

# **Request for Applications to Serve on the Montana Food System Council**

## **What is the Montana Food System Council?**

The Montana Food System Council (MFSC) is a newly formed citizen council with the mission of finding solutions to improving Montana's food production, processing and distribution capacity and for assuring access to healthy food and nutrition by all Montanans. This council formation is a direct result of the outcomes of the March 2007 Governor's Summit on Food and Agriculture. The MFSC will serve as a coordinating body as well as a communications and organizational hub to connect the many individuals and organizations throughout the state that are working on Montana food system issues. Specifically, the MFSC will connect the four Food System Action Groups that resulted from the Governor's Summit on Food and Agriculture with one another and with the five to seven state agencies collaborating on the Governor's "Montana Food for Montanans Initiative."

The MFSC will be a 15-17 member citizen council with representation from varied areas of interest and expertise related to the Montana food system. In addition to the voting council members, representatives from several state agencies will serve on the council in a non-voting, ex-officio capacity. A council coordinator (paid position) will provide administrative and organizational services to the council. This is a citizen-initiated council, not a formal Governor's council. However, the council will be working closely with state agencies.

## **Role/Expectations of Montana Food System Council Members**

The MFSC will serve in a coordinating capacity to help guide statewide efforts focused on strengthening the Montana food system. The MFSC members will be expected to participate in the following:

- ❑ Quarterly in-person council meetings
- ❑ Quarterly conference calls
- ❑ Participation in periodic food system related conferences/informational sessions for the public.

**Please note:** *Reimbursement for travel expenses will be available if needed by council members.*

## **Overview of Council Selection Process**

A selection committee (made of up individuals who have served on the steering committee that organized the Governor's Summit on Food and Agriculture and follow-up activities) will carefully review all applications to the Montana Food System Council. The primary objective of this selection committee is to create a council that has representation from key and varied aspects of the Montana food system. If you have significant experience with any aspect of the Montana food system, please consider submitting an application. In addition, please feel free to nominate individuals who you feel would be effective council members. The selection committee will follow through with these individuals by asking them to submit an application.

## **The Montana Food System Council Application Form**

### **Contact Information:**

Name:

Title/Organization (if applicable):

Address:

Phone (indicate work, home, cell):

Fax:

Email:

### **Employment Information (current or past):**

Occupation:

Current Employer:

Work Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

**Previous membership in organizations or community initiatives** (please be sure to highlight food system related work here):

**Please address the following questions:**

1. What interests you about serving on the Montana Food System Council?

2. What background or expertise would you bring to this council?

3. Please provide any other information that may be relevant to your potential service on the Montana Food System Council.

4. Of the following stakeholder categories, please select those that are most closely aligned with your area of expertise/involvement. Of the categories you selected, please rank them according to which best describe your potential contributions to the council (1= most closely aligned):

- Tribal advocate
- Montana food system advocate
- Farmer, rancher
- Food assistance programs
- Economic development organization
- Institutional food service program
- Montana-based food processor, wholesaler or retailer
- Public health and wellness professional
- Researcher, educator or Extension professional
- Interested citizen/at-large
- Other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

5. Please submit two reference names of people you have served with on current or past councils, committees, teams, etc., and contact information for these references (name, phone number and email):

**For More Information, contact:**

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**Submit Applications to:**

**Montana Food System Council Application Process  
5625 Expressway  
Missoula, MT 59808**

**Application Deadline Has Been Extended to: May 30, 2008  
(or until council positions are filled)**