



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE REGIONAL MEMBER AD-HOC COMMITTEE (FARM)

PROPOSED 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PROPOSED FOR 2021

Increase Food Security and Promote Healthy Food Access

Amidst growing food insecurity across the region, lack of clarity on the timing of additional, needed federal relief for vulnerable families and individuals, and uncertainty about when the Childhood Nutrition Reauthorization Act may be taken up again; support federal, state and local initiatives to increase food and cash assistance to residents in need, increase participation in programs among eligible residents, and streamline program administration. Increase funding for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). Enhance and expand the Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program, federally funded school meal programs, and other programs that improve food access for vulnerable low-income individuals and families in the region.

Support Small and Medium-sized Farmers, Food Entrepreneurs, and Restaurants

Support strengthening programs that advance regional food systems development, on-farm conservation, connections between farmers and consumers of all income levels, especially programs that provide incentives to help low-income residents access healthy local food. Support renewed relief for restaurants and food businesses, and efforts to address long-standing food system inequities faced by black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) farmers and food business owners.

FOR BACKGROUND: 2020 FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY

[LINK TO 2020 COG LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES](#)

See page 6, Health & Human Services

Protect Healthy Food Access and the Region's Farm and Food Economy

With the 2018 reauthorization of the Farm Bill and uncertainty about when the Childhood Nutrition Reauthorization Act may be taken up again, support protecting, fully funding, and improving access to programs within these bills including the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), the Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program, and the National School Lunch Program that serve vulnerable low-income individuals and families in the region. Support strengthening programs that advance regional food systems development, on-farm conservation and connections between farmers and consumers of all income levels.