



# Action Plan

## Overview

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The food system is essential to our daily lives, influencing our health, cultures, economy, and natural environment. Rochester's food system, like many other cities nationwide, bears the scars of decades of concentrated poverty and segregation, exacerbated by the concentration and industrialization of food production, manufacturing, and retail. These factors make it difficult for many Rochesterians to access the food they need to live healthy, fulfilled lives: The healthy choice is often the hardest choice.

In 2019, based on extensive community input, Rochester 2034—the City of Rochester's Comprehensive Plan—recommended developing a local food policy council (FPC). The City of Rochester partnered with Common Ground Health and Foodlink to plan a resident-led FPC in the city, officially launched in late 2021.

In 2023, the Rochester Food Policy Council embarked on a planning process to craft this Action Plan. The primary objective of this action plan is to provide a framework for the FPC's activities in the coming years by identifying priority areas for short-term and long-term advocacy, policy adjustments, and systemic changes.

## About the Rochester Food Policy Council

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The Rochester Food Policy Council (FPC) is a resident-led collaboration that brings together community members and stakeholders to formulate policy solutions, forge partnerships, and support projects aimed at enhancing the local food system. The Rochester FPC is committed to cultivating a food system that promotes environmental health and ensures every resident enjoy equitable access to high-quality, health-supporting foods, as well as opportunities to engage in a thriving local food economy.

The Rochester Food Policy Council pursues its mission by:

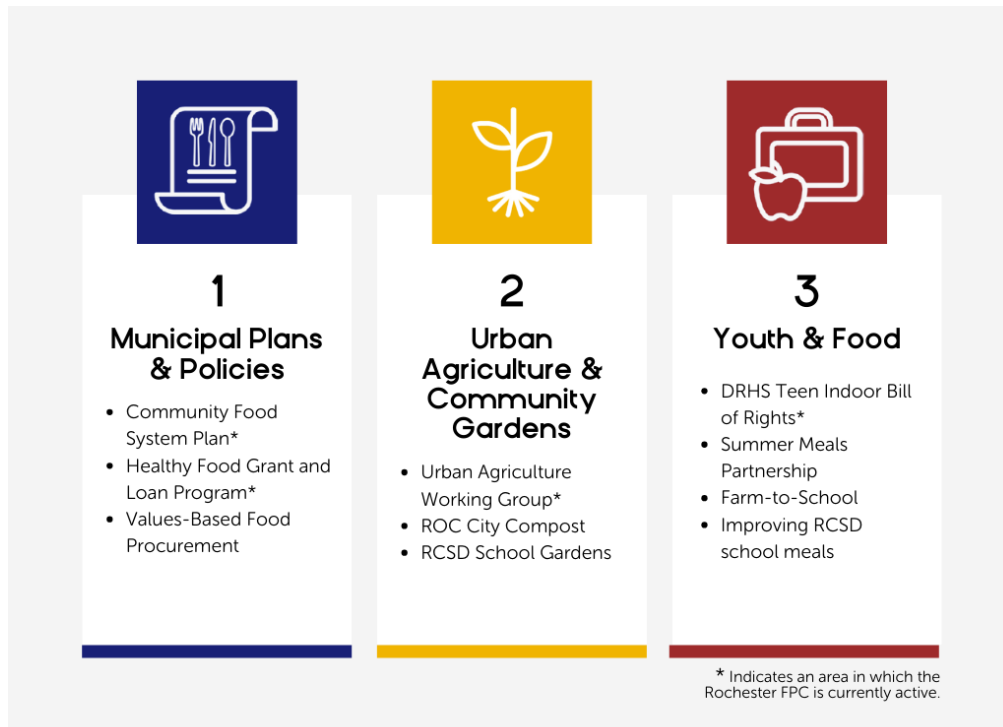
- Researching, developing, and recommending policies related to the food system
- Advising governments and organizations on food-related plans, reports, and programs
- Engaging the public and building community awareness of food system issues

This work is **not** new: Many Rochester residents and organizations have worked to improve our local and regional food systems for decades. Collaboration with community partners, community engagement, and elevating resident voices are central to the FPC's approach to shaping policy change.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion are core values of the FPC. Our current food system has been shaped by structural racism and both historic and contemporary injustices. The Rochester FPC seeks the expertise and perspectives of our diverse community, especially people from historically disenfranchised and marginalized identities and backgrounds.

Through a focus on the priority areas listed below, the Rochester FPC aims to work with our community to build a healthier and more equitable food system for Rochester.





## Our Priority Areas

### 1. Municipal Plans & Policies

In addition to policies that directly impact the other categories, government and public policy include actions that can strengthen the food system as a whole, like community food system plans, participatory budgeting, equity audits, and staffing decisions.

- Community Food System Plan\*
- Healthy Food Grant and Loan Program\*
- Values-Based Food Procurement

### 2. Urban Agriculture & Community Gardens

How people grow food in Rochester for access, recreation, or profit. Urban agriculture policies include land use laws, zoning, public programs, waste management, and permitting.

- Urban Agriculture Working Group\*
- ROC City Compost\*
- RCSD School Gardens

### 3. Youth & Food

Ensuring that all young people in Rochester have equitable access to healthy food and a voice in the food system. Youth-related policies can include things like advocacy for existing and new programs, workforce development, youth leadership opportunities and engaging with schools (curricula, procurement, farm to school, etc).

- Department of Recreation and Human Services' Teen Indoor Bill of Rights\*
- Summer Meals Partnership of Rochester
- Farm-to-School
- Supporting the Rochester School Board and RCSD administration in improving school meals