

Alaska Food is Medicine Coalition Charter

I. Name

The name of this coalition shall be the Alaska Food is Medicine Coalition (hereinafter referred to as “the Coalition”). In recognition of the power of words and place-based coalition work, the Coalition will not use abbreviations.

II. Vision

To create a resilient, inclusive, and community-led Food is Medicine ecosystem in Alaska that improves health outcomes, strengthens local food systems, respects Alaska Native foodways, and ensures all Alaskans have reliable access to nutritious, affordable, and culturally meaningful food.

III. Purpose

The Coalition exists to close gaps between healthcare, food systems, and communities by fostering cross-sector connections, supporting culturally grounded initiatives that support health, healing and well-being through healthy food that is accessible, affordable, and locally relevant throughout Alaska.

IV. Guiding Values & Principles

AFIMC is grounded in the following shared values:

- Community Self-Determination – Promoting food sovereignty through community-driven definitions of healthy food, well-being, and healing pathways.
- Cultural Relevance – Supporting Food is Medicine initiatives that reflect traditional foods, plants, and practices, and promote access to familiar and preferred healthy foods for all.
- Evidence-Based Practices – Leading with recommendations grounded in science methodology with an eye to evolving research and new data.
- Accessibility & Choice – Developing programs that are practical, affordable, and respectful of individual and community choice.
- Knowledge Sharing & Education – Emphasizing peer-to-peer learning, cooking education, and lasting skills.
- Collaboration – Connecting existing programs and resources across sectors to avoid duplication and maximize impact.
- Equity & Inclusion – Centering rural, Tribal, and underserved communities.
- Sustainability & Stewardship – Strengthening local food production, respecting Alaska Native foodways, and integrating healthcare and food access to promote health instead of reacting to disease.

V. Mission

The Coalition works to promote health and prevent diet-related disease by advancing Food is Medicine approaches that support a thriving food system where every Alaskan, regardless of location, can reliably access nutritious, affordable, and culturally meaningful food.

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VI. Goals & Focus Areas

The Coalition will focus on:

- Implementing activities that coordinate the development, uptake and expansion of produce incentive and Food is Medicine programs with an initial focus on fruit and vegetable voucher incentives and produce prescription programs.
- Developing a strategic plan for a statewide collaborative Food is Medicine ecosystem in Alaska including evaluation metrics, frameworks, toolkits, and resources for communities to adapt and lead.
- Promoting Food is Medicine initiatives that include traditional proteins, native plants, and subsistence foods.
- Strengthening cross-sector collaboration, including but not limited to healthcare entities, Tribal organizations, food systems, and social services.
- Exploring sustainable funding pathways for Food is Medicine initiatives, including Medicaid and other healthcare-related funding streams.

VII. Membership

Membership is open and evolving. The Coalition includes but is not limited to participation from:

- Existing nutrition incentive and produce prescription programs
- Healthcare providers and systems, including Tribal Health Organizations and Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Community-based food access organizations, such as food banks and pantries
- Tribal health organizations, Tribal governments, and Tribal members/citizens
- Farmers, fishers, hunters, and food producers
- Grocers and food retailers
- Schools and school districts
- State and local agencies
- Individuals with lived experience with nutrition insecurity
- Medicaid providers
- Disaster response
- Environmental sustainability
- Current and potential funders

Members may join at any time and are encouraged to participate in ways that align with their capacity and expertise. Subject matter experts may be invited to participate on an ad hoc basis based on meeting topic area and expertise.

VIII. Coalition Structure & Participation

The Coalition is self-managed, with administrative support and guidance from Food Bank of Alaska. Participation is guided by shared responsibility rather than hierarchy.

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- Working groups may form organically around shared interests or priorities.
- Members are encouraged to share resources, lessons learned, and opportunities.
- The coalition will maintain a living charter that evolves alongside the work.

IX. Meetings

Meetings will be held regularly, with frequency determined by coalition consensus. Meeting administration will be led by coalition conveners, Food Bank of Alaska, unless an alternate is designated.

X. Recommendations

The Coalition will work to build consensus whenever possible and provide recommendations to the coalition conveners. When consensus cannot be reached, the coalition conveners at Food Bank of Alaska, will document feedback, including any differing perspectives on recommendations and funding parameters. Coalition conveners will make final decisions on implementing recommendations, guided by the coalition's shared values and the principle of minimizing harm.

XI. Revisions & Sunset

This charter is a living document and may be revised as the Coalition evolves. The Coalition may sunset or restructure by collective agreement if it no longer serves its intended purpose.