

POLICY BRIEF FOR Res.#130-2026

Resolution or Local Law summary is written and approved by the Department of Law and Legislature Clerks.

Resolution: Pass the Good Food NY Bill

The Effects of Competitive Pricing on Onondaga County Children and Farmers

Per the 2023 [Map the Meal Gap report](#)¹19,150 children in Onondaga County are food insecure. That means 1 in 5 children in our community go to bed without dinner and lack an accessible path to reliable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food sources.

But businesses, not just residents, also experience barriers in supplying healthy and locally accessible foods. Currently in New York State, local governments and public facilities like schools and hospitals are required to award food contracts to vendors based solely on the most affordable or “best value” price. This neglects social and economic factors such as whether the vendor provides farm workers safe and healthy conditions and the proximity of farm locations to buyers, which in turn can support the local economy. Because prioritizing community benefits in the purchasing process is low, if present at all, the advantages that local vendors provide are invisible to buyers weighing cost and value from local farms. In a recent committee meeting, Legislator David Knapp (District 12) cited an example of rural schools in Onondaga County buying apples from Washington State instead of a local farm to feed children. When that occurs, communities in New York lose ease of access to local food, the opportunity to patronize a small or mid-size local farm and experience a higher risk of purchasing food that is spoiled, of lesser quality, or damaged during transport.

The Result

The current food purchasing program weakens our regional and local food system. It also limits our ability to effectively address food insecurity in our country by limiting options on who public sector buyers can purchase from. What taxpayers are getting is a limited value product that does not support local aims of alleviating food insecurity and options to circumvent national and international food supply chain disruption.

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FOOD INSECURITY	BROKEN PURCHASE SYSTEM	SMALL FARMS CANT COMPETE
Onondaga County Children experiencing food insecurity do not benefit from the current model for food purchasing by public institutions	New York State’s current food purchasing system commonly leads local governments to buy food from out-of-state vendors	Small and Mid-Size local Farmers can’t compete in the current system

¹ <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2023/overall/new-york/county/onondaga>

HOW THIS LEGISLATION HELPS

This resolution is calling on the New York State Governor to sign the “Good Food NY (New York) Bill”, which has already passed the Senate and Assembly. If signed, municipalities (e.g. city, town, county, etc.) will be allowed to weigh factors such as farm location, working conditions, and community needs when awarding contracts to vendors. This practice is referred to as value-based purchasing. For both Onondaga County and other municipalities, value-based purchasing intentionally allows for circulating money into the regional and local economy by buying from local food producers and building resilience to minimize disruptions in (inter)national food supply chains. Overall, our communities will be able to expand our food purchasing options, allowing for a potential increase in access to food and improving the number and quality of sources for food purchasing with better state purchasing policies. The Good Food NY Bill is good for Onondaga County.

Associated Costs: This bill allows institutions to pay up to 10% more for food, increasing purchases in the local economy.

Who Oversees? New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

Who Implements? The bill allows purchasing criteria to change effective immediately. Local municipal purchasing divisions will continue to oversee the buying of goods.

QUICK FACT

14%

of the state lost its farms and over 9% of farmland between 2012 to 2022.

- NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli: Agriculture Report Reveals Economic Growth and Challenges Facing New York Farms, 2024

WHAT WE'RE HEARING

Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes says “..this bill will help keep farms in business by creating more stable, reliable markets for New York producers.” (Advocates, 2026)²

Senator Michelle Hinchey says “Good Food NY bill will [bring] New York-grown food to New Yorkers in our schools, hospitals, and all public institutions.” (Advocates, 2026)

Legislator David Knapp says “This bill will improve the county by improving availability of high-quality food while supporting local businesses”

Micah Orieta, SOFSA says “Through our work, we see firsthand how public food procurement decisions shape health outcomes, economic opportunity, labor standards, animal welfare and environmental sustainability. With millions of dollars at stake, procurement decisions significantly shape institutional markets and food systems and must be transformed to deliverable, measurable public benefit.” (Legislature Public Comments, 2026).

² Advocates, C. F. (2026, June 5). *Good Food NY Bill Passes NYS Legislature, headed back to Gov Hochul's Desk*. Community Food Advocates. <https://www.foodadvocates.org/press-links/2026-goodfoodny-passes-legislature>