

2020-2022

USDA Regional Food System Partnership Grant:
Alaska Projects



Project/ Organization Overviews:

Alaska Food Policy Council and Beyond: Growing Connections and Building Networks for Greater Food Security



Overview

The Alaska Food Policy's goal is to create a healthier, more secure, and resilient Alaska by improving our food system through advocacy, education, and connection. Our project aims to connect localized food system organizations to create a statewide network of “**regional nodes.**” Through direct facilitation, each node will be guided through a series of planning discussions, including node specific asset mapping to identify unique capacities for local food systems, while revealing barriers and system deficiencies. Through regular statewide connection, communication and collaboration regional nodes will collectively identify linkages and partnerships which can be leveraged to create a **10-year statewide food security action plan.**



Place-based working “regional nodes” with statewide connection



- all scopes from hyper local to borough-level, considered
- utilizes a systems approach to food security planning
- illuminates how parts are all connected
- identifies and leverage all the assets in a community and beyond
- inventories of food systems capital- from financial and social, to infrastructure and governance
- leverage existing food system assessments

Project Objectives (Nov. 2020- Sept. 2022)



1

Improved connection, communication and collaboration of food system organizations/ local food policy councils, statewide for collective action at improving Alaska's food system

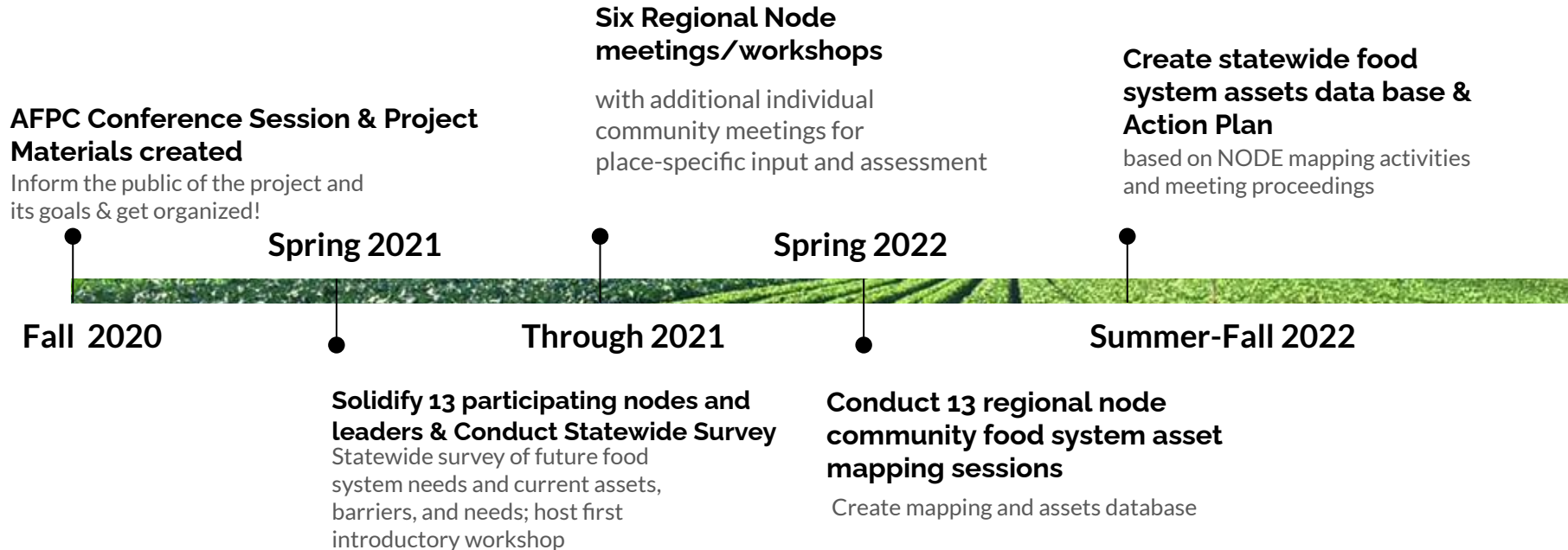
2

Identification of community food systems assets, barriers, and capacities, with centralized Assets Library, to foster connection and collaboration

3

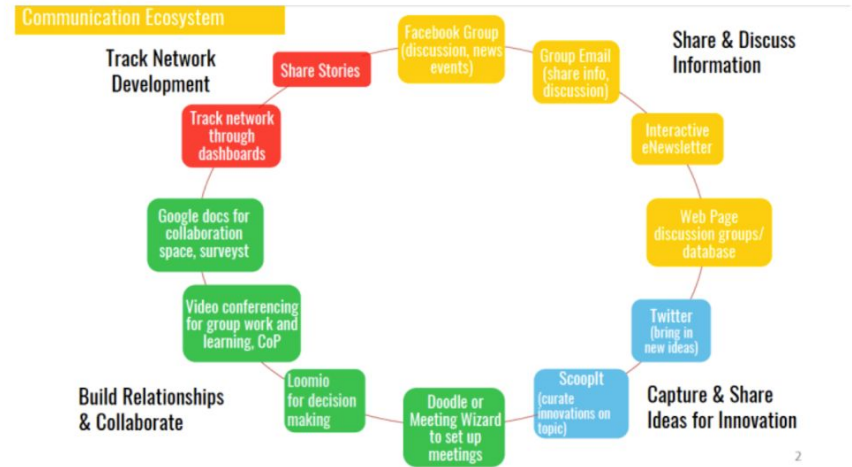
Statewide 10-year food security action plan, informed by regional Alaskan nodes representing a wide range of locations and stakeholder groups

Project Timeline

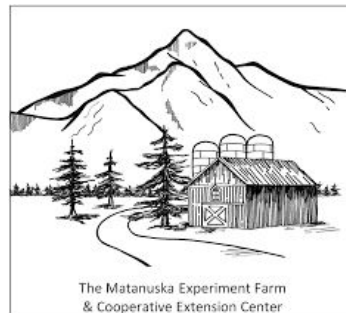


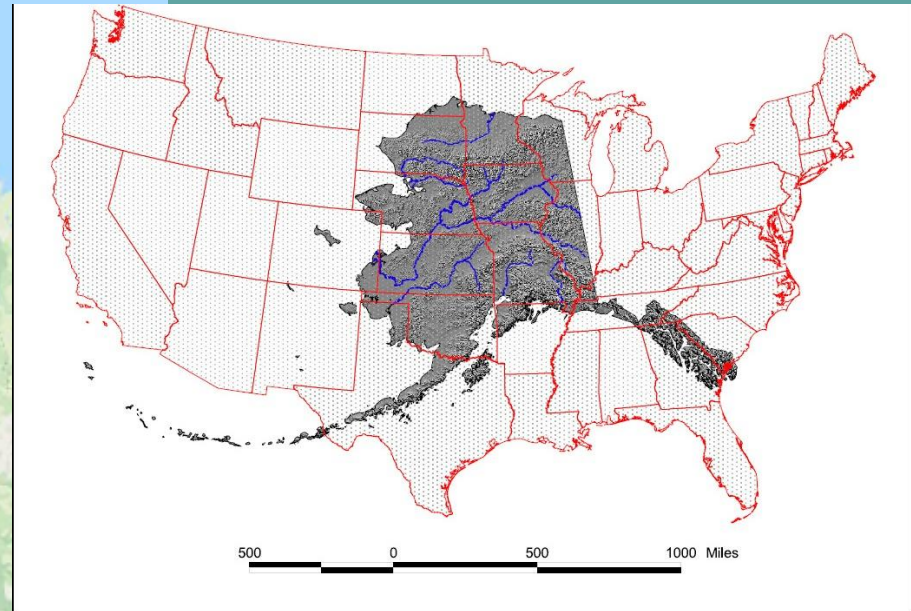
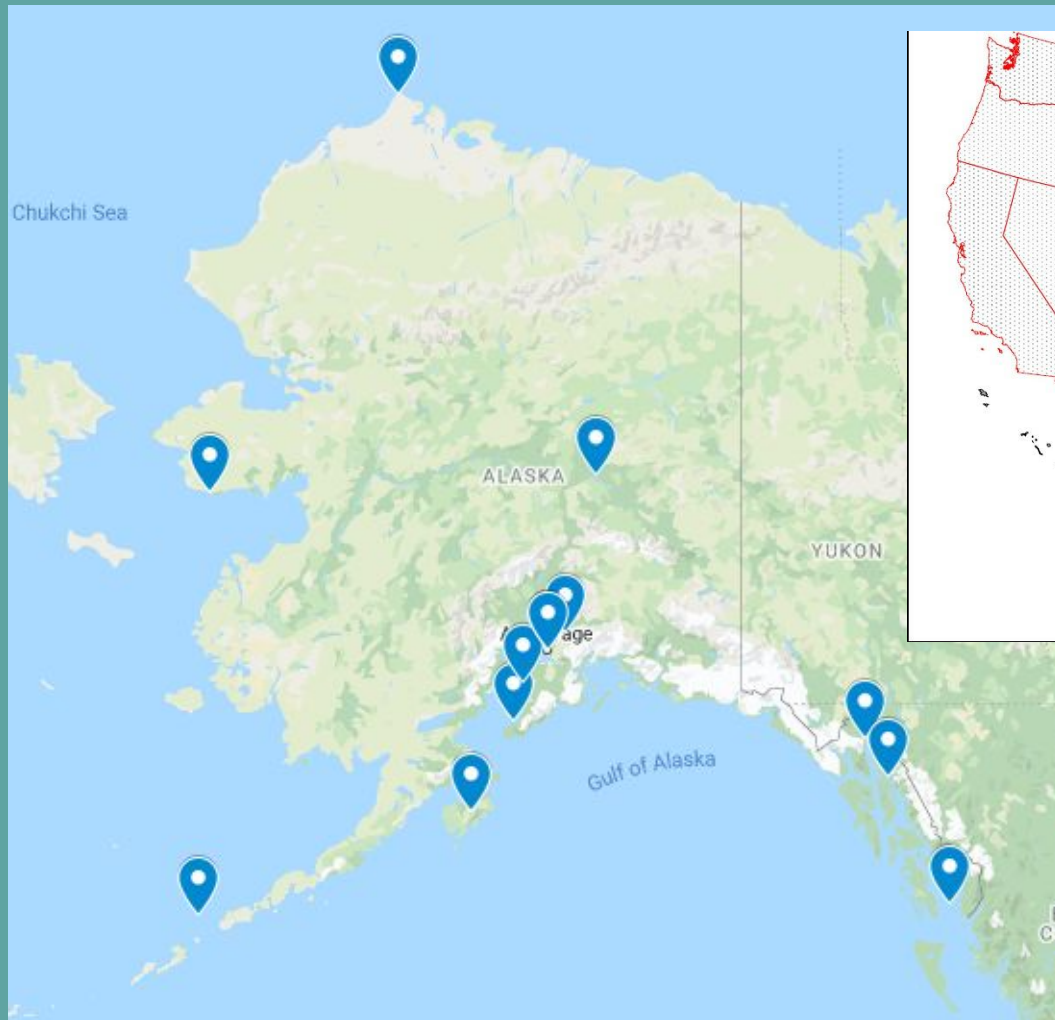
PHASE 1

A series of six node-wide facilitated meetings with specific activities to build inclusive networks (13 regions represented)



Partners:





Statewide Survey (distributed through Node Networks & beyond)

the Alaskan Food System

Land Area: 665,384
Population: 737,080 (2017)
State Food Production: 5%
Food Insecurity: 14%
20% of all children in the state are insecure

Production

- 990 Farms Statewide = \$70,459,000 (2017 USDA AG CENSUS)
- Specialty Crops
- Hydroponic/Indoor Production
- Subsistence Harvesting, Hunting, Fishing
- Commercial Fishing
- Aquaculture

Processing

- Meat/ Fish/Seafood processors
- Vegetable Storage
- Home Canning and Preservation
- Small Local Businesses

Distribution

- 95% Food Imported
- Road System Trucking
- Fly/Barge Shipping
- Chains and Super Centers
- 50+ Farmers Markets/
- 2 Food Hubs
- CSAs

Marketing

Consumption & Access

- Division of Agriculture
- (Grown Program, Restaurant incentives, Mobile App, Resource Directory, Farm/Fish to School, ETC.)
- Food Safety & DEC
- SNAP/MIC/Senior Nutrition & DHSS

Waste & Recovery

- Composting
- Food Banks & Pantries
- Landfills/ Recycling

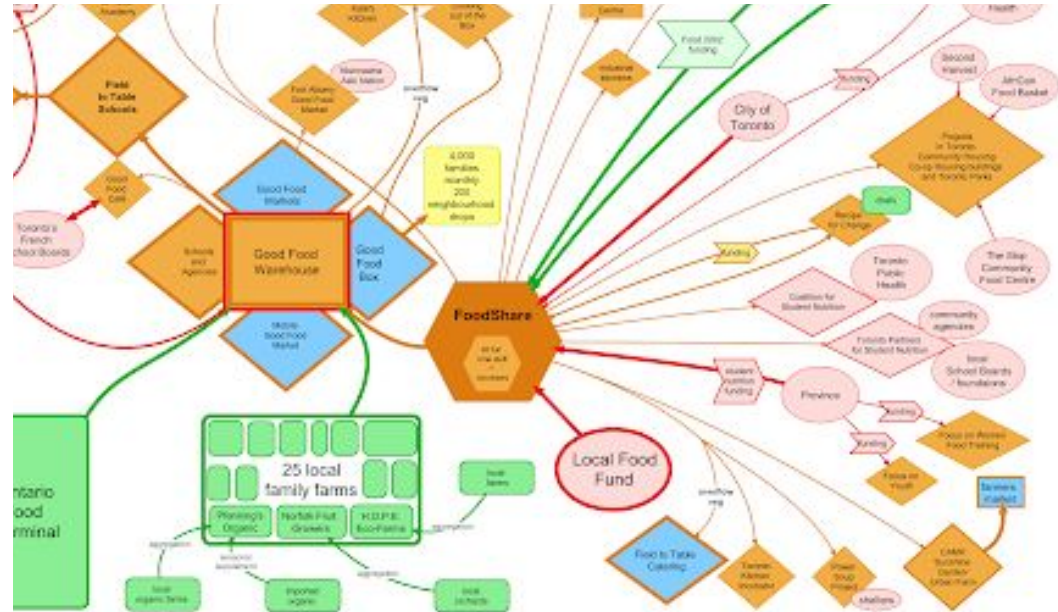
Organizations & Agencies

- Alaska Food Policy Council
- Alaska Farmland Trust
- Alaska Farm Bureau
- Alaska Food Coalition
- Food Bank of Alaska
- SNAP Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Public Assistance
- WIC Alaska

This graphic does not represent every organization and sector involved in Alaska's food system - it is meant to be exemplary

**Community assets
mapping workshop
per node (13 total),
with diverse
community
stakeholders**

02



PHASE 4

Node plans + AFPC Board and Membership will co-create 10-year statewide plan

GOAL: to identify ways of working between communities to build a more robust Alaskan food system.

Collectively, the partnership will create a multi-stakeholder action plan to address food system deficiencies through collective action.



Building and Strengthening Local and Regional Food Systems in the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association



Project Goal

To create and promote collaborative opportunities between Tribal communities and regional- and statewide organizations in order to address food security and food system concerns and opportunities. These diverse partnerships will provide the foundation for the development of a clear understanding of current local food systems, identify existing gaps and challenges, and create a list of priorities to guide the development of a regional food system plan.



Project Objectives



1

Work with Tribes in APIA region to identify community-specific assessment tools to identify opportunities and challenges in local food systems.

2

Work with partners to conduct local food system assessments and analyze assessment findings.

3

Convene Tribal partners at a region-wide symposium to

- a) share local food assessment findings;
- b) collaborate on potential regional food system partnerships that identify opportunities and challenges in the region, and
- c) prioritize next steps engaging members of the regional food system.

Food Security Challenges/Opportunities

CHALLENGES

- Transportation instability
- Remoteness
- Weather
- High cost of store foods/low quality produce



OPPORTUNITIES

- Local plants/ animals (traditional & domesticated)
- Seafood processing plants
- Mariculture, gardening, etc.

Tips & Insights



- Definitions of “region” vary widely, between geographic locations and cultural communities
- AFPC - we originally planned for **10 nodes**, but have expanded to **13**, for a greater geographic representation
 - Start earlier when solidifying partnerships and be open and flexible for changes as you learn more from new connections
 - Start early on securing the matching funds
- Set realistic expectations with partners and stakeholders (and yourself!) on what is actually accomplishable with the time, resources, and capacities you have
- Rely on your partners to help you fill in the gaps (ie. appropriate policy, grant tracking tools, recommendations on other partners or contractors)
- Did we mention starting early!?

Questions or more information?

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