

<b>Topic:</b>	Urban Farming and Community Gardens; Healthy Communities
<b>Resource Type:</b>	Comprehensive Plan
<b>State:</b>	Florida
<b>Jurisdiction Type:</b>	Municipal
<b>Municipality:</b>	Alachua County
<b>Year</b> <i>(adopted, written, etc.):</i>	2011
<b>Community Type - applicable to:</b>	Suburban
<b>Title:</b>	Alachua County's Access to Healthful, Affordable, and Nutritious Food Initiatives
<b>Document Last Updated in Database:</b>	December 31, 2017

### ***Abstract***

Alachua's Comprehensive Plan promotes equal access to healthful, affordable, and nutritious food through a community garden and agriculture programs offered by the USDA Farm to School Programs. Programs promoting gardening, healthy food access, and nutrition improvement are targeted at low-income households and populations at high-risk for health disparity. The County is simultaneously discouraging sale of less healthy foods in government facilities.

Additionally, the County plans to partner with local organizations and develop standards to promote community food systems. They will be promoting and developing standards to facilitate location of fresh produce providers within proximity to residential areas. Further, Alachua will use economic development tools to promote location of these providers in proximity to underserved areas.

The increased availability of fresher foods for residents will contribute to residents making better eating choices, which can lead to a decrease in heart disease, obesity, and more. Additionally, by ensuring that the fresh foods are available in underserved areas of the city, the overall equity of the increase in public health.

### ***Resource***

#### **GOAL**

PRESERVE THE HEALTH OF ALACHUA COUNTY RESIDENTS BY FACILITATING HEALTH CARE DELIVERY, IMPROVING THE LIVABILITY OF THE COMMUNITY, AND PROVIDING ALL ALACHUA COUNTY RESIDENTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE LIVING.

#### **OBJECTIVE 1.3**

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Promote a healthy community by providing for obesity prevention and prevention of other chronic illnesses.

Policy 1.3.1 Alachua County shall promote access to healthful, affordable and nutritious food.

Policy 1.3.1.1 Promote food security and public health by encouraging locally-based food production, distribution, and choice in accordance with the Future Land Use Element.

Policy 1.3.1.2 Alachua County shall consider programs to encourage property owners to make use of vacant properties as community gardens.

Policy 1.3.1.3 Continue to offer support for home and community gardening through programs offered by USDA Farm to School Programs and the Alachua County Extension Office and target low-income and populations at high-risk for health disparity for programs promoting gardening, healthy food access and nutrition improvement.

Policy 1.3.1.4 Alachua County shall discourage the sale of less healthy foods and beverages as defined by Institute of Medicine within local government facilities including recreational areas.

Policy 1.3.2 Alachua County shall partner with local organizations and develop standards to promote community food systems.

Policy 1.3.2.1 Standards for community agriculture shall be developed in coordination with the UF IFAS and Extension agents and local and regional agricultural organizations. Existing standards will be utilized to the greatest extent possible.

Policy 1.3.2.2 As provided in the Future Land Use and Energy Elements, Alachua County shall promote and develop standards for uses, including produce stands, farmers markets and food cooperatives, to facilitate location of fresh produce providers within or in close proximity to residential areas.

Policy 1.3.2.3 Alachua County shall utilize economic development tools including public/private partnerships, and site facilitation, to promote location of grocery stores and Farmers Markets in proximity to underserved areas. (a) Coordinate with Regional Transit System [RTS] and other public transit providers to facilitate access to food shopping for low income residents through incentives. (b) Encourage farmers' markets and other healthy food retailers to accept federal nutrition programs such as WIC and SNAP (food stamps) and encourage information distribution via county offices and website.

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Policy 1.3.2.4 Alachua County shall work to implement the 2009 Hunger Abatement Plan and future updates, and shall provide technical assistance for community food access studies.

Policy 1.3.2.5 Alachua County should encourage edible landscaping (i.e., fruit trees and scrubs) for landscaping requirements through appropriate policy and standards of the ULDC.

Policy 1.3.2.6 Alachua County community planning efforts and the CHOICES program will encourage participation by health coalitions and networks to create environments that support enjoyable, healthy eating, physical activity and a positive self-image.

Alachua County's Comprehensive Plan can be found here: <https://growth-management.alachuacounty.us/formsdocs/comp-plan.pdf>.