



LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

The mission of the Land Stewardship Project is to foster an ethic of **stewardship** for farmland, to promote **sustainable agriculture**, and to develop **healthy communities**.

STEWARDSHIP

● *JUSTICE*

● *COMMUNITY*

● *HEALTH*

● *DEMOCRACY*

ABOUT LSP

- **SOIL HEALTH PROGRAM:** Organizes farmers and landowners to increase the number of farmers in the Upper Midwest implementing soil-building methods through field days, learning hubs, workshops, and on-farm research.
- **REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS PROGRAM:** Organizes communities to expand local and regional food systems in which food is grown with high levels of environmental stewardship, an increasing number of people gain affordable access to good food grown in the region, and in which inequities in the food system are addressed.



RADICLE HEART FARM | CANTON, MN

ABOUT LSP

- **FARM BEGINNINGS PROGRAM:** Train aspiring, beginning, + established farmers on how to successfully start + sustain a farm, economically, environmentally, + socially.
- **LAND ACCESS PROGRAM:** Organize landowners, retiring farmers, and emerging farmers to create pathways for transitioning farmland to people who want to farm. Support the leadership of Black, Brown, Indigenous, and immigrant organizations in addressing historical and present land ownership inequities.

SIMON FARM | BARRETT, MN



ABOUT LSP

- **POLICY:** Organizes people to build power to change governmental and corporate policies that consolidate wealth and power into fewer hands while endangering the health and well-being of people, communities, and the environment.



FEDERAL POLICY

- Land Access
- Crop Insurance
- Conservation Programs



REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

When we build robust community-based food systems, we are creating strong, resilient, and interconnected communities.

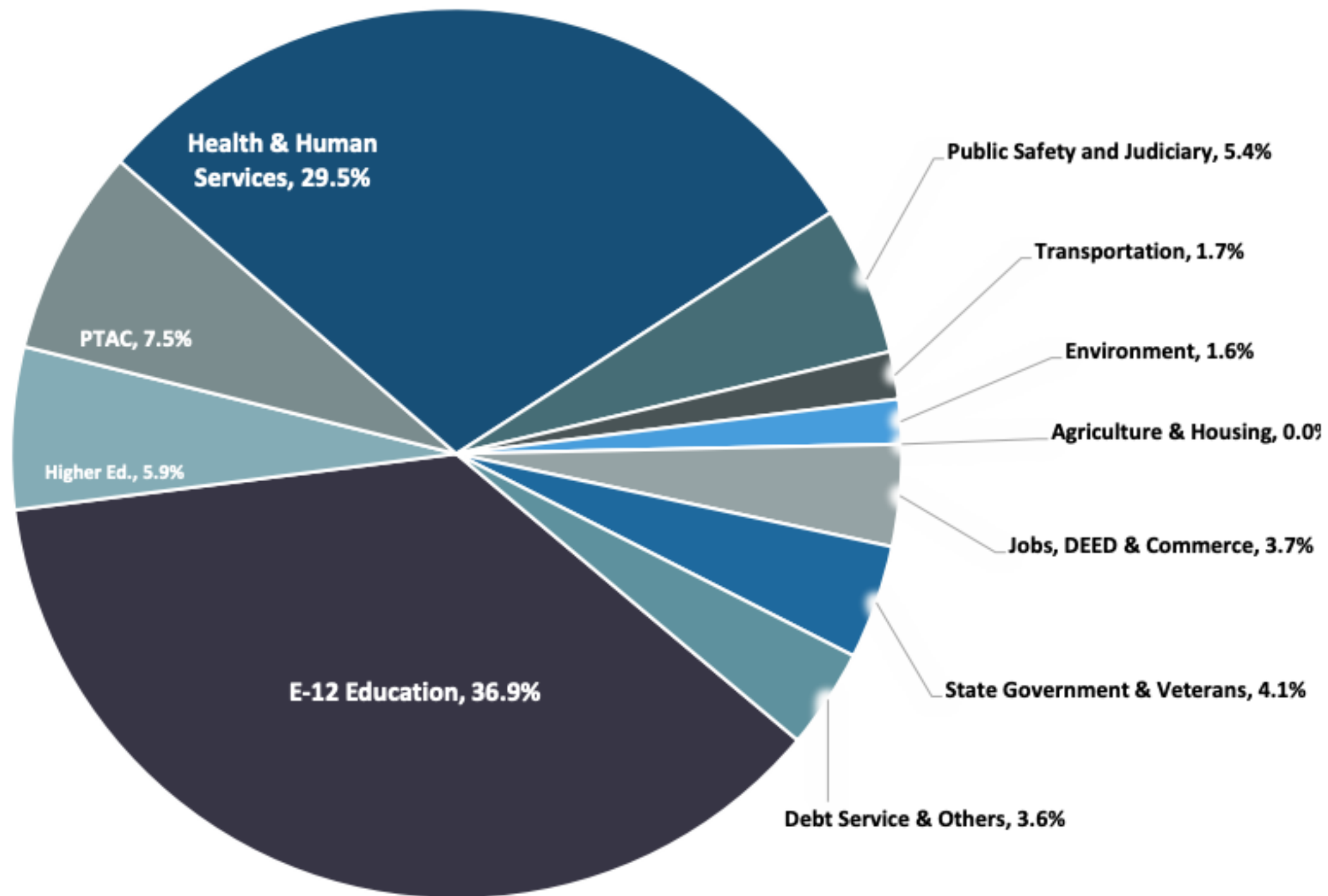
Community-based food systems, are collective hubs of food production, processing, distribution, and consumption that strengthen regional environmental, economic, and social health.

GARDNER FAMILY FARM | SPRING GROVE, MN



Why does policy matter?

MN Recommended Budget FY 2024



(\$ in Millions)

Who are our key targets?

- Agriculture Committee
 - Chair Senator Putnam (DFL, St. Cloud)
 - Chair Rep Vang (DFL, Brooklyn Center)
- State and Local Government Committee
 - Chair Senator Murphy (DFL, Saint Paul)
 - Chair Rep Klevorn (DFL, Plymouth)
- Speaker of the House
 - Rep Melissa Hortman (DFL, Brooklyn Park)
- Senate Majority Leader
 - Senator Kari Dziedzic (DFL, Minneapolis)
- Govenor Walz (DFL)

How you can make a big impact for farmers' markets

- Introduce yourself to your legislators, share your story and develop a relationship with them
- Organize your farmers' market vendors/managers to invite your legislators out to the farmers market
- Take action when you see action alerts, it is critical for legislators to hear from us
- Join in with organizations like LSP, Midwest Farmers of Color Collective, Latino Economic Development Center, or MN Farmers Union to take grassroots action

Basics of Grassroots Organizing

Organized People = Power

Shared Goal:

Strategy:

Tactics:



FARM TO SCHOOL, LOCAL FOOD COORDINATORS



House File 2043
Farm-to-school program established; money appropriated.

MN House

Wednesday, March 1, 2023



Aimee Haag
Farm to School Liaison

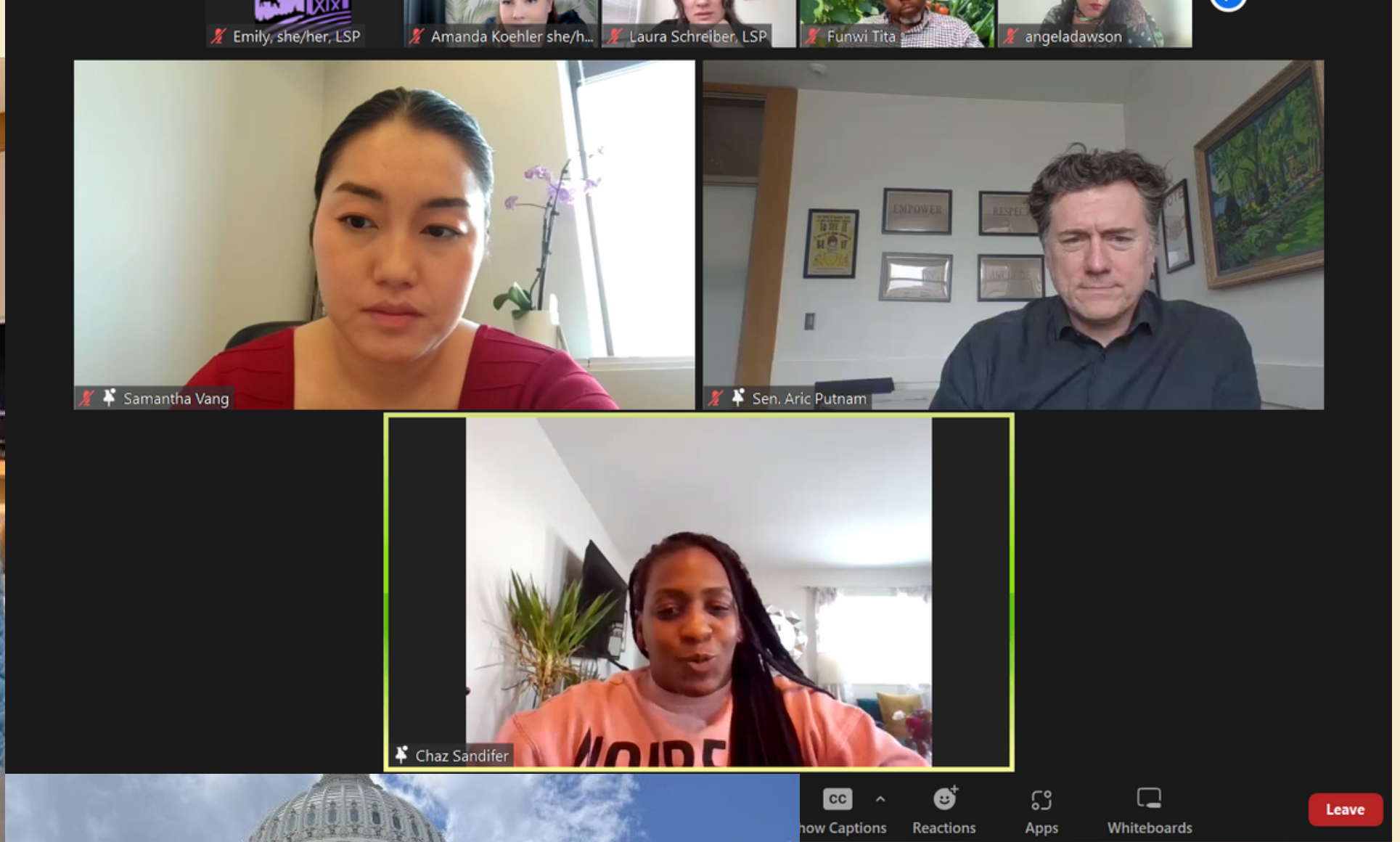
MN House

Wednesday, March 1, 2023



Ben Doherty
Open Hands Farm, Northfield, Minn.
Land Stewardship Project Member

Aimee Haag
Farm-to-School Liaison
Land Stewardship Project Member



House File 1747

Next generation farmer development program established, report required, and money appropriated.

MN House

Tuesday, March 14, 2023





WAXWING FARM | WEBSTER, MN

WE DESERVE STRONG REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS. LSP WILL CHAMPION:



Growing the Farm-to-School Grant Program and allowing early child care providers to participate.



Creating Regional Coordinator positions across the state to coordinate and scale regional food systems infrastructure and the purchasing of local foods.

OPPORTUNITIES

- MinneAg Legislative Overview 12/14
- LSP Regional Food Systems Steering Committee
- Lobby Trainings and Campaign Meetings starting in late January
- LSP Family Farm Breakfast & Lobby Day Thursday, March 7th

