



Anchor investment opportunities in food systems

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Our mission is to transform health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice.



Not All Apples Are Created Equal

Environmental Nutrition Redefines What Constitutes Healthy Food

TRADITIONAL NUTRITION

Focuses on biochemical components of food and individual food consumption

Asks:

How much Vitamin C?

How many calories?

How much fiber?



ENVIRONMENTAL NUTRITION

Accounts for social, political, economic, and environmental factors related to the food system as a whole

Also asks:

Was it grown with harmful pesticides or synthetic fertilizers?

What labor standards were used?

Were toxic chemicals used in packaging?

A Healthy food system

What does a healthy, sustainable and equitable food system look like?

**Healthy food
access for all**

**Localized food
economies**

**Reduced agricultural
impact on natural
systems**

**Agriculture and food
policy that promotes
all of the above**



Hospitals as community anchors

As anchor institutions (defined as large, nonprofit and public organizations that, once established, tend to remain rooted in place), hospitals are increasingly recognizing their “anchor mission” to harness their significant resources to address social and environmental determinants of health in the communities they serve.

Procurement

Hospitals represent \$780 billion in total expenditures and \$340 billion in purchase of goods and services

- Community health and economic benefits
- Distinct benefits for hospitals: Access high quality product, boost ratings, improve community relations.



Procurement considerations

- Identify and convene a team and champions
- Opportunities across the hospital
- Use contracts to secure commitments and meet goals
- Community partners and initiatives

University of Vermont Medical Center

- UVMCC spent \$1.7 million on local food (2012).
- Every dollar spent on local food results in additional \$.38-\$.68 of value for local economy, adding approximately \$1.1 million to the local economy.
- Selling to UVMCC positions producers to access more institutional markets.



Community benefit

Stacking programs to build community health and wealth

Address food access while creating job and workforce development opportunities

Hospitals play a variety of roles— from providing financial support to use of facilities and land



Women in Agriculture Farm Development Center

- Farm and business training program targeted toward women
- Complemented by Regional Food Navigator

Genesys Regional Medical Center Michigan

Presbyterian Hospital New Mexico

Agri Cultura Cooperative Network

- Partnership supports CSA and mobile market program
- Participating farmers earn up to 62% of their income through these programs.



Building resilient communities

- Support food system infrastructure development
- Increase access to locally produced foods
- Foster local business development and ownership opportunities

New England Food Processors Collective

Project: Aims to build the regional food system by supporting coordination of the core administrative services of local food processors.

Hospital roles: Participate in steering committee, engaged in pilot project (advance purchase agreements), and provided funding.

Anchors in Resilient Communities

- Multi-sector community partnership with representatives from key anchor institutions in San Francisco Bay area
- Regional food economy project chosen after completion of assessment of procurement needs of anchor institutions and resources and capacity in Bay area communities



“Win-win-win” initiatives support local and sustainable food production while working to eliminate health disparities and empower and improve the lives of community residents.

Photo: Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center

Resources

- [Environmental Nutrition White Paper](#) Health Care Without Harm (2018)
- [Delivering community benefit: Healthy food playbook](#) Health Care Without Harm (2018)
- [Leveraging contracts for local food procurement](#) Farm to Institution New England (2015)
- [Hospital serves saucy solutions for jobs and planet](#) Health Care Without Harm
- [The Economics of Local Food Systems: A toolkit to guide community discussions, assessments and Choices](#) USDA (2016)

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