



**SALINE COUNTY**  
FOOD ACTION COMMUNITY TEAM



# **STRATEGIC PLAN**

## **2024**



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## FACT Team Members

The Saline County Food Action Community Team is a group of volunteers with leadership and vision to start this project. The Team Members are:

- Michelle Coats**, North Central Kansas Mobility Manager, *Chair*
- Kirsty Hartley**, Prairieland Market, *Vice Chair*
- Libby Themis**, Salina Church of the Cross, *Secretary*
- Karen Couch**, Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank, *Treasurer*
- Sheila Kjellberg**, Kansas Wesleyan University, *Community Needs Specialist*
- Tara Baxter**, Salina Church of the Cross
- Kim Bolte**, K-State Research and Extension
- Megan Rico**, Saline County Health Department
- Sabrina Rosario**, Kansas Wesleyan University



### Mission:

Our mission is to build a strong, culturally appropriate local food system and improve access to healthy food for all in Saline County.

### Vision:

We envision a thriving community with open pathways leading to healthy living fueled by local food resources.

### Executive Summary:

In keeping with this Mission, the Saline County Food Action Community Team has developed this Strategic Plan. It identifies four objectives underpinning its Mission and includes specific actions and provides a road map to attainment of the objectives.

Some items may require financial investment, in addition to FACT and partner time commitments.

A monitoring and evaluation plan will be developed to accompany this Strategic Plan, so that we can constantly strive to ensure that we are effectively and efficiently working toward a resilient food system that is just and equitable for Saline County.

### 2024 Work Plan

#### Objective 1: Start a Food Assessment

This assessment will identify our community's areas of concern and guide future FACT actions, including future policy changes and other program work of FACT. The food assessment can include food access, food insecurity, and food policies in Saline County.

#### Actions:

1. Contact KFAN for guidance on completing a food assessment, including next steps, financial commitment, funding options, etc.

2. Determine the steps needed for completing a Saline County food assessment and create a checklist.
3. Start the process for completing a Saline County food assessment.

### Objective 2: Create and Distribute a Local Food Directory and Website

A local food directory is a listing of agencies and other resources where people can find food and can be shared across the community. The website will be an online tool that can be accessed by anyone at anytime to keep informed around the work of FACT, and provide information around food.

Actions:

1. Research and purchase a domain name for the FACT website.
2. Determine a host – look at costs and examples.
3. Build the website using an existing template through WordPress.
  - a. Include the Google map.
  - b. Brainstorm other necessary information.
4. Create a local food directory – paper version that can also live on the website as a digital version.
5. Develop a Public Relations/Promotion plan for FACT.

### Objective 3: Support Community Gardening and Farming.

Community gardening can be beneficial to the environment, and to the health and wellbeing of community members. The introduction of community gardens may reduce the impact of food deserts in low-income areas and allow residents greater access to nutritious food that is necessary to live a healthy life. Community gardens also allow for the creation of social ties and build a greater feeling of community.

Actions:

1. Work with North Town to develop a plan of support for North Salina community gardens.
2. Work with Salina Church of the Cross to develop a plan of support for their community gardens.

3. Work with University United Methodist Church to develop a plan of support for their community gardens.
4. Work with Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank to develop a plan of support for their community gardens.
5. Work with other identified organizations to develop a plan of support their community gardens.

#### Objective 4: Start Policy Work.

Through the work of FACT, food policies in Saline County can be examined, created, and evaluated. Additional work can help to inform policy decisions and assist with advocacy, with the ultimate goal of improving community health indicators.

##### Actions:

1. Work with the City of Salina to include Food in the City of Salina Comprehensive Plan.
2. Work with Saline County to include Food in the Saline County Strategic Plan.
3. Work with Salina Regional Health Center to include Food in the Community Health Needs Assessment.

#### Objective 5: Complete FACT Formation.

Over the past year, the members of the Saline County FACT have been working together to establish the organizational structure and official formation of the team. We have engaged with community members and begun looking for solutions. We set some goals and had some wins, including the FACT retreat. Over the upcoming year, we need to complete some additional items to give us a strong base to continue our work.

##### Actions:

1. Establish membership criteria and council operating principles or bylaws.
2. Determine the best course of action for fiscal sponsorship and complete the necessary documentation.

3. Research and evaluate 501 (c)(3) nonprofit application process and benefits and make a determination.