

8. Statutory Changes - long term

SITUATION: Farmers, food entrepreneurs, food system advocates, and regulators in Minnesota have difficulty navigating complex food safety requirements and in state and local rules and regulations. Moreover, there is a disconnect in understanding around food safety practices and business innovations among these groups at the regional level.

Summary: Identify statutes that need to be changed and pursue those changes.

Ask: MDA/MDH/Delegated Agencies assist in statutory language development and in evaluation of food safety risks/benefits and implementation costs/savings of statutory changes proposed by local food system stakeholders.

INPUTS		OUTPUTS (Activities)		OUTCOMES	
				Knowledge	Actions
Statute researcher		Research statutory changes		Reduced confusion around requirements on the part of food entrepreneurs	Food inspectors field fewer points of confusion.
Funding – MN Legislature/Governor		Establishment of leadership positions			
Other state models		MDA and MDH assist in draft creation/writing of one licensing statute			Reduced inaccuracies & repeat calls
Support from Commissioners of MDA and MDH		Identify supporters and gain their commitment to action/helping		Increased clarity and knowledge of statutory requirements	
Design capacity for writing new statute		Supporters pursue implementation of statutory changes within legislature and governor's office			
Media support and attention		Training of regulatory staff about new statutes			
MDA/MDH involvement – participation, food safety expertise, assistance in writing draft statute		Targeted outreach to start-up food entrepreneurs about statutory changes			
Support and knowledge from agencies, university, and nonprofit organizations (stakeholders) to aid in changing statute					
ASSUMPTIONS: Statutory changes will create a simplified licensing and regulations system that will allow more food entrepreneurs to easily enter and succeed within the system.		EXTERNAL FACTORS: The success of this project will depend on willingness of the agencies' to participate in the statutory changes process, the involvement of supporters/lobbyists to push for change, and how the idea is received/perceived by government decision makers.			