

**From:** John Stoddard <jstoddard@hcwh.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2013 12:41 PM  
**To:** SIM, OHA  
**Subject:** CT State Innovation Model

Hello,

My name is John Stoddard. I am writing to comment on the Connecticut Health Care Innovation Plan. I think it is a wonderful idea to improve health through preventative measures such as improving diet, as proposed in the plan. However, I think this plan is missing an opportunity to call upon our state's farmers to improve access to healthy foods.

You may, or may not know, that there are two state initiatives to support the state's farmers and food producers. The Governor's Council on Agricultural Development (GCAD) is a government-led group that has been charged with increasing customer dollars spent on CT farm products. The CT Food System's Alliance is a community-based group aiming to improve the local food system to support farmers and community health. I participate in both of these groups because I am a Healthy Food in Health Care Coordinator for Health Care Without Harm, and I work with several hospitals in CT to help them increase their purchases of local and sustainable foods as a strategy to improve community health and support environmental sustainability. These hospitals are modeling healthy choices through their on-site farmers markets, Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs) programs, and promotion of the local and sustainably produced foods served in their cafeterias.

Increasing access to whole, unprocessed, healthy foods is an important strategy for improving community health. Why not increase access while supporting the states farmers?

I have identified three areas where local foods might be incorporated into the plan

1. Community Health Improvement, Health Enhancement Communities or HECs

- Why not improve access in targeted communities by supporting farmers markets and CSAs at hospitals and other places of work?

2. Certified Community Based Practice Support Entities: diabetes prevention.

- Whole, unprocessed foods have complex carbohydrates and no added sugars which is key for a diabetic's diet. Let's improve access from local producers.

3. Consumer Incentives, Rewards for Nutritional Purchasing.

- encourage farmer's markets and CSA programs at workplaces

- partner with GCAD and BuyCTgrown to incentivize purchases of fresh local foods at institutions and corporate cafeterias

- indicate a preference for whole, light-processed foods in the state purchasing contract and strengthen CT grown parameters

- when considering incentives/subsidies for more nutritious foods consider tying to farmers markets and CSAs

Thank you for considering my suggestions. I sincerely hope that this health effort is not conducted in a silo, but will call upon our state's farmers to fulfill the needs of the community. This will make for healthier people and a healthier economy.

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