



**COOK COUNTY**  
**HEALTH**

Cook County DEPT. of  
**Public Health**



## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Partners Come Together During COVID-19 to Advance a More Equitable Food System

This week's 2020 Virtual Food Summit Focuses on Cook County's Good Food Purchasing Initiative

OAK FOREST, IL – This morning, [Cook County Department of Public Health](#) (CCDPH) in partnership with the [Chicago Food Policy Action Council](#) (CFPAC), is kicking off its fifth annual Food Summit, which will run today through Friday, Oct. 16th.

For the first time in its history, due to COVID-19, the Summit is being held virtually via Zoom webinar, YouTube LIVE and the [Sched](#) app. [Registration](#) is free and will remain open to the public until Friday. Over 700 people have registered so far.

"The higher death rates, harsher economic impacts, and heightened food access issues we've seen during COVID-19 in our black and brown communities have further revealed how structural racism, targeted disinvestment, and concentrated power directly undermine public health," said Cook County Department of Public Health Co-Lead and Senior Medical Officer Dr. Kiran Joshi.

This year's Food Summit will focus on building a more racially and socially equitable food system in Cook County, and will include updates on implementation of the Cook County [Good Food Purchasing Program](#) (GFPP).

"GFPP is more important now than ever," said Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. "This initiative recognizes Cook County has a great deal of power in terms of procurement. Procurement is a moral process that affects equity, sustainability and community resiliency."

National and local experts will highlight strategies and best practices for advancing a more equitable food system through:

- A series of panel discussions;
- Workshops and listening sessions for farmers, food businesses, public health practitioners, environmental and labor rights advocates, and interested community members who want to grow a better local food system;
- A cooking demonstration; and
- Virtual tours of sustainable farms and exciting, community-driven food projects across Cook County.

"Over the next few days we look forward to discussing strategies to increase community wealth, expand workplace safety and workers' rights, and ensure good food is accessible to all," said Marlie Wilson, Good Food Purchasing Project Manager at the Chicago Food Policy Action Council. "The beauty of hosting a virtual event is we can include many more people in these discussions."

The full schedule of workshops, panels and virtual tours, along with information about speakers and attendees, is available on [Sched](#).

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