

1 point

FS Credit 5

**Hospital Supported Agriculture: Food & Farm Linkages****Intent**

Support local and regional food production by increasing its visibility in the community and strengthening local agriculture infrastructure.

**Health Issues**

Locally produced and distributed foods in the local market may reduce the fuel consumption and accompanying emissions associated with long distance transport. Furthermore, sustainably-produced food often comes from small or mid-sized farms on the edges of cities and therefore contributes to the preservation of farmland and open space near urban areas. Supporting locally owned and managed farms reinforces the economic well-being of producers and communities. Many communities are considered food deserts, lacking access to fresh and/or local foods. By providing access to fresh local foods, health care institutions can help improve consumption of nutritious food and awareness about fresh healthy foods while supporting the local economy.

**Credit Goals**

Develop and implement a program or programs incorporating a minimum of three (3) of the following:

- **Processing and Season Extension** – Beyond direct food purchases, develop and support relationships with at least one local farm, not-for-profit farming organization, and/or meat or produce processing facility to extend the seasonal availability of local food for the facility.
- **Food Service Procurement** - Proactively coordinate with local family managed or owned farm(s) to match planting decisions with purchasing intentions prior to growing season.
- **Farmers Markets** - Host and promote local (within immediate service area or neighborhood) or on-site farmers markets during growing season.
- **Food Box** - Actively promote Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) food box programs for patients, employees and/or community residents. Host CSA pick up locations on-site.
- **Hospital Garden or Hospital Farm** - Support on-site or off-site hospital owned food producing garden(s) and/or farm(s).
- **Urban Garden Program** – Provide direct or in-kind support for not-for-profit urban food producing community garden organization(s).
- **Conference and Meeting Food Policy** – Develop and implement a policy requiring sustainable purchases in accordance with GGHC FS Credit 3 for minimum 50% of combined food and beverage purchases (by cost) at all facility-sponsored or -hosted conferences and workshops (both onsite and with contracted hotels or conference centers).

*Note: An innovation point is available to facilities implementing two additional criteria.*

*Note: For the purposes of this Credit, "local" is defined as sourced from within a 200-mile radius.*

## FS Credit 5 continued

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#### Suggested Documentation

- Compile and annually revise records of hospital-supported agriculture in accordance with the Credit Goals.

#### Potential Technologies & Strategies

- **Credit Synergies:** *Coordinate implementation of this credit with GGHC IO Prerequisite 1: Integrated Operations & Maintenance Process; GGHC SSM Credit 1: Site Management; GGHC SSM Credit 2: Reduced Site Disturbance; GGHC SSM Credit 5: Connection to the Natural World; GGHC WM Prerequisite 1: Waste Management Plan; GGHC WM Prerequisite 2: Waste Generation Profile and Measurement; GGHC ES Credit 3: Indoor Integrated Pest Management; GGHC FS Credit 1: Sustainable Food Policy and Plan; GGHC FS Credit 2: Sustainable Food Education and Promotion; GGHC FS Credit 3: Local, Sustainably Produced Food Purchasing; GGHC FS Credit 4: Reusable & Non-Reusable Products; GGHC FS Credit 6.1: Food Donation and Composting; GGHC FS Credit 6.2: Food Services Recycling; GGHC FS Credit 7: Food Vendors; GGHC FS Credit 8: Chemical Management for Food Services.*
- Fresh, nutritious food is available at farmers markets across the United States. Many hospitals and health systems, e.g., Kaiser Permanente, host seasonal farmers markets on-site. Farmers markets support local farms, reduce food miles, and help to increase access to healthy food for patients, staff and local community residents.
- Hospital or Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a way to support local farmers and sustainable agriculture; establish direct connections between consumers and farmers; and, increase access to nutritious, seasonal, high quality, and mostly organic food. In practice, CSAs often involve a system of weekly delivery or pick-up of vegetables, as well as flowers, fruits, herbs and occasionally milk or meat products. By making a financial commitment to a farm, CSA participants become "members" or "subscribers" of the CSA. Most CSA farmers prefer that members pay for the season up-front, but some farmers will accept weekly or monthly payments. Potential drop-off sites include hospitals, childcare centers, and/or local schools or other sites where families regularly visit. Alternatively facilities can include rebates or discounts through their employee wellness programs
- In many urban areas, vacant lots have been converted into urban gardens. Studies have shown that urban gardens have a measurable impact on the surrounding community's level of nutrition and that access to community gardens is an important strategy for improving vegetable consumption. Health care campuses can implement or host community gardens.
- Incorporating requirements for sourcing locally and sustainably into hotel and conference center contracts helps provide greater support and demand for sustainable foods.
- Over the last several decades the number of local processing facilities has declined through industrial consolidation. A variety of season extending techniques such as hoop houses, cold storage and state approved processing facilities such as mobile butchering buses support producers' access to markets.

## FS Credit 5 continued

### Hospital Supported Agriculture: Food & Farm Linkages

#### Resources

Janet Bachmann, "Farmers' Markets: Marketing and Business Guide." Resources on how to start a Farmers Market, <http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/farmmarket.pdf> Community Food Security Coalition, <http://www.foodsecurity.org/>.

Food Med, <http://www.foodmed.org>

Health Care Without Harm, Farmers' Markets and CSAs on Hospital Grounds, <http://www.noharm.org/details.cfm?ID=1134&type=document>

Health Care Without Harm Food website, <http://www.healthyfoodinhealthcare.org>

Jamie Harvie, Michelle Gottlieb, Roberta Anderson and Marie Kulick, *Green Guide for Health Care Food Technical Brief*, <http://www.gghc.org>

Kaiser Permanente Farmers Market Resource Guide, <http://www.noharm.org/details.cfm?ID=1112&type=document>

Marie Kulick, *Healthy Food, Healthy Hospitals, Healthy Communities*, includes several case studies on hospital-based farmers' markets, <http://www.healthobservatory.org/library.cfm?refid=72927>.

Local Harvest. Information and listings on CSA's throughout the US and many other resources on local food production. <http://www.localharvest.org/csa/>. Lots to Gardens, supported by the Sisters of Charity Health System in Maine, is a youth and community driven organization that uses sustainable urban agriculture to create access to fresh food, and to nurture healthy youth and a healthy community, <http://www.stmarysmaine.com/about/foundation/special/lots.html>.

Model local, nutritious, Sustainable Food at Conferences, Meetings and Workshops Society for Nutrition Education, "Guidelines To Increase The Use Of Local Foods At Meetings," <http://www.sne.org/guidelinesformetings.htm> and downloadable brochure "A Sense of Place: Serving Local Food at Your Meeting," [http://www.sne.org/locfoods\\_n.pdf](http://www.sne.org/locfoods_n.pdf)

Plow to Plate, <http://www.plowtoplate.org> - hospital-sponsored community coalition supporting local farms, food, and health

*Ripe for Change: Rethinking California's Food Economy* addresses the root causes of breakdown in the food economy and points to solutions and case studies of how an alternative vision can work, <http://www.isec.org.uk/ripeforchange.html>

Urban Community Gardens, <http://www.mindspring.com/~communitygardens/orgs.html>

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition. The primary focus of this program is food security. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsec/>