



Community Action Plan for Jersey City, New Jersey

LOCAL FOODS, LOCAL PLACES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

January, 2022

For more information about Local Foods, Local Places visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places>

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Cover photo credit: The City of Jersey City

COMMUNITY STORY

Located in the center of the City of Jersey City, New Jersey, the Bergen-Lafayette neighborhood is home to over 32,000 people.¹ Bergen was settled around 1620 by the Dutch on land originally held by Native Americans, becoming the first permanent settlement in New Jersey.² Bergen City merged with Jersey City in 1870, lending its name to the current Bergen-Lafayette neighborhood. “Lafayette” is likely in reference to Marquis de Lafayette, who was stationed in the area during the Revolutionary War.³ The neighborhood thrived into the 1960s and 1970s, at which point many businesses started closing as children left for school and careers rather than taking over family businesses.⁴

The current racial composition of Bergen-Lafayette is 66% African-American, 19% White, 1.6% Asian, and the remaining 13.4% is comprised of other races.⁵ The median household income in Bergen-Lafayette is \$35,200, with 29% of the population living in poverty. 51% of residents rely on some form of public assistance, and 26% of residents use SNAP benefits.⁶ Abandoned lots and poor economic development over the years have resulted in lower property values and deterred new businesses from coming in.

A lack of affordable local shopping has resulted in residents spending over \$300 million dollars outside of their neighborhood.⁷ With limited healthy food access and economic opportunity, residents in the Bergen-Lafayette neighborhood experience high levels of medical ailments, including high blood pressure (37%), heart disease (15%), and obesity (37%).⁸



Figure 1 – Team Walker distributes free fresh produce to the community at Dr. Lena Edwards Park.

Photo Credit: The City of Jersey City



Figure 2 – Angela Cares hosts a food pantry twice a month.

Photo Credit: The City of Jersey City

¹ Flanagan, Stacey, City of Jersey City, “Local Foods, Local Places 2020-2021 Application.” November 13, 2020.

² Bienvenue, Laurén, Lynn Hazan, “Let’s Explore: Bergen-Lafayette.” June 5, 2016.

³ Antonucci, A., Calle, V., and Pierre-Charles, L., Jersey City Times, “Bergen-Lafayette.” Accessed November 18, 2021.

⁴ Bienvenue, Laurén, Lynn Hazan, “Let’s Explore: Bergen-Lafayette.” June 5, 2016.

⁵ Flanagan, Stacey, City of Jersey City, “Local Foods, Local Places 2020-2021 Application.” November 13, 2020.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Flanagan, Stacey, City of Jersey City, “Local Foods, Local Places 2020-2021 Application.” November 13, 2020.

⁸ Ibid.

Local Foods, Local Places Steering Committee

Stacey Flanagan, City of Jersey City
Angela Davis, City of Jersey City
Jose Arango, City of Jersey City
Elizabeth Phillips-Lorenzo, Earthy Greens LLC
Angela McKnight, AngelaCARES, Inc
Mary Kate Naatus, St. Peter's University
Vivian Brady-Philips, Jersey City Housing Authority
Jerry Walker, Team Walker
Dr. Elnardo Webster, National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Inc.
Orlane Baghana

Figure 3 - Steering committee members.

Local Foods, Local Places Technical Assistance Team

Lance Caldwell, EPA Region 2
Rabi Kieber, EPA
Ron Batcher, USDA AMS
Christina Conell, USDA AMS
Sasha Pokrovskaya, USDA AMS
Anthony Nicome, US EPA OCR
Todd Gordon, EPR (consultant)
Will Cockrell, EPR (consultant)
Shantell Bingham, Fair Harvest LLC

Figure 4 - Technical assistance team.

There are several efforts already underway in Jersey City and the Bergen-Lafayette neighborhood. The city has created a redevelopment plan to maximize the economic potential of the neighborhood, and the Jersey City Health and Human Services Department conducted a community food assessment in 2018.⁹ Matriark Foods is a regional entrepreneur in the area who “upcycles” vegetables that would otherwise have been thrown in the trash. These vegetables are used in sauces and broths to prevent food waste and provide nutrition for the community.¹⁰

In 2020, Jersey City, New Jersey requested assistance through the Local Foods, Local Places program to develop an action plan for promoting local food systems and healthy, walkable, economically vibrant communities. The goals of the Local Foods, Local Places program are to create:

- More economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses.
- Better access to healthy, local food, especially among disadvantaged groups.
- Revitalized downtowns, main streets, and neighborhoods.

The Local Foods, Local Places program is supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Northern Border Regional Commission. Jersey City was one of 13 communities across the United States selected to participate in the program in 2021.

⁹ Flanagan, Stacey, City of Jersey City, “Local Foods, Local Places 2020-2021 Application.” November 13, 2020.

¹⁰ Ibid.

A Local Foods, Local Places steering committee was formed in Jersey City in preparation for this technical assistance award and is comprised of a variety of community partners (see Figure 3). They were supported by a technical assistance team comprised of consultants and multiple federal agency partners (Figure 4). The Steering Committee expressed a desire to convene organizations and businesses from all areas of the food system. The committee wants to collaborate on all aspects of the food life cycle from production to distribution to disposal, all based on the shared values of the community.

The remainder of this report and appendices document the engagement process, the workshop activities, and most importantly, the outcome: a community action plan to achieve Jersey City’s goals.

ENGAGEMENT

The technical assistance engagement process for Local Foods, Local Places has three phases, illustrated in Figure 5 below. The plan phase consists of three preparation conference calls with the steering committee and technical assistance team to clarify goals and arrange workshop logistics. The convene phase includes the effort’s capstone event—a four-day workshop in the community. The act phase includes three follow up conference calls to finalize a community action plan and strategize on how to maintain momentum generated during the workshop. The community workshop was held over a four-day period from October 12, 2021, through October 15, 2021, and the activities those days are described below. Workshop exercise results are summarized in **Appendix A**, workshop sign-in sheets are provided in **Appendix B**, funding resources in **Appendix C**, and general references in **Appendix D**.

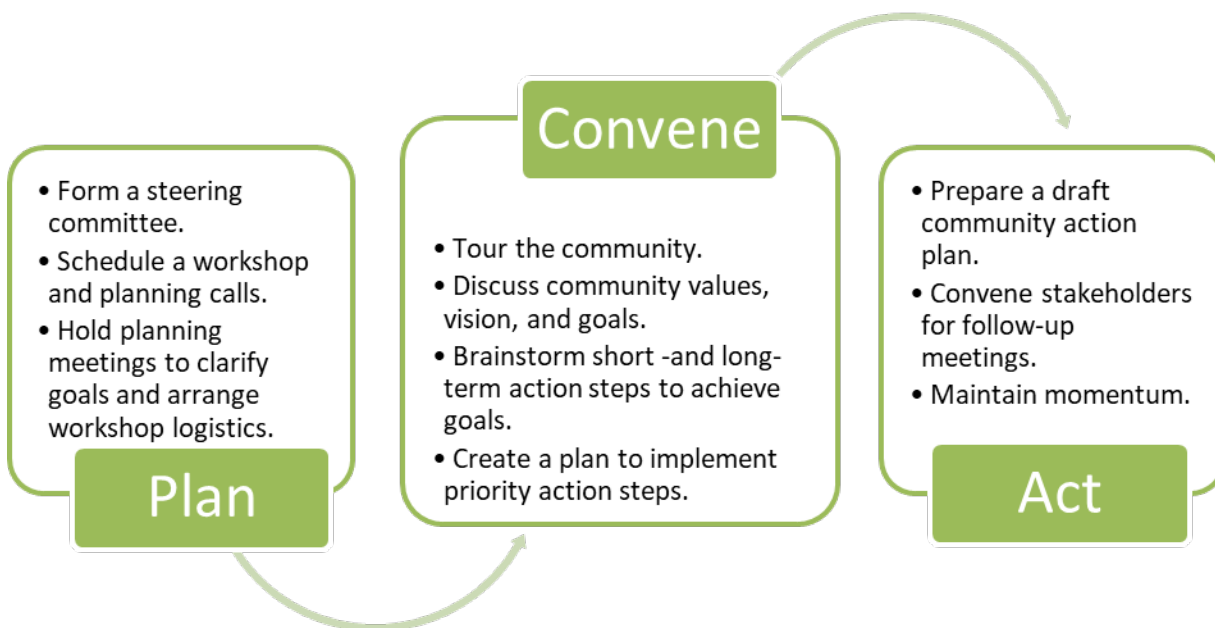


Figure 5 - Local Foods, Local Places technical assistance process diagram.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

Seven virtual working sessions were held from October 12, 2021, until October 15, 2021. The opening session began with introductions from each attendee, who expressed what most excited them about the process in one to three words. An overview of the Local Foods, Local Places program and process followed the introductions. After the program overview, the technical assistance team introduced the four workshop goals.

The local steering committee provided a virtual tour of the food resources available in Jersey City. Team Walker provides free fresh produce at Dr. Lena Edwards Park. Hunger Free Unity in the Community is an organization in Hudson County striving for food equity by distributing healthy food and providing nutrition education. Angela Cares hosted a food pantry once a week at the peak of the pandemic crisis, and now hosts a food pantry twice a month. The Black Interest Team Enterprise has provided weekly groceries and supplies for more than 2,000 families over the last 16 years. Saint Peter's University has a Campus Kitchen, started in September 2014, that saves food from dining halls, cafeterias, and grocery stores, that would otherwise go to waste. Volunteers use the food to create nutritious meals for struggling families in the community. Healthy Greens is an education and nutrition initiative, that residents can participate in, that offers free health planning and screenings. All residents who participate in the program receive free greens grown in the indoor vertical farms. The Steering Committee also provided a list of food pantries in Jersey City, along with the days and times each one operates.

Stories, Exercises, and Brainstorming

The first day session included case story sharing. Case stories were shared about school community gardens, including the Desert Rain Food Service in Tohono O'odham Nation (Arizona), food business incubators, including the Harvest Kitchen Program at The Wild Ramp in Huntington, West Virginia. A review of urban agriculture was presented, including Green City Growers in Boston. Placemaking examples were shown from Corbin, Kentucky; Austin, Texas; Charlottesville, Virginia; and Hamburg, New York. The last case story focused on coordinating emergency food response and recovery, with examples presented from Charlottesville, Virginia, and Texas. Around each case story, questions were asked and fielded, often using the chat to share ideas or other examples.

Virtual Workshop Agenda

Session 1 – Vision and Values – Tues., October 12, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM EST
Session 2 – Case Story Sharing – Tues., October 12, 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM EST
Session 3 – Small Group Exercises – Wed., October 13, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM EST
Session 4 – Action Brainstorming – Wed., October 13, 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM EST
Session 5 – Action Prioritization – Thurs., October 14, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM EST
Session 6 – Action Detailing – Thurs., October 14, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM EST
Session 7 – Report Out/Next Steps – Fri., October 15, 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM EST

Figure 6 - Seven session virtual workshop format

Goal 1: Increase local food production, distribution, and education for residents of Bergen-Lafayette.

Assets, strengths, what's working well

Wide variety of Free Food Distributions available: Aster Place Neigh Assoc. Angela Cares Triangle Park Comm Center Hunger Free Zion Baptist Church Food Dist. Next to Shawn's Table Trinity Church Team Walker (during farmers market season)	City produces a schedule of food pantries	Food from: Food Bank Table to Table Purchases - cisco, etc.
Schools teaching gardening through Aster Garden	Community gardens: Aster Community Garden (through Board of Educ.) - school development authority owns lot	Riverside farmers market donates leftovers to Hunger Free
Aerofarms and Bowery Farming distribute to Table to Table	Greenville Hospital distributes and does education - planning a greenhouse	

Challenges, barriers, things to overcome

Some coordination on food dist. Scheduling, but many on Saturdays due to volunteer staffing	No central location for refrigerated storage - have a need mid-week	Most distribution concentrated on weekends	No formal education program exists
BITE in a facility but not sure how long it can stay	Need transportation options (van) for moving food (Angela Cares, also housing authority) BITE has seen some help from trucking companies	Never sure what will be donated - sometimes get things people don't want or need - fennel, arugula. - need consistency	There are logistical challenges with programs and who provides services. There are bureaucracy and union
No formal programming for education that is sustained - Group 2	Need educational programs to businesses - reimagine to corner store	People don't know how to prepare some of the food that's available. Look at receipt cards to go with food that's available. Don't always know what's available until it's ready for distribution.	There are very high expectations for services

Figure 7 Example of assets and challenges exercise results. A larger version of this image and other workshop exercise results are available in Appendix A.

The second day sessions included small group exercises and action brainstorming. Attendees broke into three groups. Two groups participated in brainstorming exercises to identify and discuss assets and challenges related to the four workshop goals (Figure 7). The assets included things working well in the Bergen-Lafayette neighborhood to build on the food economy and revitalize the neighborhood center. The challenges included existing barriers to achieving the goals and what would be needed to overcome those barriers. The third group populated a Social Pinpoint map, identifying and commenting on locations throughout the community that are already gardens or growing sites, food distribution sites, a place that needs fixing, an opportunity location, another food system element, or their favorite thing. The small group exercises helped the attendees to think about specific actions that could support the workshop goals within the next couple of years. The second day concluded with action brainstorming as attendees drafted ideas for how to advance the community's goals. After the brainstorming session, the technical assistance team reviewed the various actions, de-duplicated them, and put them in categories for ease of viewing.

Prioritization, Detailing, Wrap up

The third day sessions included action prioritization and action detailing. For the action prioritization, the group worked together to identify priority actions to carry forward into action detailing. They then spent time working on each prioritized action to identify its purpose, what it is and looks like, timeframe, responsible parties, resources needed and measures of success.

The fourth day concluded the workshop series with a wrap-up session.

Visioning Headlines from the Future

Jersey City Grows, Teaches, and Provides Healthy Food to All Communities
Jersey City Leading the Charge in Providing Healthy Food!
No Child Goes Hungry in Jersey City
Jersey City: The GARDEN City that Grows Healthy Food that Produces Healthy Bodies and Healthy Minds
Food and Resource Disparities Eliminated
Jersey City Has the Largest Number of Farms of Any Major City in NJ
Jersey City Youth Food Justice Council Spearheads Community School Garden to Market
Every Jersey City Resident Enjoys Food Security
Jersey City Local Food Program is a Model for the State
Jersey City Addresses Food Access, Food Equity, and Offers Dignity to Community Members
Jersey City Programs Produce Healthy Food, which Produces Healthy Hearts
Jersey City's Farm to Table to Farm Programs Tackle Food Security and Food Waste with Composting and Local Vertical Farms Initiatives

Figure 8 – Visioning exercise where participants were asked to draft a headline of a positive future news story, 3-5 years from now.



Figure 9 Zoom Group Picture

ACTION PLAN

This action plan is a central outcome of the Jersey City Local Foods, Local Places workshop. The four goals were developed by the local steering committee to increase access to healthy food and food-related business opportunities for residents of Jersey City, New Jersey. Workshop attendees, including the steering committee and representatives of Federal and state partner organizations, brainstormed almost sixty actions needed to achieve the goals during session four. Attendees then prioritized the most pressing actions for each goal through a voting exercise in session five. Session six entailed filling out action plan tables for the most-voted-on actions under each goal. The steering committee completed missing information and refined the actions after the workshop. The goals and supporting actions are listed below. The tables that follow provide additional detail for each action. Actions that were not detailed are included in a bulleted list at the end of each goal section.

- Goal 1: Increase local food production, distribution, and education for residents of Bergen-Lafayette.
 - *Action 1.1* – Push towards implementation of the Healthy Meals For All school meals program in the state of NJ and Jersey City.
 - *Action 1.2* - Advocate for nutrition education and food literacy programs for youth, adults, and their families.
 - *Action 1.3* - Secure transportation to move donated food.

- *Action 1.4* - Identify opportunity sites for the expansion of food production in the Bergen-Lafayette neighborhood.
- Goal 2: Increase the involvement of neighborhood residents in food-related entrepreneurship and employment.
 - *Action 2.1* – Help organize more community discussions relating to the certification for food distribution.
 - *Action 2.2* – Partner with community colleges (HCCC), Rising Tide, and/or NJCU, St.Peters to hold educational forums or seminars on being a food entrepreneur.
 - *Action 2.3* – Create new pipelines for procurement/ catering/purchasing in anchor institutions (schools, businesses, colleges, organizations) with local providers/entrepreneurs.
- Goal 3: Support public health through increased accessibility and consumption of healthy, local foods.
 - *Action 3.1* – Reach even more children over the summer with events throughout the city and meeting them where they are (i.e. block organization, parks).
 - *Action 3.2* – Formalize the network of food pantries as a coalition; aggregate data collection among coalition; outreach and negotiate with Community Food Bank collectively to identify gaps in service, including needed food items.
- Goal 4: Identify placemaking strategies to activate and revitalize Bergen-Lafayette’s commercial core.
 - *Action 4.1* – Host a food-focused Master Plan Meeting with Division of Planning.
 - *Action 4.2* – Organize neighborhood cleanups with social components with neighborhood groups, students, etc.
 - *Action 4.3* – Work with other federal partners to provide the federal government place making tools and resources to Jersey City.

GOAL 1: Increase local food production, distribution, and education for residents of Bergen-Lafayette.

The Jersey City steering committee focused on food production, distribution, and community education during the Local Foods, Local Places process. The city is home to a variety of food pantry and food distribution efforts, as well as emerging food production efforts in the form of a partnership between the Jersey City Housing Authority and AeroFarms. Workshop participants also gravitated towards this goal and generated nearly thirty potential actions to support this goal. The action detail tables list efforts related to school meals programming, food literacy programs, and ways to more effectively transport donated food to those that are food insecure.

Action 1.1: Push towards implementation of the Healthy Meals For All school meals program in the state of NJ and Jersey City.

What is this? Why is it important? Who benefits?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Federal program under Build Back Better - now passed in California, other states in process of adopting ● No cost meals (breakfast, lunch, after-school) for all students regardless of income ● Could be served in school or as a take home meal ● Gives students access to approved nutritional meals ● Students can't achieve if they are hungry ● This program provides the opportunity for all students in a school or District to receive free meals (breakfast, lunch and after school meals) regardless of their income. The funding for this program would be provided by the federal government Biden administration economic recovery bill
Initial steps and deadlines (Present > 24 mos.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bring to the attention of the Jersey City Hunger Free Committee (Dr. Elnardo Webster is on committee and has information) (Stacey Flanagan organizes the committee) ● State legislature must pass in a bill adopting this federal program for New Jersey
Lead or catalytic role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jersey City Hunger Free Committee ● Program Director, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Dr. Elnardo Webster can lead the discussion ● New Jersey, 31st District, Rep. Angela McKnight
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State Senator Sandra Cunningham ● JC City Council - Ward A, Ward F, and all three at-large members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City Councilor Jermaine Robinson (until January 2022), also a restaurant owner ○ City Councilor Meara Prinz-Arey ● Congressman Donald Payne Jr.'s office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contact: Elizabeth Phillips-Lorenzo, Outreach Coordinator ● Congressman Albio Sires ● Board of Education (Lorenzo Richardson) ● Commissioner Jerry Walker (may be co-lead with his approval)
Potential needs and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Information on the federal program ● Advocacy from non-profits and faith communities
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting of Hunger Free Committee ● Introduce a bill ● Students receiving meals ● Improved student quality of life ● Better educational outcomes

Action 1.2: Advocate for a nutrition education and food literacy programs for youth, adults, and their families

What is this? Why is it important? Who benefits?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth: students need nutrition to learn. Must learn nutrition at a young age. Through schools as well as through community organizations, after-school programs and activities A formal curriculum in schools, working with Board of Education Families: Student education needs the support of families who are buying and preparing food Aerofarms can be engaged with classrooms as an educational tool - has a set, tested curriculum Curriculum is ready to go - need access and participants
Initial steps and deadlines (Present > 24 mos.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a curriculum (city has an existing MOU with NJ SNAP-ED team of educators) Identify locations for instruction (schools, churches, community centers, etc.) Identify faith-based orgs who can help reach families for educational opportunities (Jersey City Together or New Jersey Together - both are coalitions of churches - Rev. Alonzo Perry is a member of both) Contact Board of Education for access to schools for both curriculum and AeroFarms growing equipment
Lead or catalytic role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mory Thomas, Department of Health and Human Services (on Healthy Green JC / AeroFarms and associated curriculum) Dr. Elnardo Webster (on youth and school engagement)
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board of Education/schools - Business Administrator's Office Other Jersey City Department of Health and Human Services staff (incl. Ed Cho, Offer Cohen) Churches Registered Dieticians (Kristin Carlino - dieticians at ShopRite) for input on complex disease conditions
Potential needs and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum (have) Educators (Have SNAP-ED team)
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial meeting with Board of Education

Action 1.3: Secure transportation to move donated food.

What is this? Why is it important? Who benefits?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution: refrigerated trucks for fresh produce. Heated transport for prepared foods • Identify restaurants & other locations (schools, churches etc) that can donate or offer reduced cost commercial kitchen and/or cold storage space for excess food pantry produce; explore grant opportunities for joint truck rental by food pantries • Organizations get last-minute donations but need on-demand vehicles to pickup and distribute • Could be donated facilities by HHS or others • Could be donated vehicles - would require parking, scheduling, etc. • May need large truck(s) that can handle pallets in some cases
Initial steps and deadlines (Present > 24 mos.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with HHS (Ed Cho) on potential to use existing HHS vehicles (refrigerated) - requires advanced notice (vehicles also used for meals-on-wheels or other programs) • Reach out to car dealerships to explore in-kind donations of one or more vehicles • Meet with food pantries to assess their transportation needs
Lead or catalytic role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AngelaCARES, Inc., Angela McKnight • Hunger Free Committee - get on an agenda for this
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) - John Hanussak on vehicle issues. Ed Cho to facilitate. • Local car dealers for potential donations • Grant funders
Potential needs and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Scheduling/assigning system • Insurance • Maintenance • fuel • HHS has some vehicles • Donated vehicles • Grant opportunities? (for electric) • Need to investigate liability issues of non-city employees using HHS vehicles • Will need to solve the issue of refrigeration during transport • May not currently have capacity to go beyond a certain level of volume for transports
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding with HHS about use of vehicles • Secure vehicles for each provider organization

Action 1.4: Identify opportunity sites for the expansion of food production in the Bergen-Lafayette neighborhood.

What is this? Why is it important? Who benefits?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could include community gardens, AeroFarms, vertical growing, greenhouses, beekeeping, etc. • Connect residents to food grown locally • Increased food security vs. foods shipped to the community from afar • Good for community resilience when climate emergencies happen • Opportunity to open a commercial kitchen or partner with existing kitchens to process local food products
Initial steps and deadlines (Present > 24 mos.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine Kitchen spaces • Connect with community gardens • Funding • Staffing • Drivers • Will need to create a business plan on how this will operate
Lead or catalytic role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer Cohen, DHHS • Morgan Spann, DHHS
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mory Thomas, DHHS • Jose Vargas, DHHS
Potential needs and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding • Commercial kitchen • Trucks/transportation • Staff • Partners (such as Red Rabbit)
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making food on site/locally • Volume of meals made annually • Resident surveys and feedback

Actions that were not detailed:

- Promote the need for dinner meals to be served to all students after school
- Push for the implementation of the Hunger-Free Campus bill for College students that are food insecurity challenged.
- Increase funding that includes money for after school programs that include nutrition education as a mandatory component
- Help identify students in afterschool programs that are not receiving after school meals
- Increase the number of students that are participating in the culinary arts certification program in the JCPS
- New Hope ETC.'s STEAM Academy will teach students grades 3 - 6 how to use hydroponics and aeroponics to grow food and vegetables in limited spaces.
- Continue to secure additional grants for the Jersey City Board of Education that provide resources to the district to assist in feeding

- Involving Registered Dietitians in the nutrition education component versus general health educators to provide evidenced based nutrition recommendations that people actually want versus broad nutrition advice.
- utilize New Hope Baptist Church in conjunction with nutritionists to help educate the congregation and community on healthy food choices.
- Hold seminars at food pantry sites, zooms, block associations to education residents
- Coordinate with neighborhood associations to provide nutrition education.
- Utilize Adopted lot & AeroFarm to increase local food production and educate how to farm to residents to distribute and to congregate sites or meals on wheel
- Assist with gathering and distribution of related local food production opportunities and educational webinars.
- Production: vertical farming, greenhouse, beekeeping certification classes, other animal husbandry
- Distribution: refrigerated trucks for fresh produce. Heated transport for prepared foods, Education: Insulin Resistance!!!! Good carbs and high fat diets
- Redevelop Brownfield sites that can be used to support food production, processing and job training. See: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-assessment-grants>. Our FY22 solicitations are out now
- Work with a team/org in Bergen-Lafayette to create a space for Aerofarm Production Farm.
- Would like to increase food production for distribution for the residents.
- Provide a retail space for the distribution and production of local food sources at 311 MLK Drive Rising Tide HQ in collaboration with a community food sourcing partner
- Create a city-coordinated large refrigeration storage unit for the surplus produce from local food distribution
- Identify organizations that can assist with food distribution/provide transportation for residents who need it to obtain food.
- Getting information out to families could be easier if schools were used more to disseminate information on these programs.
- New Hope ETC will network with local farms, stores, Hudson County and Jersey City to provide fresh fruit and vegetables to users of our food pantry.
- Identify restaurants & other locations (schools, churches etc) that can donate or offer reduced cost commercial kitchen and/or; cold storage space for excess food pantry produce; explore grant opportunities for joint truck rental by food pantries

Goal 2: Increase the involvement of neighborhood residents in food-related entrepreneurship and employment.

To support neighborhood revitalization, the City's goal is to localize and help grow demand for healthy local food and support the local economy by highlighting healthy food businesses and connecting the unemployed with food industry jobs. Food and food business are often at the forefront of driving business development, especially in economically distressed communities. Food-related businesses (including cafes, restaurants, food entrepreneurs, supermarkets, corner stores, and food processing and distribution businesses) are an important source of jobs, particularly for those without much education (around 60% of food industry workers have a high-school diploma or less). Shifting to a more locally sourced food economy offers the opportunity to infuse needed economic investment into Bergen-Lafayette. Research shows that transitioning even a portion of business activity to local businesses can reap economic benefits for the local economy, since local businesses and their employees are more likely to spend their money at other local businesses.

Action 2.1: Help organize more community discussions relating to the certification for food distribution.

What this is and why it is important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inform interested food entrepreneurs, including home-based, what requirements are; promote public health. ● Find a facility to support the program that will house the program and allow people to attain the certification they are looking for. ● Reducing the unemployment rate and boost the local economy. ● Assist veterans in job placement.
Initial steps and deadlines (Present > 24 mos.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HCCC has a Culinary Center but unclear if they do stand-alone certifications ● 1 year (need time to bring some of these organizations to the table)
Lead or catalytic role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AngelaCARES, Inc, Angela McKnight
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hudson County Community College ● Schools of technology ● Potentially work with Double Tree for on-the-job training. They currently have on-the-job training programs. ● Jersey City Government ● Rising Tide
Potential needs and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facility to hold the program courses. ● City central registry for job placement ● Veteran placement ● Transportation

Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gainful employment numbers increase ● Stronger community food network
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Action 2.2: Partner with community colleges (HCCC), Rising Tide, and/or NJCU, St.Peters to hold educational forums or seminars on being a food entrepreneur.

What this is and why it is important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HCCC provides culinary ed while NJCU (smallbiz) and Rising Tide offer small biz training; focus could be on helping existing entrepreneurs launch or grow in Bergen Lafayette so that work is more targeted. ● Greater community food and business education. ● Develop programs or connect struggling entrepreneurs to existing programs. ● Make sure the community is involved in the planning process for the program, investing, engagement in existing programs. ● Make sure the Bergen Lafayette community is included in the institutional education program planning. Engagement of local entrepreneurs in the planning process. ● Amplify the voices of existing entrepreneurs in the community. ● Connect alums from the programs to new entrepreneurs.
Initial steps and deadlines (Present > 24 mos.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 year (need time to bring some of these organizations to the table) These three actions will be worked on by the same group of organizers to bring all to fruition.
Lead or catalytic role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St. Peters, Mary Kate ● Rising Tide, Jay Savaluch*
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jersey City Department of Health and Human Services ● Jersey City Economic Development Corporation (JCEDC)
Potential needs and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partner with newly opened restaurants in Bergen Lafayette for educational programing and internship opportunities ● Health and Human Services ● Housing Authority ● Transportation ● Utilize existing small business center at NJCU ● Goldman Sachs for internship opportunities ● Utilize Communipaw's "restaurant row" businesses as a potential opportunity to connect students and entrepreneurs to the local food network. ● Rising Tide entrepreneurship training programs. In partnership with St. Peters any credits for Rising Tide programs will also give you credit at St. Peters.
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Action 2.3 is included in the educational program ● Successful entrepreneurs ● Job placement ● Stronger community food network ● Better student placement in local food businesses

Action 2.3: Create new pipelines for procurement/ catering/purchasing in anchor institutions (schools, businesses, colleges, organizations) with local providers/entrepreneurs.

What this is and why it is important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the number of entrepreneurs of color in the community. ● Drawing people to the Bergen Lafayette area for food education and entrepreneurship. ● Increase food access for the Bergen Lafayette residents. ● Provide gainful employment to entrepreneurs throughout the community. ● Helping existing entrepreneurs market their goods and access to commercial kitchens. ● Increased locally sourced food.
Initial steps and deadlines (Present > 24 mos.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 year (need time to bring some of these organizations to the table)
Lead or catalytic role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St. Peters, Mary Kate
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local Hospitals ● Local Hotels ● Jersey City Government ● Hudson County Community College ● Jersey City Economic Development Corporation
Potential needs and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Connection to farmers markets. ● Home based food law? Some people may be uneasy purchasing home produced value added products. ● Health and Human Services ● Housing Authority ● Transportation Network
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Job placement ● Stronger food chain connections ● Increased food access ● Increased connections to vendor spaces for sales of value added products. ● Keep food local

Actions not detailed:

- Identify & take inventory of existing local food entrepreneurs (in sharable format--maybe using Social Pinpoint).
- Create application and matching process for requesting college interns to support a specific business issue/problem for a select group of businesses identified in Action 1.

- Seek funding to support the program and place 3-5 interns with 3-5 entrepreneurs/businesses.
- Tax incentives for businesses in Bergen-Lafayette, Small business loans, small business expeditors, subsidized competitive pay, incentives that are awarded when participants' health improves, free diagnostic testing. Free delivery to those in need.
- See kitchen availability in Goal 1 for access Approach JCEDC/DCD for start up funding for Bergen Entrepreneurs; HCCC & Rising Tide to provide students/grad info to support grant request; reach out to local restaurants re jobs/internships & host jobs/info fair for Bergen residents.
- Train local entrepreneurs in two cohorts per year on how to plan, build and run successful local food businesses at a site at 311 MLK Drive/Rising Tide HQ.
- Career based workshops, local chefs and restaurants can participate in to provide guidance.
- Assist families to grow their own food.
- Work with local chefs to teach community how to cook and eat healthier meals.
- Help organize more community discussions relating to the certification for food distribution.

Goal 3: Support public health through increased accessibility and consumption of healthy, local foods.

The steering committee aims to create new opportunities to bring locally sourced fruits and vegetables to market, thereby reducing the distance the food travels and, as a result, the food's carbon footprint. By encouraging residents to incorporate plant-based foods into their diet and transform foods to keep them fresh longer, the City will inspire decreased consumption of red meat and chicken, which generate substantially more emissions than produce. Actions under this goal focus on year-round food access for children and identifying gaps with existing food-related programming.

Action 3.1: Reach even more children over the summer with events throughout the city and meeting them where they are. (i.e. Block Orgs, Parks)

What this is and why it is important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Events that take place for youth are beneficial to the whole family. Being able to teach about resources and healthy food. ● Families that may be Spanish speaking (any other non-english speaking family), oftentimes depend on children to be translators. So, when teaching youth it ends up being beneficial for entire family and can have generational impacts. ● Summer camp programming ● Community game nights once a month, orgs come out and do presentations, city doing community game night. ● Visuals for why a certain food is healthy, being able to be engaging (Headstart program for example)
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Initial steps and deadlines (Present > 24 mos.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reach out to Summer Meal program to know about events or organizations that could be partners ● Pick a date, a local popular space ● Reach out to community partners to participate as vendors ● Create a flyer and post via social media and email blasts to community partners. ● Identify some people to get the word out ● Schedule transportation needed for families.
Lead or catalytic role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jersey City Housing Authority, Sabrina Quinones
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HOPES CAP, Inc. Located in Hoboken, NJ. They service all of Hudson County and provide transportation for families to attend their Community Game Night, see Notes for contact info. (Derron Palmer can reach out, Dpalmer@hcnj.us) ● Headstart ● Morgan Spann, DHHS
Potential needs and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Space/ Venue ● Transportation needs ● Volunteers ● Translation services ● Funding
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pre and Post survey (informal) gauge of what was learned and what was taken in ● Getting families enrolled in programs/services/workshops provided by a vendor that is at the event.

Action 3.2: Formalize the network of food pantries as a coalition; aggregate data collection among coalition; outreach and negotiate with Community Food Bank collectively to identify gaps in service, including needed food items

What this is and why it is important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coalition of food access orgs and programs that meet regularly to discuss programming and coordinate programming. ● Consistent communication is important for being able to work together to plan ● Need to coordinate resources and being able to identify gaps in services. Who are we not reaching? How can we improve it? How do we get word out about the resources ● DHS coordinates between programs in house. Being able to cross promote. Summer meals, meals on wheels, farmers market, AeroFarms, congregate program (Mory and Offer working to be able to get better coordination already, schedules are being coordinated at a few sites: Bethune Center, Maurene Collier) ● Benefit: food pantries talked about not knowing what other pantries get, or how much they receive. So, coming together to help fill in gaps and reduce waste.
Initial steps and deadlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create an inventory of food pantries and food access organizations ● Identify representatives from the organizations to move the process forward ● Identify logistics for transportation of goods. Maybe a shared delivery van/truck? A lot of food pantries utilize staff personal vehicles or have to pay for a truck rental.

Lead or catalytic role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Good News Foundation, Jannie Wolff
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Existing food pantries:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Sharing Place: 440 Hoboken Ave. (behind St. Paul's Lutheran Church) Every 3rd Saturday (8AM-12PM) (201) 963-5518 Ext. 6 www.thesharingplacenj.org ○ Our Lady Of Sorrows/Mary House: 93 Clerk St. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (9:30AM-1PM) (201) 433-0626 ○ Mt. Sinai Gospel Church: 27 Prescott Street. Every 3rd Monday (10:30AM – 4PM) (201) 954-1806 ○ Triangle Park Community Center: 247 Old Bergen Road. Every 3rd Saturday (8:30AM – 11AM) (201) 994-4302 ○ George Pitchford Food Pantry: 492 Bramhall Ave. Every 3rd Saturday (8:30AM – 11AM) (551) 200-7246 ○ At The Feet Of Jesus: 273 Ocean Ave. Every 2nd, 4th and 5th Friday (12:30 – 3:00PM) ○ (732) 912-4215 ○ The Cityline Church: 1510 Kennedy Blvd. Every 2nd and 4th Saturday (8AM – 1PM) ○ (201) 332-0970 ○ Jerusalem Baptist Church: 106-8 Atlantic Steet. Every 2nd and 3rd Saturday (8AM – 1PM) (973) 951-5765 ○ Old Bergen Church: 1 Highland Ave. Every last Saturday (9AM – 12PM) (201) 433-1815 ○ St. Mary's Parish Food Pantry: 254 2nd Street & Erie. Every 1st and 3rd Saturday at 7AM – 9AM (201) 434-8500 ○ Grace Community Services: 39 Erie Street. Every Saturday and Sunday (7AM – 8AM) (201) 659-2211 ○ AngelaCARES Food Pantry: 696 Ocean Avenue. Every Friday (3PM – 5PM) (201) 706-2884 ○ Mount Pisgah Ame Food Pantry: 354 Forrest St. Every 3rd Saturday (9AM – 1PM) (201) 303-2729 ○ St. Matthew's Lutheran Church: 85 Wayne Street. Every Monday and Friday (12 – 2PM) (201) 898-2350 • <u>Community gardens (Adopt-A-Lot):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brunswick Community Garden ----- 174-176 Brunswick Street ○ Riverview Community Garden ----- 285 Ogden Avenue ○ Ogden's End Community Garden ---- 105 Ogden Avenue ○ Mandela Lot -----447 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive ○ The Children's Garden ----- 280 Grove Street ○ 81 Garfield Community Garden ----- 81 Garfield Avenue

Potential needs and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education materials and educators • Data and data sources, e.g., data on food insecurity across the city, how many people use food pantries • According to hungercenter.org (2018) Field Site Spotlight: Jersey City, New Jersey » Congressional Hunger Center The food insecurity rate in Jersey was 10.6% of more than 200,000 residents resulting in >20,000 residents experiencing food insecurity
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings are held on a regular basis

Actions not detailed:

- have some kind of contest at the beginning of the school year tied to growing food and they make a dish with what they grew at the end or toward the end of the school year.
- Work in partner with schools to provide nutrition education.
- School Stores? <https://www.today.com/food/school-opens-free-grocery-store-help-families-struggling-get-t231825> Maybe a pop-up store that opens twice a month in the school or near the school. Partner with local nonprofits, food pantries and the CFBNJ.
- Through senior congregate meal site and City WIC program to support public health increased accessibility & consumption of healthy local foods
- Lean-in to Division of Food & Nutrition to ensure there is a systemic nutrition ed program aligned with access (Healthy Corner Stores) & Aeroarms.
- Assess underserved families to identify correlation between diseases and nutrition.
- Provide incentives to residents to live healthier lives
- Support health services in the community
- Formalize network of food pantries as coalition; aggregate data collection among coalition; outreach and negotiate w Community Food Bank collectively to identify gaps in service, including needed food items
- Same as 1 and 2 plus COMMUNICATION - It's impossible to reach our diverse population or gain their trust enough to help them. The inability for the city and BOE to partner on meaningful programs to prevent health related disease must change. Can a non-partisan board to liaise around the politics?
- Hold a everything food series in Bergen Lafayette; highlight history and current assets; Tap into library system and partners to host. Series can also include Pop ups for local entrepreneurs
- Invite governmental agencies and departments to address the church and community on programs and resources to help eradicate hunger.
- Create a commercial-grade kitchen in the Bergen-Lafayette for the local entrepreneurs to be able to use.
- Provide a space at 311 MLK Drive/Rising Tide HQ where healthy local foods can be distributed to the community In collaboration with a community food sourcing partner
- Communicate with parents/children so they are getting the information they need about the program. Developing a comm. plan. Not just using the City's social media pages, but different JC influencers. (i.e JerseyCityMamas)

Goal 4: Identify placemaking strategies to activate and revitalize Bergen-Lafayette's commercial core.

Placemaking is about strengthening the connections between people and the places they share. Successful placemaking initiatives are place-led and community-based. Jersey City is already active with planning and establishing these spaces but there is always room for additional work. The following actions focus on connecting the Local Foods, Local Places efforts with the City's Master Planning process. The steering committee would also like to organize community cleanups to better maintain public places and foster beautification efforts. Under this goal, a main action is coordinating with federal partners to find resources that will continue to leverage efforts with placemaking and other activities related to the action plan.

Action 4.1: Host a food-focused Master Plan Meeting with the Division of Planning.	
What this is and why it is important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a series of meetings with the Division of Planning. Ensure that everyone is welcome and engaged in the process. Host meetings on Zoom with the food community, to have a better understanding of the vision for this neighborhood, especially with food access points. Ensure that food-related topics are included and central to the Master Plan. Re-establish relationships between department for a sustain coordination.
Initial steps and deadlines (Present > 24 mos.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within 1 month: Pursue reintroductions between departments Schedule meetings/ sessions with the Planning Division to reintroduce the health department There are 45 days remaining to engagement in this process.
Lead or catalytic role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manager of Healthy Food Access, Jose Vargas
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jersey City Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Ed Cho Jersey City Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Stacey Flanagan Director of Planning, Tonya Marion Mallory Clark, Division of Planning Lindsay Signmund, Division of Planning Elizabeth Oppen, Division of Planning
Potential needs and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoom meetings between groups There is a need for additional staff and staff time to coordinate
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defining success - can we get there? Conducting effective meetings between Division and food community

Action 4.2: Organize neighborhood cleanups with social components with neighborhood groups, students, etc.

What this is and why it is important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sponsor art/design competitions with students of all ages for beautifying neighborhoods. Also, cleanup and greening/planting. Involve more residents in community gardens activities. The effort should also provide resources for the community. ● Removing debris and trash. Supporting tree maintenance. The trees need help.
Initial steps and deadlines (Present > 24 mos.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Note: build on actions underway or started ● Identify resources and communicate resources ● Begin to communicate face-to-face and grassroots efforts. ● Pull together a platform (some tech-related) to communicate resources ● Develop more classes (offering virtual options). Develop an education model that is sustainable. ● Ongoing - develop and maintain partnerships. ● Bishop and Debra get coffee
Lead or catalytic role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BITE, Bishop Bland
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clean Green JC ● Sustainable JC (Cleanup of tree pits) ● Add the innovation office ● Sonia Dublin (future of education on composting, etc.) ● Grantors/ Funders ● JC MAP
Potential needs and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (Public works offers resources and assistance in these effort) - Need better communication of those resources. ● Funding
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Determine a way to measure awareness of resources ● Track the increase in people using programs. ● Define a clear and effective education model to move forward.

Action 4.3: Work with other federal partners to provide the federal government place making tools and resources to Jersey City

What this is and why it is important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Getting more local with resources. There is a significant amount of existing USDA funding in the community that supports current programing. Better leveraging federal resources to accomplish multiple goals - bring about the greatest effectiveness for the resources available. ● Action includes placemaking but also other community issues, such as COVID releaf, employment, etc. Leverage organizational goals and build out the food access throughout the community.
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Initial steps and deadlines (Present > 24 mos.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inventory funding and programs that are available. ● Develop relationships with federal agencies
Lead or catalytic role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jersey City Department of Health and Human Services, Ed Cho
Supporting cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Red Rabbit, Niami ● Whitsons (involved with disaster relief) ● Meals on Wheels, John Hanusak ● Sandra Saramboun ● Morgan Spann ● JCETP, Katrice Thomas Executive Director ● Offer Cohen, Title III ● Housing Authority, Vivian Brady-Phillips
Potential needs and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● //www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/framework-creating-smart-growth-economic-development-strategy ● USDA Wholesale Markets and Facility Design (architectural design assistance) https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/facility-design ● USDA Newly updated COVID relief type grants https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants
Measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● USDA assisting to Develop plans ● Funding the plan (planning for the plan) and designing what the future will look like. ● A physical space for education, congregate meals, training, (Example: Inspiration Cafe) ● Address training in every level of the food service industry

Actions not detailed:

- Identify event venues in the commercial core and seek support from local SID's, Chambers of Commerce, organizations for event hosting. Ex. Pholk Beauty, Restaurants, etc.
- Use the local co-working space at 311 MLK Drive/Rising Tide HQ where entrepreneurs from the community can work and collaborate
- Targeted redevelopment on key corners or large lot assemblies close to main perpendicular corridors.
- Identify spaces that need to be revitalize...ie. commercial core tour
- Create incentive program of some type around Small Business Saturday (or another ideal time) to promote BL's commercial zone and businesses.
- Sponsor art/design competitions with students of all ages for beautifying neighborhoods. Also, cleanup and greening/planting

IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS

Following the virtual workshop in October, the local committee and technical assistance team conducted three follow-up telephone conferences to review workshop results, finalize the action tables, and construct the action plan document. The first of these calls, held in November, introduced the action tables created during the virtual workshop and began clarifying actions, filling in missing information, and adding detail. This call allowed the local committee to begin further work to refine and finalize the action tables. The second post-workshop call in early December introduced remaining elements of the action plan document, including background information and summaries of the virtual workshop. Following this call the local committee completed further review of all action plan information to help the technical assistance team complete the action plan report. A final post-workshop call in January introduced appendices covering workshop details as well as references and funding resources, and provided final review of the action plan document.

During the post-workshop period the local committee began early work on the implementation actions contained in the action plan document. Early progress and connections as a result of this process include:

- The City opened the Marion Gardens AeroFarms project at a first-harvest event on December 8th. This is the City's second AeroFarms installation providing fresh, indoor-grown greens to public housing residents. The City plans to continue expansion of AeroFarms installations to public housing sites, schools, libraries, and other government facilities.
- The Department of Health and Human Services continues to pursue a commercial-scale AeroFarms installation and has met on-site to consider the feasibility of a site at 150 Pacific Avenue.
- The City has made contact with a faculty member at Rutgers University to explore the potential of students to participate in achieving specific LFLP actions as a part of their course work.

APPENDICES

- Appendix A – Workshop Exercise Results
- Appendix B – Workshop Participants
- Appendix C – Funding Resources
- Appendix D – Reference

Appendix A:

Workshop Exercise Results

Contents

Making Headlines.....	1
Assets, Opportunities, Barriers, Challenges Slides	2
Asset Mapping: Social Pinpoint Maps and legend.....	5
Action Brainstorming and Voting results.....	8

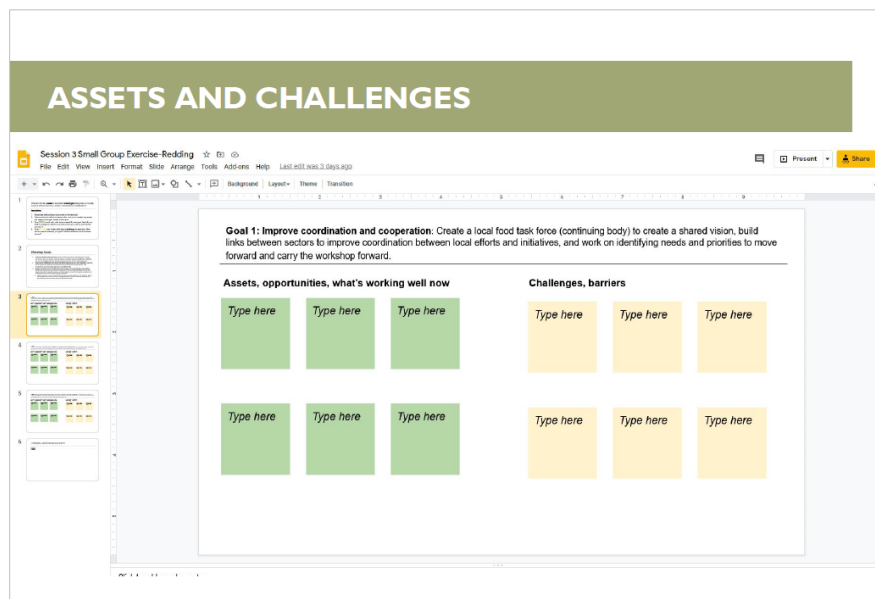
Making Headlines

Participants were asked to brainstorm a headline from the future. Something positive has happened in Jersey City, write a headline for that and let's talk about what the impact was and how it came to be.

- *No child goes hungry in Jersey City*
- *Food and resource disparities eliminated*
- *Jersey City Has the largest number of farms of any major city in NJ*
- *Jersey City Youth Food Justice Council Spearheads Community School Garden to Market*
- *Food and Resource Disparities Eliminated*
- *Jersey City Grows, Teaches and provides Healthy food to all communities.*
- *Jersey City leading the charge in providing healthy food!*
- *Every Jersey City resident enjoys food security*
- *Jersey City local food program is a model for the state*
- *Jersey City, the GARDEN City that grows Healthy food that produces Healthy bodies and Healthy minds.*
- *Jersey City addresses food access, food equity and offers dignity to community members*
- *Jersey City Programs Produces Healthy Food, which Produces Healthy Hearts.*
- *Jersey City's farm to table to farm programs tackle food security and food waste with composting and local vertical farms initiatives.*

Assets, Opportunities, Barriers, Challenges Slides

One of the breakout groups worked on a series of shared google slides. Below is a sample instructional slide for the exercise followed by the results of each goal area.



In this group, you will discuss and brainstorm:

Assets: What is Working Well? (Green Post It Notes)

- What is working well in Redding to build on the food economy and revitalize neighborhood centers?

Challenges: What is Needed? (Yellow Post It Notes)

- What barriers exist to achieving your goals around food, access, and downtown revitalization? What is needed to overcome these barriers?

Goal 1: Increase local food production, distribution, and education for residents of Bergen-Lafayette.

Assets, strengths, what's working well

Wide variety of Free Food Distributions available: Aster Place Neigh Assoc. Angela Cares Triangle Park Comm Center Hunger Free Zion Baptist Church Food Dist. Next to Shawn's Table Trinity Church Team Walker (during farmers market season)	City produces a schedule of food pantries	Food from: Food Bank Table to Table Purchases - cisco, etc.
Schools teaching gardening through Aster Garden	Community gardens: Aster Community Garden (through Board of Educ.) - school development authority owns lot	Riverside farmers market donates leftovers to Hunger Free
Aerofarms and Bowery Farming distribute to Table to Table	Greenville Hospital distributes and does education - planning a greenhouse	

Challenges, barriers, things to overcome

Some coordination on food dist. Scheduling, but many on Saturdays due to volunteer staffing	No central location for refrigerated storage - have a need mid-week	Most distribution concentrated on weekends	No formal education program exists
BITE in a facility but not sure how long it can stay	Need transportation options (van) for moving food (Angela Cares, also housing authority) BITE has seen some help from trucking companies	Never sure what will be donated - sometimes get things people don't want or need - fennel, arugula. - need consistency	There are logistical challenges with programs and who provides services. There are bureaucracy and union challenges.
No formal programming for education that is sustained - Group 2	Need educational programs to businesses - reimagine to corner store	People don't know how to prepare some of the food that's available. Look at receipt cards to go with food that's available. Don't always know what's available until it's ready for distribution.	There are very high expectations for services

Goal 2: Increase the involvement of neighborhood residents in food-related entrepreneurship and employment.

Assets, strengths, what's working well

<i>Rising Tide Capital grad started Hudson Kitchen (Kerney) - shared kitchen for startups</i>	<i>State just passed home-produced rules for baked goods</i>	<i>Hudson Comm College culinary center - teaching food careers</i>
<i>JC becoming known as a food city and destination, but not accessible to all</i>	<i>City working with beekeeper on Bergen-Lafayette hives with veteran or re-entry workers - opportunity to expand here</i>	<i>BITE does recipe education for recipients</i>

Challenges, barriers, things to overcome

<i>Lack opportunities to put startups into brick-and-mortar spaces after Hudson Kitchen</i>	<i>Hudson kitchen too far away for some - need a local commercial kitchen</i>	<i>Need for more food business education</i>
<i>Need education on how to become an entrepreneur or work in food industry</i>	<i>SNAP-Ed available but could be better received. Could use locals to present, etc.</i>	<i>Some programs are a multi-week commitment, which may be too long. Strive for exciting one-day opportunities</i>

Goal 3: Support public health through increased accessibility and consumption of healthy, local foods.

Assets, strengths, what's working well

<i>Food Distro Partners: Table to Table WE Project Rotary Lions Club HungerFree</i>	<i>The health department created a new role "Healthy Food Access Manager"</i>	<i>Existing program, "Adopt a lot to use vacant land"</i>
	<i>Jose also working on healthy corner store program</i>	<i>Have an engaged community of organizations and stakeholders</i>
	<i>JCMC- Farmacy Program</i>	<i>Saint Peters Univ- Community Kitchen</i>

Challenges, barriers, things to overcome

<i>Jose is connecting with farmers markets and heading coordination</i>	<i>Challenges on how information is distributed, language barriers, limits of social media, etc. Need to better use communication tools we have.</i>	<i>Large anchor institutions may have exclusive food contracts so opportunities need to be created for local and healthy food sourcing.</i>
<i>Community Food Bank of NJ - SNAP ED</i>	<i>Transportation and parking?</i>	<i>COVID remains a challenge - people not getting back on transit</i>
<i>Food Pantry Network</i>	<i>Management and staffing of independent markets is a challenge - having a team that can support the market</i>	<i>Nutrition education is a challenge - connecting with the community and getting them to show up</i>

Goal 4: Identify placemaking strategies to activate and revitalize Bergen-Lafayette's commercial core.

Assets, strengths, what's working well

There is a SID that sits at the edge of Bergen-Lafayette

There is a big main street revitalization program, but perhaps it's too big.

There are opportunities for more "greening"

There is a lot of existing infrastructure

Opportunity to create a program to improve business facades

The city is doing a great job to help encourage new investments and see things in a different way.

The city is doing more pedestrian placemaking - might help reduce perception of safety issues

Challenges, barriers, things to overcome

Divide between the planning department and other activities. Opportunity to coordinate with them on placemaking.

Physical distance - there is no transportation options in some communities that need choices.

Some households lack the resources to participate in certain places, businesses, and opportunities.

Perceptions of safety?

Hard to build momentum with business successes - turning a couple of successful restaurants into a district or row.

Vandalism with beautification efforts like plants, signs, etc.

There may be some resistance to changes - there's also a fear of pushing people out that are already there.

Asset Mapping: Social Pinpoint Maps and legend

A small breakout group met around a virtual, interactive mapping tool set up to allow users to drop comments on a map. The comment categories were as follows:



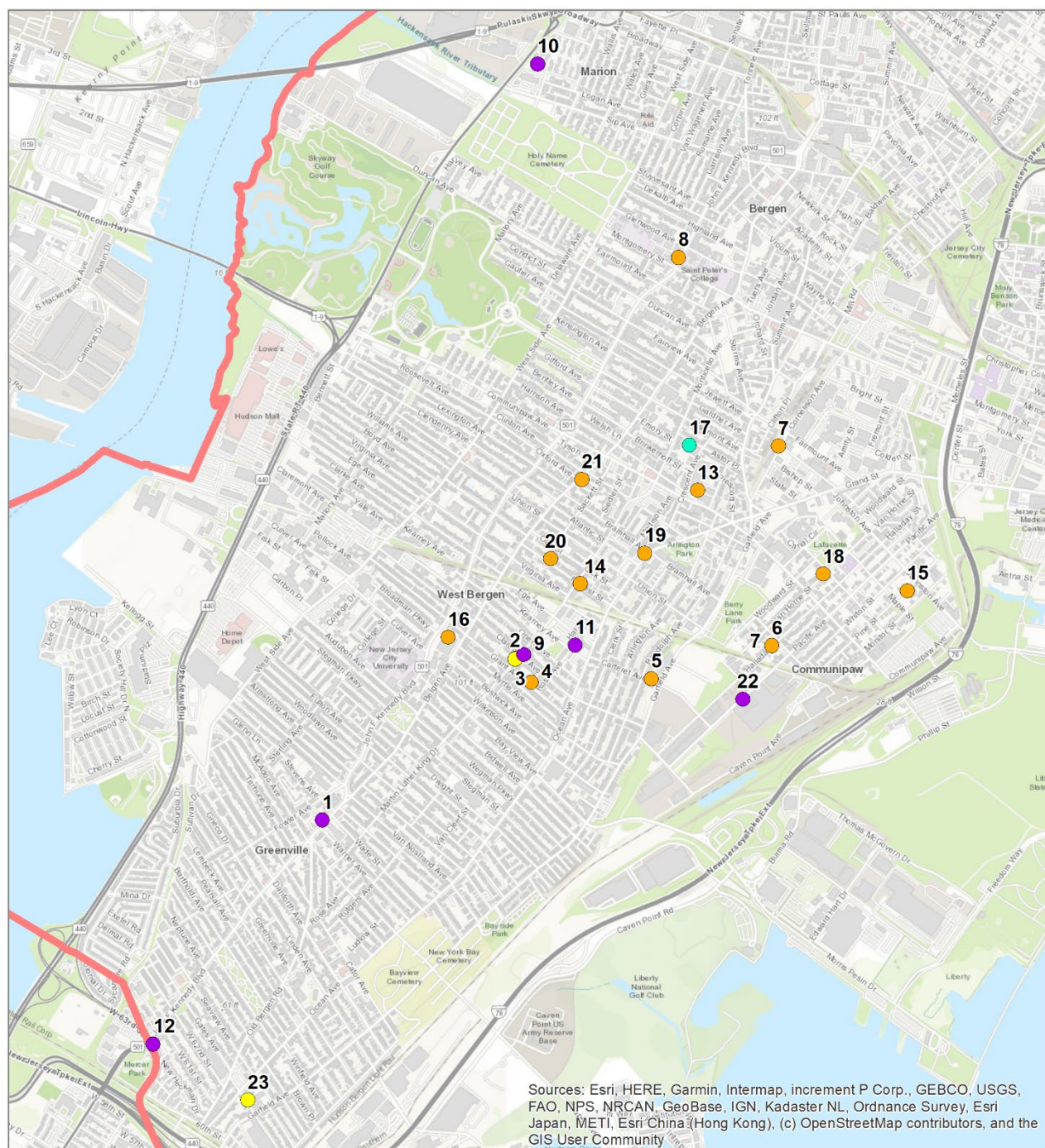
The URL for the activity is <https://eprpc.mysocialpinpoint.com/lflp-jersey-city/> and it remains active for continued use by the community until January 2nd, 2022. The mapping results shown in this appendix are comments received as of November 2021. A GIS shapefile of the results can be shared with the LFLP committee upon request. A table of the map comments is below followed by the map.

Map#	Marker Category	Comment
1	Other Food System Element	1st Monday and 3rd Wednesday SNAP benefit registration
2	Opportunity	Rising Tide: Training and technical assistance
3	Opportunity	Ujamaa Cafe, a sliding scale cafe that will be where rising tide is. Sourced by local food business and restaurants. providing healthy food options. Reduced and at market value for people that can't afford.
4	Food Distribution	CFHE Hunger Project Weekly Meal Delivery
5	Food Distribution	CFHE Hunger Project Meal Delivery
6	Food Distribution	CFHE Hunger Project Meal Delivery
7	Food Distribution	CFHE Hunger Project Meal Delivery
7	Food Distribution	CFHE = Coalition for Food and Health Equity These points represent general drop-off points for clients enrolled in our nutrition program. Serve approx. 250 jersey city residents to home directly
8	Food Distribution	St. Peter's University The Campus Kitchen Community Service food distribution site
9	Other Food System Element	Pioneer Supermarkets
10	Other Food System Element	Jersey City Housing Authority Marion Gardens Healthy Greens JC Project Rooftop Aquaponics
11	Other Food System Element	Extra Supermarkets
12	Other Food System Element	Jersey City Housing Authority Currie Woods Healthy Greens JC Aquaponic project

Map#	Marker Category	Comment
13	Food Distribution	Childhood nutrition programs, Afterschool feeding programs National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa - Alpha Chapter
14	Food Distribution	Angela Cares Food Pantry and Food Distribution Site
15	Food Distribution	Dr. Lena Edwards Park Free fresh produce distribution
16	Food Distribution	Afterschool meal program for youth
17	Gardens & Growing	community garden attached to elementary school
18	Food Distribution	Been here for 25 years doing food distribution every Saturday
19	Food Distribution	Food Distribution
20	Food Distribution	Food Distribution
21	Food Distribution	Food distribution
22	Other Food System Element	Team Walker - potential vocational center. May contain Aerofarm or commercial kitchen
23	Opportunity	Middle School to start a culinary education program

LOCAL FOODS, LOCAL PLACES

JERSEY CITY, NJ (BERGEN-LAFAYETTE NEIGHBORHOOD)



- Food Distribution
- Opportunity
- Gardens & Growing
- Other Food System Element

Jersey City, NJ



Action Brainstorming and Voting results

The action planning process is described in the report. This appendix contains the final brainstormed actions, categorized by group, and with the voting results included.

Goal 1: Increase local food production, distribution, and education for residents of Bergen-Lafayette. (1 of 2)

Schools			Community Education	
<p>Goal #1 5 Promote the need for dinner meals to be served to all students after school Orlane Baghana</p>	<p>Goal #1 5 Increase the number of students that are participating in the culinary arts certification program in the JCPS Juanita Sifflet</p>	<p>Goal #1 ★ Push towards implementation of the Healthy Meals For All school meals program in the state of NJ and Jersey City. This program provides the opportunity for all students in a school or District to receive free meals (breakfast, lunch and after school meals) regardless of their income. The funding for this program would be provided by the federal government Biden administration economic recovery bill 20 Elnardo Webster</p>	<p>Goal #1 Involving Registered Dietitians in the nutrition education component versus general health educators to provide evidenced based nutrition recommendations that people actually want versus broad nutrition advice. 3 Kristin Carlino</p>	<p>Goal # 1: Coordinate with neighborhood associations to provide nutrition education. 7 Jose Vargas</p>
<p>Goal #1 3 Push for the implementation of the Hunger-Free Campus bill for College students that are food insecurity challenged. Elnardo Webster</p>	<p>Goal # 1 3 New Hope ETC.'s STEAM Academy will teach students grades 3 - 6 how to use hydroponics and aeroponics to grow food and vegetables in limited spaces. Alonzo Perry Sr</p>	<p>Goal #1 ★ Advocate for a nutrition education/ food literacy curriculum to be implemented in public schools (+youth + family + faith communities) 17 Harry Laurie</p>	<p>Goal 1 utilize New Hope Baptist Church in conjunction with nutritionists to help educate the congregation and community on healthy food choices. 2 Alonzo Perry Sr</p>	<p>Goal #1 Utilize Adopted lot & AeroFarm to increase local food production and educate how to farm to residents to distribute and to congregate sites or meals on wheel 5 Ed Cho</p>
<p>Goal #1 4 Increase funding that includes money for after school programs that include nutrition education as a mandatory component Cassir Bastien</p>	<p>Goal #1 Continue to secure additional grants for the Jersey City Board of Education that provide resources to the district to assist in feeding 8 Francine Luce</p>		<p>Goal 1 Hold seminars at food pantry sites, zooms, block associations to education residents 13 Angela McKnight</p>	<p>Goal #1 3 Assist with gathering and distribution of related local food production opportunities and educational webinars. Contact: EPA R2, Lance Caldwell</p>
<p>Goal #1 6 Help identify students in afterschool programs that are not receiving after school meals Hasaunnie Hilliard</p>				

Goal 1: Increase local food production, distribution, and education for residents of Bergen-Lafayette. (2 of 2)

Urban Agriculture

Goal # 1 13
Production: vertical farming, greenhouse, beekeeping certification classes, other animal husbandry
Distribution: refrigerated trucks for fresh produce. Heated transport for prepared foods, Education: Insulin Resistance!!!! Good carbs and high fat diets
Mory Thomas

Goal # 1 3
Work with a team / org is Bergen-Lafayette to create a space for Aerofarm Production Farm.
Stacey Flanagan

Goal # 1 9
Would like to increase food production for distribution for the residents.
Callie Wright

Goal # 1 3
Redevelop Brownfield sites that can be used to support food production, processing and job training. See: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-assessment-grants> Our FY22 solicitation are out now

Distribution

Goal #1 3
Workshop Goal 1
Provide a retail space for the distribution and production of local food sources at 311 MLK Drive Rising Tide HQ in collaboration with a community food sourcing partner
Jay Savulich

Goal # 1 3
Create a city-coordinated large refrigeration storage unit for the surplus produce from local food distribution
Elizabeth Phillips-Lorenzo

Goal 1 2
Identify organizations that can assist with food distribution/provide transportation for residents who need it to obtain food.
Sabrina Quinones

Communication

Goal 1 1
Getting information out to families could be easier if schools were used more to disseminate information on these programs.
John Hanussak

Access

Goal 1 2
New Hope ETC will network with local farms, stores, Hudson County and Jersey City to provide fresh fruit and vegetables to users of our food pantry.
Alonzo Perry Sr

Goal #1 9
Identify restaurants & other locations (schools, churches etc) that can donate or offer reduced cost commercial kitchen and/or; cold storage space for excess food pantry produce; explore grant opportunities for joint truck rental by food pantries
Vivian Brady-Phillips



Goal 2: Increase the involvement of neighborhood residents in food-related entrepreneurship and employment.

Food Supply

Goal #2 **7**
Create new pipelines for procurement/catering/purchasing in anchor institutions (schools, businesses, colleges, organizations) with local providers/entrepreneurs. 
Mary Kate Naatus

Goal #2 **3**
Identify & take inventory of existing local food entrepreneurs (in sharable format--maybe using Social Pinpoint).
Mary Kate Naatus

Business Assistance

Goal #2 **2**
Create application and matching process for requesting college interns to support a specific business issue/problem for a select group of businesses identified in Action 1.
Mary Kate Naatus

Goal #2 **2**
Seek funding to support the program and place 3-5 interns with 3-5 entrepreneurs/businesses.
Mary Kate Naatus


Goal #2 **5**
Tax incentives for businesses in Bergen-Lafayette, Small business loans, small business expeditors, subsidized competitive pay, incentives that are awarded when participants' health improves, free diagnostic testing. Free delivery to those in need.
Mory Thomas


Goal #2 See kitchen availability in Goal 1 for access Approach JCEDC/DCD for start up funding for Bergen Entrepreneurs; HCCC & Rising Tide to provide students/grad info to support grant request; reach out to local restaurants re jobs/internships & host jobs/info fair for Bergen residents. **3**
Vivian Brady-Phillips

Education

Goal #2 **1**
Workshop Goal 2 Train local entrepreneurs in two cohorts per year on how to plan, build and run successful local food businesses at a site at 311 MLK Drive/Rising Tide HQ.
Jay Savulich

Goal #2 **2**
Career based workshops, local chefs and restaurants can participate in to provide guidance.
Sabrina Quinones

Goal #1 **16**
Help organize more community discussions relating to the certification for food distribution. 
Sandra Webster

Goal # **7**
Partner with community colleges (HCCC), Rising Tide, and/or NJCU, St.Peters to hold educational forums or seminars on being a food entrepreneur. 
Angela McKnight

Goal #2:
Assist families to grow their own food.
Jose Vargas

Goal #2 **5**
Work with local chefs to teach community how to cook and eat healthier meals.
Elizabeth Phillips-Lorenzo

Goal 3: Support public health through increased accessibility and consumption of healthy, local foods.

Working with Schools	Existing Resources	Leadership Coalition	Events and Outreach	Facility Needs
<p>Goal 3, 1 have some kind of contest at the beginning of the school year tied to growing food and they make a dish with what they grew at the end or toward the end of the school year. John Hanussak</p> <p>Goal # 3: 8 Work in partner with schools to provide nutrition education. Jose Vargas</p> <p>Goal # 3 4 School Stores? https://www.today.com/food/school-opens-free-grocery-store-help-families-struggling-get-t231825 Maybe a pop up store that opens twice a month in the school or near the school. Partner with local nonprofits, food pantries and the CFBNJ. Sabrina Quinones</p>	<p>Goal 3 2 Through senior congregate meal site and City WIC program to support public health increased accessibility & consumption of healthy local foods Ed Cho</p> <p>Goal # 3 3 Lean-in to Division of Food & Nutrition to ensure there is a systemic nutrition ed program aligned with access (Healthy Corner Stores) & Aerofarms. Stacey Flanagan</p> <p>Goal # 3 2 Assess underserved families to identify correlation between diseases and nutrition. Jose Vargas</p> <p>Goal #3 3 Provide incentives to residents to live healthier lives Elizabeth Phillips-Lorenzo</p> <p>Goal # 3 4 Support health services in the community Callie Wright</p>	<p>Goal 3 4 Formalize network of food pantries as coalition; aggregate data collection among coalition; outreach and negotiate w Community Food Bank collectively to identify gaps in service, including needed food items Vivian Brady-Phillips</p> <p>Goal # 3 1 Same as 1 and 2 plus COMMUNICATION - It's impossible to reach our diverse population or gain their trust enough to help them. The inability for the city and BOE to partner on meaningful programs to prevent health related disease must change. Can a non-partisan board to liaise around the politics? Mory Thomas</p>	<p>Goal 3 1 Hold a everything food series in Bergen Lafayette; highlight history and current assets; Tap into library system and partners to host. Series can also include Pop ups for local entrepreneurs Vivian Brady-Phillips</p> <p>Goal 3 2 Invite governmental agencies and departments to address the church and community on programs and resources to help eradicate hunger. Alonzo Perry Sr</p> <p>Goal # 3 6 Reach even more children over the summer with 15 more sites throughout the city and meeting them where they are. (i.e. Block Orgs, Parks) Morgan Spann</p>	<p>Goal # 3 2 Create a commercial-grade kitchen in the Bergen-Lafayette for the local entrepreneurs to be able to use. Elizabeth Phillips-Lorenzo</p> <p>Goal #3 1 Provide a space at 311 MLK Drive/Rising Tide HQ where healthy local foods can be distributed to the community In collaboration with a community food sourcing partner Jay Savulich</p> <p>Goal # 3 4 Communicate with parents/children so they are getting the information they need about the program. Developing a comm. plan. Not just using the City's social media pages, but different JC influencers. (i.e JerseyCityMamas) Morgan Spann</p>

Goal 4: Identify placemaking strategies to activate and revitalize Bergen-Lafayette's commercial core.

Goal # 4 **6**
Work with other federal partners to provide the federal government place making tools and resources to JC. For example: <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/framework-creating-smart-growth-economic-development-strategy>

Goal # 4 **1**
Identify event venues in the commercial core and seek support from local SID's, Chambers of Commerce, organizations for event hosting. Ex. Pholk Beauty, Restaurants, etc.
Mary Kate Naatus

Goal #4 **3**
Use the local co-working space at 311 MLK Drive/Rising Tide HQ where entrepreneurs from the community can work and collaborate
Jay Savulich

Goal #4 **4**
Sponsor art/design competitions with students of all ages for beautifying neighborhoods. Also, cleanup and greening/planting.
Mary Kate Naatus

Goal # 4 **5**
Host a food-focused Master Plan Meeting with Division of Planning.
★ Stacey Flanagan

Goal # 4 **1**
Targeted redevelopment on key corners or large lot assemblies close to main perpendicular corridors.
Mory Thomas

Goal # 4 **1**
The police presence is a joke. Drugs being sold on one corner and cops on the other looking at their phones.
Mory Thomas

Goal # 4 **1**
Create incentive program of some type around Small Business Saturday (or another ideal time) to promote BL's commercial zone and businesses.
Mary Kate Naatus

Goal # **2**
Identify spaces that need to be revitalize...ie. commercial core tour
Angela McKnight

Goal #4 **3**
Organize neighborhood cleanups with social components with neighborhood groups, students, etc. Involve more residents in community gardens activities.
Mary Kate Naatus

Appendix B:

Workshop Participants

Workshop Participants

Names in bold are the persons who either participated in the pre-workshop calls as the steering committee or signed up to join post-workshop steering committee calls.

First	Last	Affiliation or Organization	Email
Deborah	Alston, Committee woman	BITE DIRECTOR	USADEBBIEALSTON@GMAIL.COM
Jose	Arango	Jersey City Department of Housing, Economic Development & Commerce	ArangoJ@jcnj.org
Orlane	Baghana	County of Passaic	orlanebaghana@yahoo.com
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Florence	Baron	Jersey City Economic Development Corporation	fbaron@jcedc.org
Cassir	Bastien	Saint Peter's University	cbastien@saintpeters.edu
Bishop	Bland	BITE Food Distribution and Resource Pantry	njbite@gmail.com
Vivian	Brady- Philips	Jersey City Housing Authority	vbrady-phillips@jcha.us
Dawn	Careccio Carpenter	The WE Project	ms.dawncarpenter@gmail.com
Kristin	Carlino	Rwjbh Barnabas Health	kristin.carlino@rwjbh.org
Leeja	Carter	Coalition for Food and Health Equity	info@coalitionequity.org
Offer	Cohen	Jersey City Dept. of Health and Human Service	ocohen@jcnj.org
Angela C.	Davis	Jersey City Department of Health & Human Services	adavis@jcnj.org
Stacey	Flanagan	City of Jersey City	SFlanagan@jcnj.org
Kim	Greene	Liberty State Park For All Board Chairman	greenekim327@gmail.com
John	Hanussak	Meals on Wheels - Division of Food and Nutrition City of Jersey City	jhanussak@jcnj.org
Nicole	Harrison- Garcia	Hudson County Health & Human Services	nhgarcia@hcnj.us
Hasaunnie	Hilliard	Administrator	simshasaunnie@yahoo.com
Debra	Italiano	Sustainable Jersey City	debitaliano@gmail.com

First	Last	Affiliation or Organization	Email
harry	laurie	NATIONAL SORORITY PHI DELTA KAPPA ALPHA CHAPTER	harrylauriesr@aol.com
Francine	Luce	Saint Peter's University	Fluce@saintpeters.edu
Angela V.	McKnight	AngelaCARES, Inc.	angela@angelacares.org, aswMcknight@njleg.org
Valerie	Morris	Jersey City Public Schools	Vmorris@jcboe.org
Mary Kate	Naatus PhD	Frank J. Guarini School of Business, St. Peter's University	mnaatus@saintpeters.edu
Derron	Palmer	Hudson County Dept of Health and Human Services	Dpalmer@hcnj.us
Dr. Alonzo	Perry Sr	New Hope ETC	alonzoperry56@gmail.com
Elizabeth	Phillips- Lorenzo	Earthy Greens LLC	ephillips629@yahoo.com
Mira	Prinz-Arey	Councilwoman, Ward B, Jersey City	mprinz-arey@jcnj.org
Sabrina	Quinones	The Jersey City Housing Authority	squinones@jcha.us
Jermaine	Robinson	Councilman Robinson	JDRobinson@jcnj.org
Gillian	Sarjeant- Allen	Community member	radicalsolutionsnj@gmail.com
Jay	Savulich	Rising Tide Capital	jay@risingtidecapital.org
Dana	Shilling	Elder Law/Care Communications, Inc.	dshilling@verizon.net
Dr Juanita	Sifflet	Affiliate of the JCBOE	jsifflet@jcboe.org
Morgan	Spann	City of Jersey City	mspann@jcnj.org
Mory	Thomas	DHHS Food and Nutrition	mrhomas@jcnj.org
Claudia	Urdanivia	4-H Rutgers Cooperative Extension	cru1@njaes.rutgers.edu
Jose	Vargas	Jersey City Department of Health & Human Services.	JVargas@jcnj.org
Jerry	Walker	Team Walker	jerry@teamwalker.org
Sandra	Webster	National Sorority Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. Alpha Chapter	s.webster1063@comcast.net
Dr. Elnardo	Webster	National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Inc., Alpha Chapter	ewebster@saintpeters.edu
Callie	Wright	Zion Cares Community Development - Zion Baptist Church JCNJ	callieawright@gmail.com

Federal and State Agency Partners

First	Last	Organization	Email
Lance	Caldwell	EPA Region 2 (New York City)	Caldwell.Lance@epa.gov
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Ron	Batcher	USDA - AMS	ronald.batcher@usda.gov
Christina	Conell	USDA - AMS	christina.conell@usda.gov
Anthony	Nicome	US EPA OCR (Washington DC)	nicome.anthony@epa.gov

Planning Assistant Consultants/Facilitators

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation/Org (if applicable)	Email
Todd	Gordon	EPR	t.gordon@epr-pc.com
Will	Cockrell	EPR	w.cockrell@epr-pc.com
Shantell	Bingham	Fair Harvest LLC	shantellbingham@gmail.com

Appendix C: Funding Resources

Contents

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service	2
Soon to be Announced	4
USDA Rural Development	5
USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture	6
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	8
USDA Farm Service Agency	8
USDA Food and Nutrition Service	8
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	9
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	11
U.S. Small Business Administration	12
Others	13
Private Grant Funding	14

Cities and towns can strengthen their local food systems through a variety of federal, state, local, and philanthropic projects and programs. USDA and other federal agencies help support local food systems by working with producers, engaging with communities, financing local processing and distribution, or helping retailers develop local food connections. Below are some of the resources available.

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

The information below reflects information from a prior year's Request for Application (RFA). This information could change in the FY2022 RFA.

Farmers Market Promotion Program

The program aims to increase domestic consumption of and access to locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets. This program can support the development, improvement, and expansion of farmers markets, agritourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities. There are two type of FMPP grants: Capacity Building (CB) and Community Development Training and Technical Assistance (CTA). CB projects are intended to assist applicants to achieve its mission and build long-term organizational capacity in the development, coordination, and expansion of domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, CSA programs, agritourism activities, online sales, or other direct producer-to-consumer (including direct producer-to-retail, direct producer-to-restaurant and direct producer-to-institutional marketing) market opportunities. CTA projects are intended to assist applicants' efforts to provide outreach, training, and technical assistance to farm and ranch operations serving local markets and other interested parties for developing, coordinating, and expanding domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, CSA programs, agritourism activities, online sales, or other direct producer-to-consumer (including direct producer-to-retail, direct producer-to-restaurant and direct producer-to-institutional marketing) market opportunities. The program requires cost sharing or matching 25 percent of the grant.

Project Type	Duration (Months)	Minimum Award	Maximum Award
CB	36	\$50,000	\$250,000
CTA	36	\$100,000	\$500,000

➤ <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp>

Local Food Promotion Program

The program offers grant funds to support the development and expansion of local and regional food business enterprises to increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets. Planning grants fund the planning stages of establishing or expanding a local and regional food business enterprise. Activities can include but are not limited to market research, feasibility studies, and business planning. Implementation grants help establish, improve, or expand local and regional food business enterprises. Activities can include but are not limited to

training and technical assistance for the business enterprise and/or for producers working with the business enterprise; outreach and marketing to buyers and consumers; and non-construction infrastructure improvements to business enterprise facilities or information technology systems. The program requires cost sharing or matching 25 percent of the grant.

Project Type	Duration (Months)	Minimum Award	Maximum Award
Planning	18	\$25,000	\$100,000
Implementation	36	\$100,000	\$500,000

➤ <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp>

Organic Certification Cost Share Programs

Two Organic Certification Cost Share Programs help certified organic operations defray the costs associated with organic certification. Organic operations can be reimbursed for 50 percent of their certification costs up to \$500.

➤ <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/occsp>

Regional Food System Partnerships

The Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP) program supports partnerships that connect public and private resources to plan and develop local or regional food systems. Effort is focused on building and strengthening local or regional food economy viability and resilience by alleviating unnecessary administrative and technical barriers for participating partners. RFSP is implemented through two project types: Planning and Design and Implementation and Expansion. Planning and Design projects support partnerships in the early stages of convening, envisioning, and planning processes for developing local or regional food systems. Implementation and Expansion projects support partnerships building on prior or ongoing efforts within a local or regional food system. The program requires cost sharing or matching 25 percent of the grant.

Project Type	Duration (Months)	Minimum Award	Maximum Award
Planning & Design	24	\$100,000	\$250,000
Implementation & Expansion	36	\$250,000	\$1,000,000

➤ <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/rfsp>

USDA Programs in the Local Food Supply Chain

The Agricultural Marketing Service created a fact sheet to help identify which USDA grants and programs apply to you depending on your place in the local and regional food system.

➤ <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/FoodSupplyChainFactSheet.pdf>

Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant (MPIRG) program

Assists currently operational meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities in obtaining a Federal Grant of Inspection under the [Federal Meat Inspection Act \(FMIA\)](#) or the [Poultry Products Inspection Act \(PPIA\)](#); or to operate as a State-inspected facility that is compliant with FMIA or PPIA under a respective [Cooperative Interstate Shipment \(CIS\) program](#).

Project Type	Duration (Months)	Start Date	Completion Date	Maximum Award
Planning for a Federal Grant of Inspection	36	September 30, 2021	September 29, 2024	\$200,000
Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) Compliance	36	September 30, 2021	September 29, 2024	\$200,000

➤ <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/mpirg>

Farmworker and Food Worker Relief Grant Program

Provides approximately \$700 million in Consolidated Appropriations Act funds to provide grants to State agencies, Tribal entities, and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with experience in providing support or relief services to farmworkers or meatpacking workers. Awards will generally range from \$5,000,000 to \$50,000,000.

Entities receiving awards will then distribute relief payments to frontline farmworkers and meatpacking workers who incurred expenses preparing for, preventing exposure to, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. USDA strongly encourages small organizations to partner together or to partner with national organizations in submitting applications to ensure this support has the broadest reach and distribution possible to America's farm and food workers. As part of this program, USDA also expects to fund one or more \$20,000,000 initiatives to eligible entities who can distribute the same relief payments to frontline grocery workers.

Important Dates:

- USDA will announce a Request for Applications through [Grants.Gov](#) in the fall of 2021.
- Workers should apply to grant recipients to receive funds.
- Contact information will be available in the late fall.

➤ <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/ffwr>

Soon to be Announced**Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program**

The Pandemic Response and Safety (PRS) Grant Program provides grants to food processors, distributors, farmers markets, and producers to respond to coronavirus, including for measures to protect workers against COVID-19.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/prs>

Seafood Processors Pandemic Response and Safety (SPRS) Block Grant Program -

The Seafood Processors Pandemic Response and Safety (SPRS) Block Grant Program provides grants to eligible state agencies and territories to support seafood processors, including at-sea processing vessels, to respond to coronavirus, including for measures to protect workers against COVID-19.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/sprs>

USDA Rural Development

USDA Rural Development Summary of All Programs

USDA Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Through our programs, we help rural Americans in many ways. We offer loans, grants and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing; health care; first responder services and equipment; and water, electric and communications infrastructure. The page below is a landing page for all programs and the PDF “program matrix” offers a useful summary of all programs. This funding appendices for Local Foods, Local Places identifies below some specific Rural Development grant and loan offerings that specifically mention local food systems.

- <https://www.rd.usda.gov/page/all-programs>
- https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/RD_ProgramMatrix.pdf

Rural Development COVID-19 Response

USDA Rural Development has taken a number of immediate actions to help rural residents, businesses, and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Rural Development will keep our customers, partners, and stakeholders continuously updated as more actions are taken to better serve rural America. Below are three sites, the landing page for USDA RD COVID-19, a COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide (PDF), and an Immediate Actions Fact Sheet.

- <https://rd.usda.gov/coronavirus>
- https://rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_COVID-19_Fed_Rural_Resource_Guide.pdf
- https://rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_RD_SA_COVID19_ProgramImmediateActions.pdf

Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program

This program provides funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas with no more than 20,000 residents. Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve local food system facilities such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs, and greenhouses. The program offers grants of up to 75 percent of eligible project costs, low-interest loans, and loan guarantees.

- <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>

Economic Impact Initiative Grant Program

Funding for essential community facilities is also available through this program for communities with extreme unemployment and severe economic depression. An essential community facility is one that provides an essential service to the local community, is needed for the orderly development of the community, serves a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings.

- <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/economic-impact-initiative-grants>

Rural Business Development Grants

These grants fund technical assistance, training, and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small businesses in rural areas with no more than 50,000 residents. Generally, grants range from \$10,000 up to \$500,000 and do not require cost sharing. The program can support activities such as training and technical assistance; acquisition or development of land; construction or renovation of buildings, equipment, roads, and utilities; capitalization of revolving loan funds; rural transportation improvements; feasibility studies and business plans; and rural business incubators.

- <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants>

Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

This micro-loan program can fund agriculture production activities. Potential loan recipients would need to find out if there is an existing loan fund in their geographic area, or an experienced lending organization could apply to Rural Development to start a loan fund.

- <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-microentrepreneur-assistance-program>

Value-Added Producer Grants

These grants help agricultural producers with the processing and marketing of value-added products. The program aims to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income. Planning grants of up to \$75,000 can be used for activities such as conducting feasibility studies and developing business plans for processing and marketing a value-added product. Working capital grants of up to \$250,000 can be used for processing costs, marketing and advertising expenses, and some inventory and salary expenses. The grants require matching funds of 50 percent of total project costs.

- <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants>

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

This program provides grants to collaborative partnerships of public or private entities for education, mentoring, and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers or ranchers.

- <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/beginning-farmer-and-rancher-development-program-bfrdp>

Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program

This program helps private nonprofit entities fight food insecurity by funding community food projects that help promote the self-sufficiency of low-income communities. Community food projects are designed to increase food security in communities by bringing the whole food system together to assess strengths, establish linkages, and create systems that improve the self-reliance of community members over their food needs. Preferred projects develop linkages between two or more sectors of the food system, support the development of entrepreneurial projects, develop innovative linkages between the for-profit and nonprofit food sectors, encourage long-term planning activities, and build long-term capacity of communities to address the food and agricultural problems of communities. Grants range from \$10,000 to \$400,000 and require a dollar-for-dollar match in resources.

- <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/community-food-projects-competitive-grant-program-cfpcgp>

Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Grant Program

This program supports projects to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables among low-income consumers participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by providing incentives at the point of purchase. It funds pilot projects at up to \$100,000 over one year; multi-year, community-based projects at up to \$500,000 over no more than four years; and multi-year, large-scale projects of more than \$500,000 over no more than four years. USDA gives priority to projects that provide locally or regionally produced fruits and vegetables.

- <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/food-insecurity-nutrition-incentive-fini-grant-program>

Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Competitive Grants

The Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production competitive grants. The competitive grants will support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects through two categories, Planning Projects and Implementation Projects. There will be \$1 million for Planning Projects that initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access, education, business and start-up costs for new farmers and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production. There will be \$2 million for Implementation Projects that accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor and other agricultural practices that serve multiple farmers. Projects will improve local food access and collaborate with partner organizations and may support infrastructure needs, emerging technologies, educational endeavors and urban farming policy implementation.

- <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/urban/opportunities>

Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Project Cooperative Agreements

These cooperative agreements intend to solicit applications and fund pilot projects in no fewer than 10 states. The primary goal is to assist local and municipal governments with projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction

plans. Implementation activities will increase access to compost for agricultural producers, improve soil quality and encourages innovative, scalable waste management plans that reduce and divert food waste from landfills.

- <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/urban/opportunities>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related natural resources on agricultural land. Producers are eligible for payments totaling up to \$450,000 for completed high tunnel systems that can extend the growing season for high-value crops in an environmentally safe manner. The program can also provide up to \$20,000 per year for organic producers and those transitioning to organic to address natural resource concerns and meet requirements for the National Organic Program.

- <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/>

USDA Farm Service Agency

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

This program provides low-interest financing so producers can build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible facilities include cold storage facilities for fruits, vegetables, dairy, and meat products. Producers may borrow up to \$500,000.

- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/facility-loans/farm-storage/index>

Microloan Program

The Microloan Program helps finance small, beginning, niche, and non-traditional farm operations; farms participating in direct marketing and sales such as farmers markets; and farms using hydroponic, aquaponic, organic, and vertical growing methods. Eligible uses of funds include to make a down payment on a farm; build, repair, or improve farm buildings; purchase hoop houses, tools, and equipment; gain GAP (Good Agricultural Practices), GHP (Good Handling Practices), and organic certification; and market and distribute agricultural products. The maximum loan amount is \$50,000.

- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/microloans/index>

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Farm to School Grant Program

These grants support farm-to-school programs that improve access to local foods in schools.

- Implementation grants of \$50,000 to \$100,000 help state and local agencies, schools, or school districts scale or further develop existing farm-to-school initiatives.

- Planning grants of \$20,000 to \$50,000 help schools or school districts just getting started on farm-to-school activities organize and structure their efforts for maximum impact by embedding known best practices into early design considerations.
 - Training grants of \$20,000 to \$50,000 help state and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, agricultural producers, and nonprofit entities support trainings that strengthen farm-to-school supply chains or provide technical assistance in local procurement, food safety, culinary education, and/or integration of an agriculture-based curriculum.
- <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-grant-program>
- <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cfs/farm-school-resources>

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

This program, similar to the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, awards grants to state agencies and Indian Tribal organizations to provide low-income seniors with coupons for fruits and vegetables at farmers markets. The state agencies provide nutrition education to participants and authorize farmers markets to accept the benefits. For a list of state program contacts, visit:

- <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfmnp/senior-farmers-market-nutrition-program>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP offers nutrition assistance to low-income individuals and families. Benefits can be used to purchase many of the foods sold at farmers markets, including fruits and vegetables, dairy products, breads and cereals, and meat and poultry. The Food and Nutrition Service works with state agencies, nutrition educators, and neighborhood and faith-based organizations to help that those eligible for nutrition assistance access benefits. The Food and Nutrition Service also has resources for farmers markets and retailers interested in accepting SNAP benefits.

- <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

The program is associated with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, popularly known as WIC. It awards grants to state agencies and Indian Tribal organizations to provide coupons for fresh, unprepared, locally grown fruits and vegetables to WIC participants for use at farmers markets. The state agencies provide nutrition education to participants and authorize farmers markets to accept the benefits. For a list of state program contacts, visit:

- <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fmnp/wic-farmers-market-nutrition-program>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Brownfields Multipurpose Grants

Multipurpose (MP) Grants provide funding to carry out a range of eligible assessment and cleanup activities with a proposed target area, such as a neighborhood, a number of neighboring towns, a

district, a corridor, a shared planning area or a census tract. The target area may not include communities that are located in distinctly different geographic areas. The performance period for these grants is five years, and applicants can apply for up to \$800,000.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-multipurpose-grants>

Brownfields Assessment Grants

Assessment grants provide funding to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement related to sites potentially contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum. The maximum grant amount is \$350,000.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-assessment-grants>

Brownfields Cleanup Grants

Cleanup grants provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum. The maximum grant amount is \$200,000 per site. Awardees must contribute 20 percent of the amount of funding provided by EPA, although waivers of this requirement are available. An applicant must own the site for which it is requesting funding at time of application.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-cleanup-grants>

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program

This program provides financial assistance to organizations for projects that address local environmental and/or public health issues in their communities using EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model. The program helps recipients build collaborative partnerships to help them understand and address environmental and public health concerns in their communities.

- <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0>

Environmental Justice Small Grants

This grant program supports and empowers communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues. The program is designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks and funds projects up to \$30,000. Previously funded projects include Educating South Florida's Residents on Hydroponic Urban Gardening; Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Healthy Food Production in Athens, Georgia; Creating Safe Soil for Healthy Gardening; and Promoting Urban Agriculture and Food Sustainability in Brooklyn, New York.

- <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-program>

Targeted Brownfields Assessments

This program helps states, tribes, and municipalities minimize the uncertainties of contamination often associated with brownfields. This program supplements other efforts under the Brownfields Program

to promote the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields. Services include site assessments, cleanup options and cost estimates, and community outreach. Services are for an average of \$100,000. The sites for this program are selected locally, once a year. Applicants should currently have redevelopment plans for the contaminated property.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/targeted-brownfields-assessments-tba>

Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities Program

This program funds three organizations who—with their extensive team of subgrantees, contractors, partners, and other network contacts—provide technical assistance to communities and other stakeholders. The program helps communities tackle the challenge of assessing, cleaning up, and preparing brownfield sites for redevelopment, especially underserved, rural, small and otherwise distressed communities.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/epas-technical-assistance-brownfields-tab-communities-program-providing-technical>

Urban Waters Small Grants

This grant program helps protect and restore urban waters, improve water quality, and support community revitalization and other local priorities. Projects address local water quality issues related to urban runoff pollution, provide additional community benefits, actively engage underserved communities, and foster partnerships. The grants are competed and awarded every two years, with individual award amounts of up to \$60,000.

- <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/urban-waters-small-grants>

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Entitlement

This program provides funding to help entitled metropolitan cities and urban counties meet their housing and community development needs. This program provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled communities to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improved community facilities and services.

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-entitlement/>

CDBG Non-Entitlement Communities Program for States and Small Cities

This program provides funding to help states and units of local government in non-entitled areas meet their housing and community development needs. The program provides grants to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improved community facilities and services. All CDBG activities must meet at least one of the following national objectives: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight, or meet certain urgent community development needs. No less than 70 percent of the funds must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons over a period specified by the state, not to exceed 3 years.

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-state/>

CDBG §108 Loan Guarantee Program

This program provides loan guarantee assistance for community and economic development. Section 108 is the loan guarantee provision of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Under this section, HUD offers communities a source of financing for certain community development activities, such as housing rehabilitation, economic development, and large-scale physical development projects. Loans may be for terms up to 20 years.

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/section-108/>

Programs of HUD

This 2017 document provides a complete listing of all HUD programs including major mortgage, grants, assistance, and regulatory programs.

- <https://www.hud.gov/hudprograms>

U.S. Small Business Administration

Small Business Resource Guide

The Indiana District Resource Guide provides localized information and contacts for the SBA's local business assistance, funding programs and contracting programs.

- <https://www.sba.gov/document/support-indiana-district-resource-guide>

Business Guide

The SBA's online Business Guide provides 24/7 access to free information to help plan, launch, manage and grow small businesses.

- <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide>

Local Assistance

The Small Business Administration works with a number of local partners to counsel, mentor and train small businesses including SCORE mentors, Small Business Development Centers, Veteran's Business Outreach Centers, and Women's Business Centers.

- <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance>

Loans

Loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration range from \$500 to \$5.5 million and can be used for most business purposes, including long-term fixed assets and operating capital. Businesses must be for-profit, do business in the United States, have invested equity, and have exhausted financing options. Even those with bad credit may qualify for startup funding. Lender Match is a free online tool that connects small businesses with SBA-approved lenders.

- <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans>

Federal Contracting

Small businesses can learn how to find and win contracts with the federal government and gain a competitive advantage with help from the SBA's business development programs.

- <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting>

Others**Bob Woodruff Foundation**

In 2022, the Bob Woodruff Foundation is returning to a Spring and Fall grant cycle, while continuing to address the prolonged impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the military-veteran community. 2022 grants will reflect the evolving needs of the military/veteran community in the current pandemic, with special emphasis upon food insecurity (to include upstream legal and financial needs that threaten food security), housing and homelessness, mental health, and employment. The Bob Woodruff Foundation is committed to economic security and racial equity in the US, with a focus on designing and implementing equitable programs for veterans and their families and supporting our partner organizations to do the same. Deadline: Spring & Fall 2022. Funding: \$218,000,000. Eligibility: nonprofits.

- <https://bobwoodrufffoundation.org/nfl-grants/>

ChipotleXEarthForce Sustainability Challenge

Chipotle and Earth Force are empowering young minds to make lasting changes in their communities with the Sustainability Challenge with Action Plans and Action Stories. Deadline: January-31, 2022 Action Plans/March-31-2022 Action Stories. Funding: \$500 to \$1,000. Eligibility: Individuals and nonprofits.

- <https://earthforce.org/csc/>

Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program

The purpose of the Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program is to increase the knowledge of agricultural science and improve the nutritional health of children. The program's goal is to increase the capacity for food, garden, and nutrition education within host organizations or entities, such as school cafeterias and classrooms, while fostering higher levels of community engagement between farms and school systems by bringing together stakeholders from distinct parts of the food system. Deadline: January 31st, 2022. Funding: \$1,920,000. Eligibility: State agricultural experiment stations; colleges and universities; university research foundations; other research institutions and organizations; Federal agencies; national laboratories; private organizations, non-profit organizations, foundations, or corporations; individuals.

- <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=337049>

National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Grant Program

Our Town supports creative placemaking projects that integrate arts and culture into community revitalization work—placing arts at the table with land use, transportation, economic development, education, housing, infrastructure, and public safety strategies. Projects require a partnership between a nonprofit organization and a local government entity, with one of the partners being a cultural

organization. Matching grants range from \$25,000 to \$200,000. In 2016, the American Dance Institute and the village of Catskill, New York, received an Our Town grant to renovate a former lumberyard and associated buildings into a permanent home for the institute's artist residency, which will include a theater, artist housing, and an open interior courtyard for performances, visual arts displays, and the local farmers market.

- <https://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town/introduction>

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH)

REACH is a national program administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities. Through REACH, recipients plan and carry out local, culturally appropriate programs to address a wide range of health issues among African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics/Latinos, Asian Americans, Alaska Natives, and Pacific Islanders. REACH gives funds to state and local health departments, tribes, universities, and community-based organizations. Recipients use these funds to build strong partnerships to guide and support the program's work. Along with funding, CDC provides expert support to REACH recipients.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/state-local-programs/reach/index.htm>

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Transportation Alternative Set Aside

This program provides set-aside funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives (including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities such as historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity); recreational trail projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former divided highways. Funds are allocated to state departments of transportation, which select projects through a competitive process. Local governments, school districts, and nonprofit organizations responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs are among the entities eligible to apply for funding.

- http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/guidance/guidance_2016.cfm

Private Grant Funding

While funding programs of individual foundations can change from year to year, these resources are good starting points to look for philanthropic and other private support:

AARP Community Challenge Program

AARP provides small grants for quick-action projects to improve housing, transportation, public space, smart cities and other community elements.

- <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/>

Aetna Foundation

The Aetna Foundation funds community groups that are advancing healthy eating and active living in homes, schools, and neighborhoods. A major part of this effort is connecting people of limited means with fresh fruits and vegetables through community gardens, urban farms, and farmers markets.

- <https://www.aetna-foundation.org/grants-partnerships/health-eating-living.html>

America Walks Community Challenge Program

The America Walks Community Challenge grant program works to provide support to the growing network of advocates, organizations, and agencies using innovative, engaging, and inclusive programs and projects to create places where all community members have safe, accessible, equitable, and enjoyable places to walk and be physically active.

- <https://americawalks.org/community-change-grants/>

Farmers Market Coalition

The Farmers Market Coalition website includes funding resources for farmers markets and other community food projects. Pure funding examples are restricted to members of the coalition, but they also offer a state-based resource that announces funding opportunities specific to a state.

- <https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/education/funding-opportunities/>
- <https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/state-map/>

Healthy Food Access Portal

The Healthy Food Access portal was created by PolicyLink, The Food Trust, and Reinvestment Fund to better support communities seeking to launch healthy food retail projects. Among the resources and tools is a guide to find funding and policy efforts by state.

- <https://www.healthyfoodaccess.org/resources-tools-find-money-policy-efforts-by-state>

Kids Gardening

Kids Gardening provides their own grant programs and maintains a list of additional grant opportunities that support school and youth garden programs.

- <https://kidsgardening.org/grant-opportunities/>

Kresge Foundation

Annually, the Kresge Foundation makes more than 400 grants to nonprofits and cities. Kresge programs work both independently and in collaboration to award single-year and multiyear grants that fund general operating, projects and planning activities advancing strategic objectives. Most often, applicants are invited, but occasionally, program teams issue an open call for letters of interest (LOIs) within a focus area. For initiatives, programs typically use an open request-for-proposals process.

- <https://kresge.org/grants-social-investments/>

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation supports research and programs to help build a national culture of health. Projects that link local foods assets such as community gardens and farmers markets with recreation and alternative transportation projects that seek to improve access to healthy foods could fit with the foundation's giving. The foundation has programs that help to transform local environments in ways that remove health barriers and make it easier for people to lead healthier lives.

- <https://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/grants-and-grant-programs.html>

The foundation also has programs to increase the ability to provide more free fresh produce in low-income communities, raise public awareness about food insecurity, and encourage healthier eating.

- <http://www.rwjf.org/en/library/collections/healthy-food-access.html>

Walmart Community Grant Program

The Walmart Foundation provides community grants of \$500 to \$5,000 to nonprofits, government entities, educational institutions, and faith-based organizations for projects that benefit the service area of a Walmart facility (Walmart Store, Sam's Club, or Logistics Facility). Funding areas include hunger relief and healthy eating, health and human service, quality of life, education, community and economic development, diversity and inclusion, public safety, and environmental sustainability.

- <http://giving.walmart.com/walmart-foundation/community-grant-program>

W.K Kellogg Foundation

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation helps communities transform school food systems, improve community access to good food, and create environments for active living. The foundation accepts grant applications from organizations and institutions throughout the year.

- <https://wrm.wkkf.org/uWebRequestManager/UI/Application.aspx?tid=24bf1841-48f7-4971-b7a7-96bd78992f62&LanguageID=0>

Appendix D: References

Additional resources available are grouped into the following categories:

I. Local Food Systems Response to COVID-19	1
II. Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity.....	1
III. Community Gardens	2
IV. Community Kitchens	3
V. Farm to School	4
VI. Farmers Markets	4
VII. Food Co-ops	6
VIII. Food Hubs	6
IX. Food Waste	7
X. Healthy Living.....	8
XI. Smart Growth and Placemaking.....	9
XII. Urban Agriculture.....	10
XIII. General	11

I. Local Food Systems Response to COVID-19

Local Food Systems Response to COVID

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) along with the cooperating research team led by the University of Kentucky seek to enrich existing efforts within local and regional food system communities of practice who provide support to local food producers by documenting and disseminating innovations and best practices developed on the ground and framing research on COVID-related shifts in local and regional food markets with the aim of supporting long term resilience.

➤ <https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/>

II. Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity

Case Studies in Delivering Safe, Comfortable and Connected Pedestrian and Bicycle Networks

This 2015 Federal Highway Administration document provides an overview of pedestrian and bicycle network principles and highlights examples from communities across the country.

➤ https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/network_report/

Design Guidance

The National Center for Bicycling & Walking compiled resources that provide design guidance for bicycling and pedestrian facilities.

- <http://www.bikewalk.org/thepractice.php>

Guidebook for Developing Pedestrian and Bicycle Performance Measures

This 2016 Federal Highway Administration document helps communities develop performance measures that can fully integrate pedestrian and bicycle planning in ongoing performance management activities.

- http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/performance_measures_guidebook

Resources for Implementing Built Environment Recommendations to Increase Physical Activity

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has created a 2017 compilation of real world examples, a 2018 Implementation Resource Guide, and a 2018 Visual Guide to help communities implement recommendations for built environment approaches that combine one or more interventions to improve transportation systems (activity-friendly routes) with one or more land use and community design interventions (everyday destinations) to increase physical activity.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/community-strategies/beactive/index.html>

Safety Demonstration Projects: Case Studies From Orlando, FL, Lexington, KY, And South Bend, IN

The National Complete Streets Coalition helped three cities build skills in safer street design, creative placemaking, and community engagement, and then put those skills into practice. This 2018 report includes case studies of local demonstration projects in Orlando, Florida; Lexington, Kentucky; and South Bend, Indiana where communities transformed their streets, intersections, and neighborhoods into slower, safer places for people.

- <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/resources/safety-demonstration-projects-case-studies-from-orlando-fl-lexington-ky-and-south-bend-in/?fbclid=IwAR0qTdwv8j1H1NUiC9LLg-j7m0K3ozRSKFeBOQkPj3t9GDHcxY0Y6JRbi9c>

Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks

This 2016 Federal Highway Administration document helps small towns and rural communities support safe, accessible, comfortable, and active travel for people of all ages and abilities. It provides a bridge between existing guidance on bicycle and pedestrian design and rural practice, encourages innovation in the development of safe and appealing networks for bicycling and walking, and shows examples of project implementation.

- https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/small_towns/fhwahep17024_lg.pdf

III. Community Gardens

Cultivating Community Gardens

The Local Government Commission created a fact sheet on the role of local government in supporting community gardens, including case studies, best management practices, resources, and tools for policy-makers.

- <https://www.lgc.org/community-gardens/>

Elder-Accessible Gardening: A Community Building Option for Brownfields Redevelopment

This 2011 EPA document provides a tip sheet for starting a community garden accessible to people of all age groups and physical activity levels. It includes guidance on starting a garden on a brownfield property.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-elder-accessible-gardening>

Garden Organizer Toolkit

The Vermont Community Garden Network provides tools to help organizers, managers, coordinators, and supporters of community-based gardens, including resources for starting, organizing, and learning in community-based gardens.

- <http://vcgn.org/garden-organizer-toolkit/>

EPA Pollinator Program Resources

- EPA's Bee Advisory Label: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2013-11/documents/bee-label-info-graphic.pdf>
- EPA's Read the Label First, Protect Your Garden: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-02/documents/garden.pdf>
- University of Nebraska Lincoln's "Creating a Solitary Bee Hotel": <https://entomology.unl.edu/scilit/Creating%20a%20Solitary%20Bee%20Hotel.pdf>
- University of Nebraska Lincoln's "Bee Aware: Protecting Pollinators from Pesticides": <https://entomology.unl.edu/scilit/Protecting-pollinators-from-pesticides.pdf>

IV. Community Kitchens

The Shared Kitchen Toolkit: A Practical Guide to Planning, Launching, and Managing a Shared-Use Commercial Kitchen

The Food Corridor, Fruition Planning and Management, and Purdue Extension Services co-created this 2018 toolkit that delivers guidance on feasibility and planning for new kitchen projects, as well as management practices for the day-to-day operations of shared-use kitchens. It also provides an overview of emerging kitchen models and highlights opportunities for kitchens to expand their community impact and enhance financial sustainability.

- <http://www.thefoodcorridor.com/announcing-the-shared-kitchen-toolkit/>

Commercial Kitchen Guide

The Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture published a guide that provides information on policies and regulations for those looking to open or operate in a community commercial kitchen.

- <http://www.misa.umn.edu/publications/commercialkitchenguide>

Culinary Incubator Map

CulinaryIncubator.com is a nonprofit website to help small food businesses locate commercial kitchens. It includes an interactive map with descriptions of commercial kitchens across the United States.

- <http://www.culinaryincubator.com/maps.php>

V. Farm to School

Farm to School Resources

The National Farm to School Network has compiled resources for communities working to bring local food sourcing, school gardens, and food and agriculture education into schools and early care and education settings.

- <http://www.farmentoschool.org/resources>

The USDA Farm to School Planning Toolkit

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service created a guide of questions to consider and helpful resources to reference when starting or growing a farm-to-school program. It is designed for use by schools, school districts, and community partners.

- <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/f2s/F2S-Planning-Kit.pdf>

Farm to Child Nutrition Programs Planning Guide

The USDA Office of Community Food Systems created a guide that directs you through questions to consider when starting or growing a farm to school, farm to child care, for farm to summer program. It includes guiding questions, a planning template, and a sample of a completed planning guide.

- <https://www.fns.usda.gov/farmentoschool/farm-school-resources>

VI. Farmers Markets

Creating a Farmers Market Living Lab: Lessons Learned in Growing a Farmers Market

This booklet from the Historic Lewes Farmers Market is the result of asking the question: What can we do to increase sales and attendance at our market? It is a summary of lessons learned.

- <https://www.historiclewesfarmersmarket.org/living-lab-report/>

Local and Regional Market News

USDA Market News works with state departments of agriculture and local and regional food systems to provide prices, volume, and other information on agricultural commodities sold at local and regional markets throughout the United States.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/local-regional-food>

Market Makeover: 25 Best Practices for Farmers' Markets

This report from the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project provides guidance for making market improvements and dealing with common issues in the areas of management, regulations, risk management, food safety, improving vendor sales, and marketing.

- <http://asapconnections.org/downloads/market-makeover-25-best-practices-for-farmers-markets.pdf>

National Farmers Market Directory

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service maintains a directory of information about farmers markets, including locations, directions, operating times, product offerings, and accepted forms of payment.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/local-food-directories/farmersmarkets>

National Farmers Market Managers Survey

Nearly 1,400 farmers market managers responded to this national survey that the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service conducted in 2014.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/file/2014-farmers-market-managers-survey-summary-report-final-july-24-2015pdf>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at Farmers Markets: A How-To Handbook

This 2010 report from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA Food and Nutrition Service, and Project for Public Spaces, Inc. describes how to accept SNAP benefits at farmers markets, including what equipment is required, how to install electronic benefit transfer (EBT) systems, and how to make SNAP EBT succeed at farmers markets.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/SNAPat%20Farmers%20Markets%20Handbook.pdf>

Sharing the Harvest: A Guide to Bridging the Divide between Farmers Markets and Low-Income Shoppers

This 2012 report from the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project provides tips and tools to improve the accessibility of local markets and increase consumption of healthy local produce.

- <http://asapconnections.org/downloads/asap-farmers-market-access-guide.pdf>

Understanding the Link Between Farmers' Market Size and Management Organization

This 2007 report by the Oregon State University Extension Service examines common management tools and structures for farmers markets of different sizes to guide strategic planning and resource

allocation for new markets and for established markets confronting growth or other significant changes.

- <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sr1082>

VII. Food Co-ops

Capital Campaign Workbook

The Food Co-op Initiative's 2016 workbook helps consumer-owned food co-ops design and implement successful capital campaigns that effectively engage their owners and meet their capital needs.

- <http://www.foodcoopinitiative.coop/sites/default/files/Capital%20Campaign%20Workbook%20Food%20Co-op%20Initiative%20March%202016.pdf>

The FCI Guide to Starting a Food Co-op

This 2017 updated guide from the Food Co-op Initiative provides organizers, board members, and development centers with an introduction to starting a food co-op and an overview of the basic steps and procedures.

- <https://www.fci.coop/sites/default/files/Startup%20guide-02.2017.pdf>

How to Start a Food Co-op Manual

The Cooperative Grocers' Information Network created a guide in 2010 that provides an overview of the basic steps and procedures for starting a food co-op.

- <http://www.cooperativegrocer.coop/library/start-a-food-coop>

Publications for Cooperatives

USDA Rural Development provides publications, reports, and educational materials for cooperatives, including Cooperative Information Reports that provide descriptive information about the cooperative form of business and various cooperative topics, Research Reports, and Service Reports that include USDA's annual compilation of farm cooperative statistics.

- <https://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/publications-cooperatives>

VIII. Food Hubs

Findings of the 2017 National Food Hub Survey

This document by the Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems in cooperation with the Wallace Center at Winrock International details the scope and scale of food hub activities, their challenges, and their regional influence based on a survey of more than 100 food hubs across the country.

- <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/2017-food-hub-survey>

Moving Food Along the Value Chain: Innovations in Regional Food Distribution

This 2012 report from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service shares lessons learned and best practices from eight producer networks and their partners distributing locally or regionally grown food to retail and food service customers.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Moving%20Food%20Along%20the%20Value%20Chain%20Innovations%20in%20Regional%20Food%20Distribution.pdf>

Regional Food Hub Resource Guide

This 2012 report from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service examines the role of food hubs in regional food systems and compiles information on the resources available to support them.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Regional%20Food%20Hub%20Resource%20Guide.pdf>

Running a Food Hub series

USDA Rural Development developed a technical report series in partnership with Virginia Foundation for Agriculture, Innovation and Rural Sustainability and Matson Consulting that offers new and existing food hubs information on how to plan for success, address challenges, and achieve viability.

- Vol 1 – Lessons Learned from the Field (2015)
https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/SR_77_Running_A_Food_Hub_Vol_1.pdf
- Vol 2 – A Business Operations Guide (2015)
https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/SR_77_Running_A_Food_Hub_Vol_2.pdf
- Vol 3 – Assessing Financial Viability (2016)
<https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/publications/SR%2077%20FoodHubs%20Vol3.pdf>
- Vol 4 – Learning from Food Hub Closures (2017)
https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/publications/SR77_FoodHubs_Vol4_0.pdf

IX. Food Waste

Excess Food Opportunities Map

EPA created the Excess Food Opportunities Map, a national, interactive map that identifies more than 500,000 potential generators of excess food and estimated generation quantities, as well as over 4,000 potential recipients of excess food. The map can help users identify potential sources of food for rescue; potential feedstocks for compost and anaerobic digestion; potential infrastructure gaps for managing excess food; and, alternatives to sending food to landfill. This resource is intended to give users the tools to understand the potential magnitude of excess food in their communities and help make connections between generators and recipients such that more food is diverted from landfills and put toward beneficial uses.

- <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/excess-food-opportunities-map?fbclid=IwAR1rCQWWKbR6yYZqxnE-fRRWNyWarqvKtoRbP7m1AKGeinRFGJm7uuAdMns>

Food Recovery Challenge

As part of EPA's Food Recovery Challenge, organizations pledge to improve their sustainable food management practices and report their results. Food Recovery Challenge participants and endorsers include groups such as grocers, educational institutions, restaurants, faith organizations, sports and entertainment venues, and hospitality businesses. Participants can reduce their environmental footprint, help their community, receive recognition, and get free technical assistance.

- <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-challenge-frc>

Tools for Preventing and Diverting Wasted Food

EPA offers a variety of wasted-food assessment tools to suit a food service establishment's specific circumstances. Several of the tools are described below.

- <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/tools-preventing-and-diverting-wasted-food>

A Guide to Conducting and Analyzing a Food Waste Assessment

Retail, food service, and other food management establishments can use EPA's 2014 guidebook to learn how to take a "snapshot in time" of their wasted food by either manually sorting through materials in a garbage sample or visually observing and estimating waste.

- <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/tools-preventing-and-diverting-wasted-food#assessguide>

Toolkit for Reducing Wasted Food and Packaging

This 2014 toolkit is designed to help food service establishments and commercial kitchens save money by reducing wasted food and packaging with suggested strategies, templates, and case studies. It includes a tool to track the daily amount, type of, and reason for wasted food and packaging. Users enter information into a spreadsheet, which automatically creates graphs and data summaries to help identify patterns of waste generation. Based on these patterns, a business can make strategic changes to its operation to maximize waste reductions and cost savings.

- <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/tools-preventing-and-diverting-wasted-food#packaging>

X. Healthy Living

Community Health Online Resource Center

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention created this database of webinars, model policies, toolkits, guides, fact sheets, and other practical materials to help implement changes to prevent disease and promote healthy living. Content areas include healthy and safe physical environments and healthy eating.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dch/online-resource/>

Making the Business Case for Prevention Video Series

This series from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows how healthy living initiatives can help businesses increase profits, bring in more customers, and build goodwill. The series includes videos about healthy food programs, city planning, and community partnerships.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/multimedia/videos.html>

SNAP-Ed Evaluation Framework and Interpretative Guide

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service created this 2016 guide to measure the success of SNAP-Ed programs. It provides information on evidence-based obesity prevention interventions and policy, systems, and environmental change interventions. It also provides information on outcome indicators' background and context, outcome measures, surveys and data collection tools, and more.

- <https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/evaluation/evaluation-framework-and-interpretive-guide>

XI. Smart Growth and Placemaking**The Built Environment: An Assessment Tool and Manual**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2015 assessment tool helps communities measure the core features and qualities of the built environment that affect health, including walkability, bikeability, and access to grocery stores, convenience stores, and farmers markets.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dch/built-environment-assessment/>

Creative Placemaking on Vacant Properties: Lessons Learned from Four Cities

This Center for Community Progress 2018 report offers practical guidance for communities curious about how to leverage the power of creative placemaking to transform vacant properties. It includes a creative placemaking primer and key takeaways based on work conducted over the course of two years. It also explores emerging practices in four communities: Kalamazoo, Michigan; Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania; Newburgh, New York; and Macon, Georgia.

- http://action.communityprogress.net/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=11388&fbclid=IwAR3Xx0Md0abEeLOVNfIHJbSdgCKliwV9h0C5qeIc7ydsxiPRne1bQp4GsJ0

Growing Food Connections

This website from the American Planning Association provides planning and policy briefs and other resources to help increase food security in vulnerable areas, strengthen the sustainability and economic resilience of urban and rural communities, and support farms engaged in local and regional food systems that use sustainable practices.

- <https://www.planning.org/research/foodconnections/>

Smart Growth

EPA's smart growth website provides publications, tools, and other information on a range of development and conservation strategies that help protect our health and natural environment and make our communities more attractive, economically stronger, and more diverse.

- <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth>

XII. Urban Agriculture

Aquaponics Business Plan User Guide

This 2016 EPA document is modeled after the Urban Farm Business Plan Handbook (see below) and provides an outline and guidance for the development of a business plan for an aquaponic farm.

- <https://www.epa.gov/land-revitalization/aquaponics-business-plan-user-guide>

Brownfields and Community Supported Agriculture

EPA's Brownfields program provides information on community supported and urban agriculture projects on brownfield properties.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-community-supported-agriculture>

Brownfields and Urban Agriculture: Interim Guidelines for Safe Gardening Practices

This EPA document is a condensation of the input of 60 experts from academia, state, and local government, and the nonprofit sector who gathered in Chicago on October 21 and 22, 2010 to outline the range of issues which need to be addressed in order to safely grow food on former brownfields sites.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-urban-agriculture-interim-guidelines-safe-gardening-practices>

How Does Your Garden Grow? Brownfields Redevelopment and Local Agriculture

This 2009 EPA document provides some insight on how best grow safe food during brownfields redevelopment.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/how-does-your-garden-grow-brownfields-redevelopment-and-local-agriculture>

Industrial Properties Renewed Through Agriculture: Reusing Land to Support Agriculture and Food Systems

This 2010 EPA document discusses reusing industrial brownfields that might serve a wide variety of agriculture-related reuses, including important public health considerations as well as environmental and planning and zoning considerations.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-industrial-properties-renewed-through-agriculture>

Steps to Create a Community Garden or Expand Urban Agriculture

EPA's Brownfields Program offers information on how to create a community garden or expand urban agriculture, particularly in areas that might be at risk from potential contaminants.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/steps-create-community-garden-or-expand-urban-agriculture>

Urban Agriculture Toolkit

This 2016 toolkit from USDA lays out the common operational elements that most urban farmers must consider as they start or grow their operations. It also contains a section on resources for developing indoor growing operations, such as aquaponic facilities. For each element, the toolkit identifies technical and financial resources from federal, state, and local partners.

- <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/urban-agriculture-toolkit.pdf>

Urban Farm Business Plan Handbook

This 2011 document from EPA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the U.S. Department of Transportation provides guidance for developing a business plan for the startup and operation of nonprofit and for-profit urban farms.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/urban-farm-business-plan-handbook>

The associated Urban Farm Business Plan Worksheets provide a framework in which to compile and organize the information needed to draft a business plan.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/urban-farm-business-plan-worksheets>

XIII. General**Local Food Systems Response to COVID – Building Better Beyond**

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) along with the cooperating research team led by the University of Kentucky seek to enrich existing efforts within local and regional food system communities of practice who provide support to local food producers by documenting and disseminating innovations and best practices developed on the ground and framing research on COVID-related shifts in local and regional food markets with the aim of supporting long term resilience.

- <https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/>

Communities for Healthy Food: The Toolkit – A Practical Guide for Integrating Healthy Food Access and Social Justice into Community Development

This 2018 toolkit from LISC NYC helps community organizations use healthy food access strategies and food justice principles to enhance their community development efforts. The toolkit presents a flexible and comprehensive approach to planning, designing, and implementing a portfolio of programs to ensure low-income communities and communities of color have access to healthier food options, a voice in the food movement, and economic opportunities.

- http://www.lisc.org/media/filer_public/bd/63/bd6327a3-8841-45b0-9eba-1b9fa3f90ce6/lisc_nyc_communities_for_healthy_food_toolkit_march_2018.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3njWOP1Nz3eHGBQ8wKuehF5z7NvH1XVnWACLbWQ6LcEM7Pn2gmtlkEro

The Economics of Local Food Systems: A Toolkit to Guide Community Discussions, Assessments and Choices

This 2016 toolkit produced by the USDA Agriculture Marketing Service helps guide and enhance the capacity of local organizations to make more deliberate and credible measurements of local and regional economic activity and other ancillary benefits.

- <https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ILAMSToolkit.pdf>

The Economics of Local Food: An Emerging Community of Practice

Colorado State University hosts a website aimed to help communities understand agriculture and food enterprise viability, market dynamics, and other key socio-economics metrics of local and regional food systems.

- <https://localfoodeconomics.com/>

Farmland Access Legal Toolkit

The Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at Vermont Law School created this online resource to help farmers and landowners affordably access, transfer, and conserve farmland. The toolkit explains legal arrangements that provide farmers more affordable and equitable farmland access and help landowners balance earning income for retirement with making their land affordable to the next generation of farmers.

- https://farmlandaccess.org/?fbclid=IwAR12aAoLz84nRya9R-vdPBjFg9pjSHKQzyMsZuk0BICcmR_ab5K6eFPrk8A

Food Value Chains: Creating Shared Value to Enhance Marketing Success

This 2014 report by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service provides guidance on how food value chains are initiated and structured, how they function, and the benefits they provide to participants.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-value-chain>

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) & Good Handling Practices (GHP) Auditing and Accreditation Programs

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service provides voluntary audit and accreditation programs that let producers and suppliers of agricultural products assure customers of their ability to provide consistent quality products or services. The programs are paid through hourly user fees.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/auditing/gap-ghp>

Harvesting Opportunity: The Power of Regional Food System Investments to Transform Communities

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's agencies of Rural Development and the Agricultural Marketing Service published a 2017 book that focuses on regional food systems as a means for enhancing economic opportunity. It explores recent findings; highlights models for collaboration between policymakers, practitioners, and the financial community; and discusses research, policy, and resource gaps that, if addressed, might contribute to the success of regional food systems strategies.

- <https://www.stlouisfed.org/community-development/publications/harvesting-opportunity>

Local Food Compass Map

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service hosts the Local Food Compass Map to provide a quick way for farmers, ranchers, market managers, consumers, and others to learn more about local and regional food projects in their communities and across the United States. The searchable map can be filtered and selected by state or tailored regions to see farmers markets, food hubs, and assets like meat processors and farm to school programs. The map also includes local food projects and programs funded through USDA and other federal agencies.

- www.ams.usda.gov/local-food-sector/compass-map

Local Food Directories

USDA's voluntary Local Food Directories help producers and customers locate farmers markets, on-farm markets, CSAs, and food hubs across the country. These listings can help potential vendors, partners, and customers find local food market opportunities.

- www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-directories

Local Food Research & Development

The USDA Agriculture Marketing Service produces research-based publications on a range of local food market channels to help producers, market managers, planners, and others better understand the impact of these outlets on local economic development, food access, and farm profitability.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional>

Measuring Rural Wealth Creation: A Guide for Regional Development Organizations

This 2016 document by the National Association of Development Organizations introduces concepts of measuring progress in rural wealth creation for regional development organizations that are involved in a range of community and economic development within their regions. The guide includes information on developing a measurement plan, measuring multiple forms of community capital beyond jobs, measuring inclusiveness and local ownership of assets, and more strategies and tips for measuring and communicating progress.

- <https://www.nado.org/measuring-rural-wealth-creation-a-guide-for-regional-development-organizations/>

National Good Food Network - Webinar Archive

The Wallace Center Winrock International supports the National Good Food Network, which offers monthly interactive webinars to learn and connect with on-the-ground practitioners and experts. Topic areas include: aggregation/distribution; business/finance; certification; farm to school; farming; food hubs; food safety; funding; infrastructure; metrics/evaluation; policy; processing/value add; retail/foodservice; social justice/food access; training/education; value chains; food hubs; food safety; research.

- <http://ngfn.org/resources/ngfn-cluster-calls/ngfn-cluster-calls>

Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program

EPA's Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program is a voluntary membership program that promotes the adoption of innovative, alternative pest control practices such as integrated pest management. It publicly recognizes members who have demonstrated their commitment to environmental stewardship and made progress in reducing pesticide risk. Members can receive technical support for transitioning to lower-risk pest management practices and developing integrated pest management strategies.

- <https://www.epa.gov/pesp>

Wholesale Markets and Facility Design

The USDA Wholesale Markets and Facility Design Team provides technical assistance on the construction or remodeling of wholesale markets, farmers markets, public markets, and food hubs.

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/facility-design>

Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is a cost-effective, resilient approach to managing wet weather impacts that provides many community benefits. Learn more about green infrastructure elements that can be woven into a community, from small-scale elements integrated into sites to larger scale elements spanning entire watersheds.

- <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/what-green-infrastructure>
- [Downspout Disconnection](#)
- [Rainwater Harvesting](#)
- [Rain Gardens](#)
- [Planter Boxes](#)
- [Bioswales](#)
- [Permeable Pavements](#)
- [Green Streets and Alleys](#)
- [Green Parking](#)
- [Green Roofs](#)
- [Urban Tree Canopy](#)
- [Land Conservation](#)