

Healthy Food Goal

7. Goal: Residents have access to enough convenient, affordable, healthy, and culturally preferred food options at stores, in school, and through food assistance programs.

7.1. Recommendation: Establish a municipal food policy council to develop a forum for advocacy and policy development to ensure equitable, healthy food access for all residents

7.2. Recommendation: Create food procurement policies to increase healthy and local food purchasing in Randolph across different institutions such as schools, the RICC, and municipal offices to ensure meals offered to students, elder residents, town staff and other residents are nutritious.

7.3. Recommendation: Establish a Healthy Food Zone Ordinance or amend the zoning code to prohibit additional fast-food and formula fast-food establishments and food and beverage vendor carts from locating near schools. Currently these are permitted by right or by a permit from the Town Council in a range of business and highway districts in Randolph. [Reference ChangeLab Solution's model ordinance.](#)

7.4. Recommendation: Partner with the Department of Transitional Assistance, Women Infants and Children (WIC) and other organizations to ensure that all residents who qualify for SNAP, WIC, and other food assistance program are aware of the resources and can apply for enrollment easily and in their primary language.

7.5. Recommendation: Encourage development of small and independent food businesses that increase availability of healthy and culturally diverse food options. Investigate application to the Massachusetts Food Trust Program for grants, loans and technical assistance to make this happen.

Food Policy Councils (FPCs) are multi-sectoral networks that address food-related issues and needs of a particular place. Through collaboration among diverse sectors FPCs reform food systems through public policy. There are more than [20 local food policy councils in Massachusetts](#). For more information click [here](#):

A Health Food Zone Ordinance prohibits new fast food restaurants from locating within a certain distance from any schools or other designated locations children are likely to frequent such as parks, playgrounds, or youth centers. It does not prohibit operation of existing fast food restaurants. For more information click [here](#).