

We, students, workers and residents of St. Louis Park, petition to have both the district and city support a **Community Food Project Coalition** bringing together all the entities of government, education, healthcare, social and philanthropic services, faith organizations and community clubs/associations to work toward Food Equity by eliminating hunger and improving access to and education of nutritious, safe and affordable food in St. Louis Park.

1. City and District-wide participation in a Community Food Project Coalition
2. Improve access to nutritious, safe and affordable food for all in St. Louis Park
3. Apply time of staff to support, develop and implement Coalition goals
4. Provide Letters of Understanding on grants
5. Hold public listening sessions regarding Food Equity
6. Develop no-debt certifications and job/business training in living-wage vocations regarding food.

RETURN PETITION TO SLPSEEDS@gmail.com
(a .jpg is sufficient)

SLP Community-Led Food Project Coalition Participation PETITION



SLP Community Food Security Task Force started this petition to Mayor Jake Spano and 3 others

The SLP Community Food Security Task Force worked hard to, and achieved, getting Food Security and Access into the city's new 10-year Comprehensive Plan. Over 900 signatures were obtained to petition this achievement and we are thankful the city listened.

But there's more to do as the disconnect of how Food is the #1 culprit as well as the #1 victim of Climate Change is -- missing in our city's new Climate Action Plan.

There's also still a disconnect about Food and Equity, where the city sees the priority of Affordable Housing but does not see Housing is only one shoe of poverty. **The other shoe is Food.**

**If someone has a hard time affording housing, we know they experience the same with food.
A child who is hungry cannot learn as they would be given *nutritious* food.**

And, there's a disconnect about Health and Food as well, including the nation's crisis in obesity, with 20% of our children suffering from food insecurity yet obesity.

While SEEDS supports the Health in the Park work of the city raising Mental Wellbeing and improved access to physical activity, the work in nutritious food access is lacking outside the work of SLP SEEDS and STEP.

There are many organizations working to improve nutrition but a lack of collective collaboration. The community-driven Food Security Task Force sees a potential to bring all those organizations together in order to stop duplicating efforts and find the gaps where efforts are missed.

This is the reason we work toward an SLP Food Council, as many other cities have already created.

The way to begin is through a Community Food Project Coalition of all those interested in eliminating hunger or poor nutrition in SLP, working on Climate Change, working on Equity and promoting better Health.

The intersection is a Just Food System that assures all in SLP have access to fresh nutritious food and the skills surrounding it, including job creation in the green technology fields surrounding food, energy and their integration.

This intersection looks at Global Issues and implements solutions through Local Changes.

With the Comprehensive Plan including a Food Security and Access Study, and the district working toward new kitchens and scratch food cooking, it makes sense to bring all the elements together, including nonprofits, faith groups, businesses and other organizations together, with the city and the school district.

Rather than duplicating efforts, the efforts can be stronger and the gaps in efforts found and eliminated.

The school district is willing to participate in the conversation as a potential member of an SLP Community Food Project if the city will come on board. The city has told the school district they are not participating in a Community Food Project. There is no reason why, just disconnect on all the ties Food has to every element of a thriving life in SLP.

We petition the city to participate in an SLP Community Food Project.

We petition the school board to participate in an SLP Community Food Project, regardless if the city accepts this petition or not.