

COMMUNITY SELF-ASSESSMENT

This self-assessment was developed as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Local Foods, Local Places Toolkit: A Guide to Help Communities Revitalize Using Local Food Systems*. The complete toolkit is available at <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places-toolkit>.

Completing this Local Foods, Local Places community self-assessment can help your steering committee describe the existing and aspirational elements of your local food and placemaking initiatives. It can also help an outside facilitator better prepare for and tailor the workshop to meet the community's needs. To the extent possible, this self-assessment is best completed as a group activity to spark dialogue and discussion about key issues, opportunities and goals. Feel free to spend more time on sections that have more interest or skip sections that have less. Do pay attention to areas of agreement or enthusiasm, as this information will be helpful to highlight during the conference calls.

WHAT THIS SELF-ASSESSMENT IS

- A conversation starter.
- A learning tool for the community steering committee to begin thinking about food systems and place-based initiatives.
- An information-gathering tool for an outside facilitator to better understand where the community is today and where it wants to go.

WHAT IT IS NOT

- A scorecard, ranking, audit, or judgment of any kind.
- A checklist of programs and projects you should or could have.
- A permanent assessment that cannot be revised.
- A repeat of questions that will be discussed during the calls or at the workshop.
- An onerous task for the community.

BENEFITS FOR THE COMMUNITY

- Helps the community conceptualize where it is with its current food system and place-based initiatives and begin to examine the scope of possibilities and interrelated activities.
- Helps generate ideas about possible stakeholders to invite to the workshop.
- Provides a preliminary activity for the steering committee to do together.

BENEFITS FOR AN OUTSIDE FACILITATOR

- Provides valuable background information on the status of the local food system and place-based initiatives.
- Helps clarify workshop goals and desired outcomes.
- Helps identify case studies and supplemental materials most pertinent for the community.

AREAS OF FOCUS

1. Leveraging Partnerships for Local Food, Place, and Economy
2. Connecting Community
3. Agriculture: Local Food Production
4. Agriculture: Markets and Business Opportunity
5. Food System Support and Ancillary Services
6. Public Health
7. Enlivening, Improving, and Revitalizing Places
8. Enlivening Downtown Spaces Through Local Food
9. Economic Development: Opportunities and Advancement
10. Economic Development: Local and Regional Promotion and Branding
11. Food Justice, Equity, and Local Food System Resiliency

1. LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS FOR LOCAL FOOD, PLACE, AND ECONOMY

What new activities or relationships would be present in your community if you could achieve strong linkages and partnerships among agriculture, community, economic, health, and placemaking interests?

How far along are you in achieving this vision as you have defined it? (Check one)

- ☐ Just beginning—we're not sure where to start.
- ☐ We have a plan in place, but no traction yet.
- ☐ Several programs are up and running, but we'd like to do more.
- ☐ We are where we want to be with this goal. The focus is on maintaining.

Notes/comments:

We have seen communities use the following strategies to build partnerships and coordinate efforts among sectors. Are you currently pursuing, or interested in exploring, any of these strategies?

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
1. A local food network such as a food policy council, ¹ a local food alliance, ² or some other entity ³ created to foster dialogue, coordination, and partnerships to reach desired goals.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
2. A local place-based organization such as a downtown development authority, ⁴ focused on promoting community development and economic development in town centers.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
3. A community vision plan ⁵ that incorporates aspirations or specific place-based projects to advance the local food system and downtown revitalization in support of economic development and better public health outcomes.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
4. A comprehensive plan or other document that incorporates specific policy goals for downtown revitalization, strengthening local food activities, economic development, and better public health outcomes ⁶ (e.g., an economic development office that has a mandate for agricultural economic development, ⁷ a school district or higher education institution with a policy for purchasing a percentage of foods locally, ⁸ or a farm-to-school program ⁹).	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
5. A mutual aid group composed of working-class residents, churches, food pantries, volunteers, and nonprofits, that strengthens the community's ability to collectively respond to emergencies and climate disasters in partnership with the most vulnerable community members.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
6. A grassroots funder network leveraging participatory grantmaking practices ¹⁰ can create opportunities to share power in funding decision making while developing consistent streams of funding for community driven projects that build equitable local food systems.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
7. Others (please name and describe)	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

¹ Food policy councils are groups of representatives from multiple sectors of the food system and other stakeholders (e.g., health advocates, youth development leaders). Examples across the United States are listed at: Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. “Food Policy Council Map.” <https://www.foodpolicynetworks.org/fpc-map/>, 2021. Accessed July 18, 2021.

² A food alliance is a formal organization bringing together the various players in a community’s food system to foster collaboration. Examples include the Greater High Point Food Alliance in North Carolina (<http://www.ghpfa.org>) and the Acadiana Food Alliance in Louisiana (<https://www.growacadiana.org/about>).

³ An example of another entity is the Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture, or CISA (<http://www.buylocalfood.org/about/faq>), a nonprofit organization working to strengthen farms and engage the community to build the local food economy in the Pioneer Valley region of western Massachusetts. The organization started and operates “Be a Local Hero, Buy Locally Grown®,” a marketing and awareness campaign.

⁴ A downtown development authority is typically an organization that can raise money for dedicated purposes and acquire and/or develop land. Other organizations can serve similar functions, including a city agency with a dedicated downtown program, a business organization running a business improvement district, or a nonprofit organization with a Main Street focus. One way to fund a development authority is to have a tax increment financing (TIF) district. TIF is a financing tool that allows municipalities to promote economic development by earmarking property tax revenue from increases in assessed values toward specific purposes. For more information, see: Dye, Richard, and Merriman, David. “Tax Increment Financing: A Tool for Local Economic Development.” *Land Lines*. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. Jan. 2006. <http://www.lincolnst.edu/publications/articles/tax-increment-financing>.

⁵ A community vision plan is a formal document that helps build consensus around common goals for the future. An example is: Vermont Farm to Plate: Strengthening. <https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com>.

⁶ Seattle created a document that articulates policies to support local and affordable foods. See: Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment. *Food Action Plan*. 2012. <https://www.seattle.gov/environment/food/food-action-plan>.

⁷ Agriculture economic development provides farmers and other rural landowners with a wide range of services including education, resources, and grant support. For example, Oneida County, New York, has an agriculture economic development program that supports and promotes the expansion of agricultural business within the county. See: Cornell University Cooperative Extension Oneida County. “Ag Economic Development.” <http://cceoneida.com/agriculture/ag-economic-development>. Accessed Sep. 28, 2017.

⁸ An example is the University of Maine system See: The University of Maine. “Buy Local Food, Sustain Maine Farms” <https://umaine.edu/dining/local/>. Accessed July 19, 2021. See also: Farm to Institution New England’s A Toolkit for Institutional Purchasers Sourcing Local Food from Distributors. https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/FINE_Toolkit.pdf. Accessed July 18, 2021.

⁹ See: National Farm to School Network (<http://www.farmtoschool.org>). More examples and inspiration are at Vermont FEED (<https://vtfeed.org/northeast-virtual-farm-school-institute-learning-community>). Accessed July 18, 2021.

¹⁰ Participatory grantmaking is both a power-shifting ethos and a process that places the community a foundation (or funding entity) aims to serve at the center of the decision-making process, allowing them to play a role in allocating funds to projects. https://grantcraft.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/12/DecidingTogether_Final_20181002.pdf

2. CONNECTING COMMUNITY

What new relationships and collaborations might exist in your community if you could connect local food system and economic development efforts across race, class, age, and geographic (i.e., urban or rural) boundaries?

How far along are you in building diverse relationships as you have defined them? (check one)

- ☐ Just beginning—we're not sure where to start.
- ☐ We have a plan in place, but no traction yet.
- ☐ Several programs are up and running, but we'd like to do more.
- ☐ We are where we want to be with this goal. The focus is on maintaining.

Notes/comments:

We have seen communities use the following strategies to connect various efforts across race, class, age, geography, and other boundaries. Are you currently pursuing, or interested in exploring, any of these strategies?

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
1. Resident leadership or community ambassador programs that foster bottom-up relationships and collaboration between neighborhoods, local government, nonprofits, and academic institutions through direct involvement and shared leadership.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
2. Community volunteer events around specific place-based projects such as vacant lot cleanup days, landscaping efforts, beautification initiatives, or community gardening programs. ¹¹	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
3. Coordinated participation of faith-based communities such as churches, mosques, synagogues, and temples.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
4. Community events such as dinner series, annual block parties or harvest festivals ¹² can provide opportunities to support food vendors, build relationships, spark productive dialogue, and celebrate diverse cultures and food heritage within the community.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
5. Inclusion of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP) or Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) ¹³ at farmers markets or other places where local food is sold.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
6. Involvement of youth development programs in community efforts, such as Future Farmers of America, 4-H, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, and teen job-training programs. ¹⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
7. Programs for recently incarcerated individuals that connect them to community-building projects such as reconciliation and reentry programs. ¹⁵	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
8. Others (please name and describe)	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

¹¹ An example is Purdue University's Grass to Garden Signature Program that collaborates with communities across the state to build and maintain garden spaces, including in Gary, Indiana (LFLP 2016). (<https://extension.purdue.edu/lake/article/40547>). Accessed July 18, 2021.

¹² An example of a community harvest festival hosted in partnership with Cultivate Charlottesville and Charlottesville City Schools provides opportunities for youth, families, educators and entrepreneurs to celebrate diversity and food. <https://www.cvilletomorrow.org/articles/7th-annual-fall-harvest-festival>

¹³ Resources for farmers markets wishing to offer Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits and Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) are available at: USDA. "SNAP and Farmers Markets." <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/farmer-producer>. Accessed July 18, 2021.

¹⁴ An example is the Youth with Faces culinary program in Dallas (<http://www.youthwithfaces.org/our-work/how-we-help/culinary-program>). An example is UTEC, Inc. in Lowell, Massachusetts. (<https://utecinc.org>). Accessed July 18, 2021.

¹⁵ Planting Justice, based in Oakland, California, has developed programs and training centers focused on food justice education, holistic re-entry, permaculture landscaping, and urban farming since 2009. See Planting Justice. <https://plantingjustice.org/about/>. Accessed July 18, 2021. This article from the Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center describes initiatives in several states. <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/food-policy-snapshot-maine-prison-farm/>. Accessed July 19, 2021. See also: Farm to Corrections (<https://www.farmtoinstitution.org/farm-corrections>). Accessed July 18, 2021.

3. AGRICULTURE: LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

What new activities and relationships would be present if your community could support local food production such as farming, ranching, aquaculture, or fishing?

How far along are you in cultivating these new activities and relationships as you have defined them? (Check one)

- ☐ Just beginning—we're not sure where to start.
- ☐ We have a plan in place, but no traction yet.
- ☐ Several programs are up and running, but we'd like to do more.
- ☐ We are where we want to be with this goal. The focus is on maintaining.

Notes/comments:

We have seen communities use the following strategies to support local food production. Are you currently pursuing, or interested in exploring, any of these strategies?

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
1. Farm incubator programs that provide training and resources for prospective farmers or farmers transitioning from commodity crops to producing for local or regional sales. ^{16,17}	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
2. Programs that help prospective farmers gain access to land including for prospective farmers who have historically faced barriers to land access or ownership for growing purposes. ¹⁸	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
3. Urban farming initiatives such as indoor, vertical, and rooftop agriculture spaces focused on community food production.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
4. Cooperative extension programs geared towards building the capacity of local food producers (e.g., training for season extension, marketing, and new agricultural techniques). ¹⁹	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
5. Farmer networking or information-sharing programs that provide opportunities for peer-to-peer knowledge sharing. ²⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
6. Zoning ordinances that protect and encourage agricultural preservation ²¹ and production ²² in both urban and rural areas.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
7. Others (please name and describe)	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work	

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> Established	

¹⁶ Examples include Glynwood, New York's Hudson Valley Farm Business Incubator (<https://glynwood.org/farm-business-incubator>) and the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association in Monterey County, California (<http://www.albafarmers.org>). Accessed July 20, 2021.

¹⁷ USDA has compiled resources for new farmers, including resources specifically for women in agriculture, veterans, and youth at: USDA. "New Farmers." <https://newfarmers.usda.gov>. Accessed July 20, 2021.

¹⁸ The National Young Farmers Coalition provides case studies to illustrate steps communities can take to increase farmer access to land (<http://www.youngfarmers.org/land-access-case-studies/>).

¹⁹ An example is the Cargill Teaching Kitchen of Cornell Cooperative Extension in Tompkins County, New York (<http://ccetompkins.org/food/cargill-teaching-kitchen>). Accessed July 20, 2021.

²⁰ Examples include Farm Hack (<http://farmhack.org/tools>) and the Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training (<http://www.craftfarmer.org>). Accessed July 20, 2021.

²¹ American Farmland Trust advocates for the preservation of farmland nationally: <https://farmland.org/our-work/protecting-farmland/?mission-area=6>. Accessed July 20, 2021. For a state example, see: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. "Maine Farmland Preservation Ordinances." http://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/technical/farmland_ordinances.shtml. Accessed Feb. 21, 2017. For an urban example, see Somerville, Massachusetts' Urban Ag Ordinance: <https://www.somervillema.gov/urbanag>. Accessed July 20, 2021. Some states (e.g., Massachusetts, New Hampshire) have local agricultural commissions and Right to Farm laws. <https://www.massagcom.org/AgComsOverview.php>. Accessed July 20, 2021.

²² For an example, see: Change Lab Solutions. *Model Produce Cart Ordinance*. 2010. <http://www.changelabsolutions.org/publications/model-ordinance-produce-carts>.

4. AGRICULTURE: MARKETS AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

What economic opportunities could result if local food producers were better connected with market outlets and other business opportunities?

How far along are you in creating these economic opportunities as you have defined them?
(Check one)

- ☐ Just beginning—we're not sure where to start.
- ☐ We have a plan in place, but no traction yet.
- ☐ Several programs are up and running, but we'd like to do more.
- ☐ We are where we want to be with this goal. The focus is on maintaining.

Notes/comments:

We have seen communities use the following strategies to support marketing opportunities for local food producers. Are you currently pursuing, or interested in exploring, any of these strategies?

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
1. Farmers markets and other direct-to-consumer sales opportunities.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
2. Community-supported agriculture (CSA) ²³ or community-supported fishery ²⁴ program, in which customers buy shares of a farm's or fishery's yield at the start of the season and receive regular distribution of seasonal products.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
3. Established outlets such as grocery stores that sell local food and other local products. ²⁵	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
4. Local food guides, directories, or websites that list producers, suppliers, restaurants, or distributors of local food and value-added products, ²⁶ making it easier for people to learn about and access them. ²⁷	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
5. Partnerships with local and regional aggregators and distributors that increase the number and range of markets available to local producers, such as through a food hub. ²⁸	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
6. Business training for local food producers through community colleges, universities, and business incubators. ²⁹	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
7. Others (please name and describe)	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

²³ A list of local community-supported agriculture programs can be found at USDA Agricultural Marketing Service “Local Food Directories.” <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-directories>. Accessed July 20, 2021.

²⁴ Examples include Cape Ann Fresh Catch in Gloucester, Massachusetts (<http://www.capeannfreshcatch.org>), and Core Sound Seafood in Carteret County, North Carolina (<http://www.coresoundseafood.org>). Accessed July 20, 2021.

²⁵ Examples include Hannaford, which participates in several state programs that support local and regional farmers (Hannaford. “We love local.” <https://www.hannaford.com/about-us/local>. Accessed July 20, 2021).

²⁶ Value-added food processing is creating a higher-value product from a raw commodity, e.g., turning strawberries into strawberry jam.

²⁷ Examples include GardenShare’s *Local Food Guide* for St. Lawrence County, New York (<http://gardenshare.org/food-guide>); the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project’s *Appalachian Grown Local Food Guide* (<http://www.appalachiangrown.org>); and Local Harvest’s national directory (<http://www.localharvest.org>). Accessed July 20, 2021.

²⁸ Examples include the Fifth Season Cooperative in Wisconsin (<http://www.fifthseasoncoop.com>) and Local Food Hub in Charlottesville, Virginia (<https://www.localfoodhub.org>).

²⁹ Examples include Unlimited Future, a microenterprise development center and business incubator in Huntington, West Virginia (<http://www.unlimitedfuture.org>), the Colleton Commercial Kitchen in Walterboro, South Carolina (<https://www.colletonkitchen.org>).

5. FOOD SYSTEM SUPPORT AND ANCILLARY SERVICES

What opportunities and activities would become available if you could create or expand processes and opportunities that add value or enhance the local food system in your community?

How far along are you in generating these opportunities as you have defined them? (Check one)

- ☐ Just beginning—we're not sure where to start.
- ☐ We have a plan in place, but no traction yet.
- ☐ Several programs are up and running, but we'd like to do more.
- ☐ We are where we want to be with this goal. The focus is on maintaining.

Notes/comments:

We have seen communities use the following strategies to enhance the capabilities of local food farms and businesses. Are you currently pursuing, or interested in exploring, any of these strategies?

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
1. Shared-use commercial kitchens for caterers and small-scale manufacturers using locally sourced ingredients. ³⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
2. Value-added food processing facilities for processing fruits and vegetables into consumer goods. ³¹	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
3. Processing facilities for fish, seafood, and meat and/or dairy and cheese manufacturing.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
4. Distribution and aggregation facilities to fill a logistics gap in getting locally grown products to larger markets. ³²	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
5. Business incubators for farm-product marketers and non-farm entrepreneurs such as farm machinery repairers, crate manufacturers, and composters. ³³	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
6. Others (please name and describe)	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

³⁰ See The Food Corridor for a list of commercial kitchens in the United States and Canada as well as many resources. <https://www.thefoodcorridor.com>. Accessed July 20, 2021.

³¹ Examples include the Arkansas Food Innovation Center (<http://afic.uark.edu>), the Starting Block Incubator Kitchen and Entrepreneurial Center in Hart, Michigan (<http://www.startingblock.biz>), and Western Mass Food Processing Center in Greenfield, Massachusetts (<https://www.fccdc.org/food-processing-center/>).

³² An example is Farm Fresh Rhode Island, which also houses Fresh Tomato and other food businesses in Providence, Rhode Island (<https://www.farmfreshri.org>).

³³ An example is Unlimited Future, a microenterprise development center and business incubator in Huntington, West Virginia (<http://www.unlimitedfuture.org>).

6. PUBLIC HEALTH

What does success look like if you were to achieve better physical and mental health outcomes for people in your community?

How far along are you in meeting this goal as you have defined it?

- ☐ Just beginning—we're not sure where to start.
- ☐ We have a plan in place, but no traction yet.
- ☐ Several programs are up and running, but we'd like to do more.
- ☐ We are where we want to be with this goal. The focus is on maintaining.

Notes/comments:

We have seen communities use the following strategies to improve public health. Are you currently pursuing, or interested in exploring, any of these strategies?

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
1. Health Impact Assessment ³⁴ or Health in All Policies ³⁵ efforts that help foster collaboration across sectors.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
2. Farmers market partnerships with local agencies, employers, and nonprofit organizations to promote healthy eating (e.g., Veggie Prescription Programs, where patients receive nutritional consultations along with coupons for local produce). ³⁶	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
3. Nutrition and cooking classes at farmers markets, health centers, or other easily accessible public locations.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
4. Sourcing healthy and/or local foods in hospitals and health education facilities. ³⁷	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
5. Sourcing healthy and/or local foods in senior and childcare facilities. ³⁸	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
6. Farm-to-school programs that connect local farms to schools through K-12 education and food purchasing. ³⁹	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
7. Community gardens incorporated into mental health service provider programs. ⁴⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
8. Education and place-based strategies to support active living practices such as walking and biking.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
9. Improved access to social services, health care, and healthy food.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
10. Highly visible community exercise and active events (e.g., downtown walks or runs, yoga in the park, or community dances). ⁴¹	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
11. Health screenings at community events such as farmers markets, school activities, and festivals.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
12. Others (please name and describe)	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

³⁴ A Health Impact Assessment helps evaluate the potential health effects of a plan, project, or policy before it is built or implemented. For more information, see: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “Health Impact Assessment.” <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/hia.htm>. Accessed July 20, 2021.

³⁵ Health in All Policies is a collaborative approach to improving public health that embeds health considerations into decision-making processes across sectors. For more information, see: American Public Health Association. *Health in All Policies: A Guide for State and Local Government*. 2013. https://www.apha.org/-/media/Files/PDF/factsheets/Health_inAll_Policies_Guide_169pages.ashx. Accessed July 20, 2021.

³⁶ An example is Local Food Hub's Fresh Pharmacy Fruit and Veggie Prescription Program in Charlottesville, Virginia (<http://www.localfoodhub.org/fresh-pharmacy-fruit-and-veggie-prescription-program>).

³⁷ An example is the farm-to-hospital program of The University of Vermont Medical Center (<https://www.uvmhealth.org/medcenter/departments-and-programs/dining-services>). See the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Farm to Hospital Toolkit. <https://www.sare.org/resources/farm-to-hospital-toolkit/>. Accessed July 20, 2021.

³⁸ An example is the Cornwall Manor-Rodale Institute Trailside Organic Farm in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. <https://rodaleinstitute.org/about/partnerships/trailside-organic-farm/>. Accessed July 20, 2021. See also the Wake County, North Carolina, SmartStart farm-to-childcare toolkit for resources on starting a new program (<http://www.wakesmartstart.org/farm-to-child-care-toolkit>). Accessed July 20, 2021.

³⁹ Resources on farm-to-school programs are available from USDA's Food and Nutrition Service Office of Community Food Programs (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school>) and the National Farm to School Network (<http://www.farmtoschool.org>). <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school>

⁴⁰ An example is Pacific Quest in Hilo, Hawaii (<https://pacificquest.org/pacific-quest>) and Veterans to Farmers (<https://www.veteranstofarmers.org>). Accessed July 20, 2021.

⁴¹ Examples include International Yoga Day celebrated in many cities around the world (<https://www.un.org/en/observances/yoga-day>), and Shape Up NYC, which offers free outdoor group exercise classes to the community. (<https://www.nycgovparks.org/programs/recreation/shape-up-nyc>). Accessed July 20, 2021.

7. ENLIVENING, IMPROVING, AND REVITALIZING PLACES

What activities and programs would be present in your community if you had a vibrant and thriving downtown, Main Street, or neighborhood?

How far along are you in meeting this goal as you have defined it? (Check one)

- ☐ Just beginning—we're not sure where to start.
- ☐ We have a plan in place, but no traction yet.
- ☐ Several programs are up and running, but we'd like to do more.
- ☐ We are where we want to be with this goal. The focus is on maintaining.

Notes/comments:

We have seen communities use the following strategies to improve and revitalize downtowns and neighborhoods. Are you currently pursuing, or interested in exploring, any of these strategies?

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
1. Policies, codes, and incentives to create a mix of uses (e.g., housing, amenities, and employment opportunities) in downtown within walking distance of each other. ⁴²	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
2. A Main Street program or downtown association that coordinates downtown revitalization efforts. ⁴³	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
3. Community events (e.g., fairs or live music) and public places (e.g., parks and plazas) in the downtown core. ⁴⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
4. Audits to identify safety, access, and comfort concerns for pedestrians and bicyclists, along with an improvement plan for making infrastructure changes. ⁴⁵	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
5. Beautification and improvement of streets and sidewalks to promote inviting pedestrian environments and increased Main Street activity. ⁴⁶	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
6. Connecting downtown to other parts of the community with multiple routes and transportation options (e.g., safe walking paths, bike lanes, trails, and buses). ⁴⁷	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
7. Parking management policies to encourage efficient use of space and make walking safer and more pleasant (e.g., shared parking lots, parking standards and public parking lots). ⁴⁸	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
8. Public art, murals, or iconic infrastructure that builds collective identity. ⁴⁹	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
9. Connections between downtown and nearby tourist or recreational activities such as greenways, national and state parks, and regional trails. ⁵⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
10. Signs that encourage people to visit points of interest and promote community identity. ⁵¹	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
11. Market or feasibility studies to assess opportunities for downtown redevelopment and specific activities.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
12. Public outreach efforts to incorporate all voices into revitalization.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
13. Special districts that encourage investment and a mix of uses downtown (e.g., historic, arts, commercial, investment, and neighborhood conservation districts). ⁵²	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
14. Others (please name and describe)	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

⁴² For strategies villages, towns, and small cities can use to evaluate their existing policies to create healthy, environmentally resilient, and economically robust places, see: EPA. *Smart Growth Self-Assessment for Rural Communities*. 2015. <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-self-assessment-rural-communities>. For larger communities, see: EPA. *Essential Smart Growth Fixes for Urban and Suburban Zoning Codes*. 2009. https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/essential-smart-growth-fixes-communities#Urban_and_Suburban_Zoning_Codes.

⁴³ An example is the Texas Downtown Association (<http://www.texasdowntown.org>). Main Street America (<http://www.mainstreet.org>) provides resources for organizations interested in creating vibrant and viable commercial districts.

⁴⁴ For an example in Corbin, Kentucky, see: MacKenzie, Annah. “A Man, a Plan, a Market: The Lighter Quicker Cheaper Transformation of a Rural Kentucky Main Street.” *Project for Public Spaces Blog*. Apr. 5, 2016. <https://www.pps.org/blog/corbin-ky>.

⁴⁵ For resources and audit materials, see: Federal Highway Administration Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center. “Audits.” https://www.pedbikeinfo.org/resources/resources_details.cfm?id=5085. Accessed July 20, 2021.

⁴⁶ An example is Beautiful RVA in Richmond, Virginia (<https://www.lewisginter.org/visit/about/mission-goals/beautiful-rva/>).

⁴⁷ An example is the Tanglefoot Trail in New Albany, Mississippi (<https://www.traillink.com/trail/tanglefoot-trail/>).

⁴⁸ For information and strategies on balancing parking needs with community goals, see: EPA. *Parking Spaces/Community Places: Finding the Balance Through Smart Growth Solutions*. 2006. <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/parking-spacescommunity-places>.

⁴⁹ Examples include the Richmond Mural Project in Virginia (<http://richmondmuralproject.squarespace.com>) and IX Art Park in Charlottesville, Virginia (<http://www.ixartpark.com>). The Center for Creative Placemaking

(<https://centerforcreativeplacemaking.net>) provides resources on using arts and culture as tools for community, social, and economic development.

⁵⁰ An example is the Mill Mountain Greenway (<https://www.traillink.com/trail/mill-mountain-greenway/>), which connects downtown Roanoke, Virginia, with Mill Mountain Park.

⁵¹ An example is the Baker County Tourism wayfinding signs in Oregon (<https://travelbakercounty.com/introducing-the-trailhead-stewardship-project/>).

⁵² Examples include the Las Vegas Arts District (<https://downtown.vegas/work/neighborhoods-districts/18b-the-las-vegas-arts-district>); Bozeman, Montana's Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District (see: City of Bozeman. *Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District Report*. 2015 <https://www.bozeman.net/Home/ShowDocument?id=3128>); and the Business Improvement District in Fargo, North Dakota (<http://downtownfargobid.com>).

8. ENLIVENING DOWNTOWN AND NEIGHBORHOOD SPACES THROUGH LOCAL FOOD

What activities and opportunities would be present if local food was a central feature of your downtown area?

How far along are you in incorporating local food into your downtown area as you have defined it? (Check one)

- ☐ Just beginning—we're not sure where to start.
- ☐ We have a plan in place, but no traction yet.
- ☐ Several programs are up and running, but we'd like to do more.
- ☐ We are where we want to be with this goal. The focus is on maintaining.

Notes/comments:

We have seen communities use the following strategies to integrate local food and related activities into their downtowns. Are you currently pursuing or interested in exploring, any of these strategies?

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
1. Farmers markets located downtown and open during the week and on weekends.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
2. Local food-focused public events and festivals held downtown.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
3. Conversion of vacant or underused land to productive use such as for parks, community gardens, pop-up markets, or urban farms. ⁵³	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
4. Rehabilitation and/or adaptive reuse of vacant or underused public buildings into amenities such as a food pantry, community kitchen, food hub, grocery store, community center, training center, or meeting space. ⁵⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
5. Flexible zoning to enable nonconforming uses by cultural and community nonprofits.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
6. Policies to allow public lots or parks to be used as food distribution points or pop-up food markets.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
7. Initiatives that encourage local merchants, institutions, and businesses to highlight local products as a marketing asset (e.g., “Eat Local/Buy Local” campaigns ⁵⁵ or menus highlighting local produce).	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
8. Others (please name and describe)	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

⁵³ For examples, see: New York City Soil & Water Conservation District. *Greening Vacant Lots: Planning and Implementation Strategies*. 2012. <https://www.nrdc.org/resources/greening-vacant-lots-planning-and-implementation-strategies>.

⁵⁴ For an example, see: American Planning Association. “Flint Farmers’ Market: Flint, Michigan.” <https://www.planning.org/greatplaces/spaces/2015/flintfarmersmarket.htm>. Accessed Mar. 6, 2017.

⁵⁵ Examples include the 30 Mile Meal Project in Athens, Ohio (<https://30milemeal.wordpress.com>), the Vermont Fresh Network (<http://www.vermontfresh.net>), and Buy Fresh, Buy Local programs across the United States (<https://buyfreshbuylocal.org>).

9. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: OPPORTUNITIES AND ADVANCEMENT

What activities or programs would indicate success in creating economic opportunities, training, or job promotion in your community?

How far along are you in creating the opportunities for success and advancement as you have defined them? (Check one)

- ☐ Just beginning—we're not sure where to start.
- ☐ We have a plan in place, but no traction yet.
- ☐ Several programs are up and running, but we'd like to do more.
- ☐ We are where we want to be with this goal. The focus is on maintaining.

Notes/comments:

We have seen communities use the following strategies to leverage, improve or advance local economic opportunities. Are you currently pursuing, or interested in exploring, any of these strategies?

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
1. A business incubator programmatically linked with local schools, community colleges, and universities. ⁵⁶	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
2. Youth job-training programs, especially for those at risk or from areas with limited economic opportunity. ⁵⁷	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
3. Collaboration with farmers market vendors to open full-time shops in vacant areas downtown.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
4. Local hiring requirements for publicly funded projects.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
5. Developing a local merchant promotion program such as "Eat Local/Buy Local" or "Shop Downtown" campaigns.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
6. Access to capital for small business development through municipal Economic Development Services or state programs such as a fresh fund. ⁵⁸	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
7. Partnerships with local arts centers to help artisans at the farmers market scale up their businesses.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
8. Partnerships with local employers, economic development organizations, community colleges or nonprofits to leverage support, training, or job-placement programs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
9. Local business, producer, or farmer cooperatives. ⁵⁹	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
10. Healthy corner store programs that facilitate the sale of fresh produce at convenience stores. ⁶⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
11. Others (please name and describe)	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

⁵⁶ Examples include the Evergreen Cooperatives of Cleveland (<http://www.evgoh.com>) and The Idea Village in New Orleans (<http://www.ideavillage.org>).

⁵⁷ An example are the workforce programs of UTEC, Inc. in Lowell, Massachusetts, from woodworking, to mattress recycling, to culinary and food service enterprises. (<https://utecinc.org>). Accessed July 18, 2021.

⁵⁸ The Virginia Food Access Investment Fund (VFAIF) grants will support new food retail businesses, grocery stores, innovative food retailers projects and Virginia farmers with the goal of increasing availability of fresh and healthy foods. <https://www.whsv.com/2021/07/28/virginia-governor-announces-grant-funding-will-support-food-access-projects-shenandoah-valley/>

⁵⁹ An example is the Farmers Market Cooperative of East Liberty in Pittsburgh (<http://www.farmersmarketcooperativeofeastliberty.com>).

⁶⁰ An example is The Food Trust's Healthy Corner Store initiative (<http://thefoodtrust.org/what-we-do/corner-store>) that is now part of a national network (<http://thefoodtrust.org/administrative/healthy-corner-stores-network>). Another resources is this Passaic JN Healthy Corner Store Initiative report, 2016 (<https://togethernorthjersey.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Compressed-Healthy-C.pdf>)

10. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: LOCAL AND REGIONAL PROMOTION AND BRANDING

What new partnerships and outcomes would be present if your community implemented a marketing and promotion program celebrating its unique values, assets, or opportunities?

How far along are you in implementing a promotion program as you have defined it? (Check one)

- ☐ Just beginning—we're not sure where to start.
- ☐ We have a plan in place, but no traction yet.
- ☐ Several programs are up and running, but we'd like to do more.
- ☐ We are where we want to be with this goal. The focus is on maintaining.

Notes/comments:

We have seen communities use the following strategies to promote their unique assets and opportunities for greater economic and community development. Are you currently pursuing, or interested in exploring, any of these strategies?

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
1. Webpage and an actively curated social media presence. ⁶¹	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
2. "Eat Local, Buy Local" campaign or "Shop Downtown" campaign. ⁶²	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
3. Local food guides, directories, or websites ⁶³ that list producers, suppliers, restaurants, or distributors of local food and value-added products, making it easier for people to learn about and access them.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
4. Coordinating and leveraging state and regional economic development and tourism marketing resources.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
5. Developing a brand for your community's produce or key assets, unique features, or geographic area and incorporating that brand into private and public marketing efforts. ⁶⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
6. Activities to create, promote, or strengthen tourism assets in your community. ⁶⁵	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
7. Others (please name and describe)	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

⁶¹ Multiple website hosting and development platforms allow people to build and customize their own websites. Alternatively, project or program account can be created on social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram which can work with a website, but alone are less likely to reach as broad an audience as they require individuals to have an account and login.

⁶² LFLP 2020 community Springfield, Illinois has a downtown organization with a number of programs focused on economic development including Momentum on Main Street (<https://www.downtownspringfield.org/momentum-on-main-street/>).

⁶³ Examples include the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Kentucky Proud program (<http://www.kyproud.com>) and Vermont Way Foods (<https://www.vermontwayfoods.com>).

⁶⁴ An example is the Appalachian Grown certification program from the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (<http://asapconnections.org/tools-for-farmers/appalachian-grown-certification>).

⁶⁵ An example is the Fields of Gold Farm Trail in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley (<http://www.fieldsofgold.org>).

11. FOOD JUSTICE, EQUITY AND LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCY

Environmental justice, food justice, and social justice issues are highly intertwined with one another and understanding these inter-relationships is vital to creating more sustainable, equitable, and resilient food systems. How far along are you with food justice focused initiatives and building resiliency? What community-driven plans or activities are in place to help maintain the stability of local food systems in times of crisis and mitigate potential adverse impact on equitable food access (e.g., from natural disasters, pandemics or other external shocks)? (Check one)

- ☐ Just beginning—we're not sure where to start.
- ☐ We have a plan in place, but no traction yet.
- ☐ Several programs are up and running, but we'd like to do more.
- ☐ We are where we want to be with this goal. The focus is on maintaining.

Notes/comments:

Communities, networks, and coalitions are leading and participating in the following ways. Are you currently pursuing, or interested in exploring, any of these strategies or activities?

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
1. Allowing people to grow food in more types of places locally through revised permitting, zoning, land-use ordinances, and protections like Right-to-Farm statutes. ⁶⁶	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
2. Fostering more ways to share food and other resources among neighbors and community members through formal and informal means. ⁶⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
3. Offering programming and capacity building supporting community-led efforts to improve food access, social justice and equal opportunity access to higher social, economic, health, and living standards. ⁶⁵	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
4. Sharing information and inspirational examples of community-led efforts through story maps and other platforms. ⁶⁶	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
5. Supporting greater representation of Indigenous, African American, Latin American, and other communities of color in private or collective land access and ownership, especially to local arable lands. ⁶⁷	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	

Common Strategies or Actions	Status	Notes/Comments
6. Implementing local fair labor contracts practices or setting a local living wage standard for workers throughout the food chain. ⁶⁸	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
7. Support development of both private and community-owned local food businesses, such as cooperative grocery stores ⁶⁷ or cafes ⁶⁸ , to increase community wealth, resilience, and self-determination.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
8. Strengthen local food system resiliency to climate change impacts or extreme weather events.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
9. Through municipal funding support ⁶⁹ and proclamations, strengthen the ability of local food-system assets and sites to support overall community resiliency and response to extreme events or shocks such as from pandemics, wildfires, floods, or heat events.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
10. Improve resiliency of local water access and improve accessibility by all residents supporting local community gardening and agriculture.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low priority <input type="checkbox"/> Aspiration <input type="checkbox"/> Needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Established	
11. Other: please describe		

⁶⁶ For state-by-state information on Right-to-Farm laws, see The National Agricultural Law Center (<https://nationalaglawcenter.org/state-compilations/right-to-farm/>). Accessed July 21, 2021. Right-to-Garden laws are emerging with a first in Florida in 2019 (<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/82/BillText/er/HTML>) and another proposed in Illinois (<https://www.righttogarden.com>). Accessed July 21, 2021.

⁶⁴ Examples include Soul Fire Farm's Solidarity Shares (<https://www.soulfirefarm.org/theland/solidarityshares/>), community fridges and little food pantries (<https://www.mutualaidhub.org/table-of-food-resources>), and giving gardens (<https://www.startribune.com/twin-cities-gardeners-grow-food-for-their-neighbors-on-city-boulevards/573474251/>). Accessed July 21, 2021. Crop Swap LA was founded in 2018 and connects those who want to grow food without land to those who have space. (<https://www.cropswapla.com>). Accessed July 21, 2021.

⁶⁵ An example is the programming of Soul Fire Farm and its Speaker Collective (<https://www.soulfirefarm.org/speakers-collective/>). Access July 21, 2021.

⁶⁶ Local Food Resiliency in Vermont is a collection of stories gathered to encourage and inspire communities as they undertake their own efforts. (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/1653bd8d31554ef69dc302d5e46e480c>). Accessed July 20, 2021.

⁶⁷ The Detroit People's Food Co-Op's purpose is to provide improved access to healthy food and food education to Detroit residents. <https://detroitpeoplesfoodcoop.com/>

⁶⁸ The Coalition of Imoklee Workers launched the Fair Food Program in 2011. It is considered an international model of Worker-driven Social Responsibility (WSR) between farmworkers, growers, and food buyers. (<https://ciw-online.org/about/>). Accessed July 21, 2021.

⁶⁸ Cafe Sankofa Cooperative looking to revitalize Syracuse's south side

<https://www.localsyr.com/news/local-news/cafe-sankofa-cooperative-looking-to-revitalize-syracuses-south-side/>

⁶⁹ The Food Equity Initiative was designed to support implementation of citywide strategies outlined in the FY20 proposal that align with goals established in the MAPP2Health Community Action Plan, the Local Food, Local Places Action Plan, and the specific City Departments food equity action plans. Beginning in March 2020, in response to COVID-19 stay at home measures, rises in unemployment, shifts in school meal deliveries, and other COVID-19 consequences, The Food Equity Initiative pivoted portions of our work to respond to emergency food needs. <https://bit.ly/3BqjcwV>