



MICHIGAN LOCAL FOOD COUNCIL NETWORK

A DIRECTORY

INTRODUCTION

This directory contains information on Michigan local food councils and food policy councils. The directory is designed to help participants connect with each other over shared interests, areas of expertise, geographic regions served, and other features.

Please note that this directory may not include every food council or food policy council doing this type of work in Michigan. If you know of council that should be added, please contact us for inclusion in the next update.

What is a Food Council?

The [Michigan Local Food Council Network](#) (MLFCN) defines a food council as a group of representatives, community members, and stakeholders from many sectors of the food system. These councils are formed to organize, define, and amplify the needs and voices of their communities surrounding issues of food security, sustainability, equity, and accessibility.

The MLFCN is coordinated by Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems and facilitates peer-to-peer learning to build councils' individual and collective capacities to work on food and food policy issues, operate effectively, and engage their communities. The MLFCN's main roles are to:

- Foster a space for local councils to network with one another
- Connect local councils to statewide and national policy information, issues, and actions
- Assist local food councils with capacity building, including hands-on training
- Connect local policy information, issues, and actions to other parts of the state.

For questions about this directory or to connect with the Michigan Local Food Council Network, contact Liz Gensler at gensler@msu.edu or Rachel Kelly at kellyra2@msu.edu.

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LOCAL FOOD COUNCILS AND FOOD POLICY COUNCILS

Allegan Food Alliance

Mission

Connect. Gather. Share. Transform.

Contact

Mary A. Colborn, maryacolborn@gmail.com

Geographic Area Covered

Allegan County

Website

www.alleganfoodalliance.com

Bay County Food Council

Mission

Within Bay County, community partners work collaboratively to eliminate hunger

Contact

Samantha McKenzie,

smckenzie@hiddenharvestshares.org

Nicole Luczak, nicole@unitedwaybaycounty.org

Geographic Area Covered

Bay County

Areas of Expertise

Food Insecurity

Networking Interests

Food Councils

B. Healthy Food Council

Mission

Foster healthy communities and a thriving food system through policy, education, and engagement.

Contact

Ali Quilitzsch, AQuilitzsch@bedhd.org

Catherine Getty, catherine@bluezones.com

Geographic Area Covered

Barry County

Networking Interests

Those with experience within food hubs and community gardens. Gaining community support for food council and related activities. Finding sustainable funding.

Website

<https://www.facebook.com/B.HealthyFoodCouncil>

Capital Area Food Council

Mission

Helping build a sustainable, equitable food system in the Greater Lansing, Michigan area where everyone has access to healthy, green, fair and affordable food

Contact

John McCarthy, jmccarthy1135@gmail.com

Geographic Area Covered

Ingham, Clinton, and Eaton Counties

Areas of Expertise

Gardens; farmers markets; emergency food; data collection

Website

<https://www.capitalareafoodcouncil.org/about.html>

Detroit Food Policy Council

Mission

To influence policy which ensures the development and maintenance of a sustainable and equitable food system, resulting in a food-secure City of Detroit in which all of its residents are hunger-free, healthy, and benefiting from a robust food system

Contact

Winona Bynum, winona@detroitfoodpc.org

Amy Kuras, amy@detroitfoodpc.org

Geographic Area Covered

Detroit

Areas of Expertise

Urban agriculture; food access and grocery store improvement; wasted food (food waste); convening and outreach

Networking Interests

Collaboration around federal and state policy

Website

www.detroitfoodpc.org

Flint and Genesee Food Council

Mission

A network of food champions whose mission is to develop a resilient and reliable local food system rooted in community engagement, collaboration and education

Contact

Samantha Farah, sfarah@crim.org

Tony Vu, flintsocialclub@gmail.com

Athena McKay, athena@flintinnovativesolutions.org

Kelly McClelland, mccl100@msu.edu

Geographic Area Covered

Genesee County

Areas of Expertise

Community engagement; food pantry support; nutrition and physical fitness education; food system research

Networking Interests

Seek stakeholders such as residents, businesses, local governments, farms, schools and any other organization or individual who is involved or interested in our local food system

Website

<https://crim.org/neighborhood-impact/food-policy-council/>

Food Access Collaboration Team of Saginaw (FACTS)

Mission

To identify, develop and connect resources to increase food security

Contact

Tina Swanton, swanton@saginawfoodclub.org

Teresa Casanova, tcasanova@sacredheartcenter.com

Geographic Area Covered

Saginaw County

Areas of Expertise

Collaboration; sharing resources

Networking Interests

Local growers to help use locally grown product to better serve the community

Website

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/FoodAccessCollaborationTeamofSaginaw/)

[FoodAccessCollaborationTeamofSaginaw/](https://www.facebook.com/FoodAccessCollaborationTeamofSaginaw/)

Hunger Free Calhoun County Coalition

Contact

hungerfreeca@gmail.com

Geographic Area Covered

Calhoun County

Areas of Expertise

Food bank; fresh food; childhood/senior hunger relief programs; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); food rescue; outreach

Networking Interests

Any

Huron Shores Regional Food Council

Mission

The HSRFC envisions a vibrant and healthy food and farming system in Northeast Michigan (NEMI) rooted in the regional economy and contributing to the health and wellbeing of all residents. Our mission is to build capacity, leadership, connection, knowledge, and action in NEMI for a robust and equitable regional food and farming system

Contact

John Fisk, jwfisk@gmail.com

Geographic Area Covered

Alcona, Alpena, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, and Presque Isle Counties

Areas of Expertise

Food security, health systems and local food, direct markets, rural food systems

Networking Interests

Direct markets, rural food systems, farm to school

Kent County Food Policy Council

Mission

To advocate for and promote a Good Food system in Kent County

Contact

Janelle Vandergrift, jvandergrift@hwmuw.org
Wende Randall, wrandall@hwmuw.org

Geographic Area Covered

Kent County

Website

<http://entfkent.org/subcommittees/kent-county-food-policy-council/>

Lake County Community Food Council

Mission

Work with our community partners to help provide fresh produce to our community

Contact

Lynne Mills, lnrmills@gmail.com

Geographic Area Covered

Lake County

Areas of Expertise

Community gardening (provided a community garden at Grand Oaks nursing home)

Networking Interests

Those who can help provide fresh produce and healthy eating habits

Livingston County Hunger Council

Mission

Together we nourish our community by championing food access and education

Contact

Bridget Brown, bbrown@gcfb.org
Douglas Fekete, dougfekete15@gmail.com

Geographic Area Covered

Livingston County

Areas of Expertise

Pantry Network, Summer Lunch Programs, Community Gardens, food education

Networking Interests

Pantry Network, Summer Lunch Programs, Community Gardens, food education

Website

<https://www.livingstonhunger.com>

Local Food Alliance of Northern Michigan

Mission

To enrich the culture of local food and farming in the Northern Farms Foodshed

Contact

Larry Dyer, ldyer3913@gmail.com
Wendy Wieland, wieland@msu.edu

Geographic Area Covered

Emmet, Charlevoix, northern Antrim, and western Cheboygan Counties

Areas of Expertise

Food Access, Farm to School, Farm to Institution, State of local Agriculture papers to share at State of the community events

Networking Interests

Share our farm-to-institution experience; Explore/share experience with policy issues, e.g. Purchase of Development Rights and accessory uses on farms, including various agritourism ventures

Midland County Hunger Connections

Mission

Midland County Hunger Connections is a collaborative to reduce barriers for the hungry

Contact

Megan Crockett, megan@unitedwaymidland.org

Geographic Area Covered

Midland County

Areas of Expertise

Engage existing food partners to foster ideas in which to collaborate to leverage resources, ensuring non-duplication of services

Networking Interests

Collaboration; food security; community gardens

Monroe County Food Advisory Council

Mission

No resident of Monroe County will go hungry for lack of access to healthy food

Contact

Stephanie Zorn Kasprzak, skasprzak1@gmail.com
Shawnterra Glasgow-Scott, sgscott1140@gmail.com

Geographic Area Covered

Monroe County

Areas of Expertise

Partnership development; completion of a Hunger Study; Green Mapping process; fresh and healthy food distribution; resource and financial development

Networking Interests

Any

Northwest Food Coalition

Mission

To empower member food programs by coordinating and creating resources to achieve food security

Contact

coordinator@northwestmifoodcoalition.org
Michelle Northrup, mnorthrup@benziebacn.org

Geographic Area Covered

Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau and Wexford Counties

Website

<http://northwestmifoodcoalition.org/>

Oakland County Food Policy Council

Mission

To lead and advance food policy and system change that will increase equitable and healthy access for all.

Contact

Amanda Woods, woods@oakgov.com

Geographic Area Covered

Oakland County

Areas of Expertise

Healthy food access; emergency food relief; partnership and collaboration with community organizations; SNAP education and nutrition education; school and childhood nutrition programs

Networking Interests

Improving access to healthy, culturally relevant foods through policy and environmental work; addressing racial equity in the local food system; increasing community outreach and engagement; building council capacity; improving council membership diversity across the food system spectrum, including individuals impacted by the food system environment and policies

Website

<https://www.oakgov.com/community/health/partnerships/echo/action-teams/food-policy-council>

Ottawa Food

Mission

To ensure that people in Ottawa County have access to healthy, local and affordable food

Contact

Lisa Uganski, luganski@miottawa.org
Chara Bouma-Prediger,
cboumapred@communityactionhouse.org

Geographic Area Covered

Ottawa County

Areas of Expertise

Cross-sector efforts to reduce food insecurity; nutrition education; establishing electronic benefits transfer and Double Up Food Bucks at farmers markets; produce donation programs at farmers markets

Networking Interests

Groups doing work around food recovery/ reducing food waste; groups that have had success increasing diversity within their council

Website

<http://www.ottawafood.org/>

Southwest Michigan Local Food Council

Mission

The Southwest Michigan Local Food Council is a collective of advocates that takes evidence-based actions toward the development of an equitable regional food system that values local farmers and entrepreneurs

Contact

Dawn Marie Smith, dawnmarie.smith@uwsm.com
John Egelhaaf, egelhaafj@swmpc.org

Geographic Area Covered

Berrien, Cass, Van Buren Counties

Areas of Expertise

Improving the significance of local food in our community; improving economic prospects

Networking Interests

Establishing working groups; prioritizing diversity, equity and inclusion

Website

<https://www.behealthyberrien.org/council/>

Thumb Food Policy Council

Contact

Joe Bixler, jbixler@gmail.com

Geographic Area Covered

St. Clair, Lapeer, Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac County

Areas of Expertise

Food and agricultural literacy; volunteer support for food giveaways; community food systems support

Networking Interests

Restaurants; social welfare organizations; farmer operators; farmers markets; community based NGOs to develop food and agricultural literacy; capacity building and creation of local food policy development

Tribal Food Sovereignty (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)

Mission

Connecting, promoting, and building community food systems through: education, youth engagement, cultural traditions, and modern sustainability

Contact

Heather Hemming, HHemming@saulttribe.net
Josie Fegan, JFegan@saulttribe.net

Geographic Area Covered

The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians' 7-county service area: Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce, Alger, Schoolcraft, Marquette and Delta Counties

Areas of Expertise

Edible plants/medicines, gardening, harvesting, preserving, farmer's markets, economic development, etc.

Networking Interests

Discussing past, present, and future local food systems, designing and implementing culturally-centered food projects and classes, and attending community, state, and national Tribal Food Sovereignty conferences and workshops with interested Sault Tribe staff and members, neighboring communities and tribal members, and other organizations such as MSU Extension

Upper Peninsula Food Exchange

Mission

Growing local food systems

Contact

Sarah Monte, smonte@marquettefood.coop
Alex Palzewicz, localfood@marquettefood.coop

Geographic Area Covered

Michigan's Upper Peninsula

Areas of Expertise

Policy and planning; farm-to-school assistance (programming, school gardens and some procurement); marketing and outreach; collaboration; communication; business consultation

Networking Interests

Food council members; institutional purchases; healthcare and community health; regional and municipal planning; education; government; food safety consultants; local food marketing; chefs; farmers; fishers; food producers; SNAP/FIDPR; early childhood + K-12; farmers market managers; intermediate school districts; universities; value added producers. Looking to learn from support, connect and grow local food systems

Washtenaw County Food Policy Council

Mission

The Washtenaw County Food Policy Council increases and preserves access to safe, local and healthy food for all residents of Washtenaw County

Contact

washtenawfoodpolicycouncil@gmail.com

Geographic Area Covered

Washtenaw County

Areas of Expertise

Food access/food security; pollinators; planning and zoning; food waste and packaging; farmers and institutional purchasing; policy advocacy; local farmers/food economy

Networking Interests

Food waste; planning and zoning; preserving pollinator habitats

Website

<https://www.washtenaw.org/1469/Washtenaw-County-Food-Policy-Council>

Western U.P. Food Systems Collaborative

Contact

Rachael Pressley - rpressley@wupldr.org or wupfoodsystms@gmail.com

Geographic Area Covered

Western U.P. counties of Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Ontonagon

Areas of Expertise

Policy and planning, farmer and market support, project development and coordination, education, outreach, focus groups, and grant support

Networking Interests

We work together because we are stronger in our collective efforts than we are alone. Organizations and groups such as local and regional government, educational institutions, community-based organizations, environmental advocacy, healthcare and health foundations, food cooperatives, farmers markets

Western Wayne County Food Policy Council

Mission

The Western Wayne County Food Policy Council collaboratively shapes the local food system and works to ensure that nutritious food is accessible for all

Contact

Theresa Tejada, ttejada@nkfm.org

Geographic Area Covered

Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Romulus, Wayne, Westland, Canton Township, Huron Township, Redford Township, Sumpter Township, Van Buren Township

Areas of Expertise

Policy and planning, farmer and market support, project development and coordination, education, outreach, focus groups, and grant support

Wiisinidaa Mnomijim (Let's Eat Good Food) in Bay Mills Indian Community

Contact

Connie M. Watson, cwatson@baymills.org

Angie Johnston, ajohnston@baymills.org

Zoo City Farm and Food Network

Mission

To Honor, Redeem and Repossess Food, Water, Air, Soil and Ourselves Through Designing New Pathways to Access

Contact

Remi Harrington (Administrator)

remi@zoocityfood.com

Geographic Area Covered

West Michigan-Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids and Battle Creek

Areas of Expertise

Alternative pathways to food systems design for underrepresented groups in agriculture and the food industry ecosystem, including aggregated supply chains, worker owned cooperative development and land acquisition

Networking Interests

We would like to work with all groups that are aligned with our values-based mission and goals

Website

www.zoocityfood.org

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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To learn more, visit <https://foodsystems.msu.edu>