



Date: June 29, 2020

To: Economic Stabilization Task Force

From: Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition

Re: Recommendations for Investment in Local Food Production to address Covid-19 Economic Hardships.

As the sponsors of the Salt and Soil Marketplace and in collaboration with Juneau professionals, organizations, and individuals with decades of experience in local food-related enterprises, we would like to recommend that the Economic Stabilization Task Force (ESTF) consider investments in local food production to address Covid-19 economic hardships by:

- Investments in infrastructure and equipment necessary to increase local value-added processing and production of food by local businesses.
- Enhancing local cold storage giving local producers and fisherman more options for storage and sale of local foods.

We share the goals of the ESTF to “identify and promote strategies that enable businesses to continue operations” and to “explore strategies that enable businesses and Juneau’s economy to recover in the long term.” We also agree with the ESTF purpose that long-term recovery be designed for sustainability and stability. We would like to emphasize how this particularly applies to developing a robust Juneau Food System, including a failsafe network of local growers, harvesters, processors, retailers, distributors, and long-term storage.

Access to locally grown and harvested food is more than a health or life-style choice; it is a matter of food security and it carries important economic potential. Presently, less than 4% of our local produce is grown locally. We depend on Seattle ports, but their disaster response plan does not include Juneau shipping. A stable Juneau food system recognizes that local food-related businesses need to be more successful, better supported for the long-term growth, and incentivized. What will follow is growth and stability of the local food economy. The Covid -19 situation underscores one of our main driving needs for a vast improvement in the level of self-reliance and control we have within our food system. Further, Covid-19 has resulted in erratic and uncertain markets for seafood and other products, potentially putting fisherman, harvesters, and growers out of business and leaving Juneau more food insecure.

To support current and future Juneau food production-related business we have identified multiple barriers, many of which can and need to be addressed with the involvement of CBJ and potentially the ESTF. Our group is working to identify solutions to make producing food a more viable business prospect in Juneau to meet the goals of increased local food consumption while addressing food-related issues such as waste stream reduction.

We are recommending the Economic Stabilization Task Force consider investment of \$238,700 in the two projects outlined below and based on the budget provided:

Local food Processing and Infrastructure Grant Program: This program will target private sector growers, harvester, fisherman, value-added processor, and other food system related businesses in the City and Borough of Juneau. It will provide small (~\$10,000) grants that will allow investment in infrastructure, equipment, or staffing that will enable recipients to scale up local production of foods or food related products to address local market needs, conduct additional value added processing, or change production or processing to address market changes that have resulted from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Cold Storage Assistance Program: As part of the Local Food Processing Grant Program, an amount of funding will be reserved to make local cold storage options more available to fisherman and producers, allowing greater flexibility in sale and marketing of their product to account for changes in markets as a result of the Coronavirus. This program will primarily provide for operating expenses and cost associated with renting cold storage space from existing facilities. New cold storage units or equipment will be considered on a case by case basis under the same \$10,000 limit as the Local Food Processing Grant Program.

Budget:

Program Name:	Local Food Processing and Infrastructure Grant Program		Cold Storage Assistance Program	
Staffing:	Five weeks at \$40per hour for development of call for proposals, organizing selection committee, reviewing reports/effectiveness	\$8,000	Five weeks at \$40per hour for development of call for proposals, organizing selection committee, reviewing reports/effectiveness	\$8,000
Supplies:	Advertisement Expenses	\$1,000	--	--
Grants:	10 grants at 10,000 each	\$100,000	Rent or purchase of Cold storage units.	\$100,000
Indirect:	10%	\$10,900	10%	\$10,800
Total:		\$119,900		\$118,800
			Total	\$238,700

Brenwynne Grigg

From: Rob Cadmus [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 4:34 PM
To: Economic Stabilization
Cc: Duff Mitchell; Gretchen Keiser; Anjuli Grantham; Jim Powell; Tim Felstead; Steve Behnke; Colin Peacock; Jennifer Nu
Subject: Recommendations for Investment in Local Food Production to address Covid-19 Economic Hardships.
Attachments: Local Food _CBJ_ESTF_06_29_2020.pdf

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Dear CBJ Economic Stabilization Taskforce,

Please find attached recommendations for investment in local food production to address Covid-19 economic hardships in the CBJ.

We would be interested in discussing these concepts with you further and evaluating potential partnership and opportunities to improve these concepts.

Thanks for your good work.

Sincerely,

Rob Cadmus

Executive Director

Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition

[REDACTED]