

Farm to Institution New York State



New York is one of the nation's top food-producing states with 36,000 farms and over 7 million acres of farmland. Yet, New York has lost roughly 4,500 farms to real estate development since the early 1980s with farmers needing greater economic opportunities to sustain their businesses.

At the same time, efforts to bring healthy food to groups served by institutions have been growing in New York. These initiatives are having real impact but often face challenges in securing an adequate supply of local food suitable for institutional markets while farmers and food businesses grapple with challenging and variable institutional food markets.

Farm to Institution New York State (FINYS) is a statewide partnership of agricultural, public health and economic development partners who have come together to strengthen New York's farm and food economy and improve the health of its citizens. FINYS' goal is to tackle systemic barriers to increasing the volume of food produced in New York that is served in institutions, including colleges, schools, hospitals, emergency food providers and senior centers.



ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS



FINYS is a partnership that was launched in 2013 as the out-growth of a 9-month stakeholder engagement process. The partnership is focused on projects in the following areas:

- *Regional Networks and Partnerships* – build strong relationships and regional networks among farmers, food businesses and institutions.
- *Farm to Institution (F2I) Market Readiness Training Program* – assist farmers with information on the requirements of institutional food service and how to build relationships with buyers, processors and distributors.
- *Farm to College and Farm to Nutrition Assistance Pilot Projects* – support pilot projects in promising institutional sectors including Farm to College and Farm to Nutrition Assistance.
- *Farm to Institution Research Analysis* – of local food purchasing by public and private institutions, including demand for specific New York foods and best practices among institutions.
- *Statewide Communication & Coordination* - encourage communication and action across New York.

LEADERSHIP

FINYS has been launched with help from American Farmland Trust, the FINYS Leadership Team and FINYS Coordinators, Glenda Neff and Chris Grace. FINYS Leadership Team members include:

David Haight, American Farmland Trust



Kimberly Libman, New York Academy of Medicine



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FUNDING PARTNERS

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