

The following 2023 strategic objectives have been developed by the current Council members and the board. They are informed by the findings from our data dashboard, our annual network survey, and our annual Council member self-evaluation. Our goal is to clearly communicate our most important areas of work for the next year.

The second part of this document provides more detail about how these draft strategic objectives could be achieved through a set of activities either planned for or in discussion for the coming year.

## 2023 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Increase food access, security, justice, and sovereignty for marginalized Rhode Islanders by coordinating and advocating for changes that enable all people to eat healthy, nutritious, culturally and religiously appropriate food of their own choice, regardless of zip code
- Support the economic strength and resilience of RI food businesses, especially those that have been historically under-served and/or under-resourced
- Create, contribute to, and advocate for policy that integrates climate, justice, environment, and food recovery in a way that centers social responsibility and economic equity at the municipal, state and Federal levels
- Provide leadership, resources, and direction to state food system planning and policymaking in alignment with RIFPC's commitment to equity
- Empower the network - current Council, Council alumni, and the broader network – to build community power and affect positive change in alignment with our mission

**INCREASE FOOD ACCESS, SECURITY, JUSTICE, AND SOVERIEGNTY FOR MARGINALIZED RHODE ISLANDERS BY COORDINATING AND ADVOCATING FOR CHANGES THAT ENABLE ALL PEOPLE TO EAT HEALTHY, NUTRITIOUS, CULTURALLY AND RELIGIOUSLY APPROPRIATE FOOD OF THEIR OWN CHOICE, REGARDLESS OF ZIP CODE.**

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

- Broaden and strengthen relationships within the Food Access Work Group

- Coordinate and widen/deepen participation in HETF (e.g., by holding 4 quarterly meetings centering the voices and experiences of marginalized Rhode Islanders; hosting small 'Community of Practice' meetings to explore and plan for progress in addressing particular areas of interest; a publishing state agency food access updates via a regular Food Access Bulletin)

## PROGRAMS

- Educate public about key issues related to food access and nutrition security and the importance of food sovereignty
- Support food access and food justice organizations and the public agencies that serve them in applying for appropriate funding opportunities
- Develop and pilot a prototype 'Food Leaders Lab' in partnership with the Health Equity Zone program
- Co-lead and launch the 'Rhody Feeding Rhody Alliance' to support and further work connecting local food with local food insecure communities

## POLICY

- Advocate for relevant legislation at the state and Federal level (e.g., Healthy School Meals for All)

## **SUPPORT THE ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE OF RHODE ISLAND FOOD BUSINESSES, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN HISTORICALLY UNDER-SERVED AND/OR UNDER-RESOURCED.**

## PARTNERSHIPS

- Broaden and strengthen relationships within the Food Business Work Group

## PROGRAMS

- Educate public about key issues related to food business and related supports, including those who have been historically underserved and under resourced
- Support educational programs aimed at developing the next generation of food systems workers (e.g., CCRI Associate Degree program)
- Provide TA for grants, loans, and services to underserved farm, fish, and food businesses, and the public agencies that serve them
- Support large infrastructure projects as appropriate and ensuring RIFPC values guide them
- Develop plans for supporting home-based food entrepreneurship aimed at those who have been historically underserved and under resourced

## POLICY

- Advocate for relevant legislation, regulation, and investment decisions at the municipal, state, and Federal level (e.g., support for second stage businesses)

## **CREATE, CONTRIBUTE TO, AND ADVOCATE FOR POLICY THAT INTEGRATES CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT, AND FOOD RECOVERY IN A WAY THAT CENTERS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ECONOMIC EQUITY AT THE MUNICIPAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LEVELS.**

## PARTNERSHIPS

- Coordinate and widen/deepen participation in Food, Climate, and Environment Work Group

## PROGRAMS

- Educate public about key issues related to food, ag, and climate lifting up the RIFPC mission and values, including using an equity lens

## POLICY

- Advocate for relevant legislation at the state and Federal level (e.g., tax incentives for food donation, stronger mandates for composting for commercial food waste generators)
- Provide information and resources to the state EC4 and others in leadership and decision-making roles about specific ways to integrate food into climate policy

## **PROVIDE LEADERSHIP, RESOURCES, AND DIRECTION TO STATE FOOD SYSTEM PLANNING AND POLICYMAKING IN ALIGNMENT WITH RIFPC'S COMMITMENT TO EQUITY.**

## PROGRAMS

- Participate in Relish Rhody 2.0 processes and other state planning processes (e.g., the 10-year land use plan and the EMA sector specific plan for food and agriculture) ensuring alignment with RIFPC values, including equity
- Increase knowledge of food systems issues and potential actions at the municipal level, including the use of an equity lens
- Provide input to the LASA grant program, including via participation on the advisory as well as performing related evaluation and advocacy activities.
- Maintain a free, public, broadly accessible and regularly updated dashboard of key food systems indicators and Bill Tracker

## **POLICY**

- Strengthen ties with natural allies for equitable policy work (e.g. ECRI and it's members)
- Build our profile with, educate, and keep informed our state elected officials, and help them adopt and implement an equity lens
- Remain active on the regional and national level (e.g., co-lead the New England State Food System Planners Partnership 'New England Feeding New England' project and participate in the National Food Policy Network on issues from Farm Bill advocacy to racial justice and equity)

## **EMPOWER THE NETWORK – CURRENT COUNCIL, COUNCIL ALUMNI, AND THE BROADER NETWORK – TO BUILD COMMUNITY POWER AND AFFECT POSITIVE CHANGE IN ALIGNMENT WITH OUR MISSION**

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

- Maintain and grow a diverse set of Council members annually, including the provision of an 'opt out' equity stipend
- Diversify and enrich work group participation
- Develop stronger, more effective and equitable communication and decision-making processes across Council members, staff and Board
- Continue to build a deeper and more action-oriented commitment to equity and justice across Council members, staff and board

## **PROGRAMS**

- Support evaluation of projects/programs/pilots across sectors , including use of equity lens
- Develop a 'Food Leaders Lab' to enhance advocacy and leadership skill building for Council and Work Group members
- Fill project/program/pilot gaps across issue areas with partners as appropriate
- Develop and implement a strategic communications strategy (e.g., publish Monthly newsletter, regular social media presence)