

Briefing:

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Food

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The Alaska Food Coalition

Mission

The purpose of the Alaska Food Coalition is to strengthen and coordinate public and private food and nutrition assistance programs, and to educate policymakers about Alaskan food needs.

Membership

The Coalition is comprised of state agencies, municipalities, members of the private food assistance community, citizens, and organizations determined to make a difference in the food and nutritional issues facing our state.

Structure

The leadership of the AFC is the executive committee comprised of the Past Chair, Chair, Chair Elect, Secretary and Treasurer of the organization. The Chair-elect Secretary and Treasurer are elected annually at the face-to-face meeting of the AFC. All office terms are one year in duration. AFC funds are held on deposit with designated member organization 501 C3's.

Statement of Purpose A Food and Nutrition Policy for Alaska

Purpose and Members of Alaska Food Coalition

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Alaska lacks a comprehensive picture of the demographics of food needs, whether there's duplication in use of services, patterns of use, or gaps in food assistance programs. The Alaska Food Coalition feels it is vital to more clearly define the problem, the successes, and the challenges of our food distribution and assistance programs in a comprehensive way.

Hunger

Hunger can be defined "as a recurrent, involuntary lack of access to food." We know there are hungry people in Alaska communities, because Alaskans come to the food pantries, shelters, and informal food distribution sites. We also know that hunger in our state is not limited to the homeless and helpless. Finally, we recognize that a bright future for Alaska depends upon creating an environment in which children can learn and develop in a healthy way because they have proper nutrition, whether at home or in school.

Vision

The Alaska Food Coalition's vision for Alaska concerning food and nutrition means that there would be few if any families or individuals needing medium to long term assistance from food pantries, shelters, and/or informal food distribution sites. Short term requirements for food and nutrition by needing persons will be met in two ways. First of all, there will be plentiful statewide food products available to private sector distribution sites. This plentiful availability of food products will become possible by improving the distribution networks already in existence, by bettering the transportation routes already in existence and by enhancing public and private sector efforts to procure nutritional food products. Secondly, and most importantly, there will be processes that enable needing persons to become self-sufficient. These processes will require needing persons to actively participate, to their ability, in order to continue to receive food and nutritional assistance.

We see Alaska becoming a "world class" example of private/public partnership in the elimination of hunger because "everyone deserves a place at the table."

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