We support socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable food systems that promote health – the current and future health of individuals, communities, and the natural environment.

A healthy, sustainable food system is:

**HEALTH-PROMOTING**
- Supports the physical and mental health of all farmers, workers and eaters
- Accounts for the public health impacts across the entire lifecycle of how food is produced, processed, packaged, labeled, distributed, marketed, consumed and disposed

**SUSTAINABLE**
- Conserves, protects, and regenerates natural resources, landscapes and biodiversity
- Meets our current food and nutrition needs without compromising the ability of the system to meet the needs of future generations

**RESILIENT**
- Thrives in the face of challenges, such as unpredictable climate, increased pest resistance, and declining, increasingly expensive water and energy supplies

**DIVERSE IN**
- Size and scale—includes a diverse range of food production, transformation, distribution, marketing, consumption, and disposal practices, occurring at diverse scales, from local and regional, to national and global
- Geography—considers geographic differences in natural resources, climate, customs, and heritage
- Culture—appreciates and supports a diversity of cultures, socio-demographics, and lifestyles
- Choice—provides a variety of health-promoting food choices for all

**FAIR**
- Supports fair and just communities and conditions for all farmers, workers and eaters
- Provides equitable physical access to affordable food that is health promoting and culturally appropriate

**ECONOMICALLY BALANCED**
- Provides economic opportunities that are balanced across geographic regions of the country and at different scales of activity, from local to global, for a diverse range of food system stakeholders
- Affords farmers and workers in all sectors of the system a living wage

**TRANSPARENT**
- Provides opportunities for farmers, workers and eaters to gain the knowledge necessary to understand how food is produced, transformed, distributed, marketed, consumed and disposed
- Empowers farmers, workers and eaters to actively participate in decision-making in all sectors of the system

A healthy, sustainable food system emphasizes, strengthens, and makes visible the interdependent and inseparable relationships between individual sectors (from production to waste disposal) and characteristics (health-promoting, sustainable, resilient, diverse, fair, economically balanced, and transparent) of the system.