

Maricopa County Food System Coalition

Vibrant communities are the result of paying attention to everyone’s basic needs from a health perspective. In this regard, a strong food system is critical. There are many great efforts going on to strengthen individual parts of the food system, such as purchasing locally grown food or promoting composting, but these efforts oftentimes lacked coordination or connection to the rest of the County food system.

Based on successful work in other communities, Vitalyst Health Foundation joined with initial partners to co-develop. The Maricopa County Food System Coalition. The Coalition is working to coalesce, connect and leverage the work of more than 150 partners towards mutually beneficial goals.



The mission of the Maricopa County Food System Coalition is to support and grow a food system in Maricopa County that is equitable, healthy, sustainable, and thriving. The Coalition focuses on innovative and collaborative solutions to issues with our local food system, which includes: growing, harvesting, processing and packaging, transporting, selling, eating, and recycling and composting.



The Coalition is currently undertaking a county-wide assessment of the food environment. Considering that Maricopa County is the 4th most populous county and the 15th largest in the U.S., this is no small matter. The purpose of the assessment is to better understand the food system, to capitalize on its strengths and organize to address the challenges. Much of the assessment is being funded by a grant from the Gila River Indian Community.

Learn more about the coalition at marcofoodcoalition.org and follow the Coalition on Facebook @MarCoFoodCoalition.

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