



## **Statement of Food Policy Principles—Seeking Greater Access to Quality, Affordable Food**

1. Access to healthy, affordable food is a human right regardless of location, income, race or gender and therefore should be one of the most important goals of NYC public policy.
2. Healthcare advocates seeking long-term solutions to disproportionate rates of obesity, heart disease and diabetes in low-income communities must include employment and wages as factors in considering access to healthy, affordable food.
3. Healthy communities require a variety of purchasing options, including: farmers' markets, CSAs, community gardens, urban agriculture, food co-ops and supermarkets. These entities must work together with city and state officials to ensure a balanced range of food sources.
4. Public money is needed to ensure that existing and new responsible food retailers can build profitably in low-income communities and still provide food at reasonable prices.
5. All types of public/private partnerships need to be considered to finance existing responsible food retailers and the development of new food retailers responsive to community needs.
6. The policy of the City of New York should encourage the preservation and development of supermarkets in low-income communities by discouraging the eviction of supermarkets, changing the existing land use and zoning laws, implementing economic incentives, reviewing existing regulatory processes, and mainstreaming construction procedures. To ensure food access, special attention should also be given to any new development that includes new housing.
7. Responsible food retailers produce entry-level and skilled jobs, pay a living wage, and provide health benefits, pensions, and the type of financial job security necessary for a community to be economically viable. These create economic stimulus and buying power in low-income communities to ensure food security and good health.
8. Workers employed by markets that do not meet their economic responsibilities by providing living wage jobs, health benefits, job security, job training and career advancement should be afforded the opportunity to organize and improve their working conditions.
9. A regional approach to food procurement at the private and public levels can lower the cost of food, create jobs, ensure food safety, support small farmers and reduce carbon emissions, particularly by government and state agencies.
10. The Federal Food Stamp Program could provide a needed economic stimulus to New York City if it is made accessible to all eligible participants. A unified legislative effort by advocates will maximize our ability to reform the food stamp program to meet the economic, health, and food access needs of everyday New Yorkers.
11. Partnerships between supermarkets and health and nutrition advocates should be created to ensure that communities benefit from increased access.
12. Along with our effort to expand supermarkets, a citywide education program is needed to promote the three basic tenets that are the building blocks of all communities: good food, good jobs and good health.
13. Partnerships between supermarkets, local food manufacturers, regional farms, urban agriculture, and farmers' markets will create more local jobs and increase the sale of locally produced foods. Investment in infrastructure like the Hunts Point Market and wholesale farmers' market will enhance these partnerships.
14. A coalition of hunger advocates, environmental groups, health organizations, labor, industry representatives, city officials and community members should be formed both in conjunction with and separate from existing state and city councils to ensure the long-term viability of these food policy principles.