The Food Access & Health Work Group (FAHWG) is a vibrant statewide network focused on cultivating a diverse and just food system that eliminates hunger, increases access to nutritious food and advances the health of all Iowans.

www.IowaFoodSystemsCouncil.org/food-access-health/

Funding for the FAHWG has been provided by The Wellmark Foundation, WK Kellogg Foundation and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.
FAHWG is:

- A Community of Practice
  - Catalyst for cooperation of diverse interests to create solutions for healthy food access for all Iowans
  - Hub to create, capture, document, and leverage knowledge, and deploy this knowledge as technical assistance to food access and health partners
  - Magnet to attract funding, and for leveraging, channeling, and distributing funding to research and development efforts for decreasing food insecurity while increasing access to healthful food
  - Scout to identify emerging opportunities that advance healthful food access with high potential to deliver benefits to FAHWG partners
FAHWG has:

- Shared Leadership Model
  - Outreach
  - Sustainability
  - Leadership Development
  - Policy
  - Partnerships
  - Awards
  - Surveillance
  - Convening
FAHWG resources:

• Cultivating Resilience
• Communications Intern
• Partnerships
Food Access & Health Work Group

Projects/Activities

• **Voter Guide**
  - Questions aimed to raise awareness and promote public discussion around the many pertinent issues affecting Iowa’s food system.
  - [http://iowafoodsystems.org/food-access-health/](http://iowafoodsystems.org/food-access-health/)

• **Nourish Iowa Award**
  - Annual award that recognizes those who have made a significant impact on the advancement of food security, food access and health at the community, regional or state levels.

• **Webinar Series**
  - Annual webinar series focusing on a topic related to food access and health.

• **Cultivate Iowa**
  - Social marketing campaign to encourage food gardening and produce donation
  - Cultivateiowa.org
Regional Food System Working Group (RFSWG)

- Group comprised of geographically-based practitioners and community leaders with a goal to increase the investment in and support for local and regional food businesses in Iowa.
- Currently 15 local groups that participate and jointly manage this group.
Regional Food System Working Group (RFSWG)

• Steering committee of 5 local food coordinators
• Quarterly meetings held throughout the state
• Local food data collection
  o Led by Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture
  o The first statewide attempts to measure actual impacts of the local food industry on Iowa’s economy
• Currently transitioning to new leadership structure
Eat Greater Des Moines
Eat Greater Des Moines

- **Community garden support**
  - United Way of Central Iowa
    - Identify and map gardens (faith, community, school)
  - Des Moines Parks & Rec – Community Garden Start Up Guide

- **Expanded website funding**
  - Polk County Health Department
    - Farms, CSAs, Markets, Food Rescue

- **Collaboration with United Way of Central Iowa and Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC)**
  - 1.5 paid positions starting April 2013
Eat Greater Des Moines is dedicated to connecting available resources with the broader community in order to support the entire food lifecycle in central Iowa.

- Identify businesses, individuals, state and local programs, and non-profits among all food system sectors:
  - Production
  - Transformation
  - Distribution & Retail
  - Food Access & Consumption
  - Waste Management
- Establish and/or build connections between sectors
Eat Greater Des Moines is dedicated to connecting available resources with the broader community in order to support the entire food lifecycle in central Iowa.
Focus Areas

• Network development and expansion
  o Healthy Food Stakeholder Group
  o Building partnerships

• Building upon strengths and successes
  o Garden network
  o Farmers market
  o Best practice sharing

• Addressing system gaps and barriers
  o Aggregation & distribution
  o Food Rescue organization & collaboration

• Program sustainability
• Evaluation/Data collection
Connect

Websites
- http://iowafoodsystems.org/food-access-health/
- http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/regional-food-systems-working-group
- www.eatgreaterdesmoines.org

Cultivate Iowa
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