



Health in All Policies Task Force

Action Report: Leveraging Government Spending to Support Healthy Procurement

Presented to the Strategic Growth Council on June 21, 2019

This Action Report has been created by the California Health in All Policies Task Force to share tangible outcomes accomplished through the 2011 Implementation Plan "[Leveraging Government Spending to Support Healthy Procurement](#)." The Implementation Plan was created by the California Health in All Policies Task Force and endorsed by the Strategic Growth Council on August 3, 2011 to address the aspirational goal that "[e]very California resident has access to healthy, affordable foods at school, at work, and in their neighborhoods."

Food procurement policies can support a range of benefits for organizations, individuals, and communities. California's state food procurement policies are just one piece of the larger procurement landscape, but an important one given the large annual fiscal expenditures and potential impact on health and the environment.

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Outcomes of Action Steps in the Implementation Plan

Objective 1. Prepare guidelines outlining healthy and location-efficient food procurement standards and model policy language.

- A multi-agency State Food Procurement Work Group developed "[Nutrition Guidelines for Food Procurement and Service in Adult California Correctional Facilities](#)" for state purchasing contracts to make it easier for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to meet its heart-healthy nutrition guidelines.
- Beginning in early 2014, the Department of General Services (DGS) applied these guidelines to change state contracted food specifications, and has systematically applied the guidelines to food contracts as they come up for renewal. As a result of these changes, DGS has reduced sodium in lunch meat by 250 milligrams per serving, as well as several other products, and CDCR has reduced overall sodium in the meals they serve to inmates.
- The revised contract language has also led food producers to offer healthier products in their bids, many mirroring changes in the national school nutrition guidelines. In addition, now that healthier products are available through state contracts, these products can be purchased by other government entities such as parks, schools, or hospitals.

Objective 2. Pilot test a model healthy and location-efficient food procurement policy.

- Health in All Policies staff collaborated with the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and California Department of Public Health to pilot and evaluate an employee Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program in Sacramento. This pilot helped increase state employee access to fresh fruits and vegetables, support local agriculture, and model employee wellness for the wider community.
- Evaluation results were positive, and led to replication of the program at the Elihu Harris building in Oakland, which houses staff from over 20 State departments. The Sacramento CSA ended in 2016, and CDPH and DHCS have explored opportunities to begin a new program.
- Based on the DHCS pilot project and evaluation, staff developed “how-to” handouts and a presentation for potential new sites. These materials can be used by any state agency/building wishing to begin a CSA program.

Related Outcomes

These bullets describe additional outcomes that were not initially expected.

- **Policy.** The American Heart Association, California Center for Public Health Advocacy, and California Pan-Ethnic Health Network sponsored SB 912 (2013-2014), “Promoting A Healthy State Vending Policy,” citing the California Health in All Policies Task Force recommendation to “implement and strengthen existing legislation to promote healthier options in vending machines.”¹ This bill, signed into law in 2014, extended the timeframe for an existing policy which requires 35% of foods and beverages sold in vending machines in state buildings to meet minimum nutritional standards.
- **Collaboration.** At the request of several state agencies, Health in All Policies Task Force staff convened meetings of a “State Food Procurement Work Group” for two years. Participants included the Departments of Aging, Corrections and Rehabilitation, Education, Food & Agriculture, General Services, Public Health, and Veterans Affairs.
- **Research and Publications.** At the direction of the Health in All Policies Task Force, staff created a suite of four publications regarding healthy food procurement practices and policies, including a report titled *California State Government Food Procurement Policies and Practices*, which details the mechanisms by which food in California is purchased through state contracts.
 1. *California State Government Food Procurement Policies and Practices (2016)* - This document describes California’s government food contracting pathways, provides information about how specific State-level departments procure food, and discusses challenges and opportunities for advancing health and sustainability. This is the first report of its kind, and provides a unique perspective on the complex and intersecting procurement pathways that shape the State government food environment. (<http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/hiap/docs/20160916-CASateGovernmentFoodProcurementPoliciesandPractices-2016.pdf>)
 2. *A Scan of State and Local Food Procurement Policies (2016)* - This document provides information about recent state and local laws, ordinances, guidelines, and other mandates that aim to influence the food environment, from California

and throughout the country. (<http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/hiap/docs/20160920-AScanofStateandLocalFoodProcurementPolicies-2016.pdf>)

3. *Healthy Food Procurement: Case Stories (2016)* - This document describes several city, county, and state government approaches toward developing and implementing healthy food procurement practices.
(<http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/hiap/docs/20170221-HealthyFoodProcurement-CaseStories.pdf>)
4. *Health in All Policies in Action: Improving Nutritional Content of Food in Correctional Facilities by Modifying Contract Bid Specifications (2016)* - This document is a case story describing the work related to nutritional guidelines in correctional facilities.
(http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/hiap/docs/20170104CaseStory_NutritionalGuidelinesforCorrectionalFacilitites.pdf)
- **Training.** In 2011 California Department of Public Health's Health in All Policies staff provided a training on the role of vending and concessions in promoting health, for vendors through the Department of Rehabilitation, Business Enterprise Program which recruits, trains, licenses, and places individuals who are blind as operators of vending facilities on state property. The training explained links between nutrition, diabetes, and vision loss, taught vendors how to read nutrition labels, described legal requirements for healthy food in vending machines, and described approaches for marketing healthier options.

Next Steps

Increasing access to affordable healthy food is a priority of the Health in All Policies Task Force. Possible future actions include:

- Expand the work to promote healthy nutrition guidelines to other departments and populations, including State hospitals, local jails, and juvenile facilities.
- Expand healthy food activities to support sustainable / environmentally responsible food procurement, including but not limited to issues related to food waste.

For More Information

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¹ Rudolph, L., et al., Health in All Policies Report to the Strategic Growth Council. 2010, California Department of Public Health and University of California, San Francisco.