

## **Food Policy Advisory Council Task Force Structure**

### **Food System Assessment**

*This task force works to address the following mission of the Governor's Exec. Order:*

*4a) Collect and analyze information on the production and process of foods in Ohio, as well as the patterns of food consumption*

**Focus:** Get a baseline of output – what is produced? How much is purchased/consumed in Ohio and by whom? How much is processed, distributed, and marketed in the state of Ohio? How do the above aspects compare to the potential in these areas?

Identify the barriers – what limits access to: farming, distribution, processing, local & statewide markets and institutions? Identify/assess cost barriers (i.e. percent of disposable income going to purchase food).

What policy barriers exist and what types of policies can advance access and development of local markets?

### **Agriculture Viability**

*This task force works to address the following mission of the Governor's Exec. Order:*

*4b) Protect Ohio's valuable farmland and water resources by encouraging the growth of food products in Ohio*

**Focus:** Identification of opportunities for market expansion – diversification, agri-tourism, niche markets, etc.; catalog innovative local/sustainable agriculture and food system efforts in the state; identify opportunities and resources to support beginning farmers; examine the state's food processing infrastructure needs; evaluate ways to help farmers generate more revenue from value-added activity; assess the impact of the food system on the environment; consider the relationship between farmland preservation efforts and our food system.

## **Food Policy Advisory Council Task Force Structure (cont'd)**

### **Healthy Food Access**

*This task force works to address the following mission of the Governor's Exec. Order:*

*4c) Provide those in need with greater access to fresh and nutritious foods*

**Focus:** Maximize coordination of federal, state, and local resources; increase participation rate in food stamp programs; ensure that we receive the maximum allocations for food assistance; full utilization of EBT technology at farmers markets in Ohio; streamline food assistance programs; nutrition and healthy food access issues; grow your own food issues; issues related to food and medicine.

### **Market Connections**

*This task force works to address the following two missions of the Governor's Executive Order:*

*4d) Assist Ohio's farmers and business in marketing their food products inside and outside of the State*

*4e) Develop strategies to link producers and consumers in local food systems*

**Focus:** This task force focuses on issues that link producers to consumers, grocers, restaurants, and institutions; support for regional, state, and external markets; identification of barriers; promotion of Ohio Proud; look for economic development opportunities in Ohio's food system; distribution infrastructure; educating young consumers about how their food gets to them.