

Quarter 3 Newsletter
July-September 2025

COFSAC New Member Feature



Nic Soucy

Nic Soucy (she/her) currently serves as the Manager of Government Affairs for Project Angel Heart, a non-profit whose vision is for all Coloradans living with severe illness to have access to nutritious food that supports their health and well-being. Nic's experiences range from direct-service and program-level work to higher level advocacy and policy efforts, including co-creating Food is Medicine Colorado (FIMCO), a statewide multi-stakeholder coalition aimed at enhancing the role of nutrition in health care. Nic earned her Master of Public Health degree from the Colorado School of Public Health as well as her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Denver’s Graduate School of Social Work. She is passionate about working at the intersection of food and health, with the overarching goal of achieving health equity.

October is Farm to School Meal Month

Thanks to the participation of schools all across the state, the Colorado Proud School Meal Day has outgrown its roots. This year, Colorado Proud and the Colorado Department of Education are working together to celebrate our local agricultural heritage and teach healthy eating habits all October long.

Sign your school up today or visit the **Colorado Proud Farm to School Meal Month** landing page for resources and more ways to participate, including:

- Colorado Proud Farm to School Lunch
- Crunch Off!
- Farm Tours
- Ag in the Classroom

Healthy School Meals for All

Healthy School Meals for All (HSMA) will be back on the ballot in November, 2025. Voters will need to pass Propositions LL and MM in order to maintain universal free school meals and fund associated programs.

What is Healthy School Meals for All?

HSMA provides free school meals to all Colorado public school students. It also contains several additional components, currently delayed. If Propositions LL and MM pass, these would:

- Support wage increases for front-line school nutrition professionals.
- Fund a statewide local food program which enables schools to purchase ingredients from Colorado farmers and ranchers.
- Fund technical assistance and training to support procurement and preparation of local foods and scratch-made meals.

What is included in Propositions LL and MM?

Proposition LL retains the funding raised by HSMA and continues free school meals through School Year 2025 - 2026.

Proposition MM raises revenue by limiting state income tax deductions for households that make $300,000 or more annually. This would extend universal free school meals beyond SY 25-26 and fully fund the additional components underneath HSMA. Once HSMA is fully funded, it would also support SNAP after this program received significant cuts at the federal level.

How can I learn more and get involved?

Visit the **Proposition LL and MM website** for educational materials and to learn about ongoing opportunities to volunteer and raise awareness. You can also explore a list of local and state organizations who have endorsed Propositions LL and MM.

Cultivating Connections; Sowing Successes



Join the Colorado Department of Education, Colorado School Nutrition Association, Nourish Colorado, and Greeley-Evans School District for Cultivating Connections, Sowing Successes. This will be a day for K12 operators, Colorado's agricultural producers, and strategic partners to gather, learn, and connect around Farm to School in Colorado. You'll meet producers, learn strategies from peers, get connected with resources, and attend hands-on, informative sessions! You can plan to spend most of the day at this completely free event.

The event will take place in two regions: **Friday, November 14th in Brighton** and **Friday, December 12th in Grand Junction**. Choose which one works best for you – or join for both! Be sure to get registered:

- **Brighton**
- **Grand Junction**

COFSAC Newsletter Feedback Survey

We want to hear from you! Please take this quick survey to share what kind of information you find most useful, or would like to see more of, in the COFSAC newsletter. Your feedback will help us make our updates more relevant and valuable to you.
Thank you for your time!

Feedback Survey

ANNOUNCEMENT: Seeking New Council Members

COFSAC is accepting applications for candidates in seats with terms expiring in October, 2025. These seats include:

- Member with expertise in federal food and nutrition service programs (General Assembly Appointed). **APPLY HERE**
- Representative of food wholesalers or food retailers (Appointed by the Governor's Office). **APPLY HERE**
- Representative of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Appointed by the Governor's Office). **APPLY HERE**
- Representative of a food distributor or a food hub (General Assembly Appointed). **APPLY HERE**

Applications

The council will request to review all applications submitted by October 17th, 2025, and provide recommendations to the appropriate office. The General Assembly or the Governor will then make the final decision (over which they have full discretionary power) and inform those appointed as Council members. The council will follow up with those not appointed to explore other opportunities for participation such as committee and working group initiatives.

More information is available on our website.

COFSAC Website

Council Update: Quarter 3 Meeting in Pueblo



Council members recently visited Pueblo for our Quarter 3 meeting. Thank you to everyone who welcomed us to Pueblo and joined for the meeting, including Pueblo Food Project, who hosted us for a morning at one of their edible landscapes (photo above)!

Quarterly Food Systems Updates from Colorado State Agencies

Q3 (July-September) 2025

As part of the quarterly meetings of the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council (COFSAC), our members representing state agencies provide updates on new and ongoing policies and programs related to food systems. These high-level briefings are one of the ways our council's efforts support cross-sector collaboration and coordination, and timely communication across our Colorado food system initiatives.

Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA)

COLORADO
Department of Agriculture



Updates at a Glance

- **NextGen Ag Leadership Grant Program**
  - Seven projects awarded in 2025
- **Ag Workforce Development Program**
  - Applications for 2026 internships launch Oct. 1 and close Oct. 31
- **CO Ag Future Loan Program**

    - Online interest form available for waitlist
- **Community Food Access Program**
    - Tax credit programs are open
- **Specialty Crop Block Grant Program**
    - 2025 projects were approved
- **CO Proud & Publications**
    - October is **Farm to School Month**
    - 2025 Colorado **Farm Fresh Directory** & CO Hay Directory available
    - **Cultivation Station Podcast**

Review the full report online:

VIEW REPORT

Colorado Department of Education (CDE)

Updates at a Glance



- Farm to School Roadmapping Project
    - Analysis and report underway
- The Local Food Program
    - Funding updates
- Cultivating Connection Events
    - **Nov. 14th - Brighton**
    - **Dec. 12th - Grand Junction**
- Montana Farm to School Event
    - CDE will send reps to the 2025 Mountain Plains Regional Farm to Child Nutrition Programs Summit

Review the full report online:

VIEW REPORT

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)



Updates at a Glance

- Community Food Assistance Provider Grant Program
- Summer EBT (SEBT)
    - August, 2025 - the $120 benefit has been issued to over 455,000 eligible students
- Energy EBT (E-EBT)
    - June, 2025 - more than 315,000 E-EBT payments have been issued
- CO SNAP Produce Bonus Program (CSPB)
    - August 2025 - four farmers markets, 16 farmers, and five brick and mortar locations participating
- SNAP
    - Program participation and timeliness updates

Review the full report online:

VIEW REPORT

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)



Updates at a Glance

- Colorado Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (COWIC)
    - **WIC Snapshot: Summer 2025**
- Colorado Food Program (CFP)
    - **Updated rates** released in July
- Healthy Eating Active Living
    - CDPHE is supporting work with Food Bank of the Rockies to adopt and implement Healthy Eating Research (HER) Nutrition Guidelines

- CDPHE assisted in the development of a customer survey to identify awareness of, use of, and experience with the Colorado Produce Bonus Program

Review the full report online:

VIEW REPORT

Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT)

COLORADO
Office of Economic Development & International Trade



Updates at a Glance

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
  - **Statewide CEDS** completed
- Rural Opportunity Office
  - Update on Rural Opportunity Office (ROO) Eastern Plains representative
- Colorado Office of Film, Television, and Media Initiative
  - Update on the creation of a film workshop for students
- **Colorado Startup Week**
  - OEDIT's business office will present a panel discussion on the quantum industry

Review the full report online:

VIEW REPORT

Connect with Us!

Our council seeks to gather and lift diverse and representative voices from across the Colorado food system to help craft research, guidance and recommendations for food

systems-related policy and state initiatives.

Learn how you can become a member today!

Learn More



COLORADO FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

cofoodsystemscouncil.org

GET IN TOUCH

Colorado State University Food Systems
1172 Campus Delivery
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523 US

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!