



CREATING A FOOD SECURE DETROIT: POLICY REVIEW AND UPDATE

“Community Food Security can be defined as the condition which exists when all of the members of a community have access, in close proximity, to adequate amounts of nutritious, culturally appropriate food at all times, from sources that are environmentally sound and just. This policy also affirms the City of Detroit’s commitment to supporting sustainable food systems that provide people with high quality food, productive employment, and contribute to the long-term well-being of the environment.”

DETROIT FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

JULIAN C. MADISON BLDG. | 1420 WASHINGTON BLVD., SUITE 230 | DETROIT, MI 48226



The Detroit Food Policy Council came into being in November 2009 following a City Council resolution in 2008 supporting its creation and another resolution earlier that year to adopt a City Food Security Policy. The DFPC is an implementation, monitoring and advisory body and consists of twenty- one members, including thirteen (13) representatives from various sectors of the Food System, four (4) “at-large” representatives, one (1) youth representative and three (3) governmental representatives, one each from the Mayor’s Office, City Council and The Department of Health and Wellness Promotion (DHWP). Members serve as individuals.

MISSION AND VISION

DFPC is committed to nurturing the development and maintenance of a sustainable, localized food system and a food-secure City of Detroit in which all of its residents are hunger-free, healthy, and benefit economically from the food system that impacts their lives.

We envision a city of Detroit with a healthy, vibrant, hunger-free populace that has easy access to fresh produce and other healthy food choices; a city in which the residents are educated about healthy food choices, and understand their relationship to the food system; a city in which urban agriculture, composting and other sustainable practices contribute to its economic vitality; and a city in which all of its residents, workers, guests and visitors are treated with respect, justice and dignity by those from whom they obtain food.

MEMBERS

NAME	SECTOR / TERM	NAME	SECTOR / TERM
Sandra Turner-Handy, Chair Michigan Environmental Council	Environmental Justice November 2018*	Eileen Haraminac Michigan State University Extension	Colleges and Universities November 2017
Mariangela (Mimi) Pledl, Vice Chair Detroit Economic Growth Corporation	Urban Planning November 2018*	Kirk Mayes Forgotten Harvest	Emergency Food Providers November 2017
Jerry Ann Hebron, Treasurer Northend Christian CDC	Farmers’ Markets November 2018*	Atieno Nyar Kasagam	At Large November 2018
Zaundra Wimberley, Secretary	Institutional Food November 2017	Suzette Olaker, M.D.,	Nutrition and Well Being November 2017*
Jelani Barber	At Large November 2017	Lindsay Pielack Keep Growing Detroit	Sustainable Agriculture November 2018
Jermond Booze	Food Industry Workers November 2019	Tepfirah Rushdan	At Large November 2017
Garry Bullock District 3 Manager	Mayor’s Office Appointee	Velonda Anderson, Ph.D. WIC Manager & Breastfeeding Coordinator	Appointee Health Department
Tyler Chatman	At Large, Youth November 2017	Kathryn Underwood City Planning Commission	Appointee Detroit City Council
Anika Grose Eastern Market Corporation	Wholesale Food Distributors November 2017		



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RESEARCHERS

Stephen Arellano
Cheryl Williams Kearney
Cheryl Danley

WRITERS

Stephen Arellano
Amy Kuras

STAFF LEAD

Kibibi Blount-Dorn

COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION HOSTS

Genesis: HOPE CDC/Islandview Farmers Market
Keep Growing Detroit
Food Plus Detroit
Northend Christian CDC/Oakland Avenue Farmers Market
Joy-Southfield CDC Farmers Market
Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit
American Indian Health and Family Services
Detroit Black Community Food Security Network
Chandler Park Neighborhood Association
Detroit Eastern Market

LAYOUT AND DESIGN

WillDo Designs

PRINTING

Urban Press Detroit

FUNDERS

The Kresge Foundation
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Thank you to the individuals who took the time to give us your feedback



INTRODUCTION

It has been over six years since the unanimous passage of Detroit's Food Security Policy and the establishment of Detroit Food Policy Council (DFPC). During this period Detroit residents and institutions have remained committed to the words and spirit of the Food Security Policy. Food has been linked to two of the five key social determinants of health indicated by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC.) The social determinants of health as defined by the CDC "are the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work, and age, as well as the systems put in place to deal with illness." A food secure Detroit ensures that residents have the energy and vitality to pursue their lives and contribute to their community.

This document is the first step in taking a look back to see how far we have come, assessing how the food security policy reflects the priorities of residents, and charting a collaborative path forward. To accomplish this, DFPC's Research and Policy Committee and staff assembled a team to connect with the community to assess their thoughts, concerns, and reactions to Detroit's Food Security Policy. This process was an opportunity to connect with longtime advocates and new faces while learning about the progress, barriers and priorities around food security in the city of Detroit.

The process of collecting data to inform this update began in May 2015 and concluded November 2015, and included these steps:

- Survey – The survey was designed to scan the knowledge and opinions of Detroit residents across the issue areas included in the food security policy. Survey questions were developed by DFPC staff and shared with members and partners to add/edit questions. The survey was marketed online and delivered directly to residents at farmers markets and community festivals around the city. 342 people responded to the 83-question survey. Residents from all 7 Detroit districts responded to the survey.
- Community Listening Sessions – DFPC hosted 11 community listening sessions across all 7 City Council districts to engage citizens in dialogue about food security issues. 112 people attended the sessions.
- Key Informants – DFPC reached out to its network of professionals in food security to determine where the food security movement has made progress and where the most urgent barriers are. Key informants provided input individually and at a facilitated dialogue for food system professionals.
- Public Meeting – The four-month data collection phase culminated in October 2015 with a public forum hosted at Eastern Market Corp. The forum included a panel of food security leaders, a preliminary report on data collected, and public questions/comments.



While we were pleased to discover that there was widespread support of both the Food Security Policy and the Detroit Food Policy Council, we learned that we must continue to educate residents about food security and the work of DFPC. With newer leadership and staff at DFPC and in city government, there is an opportunity to build working relationships that weave the vision of food security into public priorities. Finally, we learned we need to develop a system to collect data from our network to provide regular monitoring of food security efforts.

Both residents and key informants acknowledge progress and successes in moving toward food security, but it is also clear we have just begun the work of realizing our vision of a food secure city. The pages that follow present a review of the definitions, issues, and actions that comprise Detroit's food security policy. Data gathered from the survey, listening sessions and key informant conversations inform the sections below and provide perspective on the policy. DFPC is preparing to make all complete data sets gathered through this project available.





FOOD SECURITY IN DETROIT

“This food security policy was developed to affirm the City of Detroit’s commitment to nurturing the development of a food secure city in which all of its citizens are hunger-free, healthy and benefit from the food systems that impact their lives.”

DEFINING FOOD SECURITY

Community Food Security can be defined as the condition which exists when all of the members of a community have access, in close proximity, to adequate amounts of nutritious, culturally appropriate food at all times, from sources that are environmentally sound and just. This policy also affirms the City of Detroit’s commitment to supporting a sustainable food system that provides people with high-quality food, offers opportunities for productive employment, and contributes to the long-term well-being of the environment.

THE POLICY ADDRESSES THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Access to Quality Food in Detroit
- Hunger and Malnutrition
- Impacts/Effects of an Inadequate Diet
- Citizen Education
- Economic Injustice in the Food System
- Urban Agriculture
- The Role of Schools and Public Institutions
- Emergency Response

Each of the areas addressed by the food security policy are interconnected and, when taken together, represent the movement for a more just, sustainable and resilient food system:

- Access to quality food is fundamental to food security and thus it provides a rationale for all Detroit’s food security work.
- Hunger and malnutrition and the effects of inadequate diet are directly linked to each other as well as to the work of emergency food providers, nutrition educators, and the health sector.
- Citizen education is an important strategy in all food security areas.
- Economic injustice in the food system speaks to the realities of inequity, racism, and the need for Detroit residents to be participants as well as consumers in their food system.



- Urban agriculture connects residents to the source of their food, empowers individuals and groups to take action toward their own food security, builds safer and more connected communities and offers economic opportunity.
- Schools and public institutions are major stakeholders and policy makers, and share responsibility for the health and well-being of our children, seniors, and residents at large.
- Emergency response affirms the critical role that healthy food plays in all aspects of crisis prevention and crisis management for individuals and the entire community.

The original 8 issue areas listed in the food security policy each represent a complex set of challenges. They also represent different sectors having impacts on the food system at different points. DFPC is a conduit for city government to connect with food security partners across the system and hear directly from Detroit residents.

Our survey asked respondents to tell us what food security means to them and the following word cloud represents the responses. *(The size of each word represents how many times it was used in survey responses).*



Collectively, Detroit residents who responded to our surveys and participated in our community conversations provided a comprehensive look at the many layers of food security, including concerns about how food is produced, processed, sold and consumed.

Recognizing the complexity of food security, we asked respondents to prioritize the 8 issues listed in Detroit's food security policy by selecting their top three most important issues.

Access to quality food, effects of an inadequate diet, and economic injustice in the food system were clearly the priorities among survey participants.

Following is a closer look at the eight priorities: what has been achieved since the original food security policy was drafted, what is still to be accomplished, and policy recommendations driven by the voice of the community as reflected by survey responses and community conversations.



ACCESS

“Access is the availability of quality food within a reasonable distance from where people live. Access also includes the ease and ability to travel to where quality food is available, as well as the affordability of that food and its cultural suitability to specific population groups within the community.” ~City of Detroit Food Security Policy

Basic access to food is the foundation of food security. Access can be taken broadly to include all food in the local food system including food grown, purchased or received through institutions and emergency food providers. In Wayne County, 20.9% of all people and 22.9% of children lack basic food security, which means that more than 1 in 5 people experience limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods at some point during the year.ⁱ

The vast majority – 94% – of our survey respondents are concerned in some way with access to healthy food in Detroit. For city government, improving access to food encompasses neighborhood planning, transportation, access to land and water, waste disposal, licensing and permitting, citizen education and emergency/disaster planning. When asked how to improve access to quality food in Detroit, respondents emphasized lack of quality produce, the need for more neighborhood grocery stores, and lower prices.



WORD CLOUD
2015 DFPC Survey:
How can food access
improve in Detroit?

Detroit’s Food Security Policy in 2010 focused on increasing the number of stores that offer safe and healthy food suitable to the needs and cultures of the people using those stores. The policy also calls for increased support for locally grown and organic produce within neighborhoods, connected to neighborhood-based outlets for sale of that produce. Some progress has been made on this issue; however, there is more to be done to ensure that all residents have access to the food they need for a healthy, active life.



Data on the presence of grocery stores in Detroit is varied and conflicting and there is limited information on the quality and variety of food offered at grocery stores in Detroit. Since 2010 there have been a number of efforts by individuals, nonprofits and private corporations to improve access, such as the 13 community markets and farm stands spread throughout Detroit to provide fresh, affordable and locally produced food in neighborhoods (www.detroitmarkets.org). These markets, farm stands, and mobile food services represent dedicated efforts to not only create a more food secure Detroit, but also develop links in the local food economy. For the first time in decades, two large chain grocers have opened outlets in Detroit since the food security policy was last updated; while this improves access, it does not fully address the issues of extractive economies that receive food dollars from the community but do not enrich the community.



WORD CLOUD

2015 DFPC Survey:
Where do you shop
for food besides the
grocery store?

POLICY PRIORITIES:

- Master Plan/Neighborhood Planning – DFPC members and partners bring experience, connections and lessons learned in designing food secure neighborhoods and business districts and ought to be “at the table” during the planning process.
- Urban Agriculture – Support for more healthy food production in the city from the Mayor, City Council and city departments is a critical part of improving access to food. Production can mean individual or community gardens or urban farms; food processing, or food businesses.
- Transportation – Public transportation that meets all residents’ needs in traveling to and from available food sources is a crucial component of food access; all transportation plans from DDOT, the Regional Transit Authority or other entities must have food access as a primary concern. Adding food access criteria to the planning processes for all transportation plans from DDOT, the Regional Transit Authority or other entities will help ensure that food access is given appropriate consideration and that transportation changes have positive impacts on food access.
- Research – Detroit needs authoritative data on the food environment that includes mapping, food quality assessment, and economic opportunity; the City government can develop a method for sharing information to facilitate this and base decision-making on the data collected.



HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

From the years 2010 to 2015, Gleaners Community Food Bank distributed an average of 32 million meals per year in Southeast Michigan. Forgotten Harvest increased food rescue efforts from 23 million pounds to over 48 million pounds of food that would have gone to waste. These numbers illustrate the scope of hunger in Detroit, as well the strength of emergency food providers managing the last line of defense against hunger. Detroit can be proud of its growing capacity to feed the hungry; continued support for emergency food providers' efforts to reduce hunger and provide higher quality food is essential. Yet, growth in this sector serves as an indicator of the immense hunger problem that exists in Southeast Michigan.

Malnutrition can occur from extended hunger and also from eating food that does not adequately nourish our bodies. Malnutrition reduces growth and development in children, inhibits the ability to focus and learn, and decreases resistance to sickness. Nearly 20% of our survey respondents describe themselves or family members as at least sometimes malnourished. Over 40% say they have a friend or neighbor that is at least sometimes malnourished. Federally subsidized nutrition programs support emergency food providers, fund school nutrition and supplement individual food purchasing power. To qualify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, Food Stamps), individuals must be at or below 130% of the poverty line. From the period 2010-2015, poverty in Detroit climbed from 34.5% (47.7% children under 18) to 39.8% (56.2% children under 18), and as a result, nearly half (47%) of Detroit is eligible for SNAP benefitsⁱⁱ. Based on average SNAP participation rates in Michiganⁱⁱⁱ, this represents over \$2 billion public dollars available to be spent on food.

Detroit's food security policy advocates for support of emergency food providers and a partnership to help inform citizens about the benefits they are eligible for. The policy also encourages education for individuals and communities to help themselves through producing, processing and sharing their own food. Nearly 75% of our survey respondents reported that they share food with others outside the home or have food shared with them. Nearly 2/3 of our respondents say they share or receive food grown by friends, family or neighbors.

An additional area of focus for hunger and malnutrition in Detroit is the vital role of nutrition in infant and mother health. The infant mortality rate in Detroit is consistently two times higher than the average for the state. The disparity among white and African Americans in Detroit is concerning.

Infant Mortality in Detroit^{iv}

Year	MI Rate	Detroit Rate	Deaths	White	Black
2009	7.5	14.8	166	6	152
2010	7.1	13.3	146	10	128
2011	6.6	12.6	130	5	119
2012	6.9	15.0	151	12	133
2013	7.0	13.3	134	8	120



Detroit's food security policy encourages education on prenatal nutrition and focuses on encouraging breastfeeding as a baby's first food. Breastfeeding provides ideal nutrition for babies at no additional cost and reduces the risk of diabetes, SIDS and a host of other diseases for both mother and baby.

Our survey and conversations with the community indicate that residents experience financial, physical, educational, and other barriers to accessing food. Food cost and distance from home were the most commonly cited barriers to accessing quality food. Finally, the role of public food assistance programs in contributing to Detroiters' food security is not to be overlooked; DFPC advocates for policies that leverage these public dollars in the interest of a food secure city.

POLICY PRIORITIES:

- **Support for Emergency Food Providers:** The emergency food system in Detroit must remain strong and continue to build its capacity to meet people's food needs. The emergency food system also plays a key role in educating people who receive food assistance about available benefits and how to stretch food dollars through shopping and cooking strategies.
- **Nutrition Assistance:** DFPC will advocate for adequate SNAP funding and access so that all Detroiters can receive critical food assistance when needed.
- **Urban Agriculture:** Continued engagement and support for urban agriculture will provide residents the tools to grow and produce their own food in ways that are responsible to the community and the environment. This can help people become more food secure, independent of their access to benefits. The Mayor's Office, City Council, City departments, and the Detroit Land Bank Authority must enact policies that allow urban agriculture to thrive while also allowing for other sorts of development.
- **Infant Mortality:** Malnutrition is an important factor in Detroit's high infant mortality rate among African Americans. Citizen education on infant/mother nutrition and the benefits of breastfeeding will help newborns in Detroit have a healthy start to their lives.





EFFECTS OF AN INADEQUATE DIET

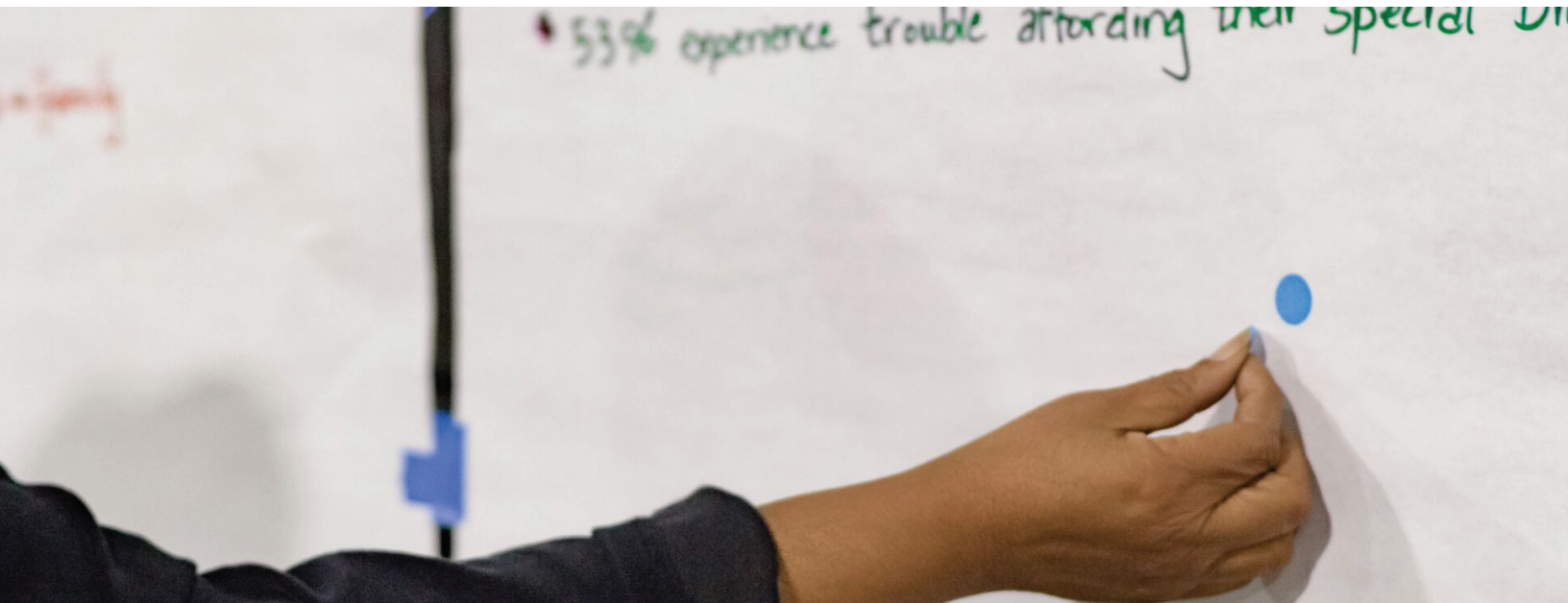
An inadequate diet can mean insufficient amounts of food, or eating food that does not provide the nutrients needed for a healthy life. Since the passage of Detroit's food security policy, there has been an explosion of research confirming the link between highly processed foods and the national obesity epidemic, the sharp rise in Type II diabetes, and disproportionately low public health indicators in low-income communities and communities of color.

Processed foods command much of the shelf space in Detroit food stores, while healthy, minimally processed food is much less readily available. The effects are severe: Wayne County has remained the least healthy county in Michigan since county health rankings began in 2010. Estimates for obesity in Detroit range between 33% and 38% and are trending upward. For 1 in 3 Detroiters this means a higher risk of chronic illness and much reduced quality of life. 44% of respondents in our 2015 survey indicated that they or someone they care for are affected by a health condition that requires a specific diet.

DFPC advocates for mitigating the effects of inadequate diet through policy, planning and allocation of federal dollars to increase citizen education around healthier food choices, as well as access to and production of healthier food. Focusing on healthier food for all Detroiters will have a significant impact on this major building block of public health.

POLICY PRIORITIES:

- **Tracking and monitoring:** The city's Department of Public Health, in partnership with universities, hospital systems and the nonprofit sector, should establish a system for quantifying the scale and urgency of interventions related to diet-related health problems.
- **Community based food sharing and processing:** Provide and support opportunities for community members to produce food, prepare meals and preserve their harvest together.





CITIZEN EDUCATION

Since the first Food Security Policy was adopted by the Detroit City Council in 2010, the DFPC has been instrumental in monitoring the implementation of the policy. An important message from the community dialogues and survey results is that Detroiters are eager to learn more about and engage with the food system. As a convener around food policy issues in Detroit, DFPC is ideally situated to provide that education and engagement. One of the primary focuses for DFPC will be citizen education on the food system and food related policy. Our citizen education efforts will be guided by the results of our community surveys and dialogues in which community members indicated their top priorities of issues related to food security and the food system. We will also focus on increasing awareness about the food system where needed; and we will focus on policies and emerging issues that impact the local food system in Detroit.

POLICY PRIORITIES:

- DFPC will work with city government and active participants in the food sector to create a series of toolkits addressing issues such as land acquisition for food uses, food business regulations and resources, and more.
- DFPC will continue to build relationships and collaborations on matters that concern the food sector to ensure information provided is relevant, accurate and up-to-date.
- DFPC is hosting regular education events that look at various issues in the food system and engage experts in the field and community members about solutions.

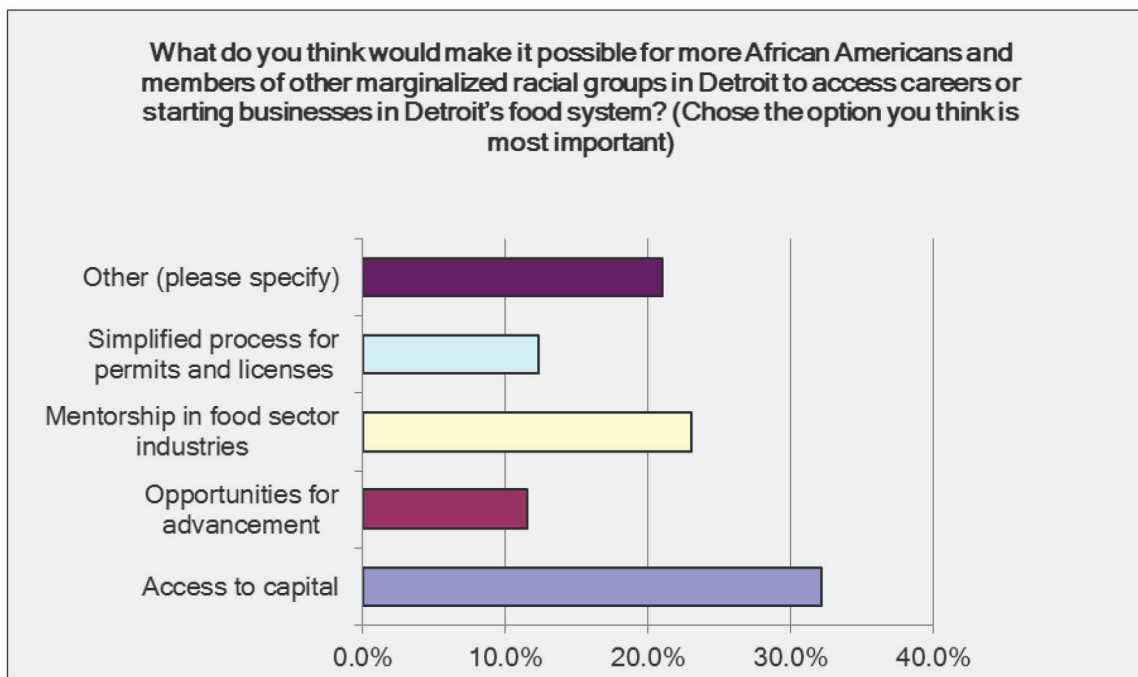




ECONOMIC INJUSTICE IN THE FOOD SYSTEM

The current food system is layered with injustice in each link of the value-chain. Inexpensive, processed food is made possible by the more than 70% foreign born workers who cultivate, process, transport, package and prepare our food. These workers are paid less than living wages and are subjected to often horrific working conditions. For those with limited food access, purchasing such foods means not only supporting a system based on poor labor practices, but consuming food that can have negative consequences on their health; alternatives are often out of reach both financially and physically.

Detroit's food sector generates \$3.2 billion in revenue each year and supports 36,000 jobs, but more than half the revenue leaks to companies outside Detroit.^v Although Detroit's population is over 82% African American, there are only a handful of African American-owned food businesses. African Americans in Detroit's food system predominantly occupy low-wage positions or simply play the role of consumer. DFPC's 2015 survey indicates that Detroit residents are eager to start food businesses across the local food system, to purchase food from locally-owned businesses, and learn about opportunities to work in the food system.



Survey respondents indicated that access to capital is the primary factor in increasing participation in the food economy among marginalized racial groups. Mentorship in food sector industries from organizations such as Food Lab, Eastern Market and MSU Extension was the second highest factor. The response for “Other” predominantly cited a combination of some or all of the options listed.



These findings support recommendations in an Economic Analysis of Detroit's Food System published by Michigan Food and Fitness Collaborative in 2015. Recommendations in this report for increased localization of the food system are:

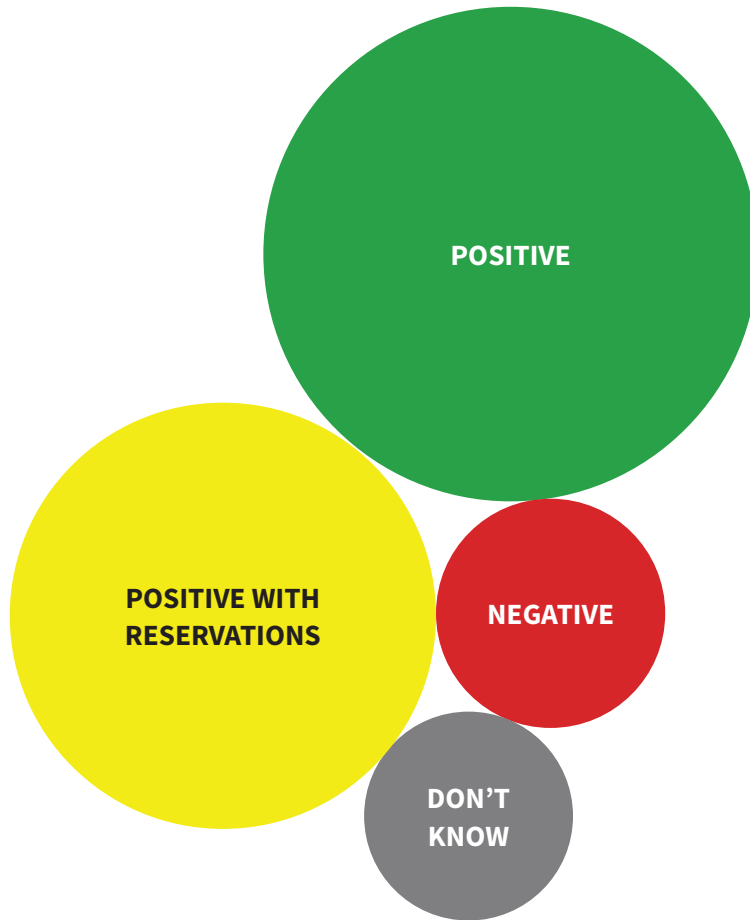
- Go-to food system organization – an organization focused on the food system to provide comprehensive research, guide the allocation of resources, and support the ecosystem of local food businesses in the city.
- Access to capital – a cadre of banks, CDFI's, foundations, and angel investors acting to support the values of Detroit's new food economy and alleviate the credit and cash flow concerns of new and expanding food businesses in the city.
- Workforce development – development of a training and job placement initiative for youth and adults in partnership with major employers, small food businesses, and job training entities.

Injustice in the food system manifests itself in many ways, from access to capital, acquiring land and other infrastructure, training for job advancement, or having the option to support local businesses with food expenditures. From this starting point of identifying the issues, economic development in the food system can proceed with the intent to produce more just and equitable results. Ultimately, Detroit's resilience and growth depends on residents being able to participate in the process.

POLICY PRIORITIES:

- Economic Development throughout the food system: Residents want to participate in all levels of their food system. Detroit's recent food system economic analysis provides a starting point for understanding the size and contribution of the food sector. With this foundation of research, city government at all levels may enact policies and programs that recognize the potential to grow the local food economy while increasing opportunities and benefits for residents.
- Land Use: Detroit must clarify and more fully develop comprehensive procedures and processes for residents seeking to buy vacant lots for urban gardens and ensure that individual residents receive the same consideration as outside entities. To that end, DFPC convenes a Land Use subcommittee and is developing a toolkit to empower residents who are attempting to access land for food production.





RESPONSES TO QUESTION:

How do you feel about people raising chickens, goats, rabbits and/or honeybees as a food source in your neighborhood? If not your neighborhood, then where is it appropriate in the city?

POLICY PRIORITIES:

- Passage of the city's urban agriculture ordinance was a significant victory. The ordinance should be followed by more comprehensive, fair, transparent and easily understandable processes by which individuals and community groups can purchase vacant, City-owned land on which to grow food. Development and implementation of land use processes will help ensure that implementation of the UA ordinance is done in a consistent manner, particularly in the midst of changing city administrations and priorities.
- City Council should continue efforts to put an animal husbandry ordinance in place, along with supporting the Urban Livestock Guild, which will provide needed education and peer oversight for those interested in animal husbandry in the city.
- Detroit is a respected leader in the urban agriculture movement; it is imperative that the Mayor's Office, City Council and City departments affirm this leadership and support the importance of urban agriculture and the need to lift up marginalized communities engaged in this work.
- Increased emphasis should be given to the economic development opportunities related to urban agriculture and associated activities within the entire food value chain – including processing, value-added products, distribution, and waste reuse (composting), as well as the technical and other assistance needed to bring our small scale growers to a level (utilizing a variety of models) of financial solvency and prosperity.
- The Detroit Land Bank Authority needs to devise a clear, equitable, and transparent land pricing and disposition policy with regard to urban agriculture.



SCHOOLS AND OTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Schools and institutions such as universities, churches and health care facilities play an important role in both teaching about healthy eating and actually providing nutritious, healthy food. The Healthy and Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 made much-needed improvements in the types of food available at schools and the content of school lunches, restricted low-nutrition choices in vending machines, and allowed for community eligibility, in which school districts could offer free meals to all if 40 percent or more of children qualified for certain federal programs. Detroit was one of the first large school districts to take advantage of this provision and now provides three nutritious meals a day to students, which means they are able to learn free from hunger.

Detroit has also been a leader in creating school gardens that provide produce to their communities, and in procuring as much food as possible locally. Detroit Public Schools' Executive Director of Food Service Betti Wiggins led the charge for gardens at most schools in the district, which grow produce for the school and provide a hands-on laboratory for lessons across the curriculum.

DPS serves more than 85,000 meals daily in the public schools and in charters that contract with the district for food service, which presents an enormous opportunity for food producers. Currently, more than 20 percent of the district's food is procured within Michigan.

These programs are important to Detroiters. Almost all (97 percent) of survey respondents said they think schools should teach kids about the food system and how to grow and prepare healthy food. More than three-quarters (77 percent) think schools and institutions in Detroit should be required to purchase a certain amount of food from farms within a 100 mile radius.

However, the Healthy and Hunger Free Kids Act expired in 2015 and no replacement has been passed by Congress, which leaves the future of these programs unclear as we go to press.

POLICY PRIORITIES:

- DPS's groundbreaking work in school gardens and local procurement must be codified as part of district policy so that the work can continue regardless of DPS leadership.
- Similarly, DFPC and its partners will advocate for retaining the improved meal standards for school meals and the community eligibility provisions that allow all children to access meals at school.
- Other institutions have an important role to play. Hospitals, universities, and churches, as well as the CAYMAC and other city facilities such as recreation and senior centers, can boost Detroit's growing food economy by setting targets for local procurement, hosting farmer's markets and educating the community about nutrition and how to access healthy food.



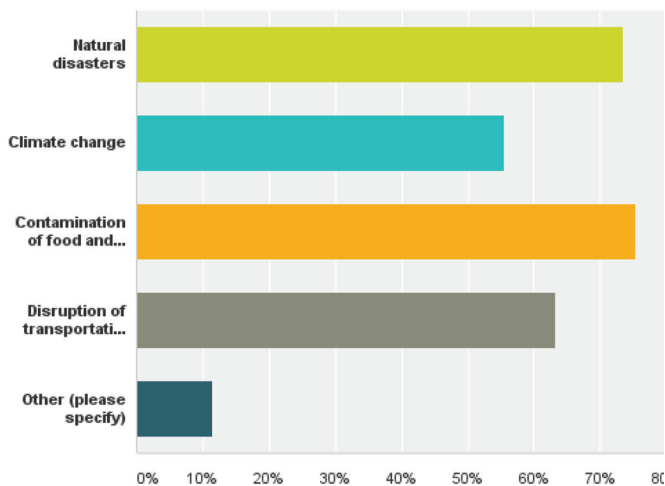
EMERGENCY RESPONSE



The water crisis in Flint provides a sobering reminder that emergencies can happen in unpredictable ways, with wide ranging and devastating effects. Food issues are intimately tied to both the crisis itself and to its resolution. For example, residents cannot cook with the tainted water that flows from their taps, and restaurants and food processors must source water from elsewhere. Food banks and urban gardens are being called upon to provide increased access to fruits and vegetables to Flint residents, especially children. Foods rich in Vitamin C, calcium and iron can help absorb lead in the body and mitigate the effects of lead poisoning.

Q77 What types of emergencies are you concerned may have an affect our food supply? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 272 Skipped: 69



Unsurprisingly, given Detroit’s proximity to the crisis in Flint, contamination of food and water was the most commonly cited concern with regard to emergencies that might disrupt the food supply. Other concerns were natural disasters, disruption of transportation, and climate change. While 37 percent of respondents stock food for emergencies, only 20 percent have an established plan for their home, block club, church or community center. 45 percent want assistance in planning for emergencies.

Food and water are critical needs in an emergency. A widely and clearly communicated procedure for getting food and water to city residents, especially the most vulnerable, must be in place before the next disaster strikes.

POLICY PRIORITIES:

- Food producers, distributors, retailers, and food banks should be included in the development of a food emergency plan that includes strategies for prevention of food emergencies, in partnership with the City of Detroit Office of Homeland Security. This plan should be communicated and made available to the public.
- Citizens can access Community Emergency Response Team training through the City of Detroit to serve as a first responder in their own neighborhoods. The Office of Homeland Security should assist church and community organizations, elected officials and other community leaders, law enforcement, schools, churches and other institutions, hospitals and other medical facilities with planning for dissemination of information in case of a serious incident.
- Adequate food and water reserves in case of an emergency must be identified and developed, as should multiple access routes to deliver them.



DFPC 2016

- **Youth Outreach:** DFPC launched a successful youth program educating the next generation of food system leaders. In October, DFPC hosted its inaugural Youth Summit which drew 200 young people from across the city to learn about how they can advocate for a better food system
- **Access to Land:** DFPC will continue to map the process for purchasing vacant land for agriculture and other food system uses, and advocate for purchasing processes that are fair and transparent and provide equal access to land resources to Detroit residents. DFPC will advise city departments on policies that allow food system operators across various sectors to have access to land and other infrastructure that will contribute to building a food secure city. DFPC will provide ongoing citizen education about changes in land use regulations that impact community food security, including regulations for urban food production and livestock production.
- **Extending Economic Analysis Report:** DFPC will be a lead organization in designing implementation plans based on the recommendations of the Economic Analysis of the Detroit Food System. DFPC will lead efforts to advocate for developing and expanding policies that ensure Detroit residents have access to economic opportunities in the local food system, and advise policy makers on regulations that contribute to the expansion of local food sectors.
- **Licensing for Food businesses** DFPC understands the importance of having an equitable and transparent process for licensing and regulation of food establishments in order to support the many emerging food businesses in Detroit. DFPC will advise city departments on policies that allow food businesses to operate under a variety of models in order to meet the needs of the food service sector while continuing to protect public health. DFPC will provide information to food business to help them understand the rules and regulations, and the resources that exist to help them.
- **New Master Plan:** DFPC will engage with the Planning and Development Department to share priorities related to the food system and the land use needs of various sectors of our local food system in order to inform the Master Planning Process.

i - http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/map-the-meal-gap/2013/MI_AllCounties_CDs_MMG_2013.pdf

ii - <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/2622000>

iii - The average monthly food stamp benefits per person in Michigan is \$127.83. <http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/avg-monthly-food-stamp-benefits/>

iv - <http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/InDxMain/Tab5.asp>

v - http://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/gleaners/legacy_url/226/DETROIT_book_r6_8_29_14_lowres.pdf_docID_996271443223248