



## FOOD HUBS

*A vital link in the food chain from the farm to the kitchen*

- ❖ Food hubs serve to **connect food producers to consumers** by aggregating products from a variety of local producers and distributing them to larger markets.
- ❖ In New Jersey, **small- and mid-sized producers currently lack access to local markets** outside of direct-to-consumer outlets, such as farmers markets and community supported agriculture operations.
- ❖ Food hubs would allow **small- and mid-sized producers to gain access to larger markets** such as universities, state agencies, and other institutions.
- ❖ A New Jersey food hub could attract the services not only of in-state producers but also those of surrounding states.

### What is a food hub?

Food hubs are private or nonprofit organizations that act as centralized supply chain coordinators, like a middle-man between state food producers, distributors, and retailers. Food hubs also often provide a variety of services centered on bringing together producers and consumers, such as product storage, branding and market promotion, and food safety and good agricultural practices (GAP) training.

Check out food hubs in the  
**New Jersey PATHS Report:**  
pp. 41, 78–80

### What are the benefits of a food hub?

Food hubs serve as an important resource for small-scale farmers by pooling agricultural products into a volume that can meet institutional needs. Institutions within the state, and the citizens they serve, benefit from having access to fresh, local products.

Thirty-four states have food hubs, including New York and Pennsylvania, which have five and three food hubs, respectively. However, there are no food hubs operating in the state of New Jersey.

### What should New Jersey do?

1. New Jersey can **provide funding to help develop food hubs** and aggregators throughout the state through **direct grants** or **low-interest loans**.
2. New Jersey can specifically encourage the **development of a food hub in New Brunswick, New Jersey**, which was identified by a 2012 Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy report for having infrastructure that would support a food hub, potential buyers, related services and activities the food hub could provide, as well as potential locations for the food hub.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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