



**North Dakota Public Health Association 2022 Resolution
Support of the Development and Growth of Local Food Systems in North
Dakota**

Whereas many of us experienced for the first time during the pandemic going to a grocery store and not finding items or classes of food items we were seeking;

Whereas half of school districts in North Dakota lost their primary food distributor and food deliveries in November 2021, and food orders have been delayed, backordered, out of stock for schools, long term care facilities, grocery stores, and most all places that prepare and serve and sell food;

Whereas people who have access to and can afford healthy food are healthier and there exist barriers to, and disparities in, the accessibility and availability of foods that support healthy eating patternsⁱ;

Whereas agriculture and food production are important to producers and the state and local economiesⁱⁱ;

Whereas North Dakota has zero food hubs (a food hub is a regional center with personnel who aggregate food from multiple sources and helps to get food to where needed)ⁱⁱⁱ;

Whereas in a six-year period North Dakota lost more than 20 percent of its rural grocery stores^{iv}, and a map commissioned by the North Dakota Rural Grocer Initiative showing location of grocery stores has not been updated since prior to the pandemic^v;

Whereas, locating places where food is stored, sold, prepared, and served, and how it is transported are crucial for disaster/emergency preparedness^{vi}; economic development, identification of gaps and policy decision-making; and

Whereas, local food systems served as innovative, flexible, and resilient responders to food needs during the COVID-19 pandemic^{vii}; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the North Dakota Public Health Association, on behalf of its members:

1. supports the development of connected and planned local food systems that assure that North Dakota nourishes its residents in addition to growing food and commodities that are exported across the United States and the world;
2. requests that the great State of North Dakota, with its information technology resources, map all food retailers, including supermarkets, grocery stores, farmers markets, and convenience stores and make the map readily available online and updated annually; and

3. requests the coordination and collaboration of the state departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Public Instruction, and Commerce, along with tribal governments, nonprofit and membership associations, and organizations, including the North Dakota Public Health Association, to bring focus and resources to healthful food supplies and food systems for our residents.

References:

ⁱ <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/access-foods-support-healthy-eating-patterns>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.medialibrary.nd.gov/assetbank-nd/assetfile/94914.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.ams.usda.gov/local-food-directories/foodhubs>

^{iv} ND Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Rural Grocer Initiative, office records, 2016-2019

^v Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota Coalition COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts and Response to Food Access Needs in North Dakota, July 2021

^{vi} U.S. Department of Education Office of Safe and Supportive Schools <https://rem.ed.gov/AboutUs.aspx> and [https://rem.ed.gov/docs/FoodWebinar_Presentation_508C\[1\].pdf](https://rem.ed.gov/docs/FoodWebinar_Presentation_508C[1].pdf)

^{vii} *Local and Regional Food Systems Response to COVID*, <https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/>