

The Dashboard for the [Local Food Action Plan](#) Impact Evaluation is a comprehensive overview that assesses implementation progress for the four Goal Areas and 27 Actions of the Plan. The Dashboard Key is used to classify the implementation status of actions and objectives:

<b>Dashboard Key</b> <b>LFAP</b> <b>Impact Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Accomplished - Done</b> = Completed successfully, no more work required in this area</li> <li>• <b>Accomplished - Ongoing</b> = Completed successfully in the past, ongoing work required in the future</li> <li>• <b>High Progress</b> = Lots of work done in this area, not yet accomplished</li> <li>• <b>Low Progress</b> = Work has been started but not much progress has been made</li> <li>• <b>Not Started</b> = No work has been done</li> <li>• <b>Improvement Needed</b> = Have not met the standard required in the past (<i>can be added alongside any of these</i>)</li> <li>• <b>No Longer Relevant</b> = Relevant when the plan was passed, no longer relevant today</li> </ul>
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## GOAL A - Enhance coordination and communication among existing food resources and agencies.

### A-1 - Establish a Joint City and County Local Food Team and advisory group to coordinate the implementation of the Local Food Action Plan and connect to other food system initiatives.

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
Accomplished - Ongoing	Local Food Team, Local Food Board	6 of 8 objectives are Accomplished or High Progress	Franklin County Local Food Council	City-County Local Food Board was established in 2016 and has met quarterly since then to oversee and guide implementation of the LFAP. Both Franklin County and the City of Columbus have a full time staff member dedicated to facilitating the work of the Local Food Board and coordinating local food system work.

Action A-1 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	The Joint City and County Local Food Team and advisory group coordinating implementation of the Local Food Action Plan	Accomplished - Ongoing	Board created, acting as intended.
2	The Joint City and County Local Food Team coordinating with city/county departments and local policymakers involved in food-related efforts	Accomplished - Ongoing	Team created, acting as intended.

3	The Joint City and County Local Food Team engaged in coordination of funding and resource development for local food system efforts, including a repository of past grant applications and supporting documents.	Accomplished - Ongoing	Team engaging as intended.
4	A system of two-way communication between stakeholders and the Joint City and County Local Food Team on implementation efforts	High Progress	Mailing list established, quarterly Local Food System Updates published, well-connected to key players, no formal way to get involved or follow along in terms of news outside of word of mouth, website is out of date and needs to be updated
5	Local food efforts and the emergency food system working in synergy to support residents across the spectrum of food security	Low Progress  Improvement Needed	Continues to be a key consideration in all food access projects, particularly the question of free food markets such as the ones Mid-Ohio Food Collective is establishing across the city and how these sit alongside paid markets.
6	New and existing neighborhood food planning efforts supported and connected to other local and regional food system initiatives	High Progress	Board/Staff have been involved in neighborhood planning efforts when we become aware of them, however, there are no formal channels of communication to learn about these projects and provide additional assistance
7	Local Food Action Plan implementation includes annual cultural competency training opportunities for the Joint City and County Local Food Team and community partners	Low Progress  Improvement needed	2021 Racial Equity Study included a DEI training by Kip Holley, 2022 Racial Equity Workshops included ongoing DEI education, no trainings have been provided to the Board since then
8	The Joint City and County Local Food Team and advisory group reporting progress annually	Accomplished - Ongoing	Annual Reports have been completed every year.

## GOAL B - Improve Access to and education about healthy food, affordable food and local food.

### B-1 - Prioritize access to healthy, affordable food sources in transit system infrastructure and planning efforts

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
Low Progress	LinkUs, COTA	Low Progress on all objectives	City of Columbus - Department of Development, Planning, Franklin County Economic Development and Planning	Ending of Smart City grant and beginning of LinkUs initiative opens new opportunities to reactivate this work. The COVID-19 pandemic created new and innovative approaches to food delivery through DoorDash subsidies through the City of Columbus. Intentional outreach to COTA and strategic engagement with local growers and meal delivery services can propel progress on Action Item B-1.

Action B-1 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Transit plans, including Smart City grant efforts, contain healthy and affordable food access considerations and strategies	Low progress	Smart City grant efforts have ended, but the new LinkUS initiative is a promising opportunity for partners in this area
2	Transit users have multi-modal connections to a variety of healthy and affordable food retail locations	Low progress	Local Food Board noted opportunity to integrate of local growers/Farmers Markets at strategic bus terminal locations
3	Access to healthy and affordable food is prioritized in multi-modal infrastructure	Low progress	Local Food Board noted opportunity to expand COTA access/link shuttle service, and rate negotiation with rideshare companies; or food delivery services such as DoorDash Suggested to meet with COTA Planning Committee and pass B-1 on to them

## B-2 - Expand the availability of training and tools to help small food retail locations become reliable places for healthy food, affordable food and local food.

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
Low progress Improvement Needed	ECDI, Franklin County EDP, Produce Perks	Moderate progress on objectives, with improvement needed to accomplish	OSU Extension, Master Urban Farmers, ECDI, OSU, Growing to Green, Local Matters, Community Growers Network	Closures of small markets such as Jubilee Market indicate the need for more robust tools and training to ensure sustained food access. There is potential to advance SNAP online ordering, and expand nutrition incentive programs such as Produce Perks. Reactivating the work, continued education, and awareness of existing assets such as the Food Fort 2.0 at ECDI, and the Franklin County Food Business Portal help to ensure emerging entrepreneurs have the tools for success.

Action B-2 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Small food retailers are reliable places where communities can access healthy food, affordable food, and local food	Low progress Improvement Needed	Linden Fresh Market and Charitable Pharmacy, and FarmsSHARE are examples of innovative approaches to local food direct marketing and distribution. However, there are still many areas with limited fresh food access due to the closure of small markets.
2	More small food retail locations in neighborhoods are authorized SNAP and WIC retailers	High Progress Improvement Needed	Most C-Stores (convenient and corner stores) now accept EBT, but WIC authorization can expand - need to revisit Fresh Foods Here data/model. There is an opportunity to expand into the Produce Perks grocery model to double SNAP dollars.
3	Business tools, training and distribution models are available to help small food retailers sell healthy food, affordable food, and local food while maintaining overall profitability	High Progress	Economic & Community Development Institute (ECDI) opened the Food Fort 2.0 in 2019, and it serves as a hub for training. In addition, the Franklin County Food Business Portal connects food businesses and entrepreneurs to the valuable resources and services needed to plan, launch, and grow a business in Columbus and Franklin County

### B-3 - Establish a formal farmers market management collaborative serving the City of Columbus and Franklin County

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
Accomplished - Ongoing	Ohio Farmers Market Network, Produce Perks Midwest	4 out of 5 objectives Accomplished or High Progress	Farm to School, ODA, ODJFS, OSU Direct Marketing Team	The state of Farmers Markets in Columbus and Franklin County is strong. Many new markets, and maintenance of established ones through the Ohio Farmers Market Network. Overall SNAP/WIC/Produce Perks incentives can expand and improve to ensure greater access for families.

Action B-3 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	A community-wide plan for farmers' markets/stands	High Progress	Columbus City Council adopted the Residential On-site Produce Sales Ordinance, which updates the Columbus zoning code to allow for the sale of fresh, local produce in residential areas. The Ohio Farmers Market Network is working to connect the work of the farmers markets.
2	Increased number of producers and producer direct-to-customer sales	Accomplished - Ongoing	The Ohio Farmers Market Network supports farmers markets and producers extensive support, identifying best practices and working with ODA to develop guidance for markets
3	Coordinated funding, training and tools that support farmers' market creation and expansion	Accomplished - Ongoing	The Ohio Farmers Market Network received a USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program grant. Provided technical assistance farmers markets, Launched the Local Food Guide and Grow Eat Ohio website, Hosted market managers for market manager certificate program
4	Collective resources to aid farmers' markets and stands in SNAP payment acceptance via Electronic Benefit Transfer ( EBT) and federal and state nutrition incentive program participation	Accomplished - Ongoing	Expanded access to SNAP/EBT processing through ODJFS program for free POS systems for new markets. However, the POS systems need to be updated/streamlined with other programs such as WIC, Senior Farmers Market Program
5	Policy education for federal, state, and local incentives and policies that increase access to healthy food, affordable food and local food for SNAP and WIC recipients	High Progress	The Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 2021 expanded and enabled many nutrition incentive programs to sustain operations. A concerted effort is needed to ensure protections through the 2024 Farm Bill are needed.

## B-4 - Expand consumer access to local healthy food purchasing initiatives

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
Accomplished - Ongoing	Produce Perks Midwest, WIC, Ohio Farmers Market Network	2 of 3 objectives met, with fourth objective active and ongoing	Ohio Association of Foodbanks, HPIO, OHF, and ODH	Overall there is great utilization of nutrition incentive programs, but there is a need to expand and educate widely to increase the utilization. Further improvements in (1) reimbursement systems at the federal/state/local level and (2) local coordination with additional partners will help providers and markets to increase their utilization.

Action B-4 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Expanded the number and type of small food retail locations where consumers can double their SNAP dollars to purchase healthy, fresh and local food	Accomplished - Ongoing	2018, Produce Perks matching SNAP spending at farmers markets dollar for dollar. In two years, the Produce Perks program experienced 77% growth in fruit and vegetable purchases in Franklin County.
2	Widespread awareness of and access to healthy food purchasing incentive resources and explore opportunities for new or expanded incentive programs	Accomplished - Ongoing	The newly established Linden Fresh Market and Charitable Pharmacy increased food access in Linden by allowing community members to shop for free and fresh produce
3	Widespread availability of nutrition education at health care sites paired with market vouchers that subsidize the cost of fresh fruits and vegetables, creating a local form of a fruit and vegetable prescription programs	High Progress Improvement Needed	SNAP, WIC, Senior Farmers Market Vouchers, and Produce Perks are widespread in Columbus, but need to expand. Produce Prescription programs increasing in use, but need support from federal, state, and insurance reimbursements.

## B-5 - Grow capacity and enhance viability of civic agriculture to allow more residents to grow food for themselves and their neighbors

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
Accomplished - Ongoing	Columbus Public Health, Franklin County EDP	4 out of 5 objectives met, with one active objective, est completion 2024	OSUE, Franklin Park Conservatory, The Columbus Foundation, OHF, MOFC	Civic and urban agriculture are our strongest pillars of the food system in Columbus and Franklin County, strong community-university partnerships and federal/state/local funding help to ensure that growers have access to land and resources to grow food for their households and neighbors.

Action B-5 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Residents are safely growing food for themselves and their neighbors	Accomplished - Ongoing	Civic/Urban Agriculture programs at the City Land Bank, Franklin Park Conservatory, and InFACT Buckeye ISA (2017-2020) expanded opportunities for residents
2	City and county zoning and codes clearly support growing food in neighborhoods	High Progress	Project Team C-6 is working on urban agriculture recommendations for the city/county rezoning. Stakeholders met, conducted a landscape assessment, and are to complete the recommendations to Franklin County zoning jurisdictions in 2024
3	The City and County are leveraging resources to support civic agriculture (e.g., long-term access to land, potable water source, etc.)	Accomplished - Ongoing	Columbus Public Health and Department of Development produced two new guidance documents to help urban growers understand and comply with applicable regulations/permits.
4	Coordinated local funding strategies for long-term support and growth of civic agriculture	High Progress	Community Garden Grant is a collaborative grant coordinated by City/County/Scott's Miracle-Gro to fund urban growers. The Urban Agriculture Critical Infrastructure grant has had a successful first year. More consistent funding is needed.
5	Increased community-wide understanding and demand for civic agriculture in neighborhoods	Accomplished - Ongoing	Urban Agriculture grant programs through the USDA (Mid-Ohio Food Collective, 2019), and the Critical Infrastructure ARPA grant (FSWCD, 2024) helped meet increased funding need.

## B-6 - Support grocery store and healthy food retail location and expansion in neighborhoods with low access.

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
High Progress Improvement Needed	Local Food Action Plan Partners - neighborhoods, community based organizations	1 of 2 objectives met, but overall current (ongoing) projects point to progress	Columbus Public Health, Neighborhood Associations, local growers	As retail grocers continue to close their doors and/or move out of low-income and predominantly Black and Brown communities, there is a need and desire for sustainable access to healthy food retail. There has been a lot of activity in this space that has brought new partners and stakeholders together but few projects have resulted in successful models. While some pilots failed due to public-private funding partnerships, owner-operator shortcomings, new projects are emerging in communities like the Near East Side of Columbus.

Action B-6 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	New grocery stores or healthy food retailers located in or adjacent to census tracts meeting the USDA definition of "a low access community" (at least 500 people and/or at least 33 percent of the census tract's population reside more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store)	High Progress Improvement Needed	Many neighborhoods with low access to food have coordinated to create retail options: Jubilee Market (Lower Lights Health Center), Linden's Culture Market, and the Equitas Health Pharmacy. Additionally, in the absence of retail options, organizations like Community Development for All People and Mid-Ohio Food Collective have expanded choice pantry models that allow people to shop for free food. However, sustained funding, experienced operators, and viable business models are needed to create effective grocery and healthy food retail locations.
2	Active public-private partnership funding and assisting community backed grocery stores or healthy food retail location and/or expansion in communities identified as having low access to a supermarket or large grocery store	High Progress Improvement Needed	Sustained funding from federal/state/local partners needed to subsidize the building and operations of a successful community-backed/community-owned grocery store. Efforts on the Near East Side to create a cooperative (co-op) grocery.

## B-7 - Identify and implement mobile strategies that bring healthy food, affordable food and local food to residents

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
High Progress	Local Matters, OFMN	1 of 2 objectives met and active progress	Local Food Marketplace, retail grocers	As online ordering and delivery became more popular after the COVID-19 lockdown, more communities became interested in mobile food strategies. There are a number of local examples including Local Matters' Veggie Van that may prove to be scalable and financially viable.

Action B-7 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Scalable, financially-viable, mobile model(s) that bring healthy food, affordable food and local food to residents	High Progress	Ohio Farmers Market Network (OFMN) and the Community of Caring Development Corporation launched the Linden Farmers Market. Local Matters Veggie Van, established in 2019, sells affordable produce, pantry staple items, and meal kits.
2	Viable plan(s) that can be used to develop future mobile operations	High Progress Improvement Needed	While Veggie Van proves to be a successful model, new SNAP and EBT online/vending opportunities can expand mobile operations

## B-8 - Public and institutional buyers adopt and implement food purchasing policies to support increased purchases of healthy food and local food.

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
High Progress Improvement Needed	Columbus City Schools, OSU Extension	2 of 3 objectives met with need for ongoing support	Farm to School, local schools, local government	Local Food Purchasing policies need continued support through plans/pacts that align goals such as CityHealth awards and Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. Farm to School initiatives can help strengthen it but larger institutions such as hospital systems and universities must make bigger commitments. The COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted the local food economy and shifted organizational priorities away from local food system investment. While there has been a lot of activity in this space, there is still a long way to go to meaningfully increase local food procurement.

Action B-8 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Public and institutional food purchasing departments implementing policies to support the purchase of healthy and local food	High Progress  Improvement Needed	Columbus City Schools lead the way in local food purchasing through Farm to School initiatives through promotional events like Apple Crunch (apple slicer) and Ohio Days. The Ohio CAN program is organizing institutional purchasing from local growers and distributors throughout Ohio. May be an opportunity to build support and pilot programs in school districts that have high free/reduced lunch populations and a lot of lunch buyers - e.g. Reynoldsburg, Whitehall, Southwest. Hospital systems can have a huge impact if they come onboard.
2	Public and institutional buyers reporting their purchases of healthy and local food at least annually in connection with a consumer-farmer-buyer verification process (see action C-3)	High Progress  Improvement Needed	Local Food Procurement policies at the County, and Colleges (OSU Dining Services) help to ensure commitment to local food procurement. Opportunities to align reporting with CityHealth awards and Milan Urban Food Policy Pact
3	A collaborative of public and institutional buyers providing training and tools to support other large-scale buyers in adopting and implementing policies that support the purchase of healthy and local food	High Progress	BuckeyeISA created the foundation for collaborative community-university partnership that helped train and prepare households/neighborhoods for institutional markets. Opportunity to connect this to both climate planning and equity outcomes.

### B-9 - Support the development of a comprehensive network of educational resources and infrastructure that connects residents with healthy food, affordable food and local food.

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
High Progress	Local Matters, OSU Extension	2 of 3 objectives met with need for continued funding	Bronzeville AgriAcademy, Highland Youth Garden	Education on healthy, affordable, local food accomplished through programming in schools, gardens, and community organizations. Community and university partners comprise of the bulk of programs, while community gardens create special programs for their population

<b>Action B-9 - Objectives</b>		<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1	Access to culturally appropriate opportunities to learn how to grow, buy and prepare healthy food and local food for all residents	Accomplished - Ongoing	Food and nutrition education championed by community gardens and community based organizations cater curriculum to their neighborhood, population, and culture.
2	A community-wide nutrition education collaborative plans and coordinates education resources and services	High Progress Improvement Needed	There is no such formal collaborative, however, the Local Food Team coordinates with community organizations like Local Matters, OSU Extension, and many more to address programming needs in schools, recreation centers, and gardens.
3	Infrastructure is available to support implementation of nutrition education priorities identified in the neighborhood food planning process and throughout the city and county	High Progress	Organizations such as OSU Extension and FACCES have educational resources and infrastructure that can serve as a model. Federal/state/local dollars are needed to help to support the expansion of these resources.

**B-10 - Engage those most impacted by health disparities, including low-income, African American, Hispanic, New American and other underrepresented communities in developing and implementing culturally appropriate food assistance, education, nutrition, gardening and cooking programs.**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Current Lead</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Active Partners</b>	<b>Narrative At-A-Glance</b>
High Progress	Community organizations, food pantries	3 of 4 objective met with high progress, improvement needed	American Heart Association, Broad Street Food Pantry	Community organizations that serve New American communities, and population-specific programs such as FarmsSHARE help bridge the gap in programming, as well as food access and availability. There is still a need for more culturally-appropriate food in retail grocery and food pantries. The Local Food Team and Local Food Board have developed equitable processes for centering communities impacted by health disparities in Local Food Action Plan work.

<b>Action B-10 - Objectives</b>		<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1	Low-income, African American, Hispanic, New American and other underrepresented communities accessing culturally appropriate, healthy food, affordable food and	High Progress	There is greater recognition of culturally appropriate food in communities, but access must expand in retail grocery, farmers markets, and food pantries. Broad Street Food Pantry serves as a good example of how this can be replicated

	local food in their communities	Improvement Needed	across the city and county.
2	Low-income, African American, Hispanic, New American and other underrepresented communities participating in culturally appropriate food education programs within their communities	Accomplished - Ongoing	Community organizations such as Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services (ETSS), and Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio (BCCO) have created special programs for their communities. Mid-Ohio Food Collective is working closely with the Riverview International Center to provide growing space and educational services to the New American community near Mid-Ohio Farm at NBC4.
3	Low-income, African American, Hispanic, New American and other underrepresented communities engaged in planning food-related programs and infrastructure	High Progress	Innovative programs like FarmsSHARE and Broad Street Food Pantry's Fresh For All have helped to meet the needs of both growers and residents in low-income, Black and Brown communities. More work is needed to center the needs and challenges of underrepresented communities..
4	Food and food-related programs are recognized as an opportunity for cultural exchange	Accomplished - Ongoing	The American Heart Association hosted a community-based workshop in June 2022 to help identify opportunities to enhance nutrition security through collaboration between healthcare, food access and community sectors

## B-11 - Incorporate onsite nutrition education and counseling, shopping strategies and healthy food purchasing incentives at food retail.

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
Low progress	SNAP/SNAP-Ed, WIC Offices,	None of objectives are met, but there is high progress in 2 of 3	Large Grocery Retailers (Giant Eagle, Kroger), Produce Perks	While nutrition education/counseling is occurring in community-based programming and WIC offices, there is not a strong presence in food retail. There is potential to leverage with efforts in B-2 to increase availability and dovetail with B-11 to increase education. Food assistance/nutrition education programs (SNAP/WIC/Produce Perks) can also increase education and awareness in the retail space.

Action B-11 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Widespread availability of onsite healthy cooking and food education	Low Progress	While some healthy cooking and food education programs occur

	programs at food retailers		at food retailers, such as the Reeb Center and Local Matters, it is not widespread enough to meet the need. Difficult to negotiate with large retailers, focus is on items being pushed for sale and less healthy items sell best. The Mid-Ohio Markets and farmers' markets in general could be an opportunity for expanding onsite education.
2	Increased availability and variety of healthy food, affordable food and local food at large and small food retailers	Low Progress  Improvement Needed	Efforts such as Fresh Foods Here helped to identify opportunities to collaborate with c-stores (as mentioned in B-2). Large retailers such as Kroger and Giant Eagle offer local foods, but there is potential to streamline, expand application.
3	Self-sustaining healthy food purchasing incentives at food retailers, including vouchers, free food, coupons and/or gift cards	High Progress  Improvement Needed	Majority of healthy food purchasing incentives are with food assistance (SNAP/WIC) and nutrition incentive programs (Produce Perks). Expansion of all three programs can help ensure small and large retailers are accessible to families.

### B-12 - Support the expansion of nutrition and food system education in pre-K-12 curricula.

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
High Progress  Improvement Needed	Farm to School, Franklin County Public Health, Columbus City Schools	One of three objectives met, with need to revisit Objective 3 on policy/change	Farm to School, Project Team B-12	While there has been great progress in this area in the early years of LFAP implementation, through the creation of Project Team B-12, further efforts are needed to expand and update the food and nutrition curriculum and education standards. Healthy Kids Coalition of Ohio (formerly Growing Healthy Kids Coalition) could play a big role in this action.

Action B-12 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	All pre-K-12 schools in Columbus and Franklin County have access to nutrition and food system curriculum resources that meet Ohio Department of Education requirements	High Progress  Improvement Needed	Most Pre-K-12 schools have access, but not the capacity to teach nutrition and food system curriculum to meet ODE requirements. Improvements needed to expand and align the education standards with new/existing curricula. There are significant

			connections to equity here to consider as well.
2	Established best practices and strategic models for local schools to integrate nutrition and food system curricula and resources that meet Ohio Department of Education health and nutrition requirements	Accomplished - Ongoing	Farm to School initiatives through Franklin County Public Health and Columbus City Schools have established models, and can sustain practices through program/position funding
3	Policy education for decision makers to support nutrition and health standards that emphasize the health, economic and environmental benefits of the local food system as they interpret the Every Student Succeeds Act Reauthorization 2015	Low Progress	Continued efforts needed to advocate for nutrition and health standards. Opportunity to reactive Project Team B-12 (Farm to School) group around this issue and identify a legislative champion to help lobby at the state level. While this particular piece of legislation is no longer relevant, similar legislation could be drafted and passed in the future.

## GOAL C - Increase the role of food in economic development.

### C-1 - Create a food processing and distribution collaborative

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
Low Progress	N/A	6 of 7 objectives are Low Progress or Not Started.	DNO, Community Growers Network, What Chefs Want	No formal processing/distribution collaborative exists and there are very few small local food processors and distributors actively in business right now. The Local Food Team is coordinating closely with existing groups like DNO Produce, What Chefs Want, Urban Farmers Coalition, and Community Growers Network - who could be part of a future collaborative. OSU InFACT previously played a significant role in this work before that program was shuttered. At present there is no identified funding and no identified organizational lead for this action.

Action C-1 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Formalized collaboration between local food processors and local distributors, particularly small and mid-sized operations, with strategic planning and funding	Low Progress  Improvement Needed	No formalized collaboration but increasing coordination between entities like What Chefs Want, DNO Produce, and Community Growers Network. Big need for funding, staffing, and infrastructure. And right now there just aren't that many small local food processors or distributors.
2	Revenue generating, self-sustaining, and locally-invested processing and distribution operations working with local producers and distributors	Low Progress  Improvement Needed	There has been planning and coordination around connecting up the food system supply chain / local economy via food hub infrastructure. Mid-Ohio Food Collective and ECDI may be future players in this space.
3	Recurring meetings between regulatory agencies and food processors and distributors to discuss regulation updates and assessment	Low Progress	There has been greater coordination with zoning, building, public health agencies locally and statewide connections to the Ohio Department of Ag/Public Health.
4	Navigation programs and resources for food processing and distribution-related regulations and certification	High Progress	Franklin County Food Business Portal provides these resources, more can likely be done once some of the grassroots orgs come online.
5	Community and neighborhood involvement and representation through food processing and distribution business development, employment, and operations	Low Progress	Community Growers Network is one example of grassroots, community driven efforts in this area that could grow into what this action envisions.
6	Widespread availability of locally produced and processed produce, meat, and dairy at retail purchasing locations and institutions (e.g. pre-K-12, colleges, universities, public agencies)	Low Progress  Improvement Needed	More retail and institutional purchasing is happening through places like What Chefs Want but we also don't have a great way to measure or verify it.
7	Coordination between the Joint City and County Local Food Team, advisory group, food processing and distribution collaborative, and local food supply chain coordinator (see actions A-1 and C-2)	Low Progress	There is no collaborative or coordinator in place, however, the Local Food Team informally acts as a local food system connector with different parts of the supply chain

## C-2 - Establish a local food supply connector position to expand market opportunities for local food.

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
Low Progress	N/A	8 of 10 are Low Progress or Not Started.	What Chefs Want, DNO, Community Growers Network	No local food supply connector position exists or is expected to exist in the near future. The Local Food Team is coordinating closely with existing groups like DNO Produce, What Chefs Want, and Community Growers Network - who could be part of building out future local food supply chain connections that are currently missing. An assessment could explore the need, impact, and potential roles of such a position. Many cities have staff dedicated to portions of the local food system (e.g. nutrition education, urban agriculture) so perhaps there is potential to learn more from those examples.

Action C-2 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Local producer understanding of commercial buyer requirements	High Progress	Projects like Buckeye ISA and orgs like What Chefs Want and DNO Produce have created a lot more transparency around what commercial buyers want and require. The challenge continues to be scale and the commercial buyer interest.
2	Values based transactions between local producers and purchasers	Low Progress	Examples include FARMShare and Broad Street Food Pantry's Fresh For All program, which purchased fresh food directly from local growers for the purpose of creating a supportive local food economy - need many more of these.
3	Involvement of producers throughout Franklin County and beyond in aggregation and distribution operations	Low Progress	Community Growers Network is a grassroots example of a group that could play this role and the Urban Agriculture Critical Infrastructure Grant will provide funding to help support local growers with aggregation/distribution. There is a need for much greater funding, staffing, and infrastructure.
4	Community and neighborhood involvement and representation through local food businesses' development, employment, and products	Low Progress	Community Growers Network is one example of grassroots, community-driven efforts in this area that could grow into what this action envisions.
5	Widespread purchase agreements and transactions between local food businesses, particularly small and mid-sized, and commercial and institutional buyers	Low Progress Improvement Needed	Community Growers Network, DNO Produce, and What Chefs Want are three examples of groups that are working in this space - more support is needed to help growers aggregate, store, and distribute at scale. Our food hub strategic planning work is aimed at this challenge.

6	Local producers and/or processors, particularly small and mid-sized, connected with distributors and purchasers in stable, long-term relationships	Low Progress	(Same as previous objective)
7	Evaluation of opportunities for local food businesses' expansion	Not Started	No formal evaluations have taken place regarding the business opportunity to expand in the processor and distributor space.
8	Identify gaps and bottlenecks in the local and regional food system	High Progress	Local Food Team and Local Food Board have done a lot of work to understand the gaps and bottlenecks, including zoning/building codes, lack of infrastructure and equipment, lack of funding sources, lack of staffing support, and lack of purchasing commitments from institutional purchasers.
9	Strategically located food aggregation and distribution operations, accessible to small-scale businesses, and using cooperative business models (i.e., shared labor, equipment, storage and/or revenue generating processing operations) where appropriate	Low Progress Improvement Needed	A fair bit of planning work has been done in this area to identify potential partners (e.g. CGN, MOFC, ECDI) who could house/operate these types of infrastructure and City/County ARPA funding has been identified as a possible tool. More work is needed to identify definitive partners, operators, and sites.
10	Coordination between the Joint City and County Local Food Team, advisory group, food processing and distribution collaborative, and local food supply connector position (See actions A-1 and C-1.)	Not Started	There is no collaborative or coordinator in place.

### C-3 - Create a consumer-producer-buyer verification process to support increased and authenticated healthy and local food purchasing.

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
Not Started	N/A	All 3 are Not Started.	N/A	No work has been done to advance this action. An assessment could be done to explore viable models for encouraging and verifying healthy and local food purchasing. Organizations like Slow Food and Good Food Purchasing are leaders in this sector regionally and nationally. A revamped Local Food Champion Award program could include Local Restaurant Champion and Institutional Purchaser Champion, etc.

<b>Action C-3 - Objectives</b>		<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1	Reporting and authenticating mechanism to verify healthy and local food purchasing by restaurants, institutions and public agencies	Not Started	No such mechanism exists locally.
2	Governing board that establishes and manages verification standards and reporting	Not Started	No such governing board exists locally.
3	Marketing campaign to educate consumers and buyers about the status and availability of authenticated healthy and local food	Not Started	No such marketing campaign exists locally.

#### **C-4 - Advocate for food system workers in local and regional workforce development efforts.**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Current Lead</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Active Partners</b>	<b>Narrative At-A-Glance</b>
Low Progress	N/A	2 of 2 are Low Progress or Not Started.	OSU Extension, Columbus State, Columbus City Schools, Service!	The collaboration between Franklin County Board of Commissioners and Service! is an example of the type of projects that can and should be happening in this space but much more is needed and at much larger scales to provide opportunities for most workers. The City's <a href="#">Wage Theft Ordinance</a> passed over the last few years ensures that wage workers will be able to take home all the pay that is owed to them.

<b>Action C-4 - Objectives</b>		<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1	Food system workers in entry-level, low-wage jobs have a career pathway to middle-skill jobs in the food system	Low Progress	An example of work that has been done is the collaboration between Franklin County Board of Commissioners and Service! to create Cafe Overlook, which pays \$15/hour to entry level workers and creates pathways and training to higher paid and higher skilled jobs. Columbus State's Mitchell Hall and their School of Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts could be a significant player in this space - could the Columbus Promise program be expanded beyond Columbus City schools to Reynoldsburg, Whitehall, Southwest, etc?
2	Strong partnerships exist among food system employers, educational institutions, vocational/technical schools, workforce programs, economic development activities, the	Low Progress	More coordination exists than ever before between local food system employers, educational institutions, vocational schools, and other key partners - but it's still at a relatively low level. ECDI could play a key role here as a state-funded entity

	food processing and distribution collaborative, and local food supply connector position to help retain and attract talent to the area and fill in-demand jobs in the food system (See Actions C-1 and C-2)		focused on workforce development, economic development, and supporting food businesses. Mid-Ohio Food Collective's new farm incubator services could be a partner too.
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### C-5 - Study and describe the impact of wages and policies on food system workers and the affordability of food.

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
Low Progress	N/A	3 of 3 are Low Progress or Not Started.	N/A	Outside of a Listening Session hosted by the Franklin County Local Food Council there has been no direct local work in this area or partners.

Action C-5 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Reported impact of current wages and related policies on food system workers and their families	Low Progress	The Franklin County Local Food Council held a listening session to learn more about the impacts of low wages on food system workers and there have been studies showing the impacts of these low wages statewide and nationally but not locally.
2	Reported impact of food system worker wage changes on the affordability of food	Low Progress	The Franklin County Local Food Council held a listening session to learn more about the impacts of low wages on food affordability and there have been studies showing the impacts of these low wages statewide and nationally but not locally.
3	Impact of employment policies, wages and underemployment on food system workers included in local and regional economic analysis and in state and federal advocacy efforts	Not Started	No work has been done in this area.

## C-6 - Revise zoning codes, related permit requirements, and land use plans to support and encourage agricultural and food system uses as a viable option for community revitalization.

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
High Progress	Local Food Board, Local Food Team	All four objectives are High Progress.	OSU Extension, Columbus BZS, suburban municipalities, Land Bank	The LFB created a Project Team to develop urban agriculture zoning code recommendations for all Franklin County jurisdictions. This work is ongoing and that report will hopefully be produced in 2024. Whitehall has already adopted urban agriculture recommendations to update and improve their zoning code and numerous other Franklin County municipalities are beginning comprehensive planning updates.

Action C-6 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Zoning codes explicitly address and support agricultural and food system uses and identify areas where these uses may be the highest and best use	High Progress	The C-6 Urban Ag Zoning Project Team is creating a report of recommended zoning code updates that would benefit small scale urban agriculture, aggregating, processing, and distribution operations. Those recommendations will be sent to all local jurisdictions that administer a zoning code.
2	Accessible and plain language is used to communicate zoning codes to the community	High Progress	The City of Columbus created and has regularly updated the Growing Food In Columbus guide that summarizes the zoning, building, and public health regulations around growing, aggregating, processing, and distributing local foods.
3	Food businesses can easily navigate the permit process for agriculture and food system uses	High Progress	The Franklin County Food Business Portal provides specific information and resources to food businesses of all kinds to navigate the permitting process. Local Food Team has provided assistance to growers with navigating the process and successfully advocated for high tunnels to be allowed with no building code requirements.
4	Local food system growth and resilience is included in new land use and community plans and updates to existing plans	Low Progress	A local food system section was included in the Urbancrest plan created by Franklin County and the Local Food Team has advocated for including the local food system objectives in other community plans. Improvement needed on climate planning, neighborhood planning, and other broad community planning efforts. More engagement and coordination will be necessary with the City of Columbus Departments of Development, and Department of Neighborhoods.

## C-7 - Repurpose vacant commercial, industrial and residential sites for local food system uses.

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
High Progress	Local Food Team	2 of 2 are High Progress.	Land Bank, Mid-Ohio Food Collective	There has been a lot of activity in this space and public policy/funding investments from the Land Bank, City of Columbus, and Franklin County. Great coordination is needed in the future to ensure that opportunities are known when they occur and funding sources / partners exist at the ready to respond quickly and effectively.

Action C-7 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Land redevelopment plans and programs for vacant commercial and residential lots offering long-term land tenure for a variety of food system uses, including but not limited to civic agriculture, grocery stores, farmers' markets, food processing and food distribution where these uses have the greatest potential for positive impact and are desirable to the community	High Progress	The land bank has made changes to their leasing program to begin offering 3 year leases to urban farmers. Other examples of vacant/underutilized land being put into productive food system uses are the Mid-Ohio Farm at NBC4 and the Near East Side Co-Op project. Mid-Ohio Food Collective is also building more Mid-Ohio Markets in vacant spaces around the County and planning to rehabilitate the old Kroger space near Eastland into a community services hub.
2	Public-private partnerships that provide funding for vacant commercial and residential land redevelopment involving local food system uses	High Progress	Franklin County Board of Commissioners and the City of Columbus provided funding for Mid-Ohio Farm at NBC4, Franklin County's new Urban Agriculture Critical Infrastructure grant allows growers to build new infrastructure on vacant or underutilized land.

## C-8 - Develop central food marketplaces that reflect the culture and diversity of neighborhoods.

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
Not Started	N/A	All 3 are Not Started.	N/A	A few conversations have happened in this area but there are no organizations, physical sites, or funding sources identified for these kinds of marketplaces.

<b>Action C-8 - Objectives</b>		<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1	Central food marketplaces in neighborhoods where food offerings reflect the diversity of the community	Not Started	There have been informal conversations with groups who have wanted to start a food marketplace in a neighborhood - such as Elevate Northland - but those were informal, introductory conversations that lacked a site or funding. The East Market is an example of a neighborhood food marketplace that has been built and provided public dollars but as far as we know that project does not prioritize engagement with New Americans or lower-income vendors or the cultural diversity of the foods in the neighborhood.
2	Engagement of New American communities in central food marketplaces as both vendors and consumers	Not Started	No work has been done in this area.
3	Recognition of central food marketplaces as local food tourism destinations	Not Started	The East Market and North Market locations are certainly seen as local food tourism destinations but these are not the neighborhood food marketplaces envisioned by this action.

### C-9 - Connect new or growing small-scale neighborhood food businesses to flexible financial and technical assistance options.

<b>Status</b>	<b>Current Lead</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Active Partners</b>	<b>Narrative At-A-Glance</b>
Accomplished - Ongoing	N/A	2 of 3 are Accomplished - Ongoing.	Franklin County, City of Columbus, Small Business Development Center, OSU Extension.	The creation of the Franklin County Food Business Portal serves as the ongoing implementation of this action. Improvement is needed in the area of assessing effectiveness, promoting the Portal to the small business community, and assessing how many small-scale businesses are effectively finding what they need to scale up into investment ready businesses.

<b>Action C-9 - Objectives</b>		<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1	More small-scale neighborhood food businesses are starting and/or expanding into investment ready businesses	Low Progress  Improvement Needed	Currently there's no way to track this information locally so we have no way to measure it.

2	Technical assistance resources (e.g., loans, business development services) are available to small-scale neighborhood food businesses, including those owned by New Americans	Accomplished - Ongoing	The Franklin County Food Business Portal was created to serve this exact purpose of connecting small-scale food businesses to technical resources of all kinds including connections directly to SBDC and OSU Extension.
3	Small-scale neighborhood food businesses are understanding and using locally available funding and technical assistance programs that support business development and expansion	Accomplished - Ongoing	The Franklin County Food Business Portal provides critical information and guidance about funding and technical assistance programs to small-scale food businesses.

## GOAL D - Prevent food-related waste.

### D-1 - Expand food waste prevention education campaigns for consumers, local governments, pre-K-12 schools and food businesses.

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
Accomplished - Ongoing	SWACO, COFWI	2 of 2 are Accomplished - Ongoing	SWACO, City of Columbus, Franklin County, COFWI	The Central Ohio Food Waste Action Plan and the successful <a href="#">Save More Than Food campaign</a> have created widespread, accessible, relevant, and curated food waste prevention education.

Action D-1 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Widespread, accessible and relevant food waste prevention education campaigns tailored to each food system sector and linked with community and neighborhood efforts (See action D-2.)	Accomplished - Ongoing	The Central Ohio Food Waste Action Plan and the successful <a href="#">Save More Than Food campaign</a> have created widespread, accessible, relevant, and curated food waste prevention education. This has also led to specific community level work with communities like Bexley and Upper Arlington as well as many school districts.
2	Consumers, local governments, local food businesses and pre-K-12 schools are actively promoting food waste prevention education campaigns	Accomplished - Ongoing	The Central Ohio Food Waste Action Plan and the successful <a href="#">Save More Than Food campaign</a> have created a central hub of food waste prevention education resources for use by consumers and all types of organizations. SWACO has been doing food donation webinars, will continue to expand.

**D-2 - Leverage food waste reduction resources and strategies to increase the number of residents who access training, education and equipment for effective backyard composting.**

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
High Progress	SWACO, COFWI	Both are Accomplished - Ongoing or High Progress	City, County, Compost Exchange, GoZero, Soil & Water	Educational resources and public awareness have increased greatly and more residents are utilizing available public and private resources and infrastructure.

Action D-2 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Increasing public awareness of the benefits of effective residential composting and available training and rebate programs (See action D-1.)	Accomplished - Ongoing	The Save More Than Food Campaign includes resources for backyard composting along with troubleshooting guides and a compost bin rebate. Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District has provided hundreds of subsidized-cost compost bins through their Community Backyards program.
2	Widespread proper use of compost bins in residential areas	High Progress	Compost bins are becoming more common in residential areas but also more and more people are using food scrap drop-off sites created by local municipalities or using bucket programs created by Compost Exchange and GoZero - our future may not include "widespread" use of compost bins because of food scrap drop off sites and curbside pickup.

**D-3 - Recommend changes to policies, zoning and health codes that support and encourage food waste recovery and diversion.**

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
High Progress	SWACO, COFWI, Local Food Board, Local Food Team	2 of 2 are High Progress	City, County	Much has been done to get the word out on the existing policies/rules related to food waste recovery and diversion and also to build toward a different future with recommended changes to regulatory/code language through new ordinances.

Action D-3 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Food businesses understand the opportunities, protections and incentives afforded them by existing federal, state and local laws, rules and ordinances to donate edible food	High Progress	The Save More Than Food campaign has spread awareness about these issues and both Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Public Health have put out informational resources for food businesses to educate on the laws and rules of donating edible food. SWACO has also been conducting food donation education webinars for food businesses.
2	City and County zoning codes related to composting and similar methods, including animal waste, for households and community gardens are consistent with other relevant regulations and reflect best practices and industry standards	High Progress	The Local Food Board's Urban Ag Zoning Recommendations Project Team is developing recommendations to update the zoning codes for compost related to urban agriculture and the City of Columbus is working to draft a new compost ordinance. Opportunity to study and learn from suburban code changes that have allowed curbside food scrap pickups.

#### D-4 - Provide training, tools and economic incentives for new and existing food businesses to develop, adopt and implement food waste prevention plans.

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
High Progress	SWACO, COFWI	1 of 1 is High Progress	City, County	Resources and tools are available to new and existing food businesses, there are still gaps when it comes to economic incentives and getting the word out about these tools and resources. Still a need for a centralized and known partner who can be contacted at any hour and go pick up time-sensitive food and food scraps for reuse and recycling. There is new, emerging work in this area through partners at Columbus Food Rescue and the Food Donation Improvement Act, which increase tax incentives for businesses.

Action D-4 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Food businesses developing and implementing food waste prevention plans	High Progress	The Save More Than Food Campaign and the Franklin County Food Business Portal provide resources, tools, and best practices that businesses can use to develop food waste prevention plans. More could be done to promote these resources and measure their effectiveness. SWACO is providing Food Donation 101 webinars and technical assistance.

## D-5 - Build support for food waste recovery infrastructure among local leaders and large-scale food waste generators.

Status	Current Lead	Objectives	Active Partners	Narrative At-A-Glance
High Progress	SWACO, COFWI, City of Columbus	2 of 2 are Accomplished - Ongoing or High Progress	County, Bexley, UA	Local leaders are engaging at all levels to build support and identify options for future large-scale food waste infrastructure - and smaller-scale infrastructure for collecting and transporting food scraps has already been developed and piloted in multiple communities.

Action D-5 - Objectives		Status	Progress
1	Local leaders and large-scale food waste generators are actively engaged in efforts to identify and develop food waste recovery options in the City of Columbus and Franklin County	Accomplished - Ongoing	Local leaders and large-scale food waste generators are engaged and have continued to engage on large-scale food waste recovery options, including <a href="#">the release of an RFQ by SWACO</a> to look at building a large-scale regional facility. There is ongoing exploration on how local partners and municipalities can collaborate on the development of a compost facility.
2	Identify food waste recovery options, understand regulatory barriers and educate stakeholders	High Progress	Local leaders have continued to work together to identify options, understand barriers, and educate stakeholders - this has progressed to developing new infrastructure in multiple municipalities, including food scrap drop-off sites in the City of Columbus. Still a question of whether we will need a large regional facility in the future or whether smaller curbside and drop off programs will suffice. Food rescue partners are also important here as they reduce the amount of food that needs to go through food waste recovery infrastructure.