

# Maricopa County Food Systems Coalition

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## What is the Maricopa County Food System Coalition?

It is the means to an end: to a future when Arizonans' economic growth and individual vitality can be enhanced thanks to vibrant regional agriculture and accessible and affordable healthy foods.

So far, a small group of Maricopa County community leaders working on food issues has met and identified the need to create a broader coalition of diverse stakeholders. In order to be as effective as possible, members are sought from the communities of growers, producers, environmental advocates, municipal planners, food banks and others who provide food to our County's most vulnerable people, policy makers, influencers and the developers of on-the-ground projects.

## Why Does Maricopa County Need a Coalition?

When goals are big and far-reaching, we've got to work together. The work of individual actors—farmers, government agencies, economic developers, public health and environmental advocates, and social service organizations—in our food system is fundamental. Together we can collaborate and amplify the impact of individual efforts. The Coalition will focus on developing creative, win-win solutions.

## Who Can Participate?

Anyone who shares in the Coalition's goals and believes in the power of collaborative effort. Individuals and organizations actively working towards improving our regional food system and passionate about collaboration as a vehicle to develop innovative solutions to complex problems are welcome.

## How Can I Learn More About the Coalition?

Contact Sam Macias at [sam@aginnovations.com](mailto:sam@aginnovations.com) for more information.

### Maricopa County Food System Coalition will:

- Build strong relationships and improve communication within the local system;
- Create change by building deeper awareness of the whole system and fostering collaborative leadership;
- Serve as a sounding board for new ideas;
- Create a space for meaningful dialogue that unleashes the innovation necessary for communities to identify and take collaborative action to build a better food system; and
- Link with other similar efforts to learn from each other and respond to regional or statewide issues as they arise.