



# BLUEPRINT for a NATIONAL FOOD STRATEGY

2015-2016

The Blueprint for a National Food Strategy is an 18-month project examining the potential role for a national food strategy in ensuring a healthful, equitable, and environmentally and economically sustainable food system. Through legal research and diverse stakeholder engagement, this project will consider whether a national food strategy is needed, and what mechanisms could be employed to facilitate the strategy's effectiveness and responsiveness to stakeholders impacted by the food system.

As the American public has become more aware of the impacts of our food system, there has been increasing dialogue about the need for national leadership and coordination of federal laws and policies that impact the food system. While many of these conversations indicate that national reform could be helpful, this project remains open to the conclusion that a national food strategy is not the best path forward. To that end, this project will not prescribe what substantive issues should be included in such a strategy.

Rather, this project takes an in-depth look at the benefits and critiques of a national food strategy, the legal mechanisms that could be employed to develop such a strategy, and the means by which stakeholder engagement could ensure that such a strategy is effective and inclusive. Our research will analyze how other countries have developed national food strategies while also considering how the U.S. has created national strategies for other issue areas. In addition, we will engage stakeholders about the benefits and critiques of a national food strategy, their insights on how to best develop and implement such a strategy, and their opinions on what food system issues should be prioritized.

## WHAT QUESTIONS ARE WE TRYING TO ANSWER?

- Will the United States benefit from a comprehensive national food strategy?
- What has been the experience of other countries that have developed national food strategies?
- What other U.S. national strategies provide applicable models for a national food strategy?
- What are the most pressing food policy issues that stakeholders would like to see addressed in such a strategy and what legal and policy tools can be used to address these issues?

## METHOD AND RESOURCES

To ensure that this project considers the perspectives of a diverse range of stakeholders impacted by the current food system, it will employ an interactive public online platform, personal interviews, surveys, and other methods. The project will reach out to stakeholders with experience in production, distribution, consumption, and waste, as well as other parts of the food system. It will also aim to ensure socioeconomic, racial, geographical, and gender diversity of participants, among other factors.

## PROJECT OUTCOMES

- A report that includes an overview of the benefits and critique of a national food strategy, a discussion of the processes by which other countries have developed national food strategies, an analysis of other U.S. national strategies and legal mechanisms for coordination, and the findings from stakeholder interviews;
- An interactive, educational online platform for the general public and stakeholder groups to learn about the processes by which a national strategy is created; and
- A final report documenting major themes that emerge from stakeholder interviews, surveys and interaction with the online platform, as well as analysis of the mechanisms that could be used to implement those changes.



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