

2019

Suffolk County Food Policy Council



The steps and actions taken by the Suffolk County Food Policy Council in 2018 and an evaluation of next steps.

2/1/2019

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I. MISSION AND GOALS

- **The Mission of the Food Policy Council:**
 - **Promote the production, distribution, and awareness of locally grown food.**
 - **Strengthen and prioritize policies that will improve food access, health, and nutrition.**
 - **Enhance the regional food system by utilizing local agriculture, fishing and shellfish aquaculture.**

Apple Crunch Day – October 2018



III. MEMBERSHIP

Name	Organization	Representing
August Ruckdeschel (Chair)	SC Department of Economic Development & Planning	SCEDP
Gregson Pigott	SC Department of Health Services	SCDHS
Stephen Kramarcik	SC Department of Social Services	SCDSS
Rob Carpenter	Long Island Farm Bureau	LIFB
Michael Haynes	Long Island Cares	Food Equity Advocate
Randi Shubin Dresner	Island Harvest	Food Equity Advocate
Melissa Buonadonna- Hernandez	Buonadonna's ShopRites	Food Retailers
Diane Shulman	Jerry Shulman Produce Shipper, Inc.	Food Processor
Joel Panagakos	J. Kings	Food Distributor
Michele Gervat	American Heart Association	Community-Based
Vacant		Community-Based
Nikki Kateman	RWDSU Local 338	Local Food Workers
Janet Sklar	NYSNA	School Nutrition Administration
Iman Marghoob	Long Island Community Gardens Association	Presiding Officer Designee
Josephine Connolly- Schoonen	Nutrition Division SBUMC	EPA Chair Designee
Vacant		Seafood Industry
Zahrine Bajwa	Cornell Cooperative Extension	County Executive Designee

Food Equity Subcommittee

The Food Equity Subcommittee of the Suffolk Food Policy Council includes members from the Office of Minority Health Suffolk County Department of Health Services; Island Harvest Food Bank and Eat Smart New York (ESNY) Cornell Cooperative Extension. This Subcommittee aims to identify actionable steps to achieve greater equity within the regional food system and to create best practices that will be recommendations to the entire Food Policy Council and the Legislature, while offering suggestions on legislation to achieve those steps.

Initiatives the subcommittee is currently exploring:

- Increase and capitalize on customer spending power. Promote resident participation in nutrition assistance programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the Women with Infants and Children program (WIC) to bolster the purchasing power of local residents, while ensuring that retailers accept WIC and SNAP benefit cards.
- Building relationships with store owners to help them feel supported and provides an opportunity to better understand the owners' needs and concerns. Corner stores are businesses and need to make money. It is important to position healthy products as a strategy for increasing profits. By working with owners to understand their stores' particular customer base and operations, we are able to help owners decide which products would work best for the store and determine what additional support may be needed to ensure success.

2018 Accomplishments:

This past year the Food Equity Subcommittee focused its efforts on strengthening the *Suffolk County Healthy Corner Stores Initiative*.

- During 2018, the subcommittee members worked with the current stores - *Neighborhood Country Market Mastic Beach, Weirs Community Market Medford, La Tiendita"- Latin Grocery Southampton, and Riverhead Supermarket Riverhead* participating in the Healthy Corner Stores Initiative.
- Stock low-sodium canned goods and canned fruit in 100% juice. Most of the salt and sugar we eat comes from packaged, processed and store-bought food. The stores already stock canned goods, so it makes sense to provide healthier alternative with existing products.
- Stock at least two healthy snacks (fewer than 200 calories). Children frequently shop at corner stores near their schools, purchasing more than 350 calories/day of mostly junk foods.
- Stocking healthy alternatives helps kids (and adults) make better choices.
- Stock grab-and-go fruit and veggie snacks (such as cut-up fruit in containers or vegetable sticks with low-fat dip), bagged salads
- Stock 100% whole grains, such as 100% whole wheat bread, brown rice, whole wheat pasta and oatmeal.

- Stock water and low-calorie† drinks.
- The Weir store has a deli counter, we included an offer to promote a healthy sandwich or meal combo (with a piece of fruit and water).
- Offering a healthy alternative at an attractive price promotes healthier eating.

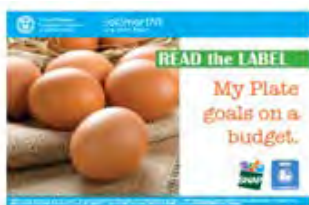


- Healthy messaging posters were displayed along with baskets of fruits and vegetables.
- Acceptance of EBT was visibly posted to attract more customers.
- Dissemination of SNAP resources and outreach materials to store customers.
- Improved choices in hot and cold meals such as “Grilled Chicken Salad.”
- The milk refrigerator has a large stock of milk, 2%, 1%, fat free and some whole milk
- Addition of healthy fresh produce (apples, bananas, nectarines, avocados, etc.), low-fat milk, and low-fat yogurt to the stores regular inventory
- The shelves have been reorganized in the entire store and added more whole grain cereals.
- Based on assessments, we developed enhancement strategies for improving store layout, lighting, storage space, refrigeration, pricing, signs, and façade improvements. Staff shared strategies with store owners for feedback and to solidify steps for moving forward in each store. These strategies included these main components:
 - Creating a produce display that can be seen upon entering the store.
 - Incorporating other healthy foods and recipes in the display.
 - Placing grab-and-go items such as bananas, oranges, and apples at the point of purchase.

Though enhancement strategies primarily leveraged existing structures in each store to better display healthy foods, staff created standard signs and supplied displays with produce baskets and pricing labels. Window clings served as exterior enhancement strategies to attract community members to the fresh produce and other healthy food offerings.

- Conducting customer engagement activities - organized kick-off events. Press releases and ads for community-based newspapers.
 - Recipe and cooking demonstration by Bilingual Eat Smart New York nutritionist educators to healthy meals that could be prepared with ingredients sold at the store.
 - Healthy food recipes and tastings promoted decreasing sugary beverages, high fat and high sodium foods.
 - Coupons to promote healthy food items
 - Included sales on healthy food and beverage items, free re-usable shopping bags for customers (with purchase of sale items),
 - a survey to gauge customer perceptions of healthy food options available at the store, educational materials on healthy eating and lifestyle, and free recipe booklets.

Examples of some of the signage added to the stores -



Other Support Provided:

- Designed and printed new banner and signage.
- Purchased new shelving and deli case to showcase healthy offering.
- Assisted with applications to become a WIC-authorized vendor.
- Connected store with local lenders to discuss financing new equipment for the store.
- Provided free recipes and demonstrations to showcase seasonal healthy items.
- Provide USDA My Plate 10 Tips display “Cut back on your kids sweet treats”, “Make better beverage choices” and ‘Eating foods away from home.’”
- Promote and increase local food access by promoting and expanding farmer’s markets, that will include a Mobile Farmers Market under Eat Smart New York which is an approved market aiming to increase SNAP benefit (EBT) usage at farmer’s markets and deliver new ways to expand the reach of seasonal and local foods to low income families.
- Initial Evaluation Results:
 - Competition from brand name, unhealthy product advertising has made marketing healthy products a continuous challenge. Stores have unhealthy products advertised in mediums within and outside the store, while healthy products were only advertised with in-store advertising and shelving.
 - Finding distributors willing to work with corner stores is a continuous challenge. We sought distributors that could deliver local or high-quality produce at affordable prices; however most small corner stores could not meet distributors’ minimum order volume to qualify for delivery or could not afford distributors’ delivery fees. In addition, distributors, who were used to working with larger and more consistent supermarkets, were not willing to be flexible with corner stores’ inconsistent or infrequent orders.

Process Evaluation was conducted by Cornell University for **Eat Smart New York (ESNY)** on the Implementation of the Healthy Corner Store. This systematically describes how this intervention looks in actual practice. Process assessments was used to determine the intervention was implemented as intended and checks for fidelity, that is, if an evidence-based intervention is delivered as designed and likely to yield the expected outcomes.

- Measurable Impact has been observed with stores based on technical assistance from Eat Smart New York (ESNY) staff on how to stock and sell healthier food and beverage items to improve SNAP population’s access to nutritious food, including fresh fruits and vegetables. The initiative also assists customers to make nutritious selections and provides stores with social marketing materials to raise awareness about the benefits of selecting nutritious foods. These interventions help increase sales of healthy food and raise customer knowledge about healthy food products. Measurable impact has been observed with stores displays and consistent use of marketing materials and signage.

- Implementation was defined as the extent to which program elements were implemented as intended (i.e., fidelity Substantial progress toward program goals
- Owners believed the program was acceptable, feasible, and successful. Partners believed the program is successful
- Store owners and community partners rated ESNY performance highly
- Connectivity with larger ESNY and partner programming created comprehensive approaches to community-wide public health changes

Next steps (subject to change per subcommittee guidance):

The Food Equity Subcommittee will convene in February 2019 to discuss next steps moving forward and identify goals for the coming year. Potential priorities include:

- Continue promotion of the Healthy Corner Stores Initiative and development of a best-practices toolkit.
- Promote and increase local food access by promoting and expanding farmer's markets, increasing SNAP benefit (EBT) usage at farmer's markets explore new ways to expand the reach of seasonal and local foods to low income families.
- Assemble and distribute information about state and local regulations for cooking demonstrations and food sampling, and identify and explore possible changes in policy to encourage more use of cooking demonstrations as educational tools at farmers' markets in a safe, appropriate manner.
- Continue to support work on nutrition standards for foods and beverages purchased and served by agencies, organizations, and worksites.

School Administration and Food Education Subcommittee

The mission of the School Administration and Food Education Subcommittee is to strengthen, promote and prioritize policies that will improve education, health and nutrition through school programs and community involvement.

Initiatives the subcommittee is currently exploring:

New York has introduced several bills encouraging expansion of the Farm to School Program, Education and Child Health:

- S8517 An act to amend the education law, in relation to requiring public schools to offer plant-based food options in food service.
- S3290 (A2899) Addresses instruction in food, agriculture and nutrition in elementary and high school. School districts will utilize either the curriculum for health education instruction regarding food, agriculture and nutrition prescribed by the commissioner or a course approved by the commissioner in accordance with criteria established by the commissioner.
- S2768 (A1081) This bill relates to the creation of the New York Farm to School Garden Fund; allows individuals to make a gift on their personal tax form for such funding. The funding would be used to establish school gardens and purchase equipment and educational materials to promote student's consumption of local products.
- S3025 This act would amend the education law to create a school-to-pantry donation credit which would allow schools to receive tax credits for student/teacher grown food donated to local charities.

2018 Accomplishments:

- Southampton UFSD (Regan Kiembock, FSD) won the NYSNA/NY Ag & Markets F2S Award for "Distribution: Finding Creative Ways to Get or Receive Local Farm Products"
- Gov. Cuomo signed legislation to provide "Additional State Subsidy For Purchasing New York State Food Products". Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2018 provides school food authorities (SFAs) with increased State reimbursement for the purchase of New York State (NYS) food products for school lunch programs. Specifically, SFAs that spend at least thirty percent of total food costs for the school lunch program on NYS food products in the preceding school year are eligible for additional State reimbursement that, combined with any existing State reimbursement, will not exceed twenty-five cents for any school lunch meal. Hereinafter, this initiative will be referred to as the "30% NYS Initiative." To participate in the 30% NYS Initiative, SFAs are required to purchase at least 30 percent of their total food costs for lunches in the preceding school year on NYS food products. The cost of reimbursable lunches will be used as the base to determine the minimum amount of NYS product purchases each SFA is required to incur to receive the additional reimbursement.

- Federal and State procurement requirements and guidance: <http://www.cn.nysed.gov/content/procurement-information>
- Federal and State procurement thresholds: <http://www.cn.nysed.gov/content/guidance-procurement-methods>
- Purchasing local food for use in schools including how to apply geographic preference: <http://www.cn.nysed.gov/farmentoschool> & <https://www.fns.usda.gov/farmentoschool/procuring-local-foods>
- To find New York State products, please visit: <https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/f2s/FoodServiceDirectors.html> .

Next steps (subject to change per subcommittee guidance):

The New York State Farm to School Program (administered by NYS Ag & Markets) was created in 2002 to connect schools with local farms and food producers to strengthen local agriculture, improve student health and promote regional food systems awareness. School administrators, teachers and parents are engaging students in F2S through field trips to local farms and farmers’ markets, food-producing school gardens and related curriculum such as “Agriculture in the Classroom”. The F2S Program works to make it easier for school districts to incorporate local food into their meals and to enhance the overall learning environment.

Our goal is to continue to maximize the use of locally-grown food in schools and institutions. Expand the definition of “products” to include growers, processors and manufacturers. This process will boost county production and consumption of Suffolk County-grown food and increase access to healthier food for underserved populations.

- Assess what percentage of Suffolk County school districts were able to participate in the 30% NYS Initiative.
- Encourage schools to seek additional grant funding for these efforts from sources including, but not limited to:
 - Whole Kids Foundations School Garden Grant Program
 - Apple 4ED - US Apple Association
 - Fuel Up to Play 60
 - Walmart Foundation Community Grant Foundation
 - NEA Student Achievement Grants
 - NEA Learning & Leadership Grants
 - Annie's Grant for Edible School Gardens
 - Safer Brand School Garden Grant
 - 2019 Youth Garden Grant

“Why Buy Local?” Subcommittee

The “Why Buy Local?” subcommittee of the Suffolk County Food Policy Council serves to promote the production, distribution and accessibility of locally grown and harvested food. The subcommittee aims to facilitate access to local healthy food, enhance food security, promote sustainability, and expand economic opportunities for local agricultural and fishing harvesters, growers, processors, and distributors.

Initiatives the subcommittee is currently exploring:

- The Council has been engaged by commercial fishermen and baymen to expand the time and attention dedicated to the marketing, regulatory, and environmental challenges to this heritage Long Island industry. A survey has been circulated within this community via the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development & Planning, the Long Island Commercial Fishing Association, NY Sea Grant, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation to assess the needs, challenges, and opportunities within this critical heritage industry.
- Identify additional funding sources, branding opportunities, and marketing resources for the “Choose LI – Local and Independent” campaign launched in June 2018.

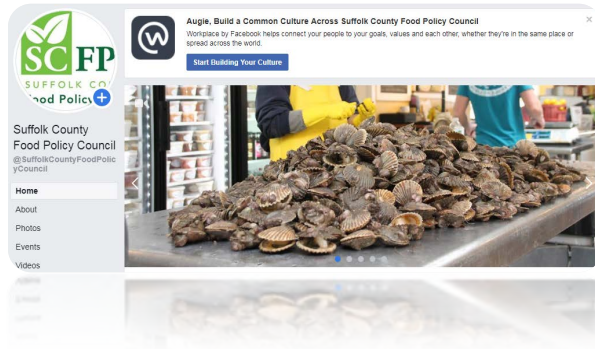
2018 Accomplishments:

- **Choose LI: Local and Independent** – The Suffolk County Department of Economic Development & Planning launched “Choose LI – Local and Independent” in the summer of 2018. “Choose LI” is a collaborative initiative to raise awareness, advocate and inspire the community to support local and independent businesses by spending 10% of their weekly food allowance on local and seasonal food goods across Suffolk County, Long Island. New Yorkers spend \$176 a week on Food (US Bureau of Labor Statistics). Suffolk County, NY has 474,311 households. If 10% of Suffolk County households commits to spending 10% of their weekly food allowance on local food goods over a typical harvest season for Suffolk County, that spending would add 19 million dollars into the Suffolk County economy. 19 million dollars in direct spending will create 33 million dollars in total economic activity and create nearly 1,000 local jobs. The site includes information about the availability of seasonal produce and fish and it is the first website and inventory ever of every single farmstand, farmers market, vineyard, brewery, distillery, and fish market in Suffolk County.
- **FreedomFest** - Promoted food and beverages grown or made locally in the downtown street festival following the Suffolk County Marathon in Patchogue, including the “Choose LI Picnic Area”.
- **Craft Beverage Website** – Created the Suffolk County Craft Beverage Industry webpage. On this page, you can find all the information you need to start your own craft beverage business here in Suffolk County. According to a recent analysis by the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development & Planning, Suffolk County breweries directly generate approximately 320 jobs, support over \$17 million in payroll, and create \$56 million in sales. Using traditional economic multipliers, it is expected that these breweries in total generate nearly \$92 million in economic activity and support nearly 390 jobs. A similar analysis conducted by the Department of Economic Development & Planning determined that Suffolk’s

60 wine producers produce an estimated 1.2 million gallons of wine, directly employ nearly 900 workers, and generate \$114 million in sales. Furthermore, the 1.3 million people these vineyards attract to the region generate another \$99 million in tourism spending. In total, using traditional economic multipliers, the Department has determined that Suffolk County's winemaking industry contributes nearly \$250 million in economic activity and supports over 3,700 jobs. Altogether, breweries and vineyards create over \$340 million in economic activity and support nearly 4,100 jobs!

- **Suffolk County Farmland Preservation** – The Council has supported Suffolk County efforts to restore credibility and stability to Chapter 8, the County's farmland preservation program. The County won its most recent court case, overturning a previous judgment against the County, and once again permitting the construction of agricultural support structures, including greenhouses, barns, fencing, etc. on preserved agricultural land. Additionally, the NY State Court of Appeals has denied the Pine Barrens Society (PBS) latest request for an appeal in the lawsuit against the County's farmland preservation program. Nevertheless, the Council continues to support a push for state legislation to protect the long-term viability of the agriculture industry here in Suffolk County. We will continue support language in the 2020 budget to preserve the long term integrity of the program. The Peconic Land Trust, the Long Island Farm Bureau, the American Farmland Trust, Cornell Cooperative Extension, the NY League of Conservation Voters, the Long Island Wine Council, Farm Credit East, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, Senator Ken LaValle, Assemblyman Fred Thiele, and County Legislators Al Krupski and Bridget Fleming have all been important allies in this effort.
- **Agricultural Visitor's Campus** – Planning and design efforts continue on the Agricultural Visitor's Campus at the Suffolk County Farm in Yaphank. The Suffolk County Department of Public Works and the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development & Planning have been working with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) and the chosen planning and design firm, Burton Behrendt Smith (BBS) on the designs of this facility. The new "agricultural complex" will serve the following functions 1) Act as the "Greeting and Visitors Center" for guests to the Suffolk County Farm 2) Serve as the Administrative heart and classroom center of County funded and CCE administered 4-H programming. 3) Create a comprehensive training ground for "next generation" farmers 4) Promote local agritourism and drive Long Island visitors to nearby agricultural destinations such as farmstands, U-Pick farms, and beer, wine, hard cider, and spirits tasting rooms. 5) Create a sustainable, green campus center that will serve as a learning laboratory for both young students and established architects, engineers, and consultants and planners in the region. This century old working farm already draws over 25K visitors a year. Increased attendance will then expose thousands of new visitors to the agritourism activities available across Long Island.
- **Funding New Farmers** – Successfully awarded all \$1 million in funding to new farmers through the Peconic Land Trust's "Agriculture Capital Equipment Grant Program". This program helped over 25 emerging and established farmers acquire the equipment needed to start or grow their business, transition to a new business model, undertake agricultural stewardship efforts and meet increasing demands for food quality and safety standards. The program is an equipment cost-share program that reimburses farmers up to 20% of the purchase cost of new or used capital equipment. Eligible parties include: 1) New and emerging farmers, including second-career farmers; 2) Farmers upgrading equipment to come into compliance with new food safety regulations and; 3) Farmers transitioning to new commodities or methods of production.

- **Online web presence** - The subcommittee continues to maintain the Facebook account (<https://www.facebook.com/SuffolkCountyFoodPolicyCouncil/>) and a Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/SCFoodCouncil>). Editorial control currently resides in the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development & Planning. The Facebook account has 192 “Likes” which is a 18% increase since 2017. The Twitter account continues to struggle and has just 33 followers.



Next steps (subject to change per subcommittee guidance):

- Market the new “NY Grown and Certified Program Funding” – In 2017, the Peconic Land Trust received \$500,000 in funding from New York State Agriculture & Markets to help local farmers comply with more stringent standards for food safety, a voluntary program to help minimize environmental impacts. Peconic Land will work directly with farmers to assist them in obtaining approval for up to \$50,000 for these investments—covering 90% of total project costs. The contract was finalized in late 2018 and the Peconic Land Trust is accepting applications now.
- Circulate, collect, and tabulate results from Commercial Fishing Needs Assessment survey and utilize the information to create a “Request for Expressions of Interest” in bringing a fish processing facility to Suffolk County.
- Explore additional marketing opportunities for Suffolk County fishermen and shellfish farmers through Choose LI. Increase visitation to the Suffolk County FreedomFest and Choose LI Picnic Area as part of a larger brander effort and increased awareness campaign.
- Secure additional funds (federal/state/etc.) to close the funding gap on the Agricultural Visitor’s Campus in Yaphank.
- Expand online presence. Grow Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Other Initiatives - *Creating Healthy Schools and Communities*

Creating Healthy Schools and Communities is a NYSDOH funded project secured by BOCES with a subcontract to Stony Brook Research Foundation/School of Medicine Nutrition Division. In addition to increasing access to healthy foods and opportunities to increase physical activity within targeted school districts, the project aims to have a similar impact throughout the communities served by these school districts - Brentwood, Central Islip, Southampton (Shinnecock Reservation) and Wyandanch. Stony Brook nutritionists have been working with members of the Suffolk County Food Policy Council to plan and implement policy and environmental changes that can positively impact communities while also providing nutrition education to community members. Monthly meetings are valuable to network and share resources that allow for implementation of the projects described below.

2018 Accomplishments

- Established partnership with Heart of the Hamptons food pantry, Amagansett Food Institute, Cornell Cooperative Extension and Share the Harvest Farm to create a plan to distribute local produce throughout the year to pantry participants. The Amagansett Food Institute flash freezes and vacuum seals the produce and at nutritionists at Stony Brook and Cornell provide the educational support and materials for participants to utilize the produce. Roll-out is scheduled for January 2019
- Established partnership with Federation of Organizations to create an obesity screening process with their Physician Assistants, with appropriate referrals to Stony Brook nutrition intern-run on-site education classes. In addition developing a plan to implement healthier vending options consistent with NYSDOH vending guidelines and standards.
- Purchased a tower garden for the Shinnecock Senior Center and monitoring monthly to provide education on maintaining the garden and incorporating the produce into their meals.
- Continued to work with the Shinnecock Wellness committee to draft nutrition standards for community-sponsored events, and support efforts to install a water fountain in the community center to encourage consumption of water and decrease consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.
- Continue work with Crave Foods, local farmers, Options and Long Island Harvest to initiate an online farmers markets in which purchasing by large anchor institutions can drive distribution and affordable pricing of local produce to smaller community-based organizations serving low income residents.

Next Steps

- Continue with implementation and evaluation of projects noted above.
- Collaborate with Tuckahoe school district to implement vending standards for machines in faculty and staff areas to benefit teachers' and staff health and allow them to model healthy eating for students.
- Develop collaboration with CARECEN, an agency in Central Islip that provides services to immigrant communities. Projects being considered include using nutrition education topics in English as a Second Language classes, engaging corner stores to increase availability of healthy foods and working with community foods pantries to provide nutrition education materials and seek healthier donations.
- Develop collaboration with Central Islip downtown revitalization grant-funded program to include healthy food retail in the downtown area.
- Conduct taste testings, cooking demonstrations and promotional events in community agencies and worksites in targeted communities.
- Continue to seek additional funding to supplement the current grant to facilitate this work.

Other Initiatives - *Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)*

A federal program to strengthen farmers' markets and help low-income families and seniors purchase fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables. In New York State, the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets administers FMNP in collaboration with the NYS Department of Health, the NYS Office for the Aging, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County.

2018 Accomplishments

- Through nutrition staff, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk – Eat Smart New York provides support and outreach for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. Staff provides educational programming to help participants of the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and low-income seniors and SNAP recipients select, store, and prepare fresh produce from the farmers' market.
- Outreach focuses on using CCE educators to increase capacity to serve as resources to nutrition assistance program participants, farmers, market managers, and community agencies involved in FMNP.
- Benefits: Participating in the FMNP supports economic development by increasing a farmer's sales at farmers' markets and farm stands. It also helps to promote the growth of family farms by creating a market for their fresh, local fruit and vegetables. For participants, the FMNP becomes a monetary supplement to encourage increased consumption of fresh, local fruits and vegetables and to improve their knowledge of how to purchase, store and prepare fresh fruits and vegetables.
- This year CCE staff visited farmers markets and reached over 500 adults with technical support on choosing fresh produce and increasing knowledge and skills on food preparation with low cost recipes

Next Steps

- Continue with implementation and expansion of project noted above.



Other Initiatives - *The FRESH Truck Mobile Farmers Market*



The FRESH Truck Mobile Farmers market kicked off on July 11, 2018 as an innovative way to increase accessibility to locally grown fruits and vegetables “via four wheels” in Suffolk County. The market used a retro-fitted donated mini-bus donated by Suffolk Transportation to deliver fresh, locally grown, affordable produce to designated Northwell Healthcare sites as well as Adelante of Suffolk County.

Family Residences and Essential Enterprise Inc. (FREE) in collaboration with Northwell Health’s DSRIP, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County served sites with a Mobile Farmer’s Market (MFM) from July through October of 2018.

2018 Accomplishments

- The truck was stocked with locally-sourced, fresh produce to sell at the designated sites. The sites selected have individuals and families that have limited funds and limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables.
- The Fresh Truck Mobile Market accepted EBT, WIC/Senior FMNP vouchers, Fresh Connect coupons, major credit cards and cash. Additional support from the CCE Education Foundation provided \$10 voucher coupons distributed in high need communities enabling participants to purchase \$15 worth of fresh fruit and vegetables for only \$5. Each participant also received a reusable shopping bag and recipe book.
- The market served 350 families. Participants learned to try new fruits and vegetables and how to prepare low cost nutritious meals/snacks for themselves and/or family. At every stop the Fresh Truck Mobile market made, Eat Smart NY Nutrition Educators were onsite offering nutrition tips for preparing fresh produce, tips for healthy eating and providing healthy recipes. The Mobile Market is due to run again in 2019.

Next Steps

- Continue with implementation and evaluation of projects noted above.
- Continue to seek additional funding to supplement the current grant to facilitate this work.

Other Initiatives – *The Long Island Community Garden Association (LICGA)*

The LICGA still officially has five core board members: Iman Marghoob, Lauren Moy, Khadija Yanni, Barbara Wildfire and Caroline Kiang.

The LICGA website is now active on the Eat Smart-NY website. Caroline Kiang regularly updates it. In addition, we maintain the facebook page as a means to provide education to community gardeners.

LICGA participated in the CCE Spring Garden School in the spring. We provided a display table with material regarding community gardens.

Due to a decrease in the number of board members capable of investing time in LICGA, the board members of LICGA are seeking to join an umbrella organization. We have consulted with Peconic Land Trust as a potential partner, but they declined to adopt our organization as they are inundated with a variety of programming. In addition, we are currently in dialogue with Northshore Land Alliance and have provided them a proposal for a mutually agreeable alliance. If NSLA is not able to approve our request, then we the board members, have decided to create mini grants from the funds raised and will offer them to community gardens after which we will close the doors to the Long Island Community Gardens Association.