



AN INITIATIVE OF

the de Beaumont Foundation + Kaiser Permanente

Healthy Food Procurement

POLICY BREAKDOWN

“We are working toward creating a city where the healthy choice is the easy choice. This is another step in the right direction.”

— Former Mayor Mitch Landrieu, New Orleans, following the city’s passage of a healthy procurement policy.



CityHealth helps cities thrive through policies that improve people’s day-to-day quality of life, well-being and health.

CityHealth, an initiative of the de Beaumont Foundation and Kaiser Permanente, works to advance a package of evidence-based policy solutions that will help millions of people live longer, better lives in vibrant, prosperous communities.

Our assessment of how the nation’s 40 largest cities fare in nine policies is based

in research, backed by qualified experts and shown to have bipartisan support. With these policies in place, cities will attract families who want the best for themselves and their children, young people looking for interesting places to work and businesses that need high-quality talent. The bottom line: Policies like healthy food procurement will improve lives and help cities thrive.

FOCUS ON POLICY: HEALTHY FOOD PROCUREMENT

A healthy food procurement policy makes sure healthy food options are available on public property and helps city residents make smart decisions that will help them achieve and maintain a healthy weight. City leaders can be good stewards of taxpayer dollars while ensuring that the food and drinks served or sold on city property meet basic nutrition standards.

- **Promote nutrition and fight obesity.** Every year, cities with the highest obesity rates pay an estimated \$50 million in direct costs associated with obesity and related chronic conditions. Even cities with comparatively low obesity rates suffer from millions of dollars in preventable health care costs.
- **Use the city’s purchasing power.** Local governments are often the largest employers and food purchasers in a community. Cities can use their purchas-

ing power to make healthier food more available to staff and those they serve.

- **Healthy options matter.** What people consume is heavily influenced by the quality, variety, and cost of food and beverages served and sold in stores, restaurants, workplaces, schools, and other community institutions. Local government agencies that operate cafeterias and vending options should have strong nutrition standards wherever foods and beverages are sold.
- **Popular with staff and the public.** Healthy food procurement policies are popular with the public and can positively affect revenue. A study on Chicago’s healthy vending program in city parks showed that 100% of city staff and nearly nine in 10 park visitors approved of the changes. Average per machine sales increased from \$84 to \$371 during the 15 months of the study.

MEDALS BY CITY

Albuquerque	○
Atlanta	○
Austin	●
Baltimore	●
Boston	●
Charlotte	○
Chicago	○
Columbus	○
Dallas	○
Denver	○
Detroit	○
El Paso	○
Fresno	○
Ft. Worth	○
Houston	●
Indianapolis	○
Jacksonville	○
Kansas City	○
Las Vegas	○
Long Beach	●
Los Angeles	●
Louisville	○
Memphis	○
Mesa	○
Milwaukee	○
Nashville	○
New York	●
Oklahoma City	○
Philadelphia	●
Phoenix	○
Portland	○
Sacramento	●
San Antonio	●
San Diego	○
San Francisco	●
San Jose	○
Seattle	●
Tucson	○
Virginia Beach	○
Washington, D.C.	●

HOW CITIES STACK UP

The State of Healthy Procurement Policies in Big US Cities

Policies that make sure healthy food options are available on public property aid city residents in making smart decisions that will help them achieve and maintain a healthy weight. A city that has a health procurement policy applicable to all city contracts for food and drinks served at city venues, meetings, and events earned a gold medal. Otherwise, cities earned silver or

bronze medals based on their healthy vending machine policies.

In 2018, 16 out of 40 cities received a medal for their healthy food procurement policies, including 8 gold, 4 silver, and 4 bronze. Louisville added a new healthy vending machine standard, earning a silver medal. Kansas City improved its vending machine percentage of healthy food, earning a silver medal.



The Gold Standard for Healthy Food Procurement

CityHealth's 40-city assessment combined innovative legal analysis with the input of national experts to determine the "gold standard" for each policy. We identified which elements are necessary for the best quality policy (gold), a good

quality policy (silver), and a passable quality policy (bronze). Cities with no policy received no medal. Our assessment of healthy food procurement policies includes information about city laws valid through May 1, 2019.

How did we award healthy procurement policy medals?

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
City has a procurement policy mandating nutrition standards	✓	✓	✓
Policy applies to all city contracts	✗	✗	✓
If policy only applies to vending machines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 75% of food and beverages must meet standards 	✗	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 50% of food and beverages must meet standards 	✓		