired opportunities for our region's future food system and the people who are a part of it.

Food Security Network

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO GET INVOLVED, VISIT:

www.bbfsn.org

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