

FOOD COMIDA RAWL 317

**A VISION FOR NOURISHING AND SUSTAINING OUR
INDIANAPOLIS COMMUNITIES**

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INTRODUCTION

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FOOD COMIDA RAWL 317*

A a mixed-methods research project that uses focus groups, surveys, and spatial data visualization and analysis of the Indianapolis and Marion County food system

Goal

Develop a comprehensive food policy plan for the City of Indianapolis's Office of Public Health & Safety based on secondary data, empirical evidences, and input from community, stakeholders, and subject matter experts.

<http://foodcomidarawl317.com/>

*Celebrating the linguistic diversity of Indianapolis, "comida" means food in Spanish and 'rawl' means food in Hakha Chin.

DATA SOURCES FOR EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS



Analysis and synthesis of data collected via:

- Food system asset map
- Food store survey
- Food policies and programs scan
- Consumer survey
- Practitioner survey
- Focus groups with food system practitioners
- Community focus groups and pop-up events

The background is a solid purple color with a repeating pattern of white line-art icons representing various food items. These include fruits like lemons, limes, and watermelon slices, as well as vegetables like broccoli, carrots, and corn cobs. There are also icons of a hamburger, a sandwich, and a bowl of food.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

RESEARCH QUESTION 1

What are the characteristics of the existing resources (e.g., food stores, food pantries, community and market gardens, farmers' markets, technical assistance providers, shared-use kitchens, food movement organizations, and food policies) in the Indianapolis food system? Where are services located? What are the characteristics of food availability, quality, and prices? What and where are the service gaps?

RESEARCH QUESTION 2

What are the experiences of consumers navigating the Indianapolis food system? What are the challenges they face when growing, purchasing, preparing, and ordering food? What are some potential solutions? How can the City of Indianapolis municipal government aid in the solutions?

RESEARCH QUESTION 3

What challenges do stakeholders in the food production, coordination, markets, consumer and community issues, technical and educational service industries face? What aspects of the food system work well? What are some potential solutions? How can the City of Indianapolis municipal government aid in the solutions?

BACKGROUND & EXISTING RESOURCES



INDIANAPOLIS & MARION COUNTY | FOOD ACCESS

- Majority of Marion County residents live within one mile of a full-service grocery store
- An estimated 294,165 Marion County residents (roughly 30.5%) lived in 119 census tracts with limited food access during 2019 (USDA ERS, 2021)
- Of the low-access neighborhoods, 68 neighborhoods also struggled with low household incomes
- Between 2015 and 2019, Marion County gained 12 low-income neighborhoods with limited food access

INDIANAPOLIS & MARION COUNTY | FOOD SECURITY

Majority of Marion County residents are food secure

- Nonetheless, in 2017, 22% of Marion County residents were food insecure (Indy Hunger Network, 2018)
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, 28% of Marion County residents were food insecure in June 2020 (Indy Hunger Network, 2020)
- By July 2021, food insecurity declined to 25% (Indy Hunger Network, 2021)
- As of December 2021, approximately 65,434 Marion County households received on average \$538 in SNAP benefits monthly (DFR, 2022)
- In the earlier stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, 70,894 Marion County households received on average \$406 monthly in December 2020 (DFR, 2022)





INDIANAPOLIS & MARION COUNTY | PUBLIC HEALTH

Marion County was more vulnerable than 79.7% of U.S. counties based on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's social vulnerability index (CDC, 2021a)

- In 2017, 33% of the Marion County population was obese (University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2021)
- As of 2019, 11.6% of Marion County adults over 20 years old had been diagnosed with diabetes (CDC, 2021b)
- By 2019, about 351 of every 100,000 Marion County deaths were attributed to heart disease in adults over 35 years old (CDC, 2021c)

INDIANAPOLIS & MARION COUNTY | HOUSEHOLD INCOME

In 2019, the median household income in Marion County was \$48,316, compared to \$62,843 nationally (U.S. Census, 2021a)

The same year, 13.0% of Marion County residents (165,969 residents) lived in poverty, compared to the 10.5% national poverty rate (U.S. Census, 2021b; U.S. Census 2021c)

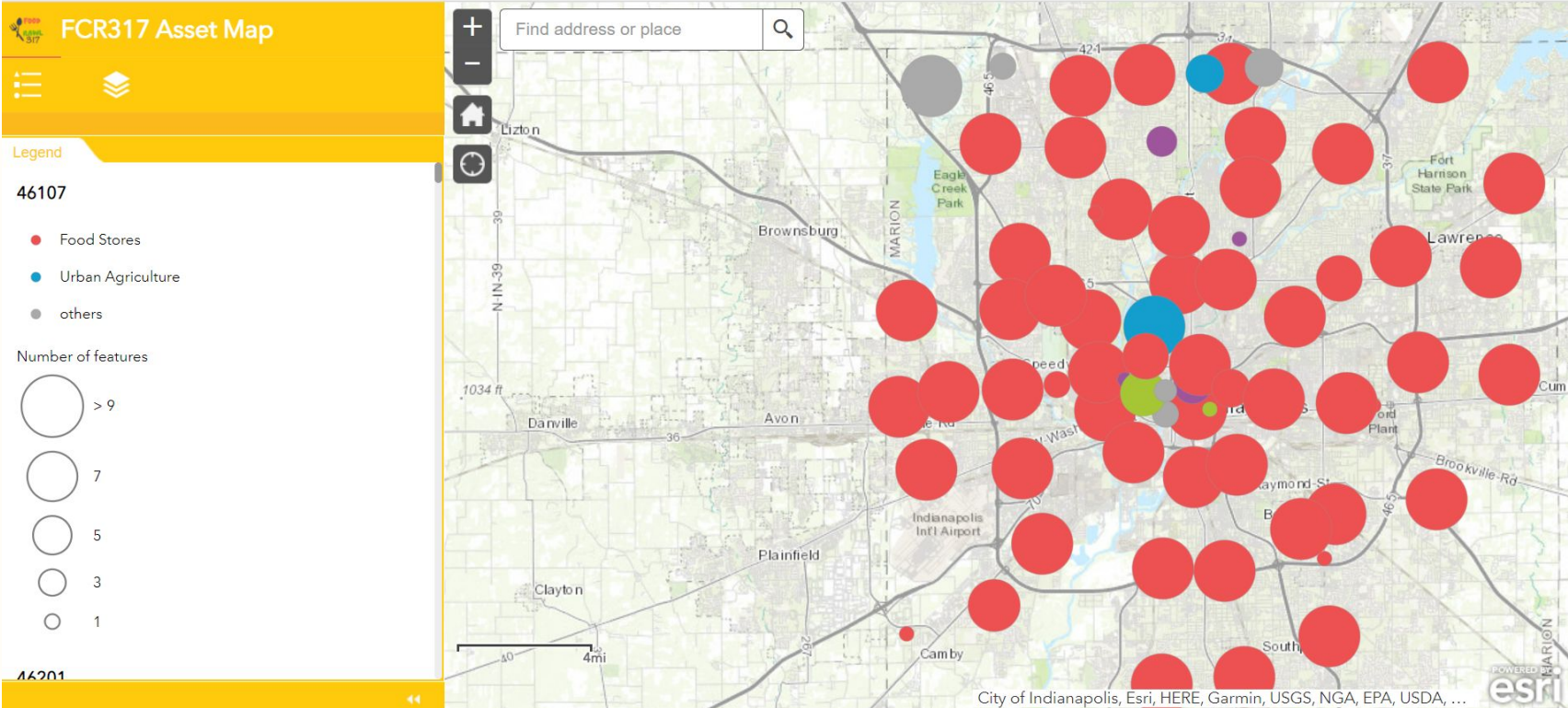




ASSET MAP

- The asset map highlights food system assets and also areas in greater need of food system improvement
 - Asset types, descriptions, and amount of each asset can be found
- The asset map allows stakeholders to become more familiar with the Indianapolis food system and utilize it for personal use and for organizational grant writing or advocacy

ASSET MAP | [LINK](#)



STORE SURVEY

Store Type	Number of Type Surveyed	Total Number of Type
Convenience Store	284	361
Farmers' Market	3	10
Small Grocery Store	22	40
Medium Grocery Store	17	22
Large Grocery Store	3	4
Combination Grocery/Other	179	234
Supermarket	28	37
Super Store/Chain Store	61	62
Specialty Food Stores	10	22
TOTAL	607	792



STORE SURVEY | FINDINGS

- Prices for the same items are significantly higher in convenience stores than in supermarkets, super stores, or other grocery stores
 - The unit-price and quality of food can vary between different locations of the same chain store
- At some stores, the COVID-19 pandemic has explicitly affected business hours as well as availability of hot, ready-to-eat food

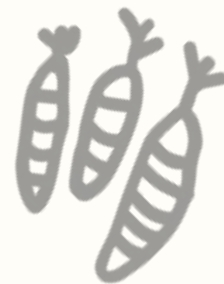
FOOD POLICY SCAN

The food policy and program scan cataloged food-related policies in Indianapolis and Indiana to understand current laws and regulations affecting the Indianapolis food system

We searched over two criteria: Food System Determinants (FSD) and Vulnerable Populations (VP)

FSD include: (1) income, including factors such as employment, ability to purchase healthy foods, and safety net assistance; (2) education, which includes language proficiency, food literacy, and agricultural extension, research and development; (3) healthy food access, which includes financial and physical access to healthy and culturally appropriate foods, as well as health outcomes and local foods; (4) environmental risk factors, including housing quality, air, water and soil quality, climate change, and food safety; (5) social capital, which encompasses diet, nutrition, community food projects, and small business support; and (6) food and nutrition assistance, including federal and non-governmental assistance programs.

VP include: Age, income, gender, race, geographic area, and education level, among other categories



FOOD POLICY SCAN | STATE



- There are 56 state policies were included in the state food policy scan
- The policy scan found that 39.3% of policies mentioned FSD while 19.6% addressed VP
- At the same time, 17.9% of state policies contained both FSD and VP
- The most common FSD mentioned in total were healthy food access and education
- The most common VP addressed overall was income



Food Policy Scan | Local



- 74.4% of total local government policies mention at least one FSD
- 58.1% of total local policies mention at least one VP
- 51.2% of local policies address both FSD and VP

- Of food access and institutional food service policies:
 - 100% of local policies consider at least one FSD
 - The two most common FSD were food and nutrition assistance and access to healthy foods
- Of food access policies, 66.7% mention a VP
 - Among these policies, age was the most common VP



The background is a solid red color with a repeating pattern of white line-art icons representing various food items. These include a bowl of ramen with chopsticks, a pizza slice, a watermelon slice, a bunch of grapes, a strawberry, a kiwi, a lemon slice, a tomato, a bunch of olives, a mushroom, a piece of bread, and a piece of meat.

CHALLENGES RESEARCH



UNDERSTANDING FOOD SYSTEM CHALLENGES

The Food Comida Rawl 317 project seeks to understand:

- The experiences of consumers navigating the Indianapolis food system, including the challenges they face when growing, purchasing, preparing, and ordering food
- The challenges stakeholders face in the food production, coordination, markets, consumer and community issues, technical and educational service sectors

DATA & METHODS | CONSUMERS

Consumer Survey

Aimed to understand:

- The experiences of consumers navigating the Indianapolis food system
- The challenges associated with getting groceries, preparing food at home, eating out at restaurants and/or ordering food delivery, and healthy eating in general

Modules

Getting Groceries

Preparing Food at Home

Eating Out/In

Healthy Eating

What If?

The consumer survey was available as printed copies and online via the foodcomidarawl317.com website.

ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

- Overall, the challenges that local residents face in the food system are largely cultural and asset-based, and, to a lesser degree, physical and geographic
 - Cultural barriers are most prominent when it comes to households getting groceries, patronizing local restaurants, and eating a healthy diet in all venues
- Asset-based challenges in getting groceries (e.g., time, money, resources) are commonly centered on the cost of food
- A majority of households across demographics (e.g., race, income, age, etc.) face challenges in preparing food at home and healthy eating
- The inequitable landscape of food access in Indianapolis is rooted in poverty and systemic racism, which leads to limited food access and food insecurity



RESULTS | CONSUMERS

There were **598 total respondents** to the consumer survey, of which **566 were from Marion County.**



FINDINGS | CONSUMERS

Most common challenges experienced by consumer survey respondents:

Limited assets

- Involves limited time, finances, and household resources
- Experienced by 25-53% of households
- As expected, these asset challenges are more common among lower income households

Cultural appropriateness

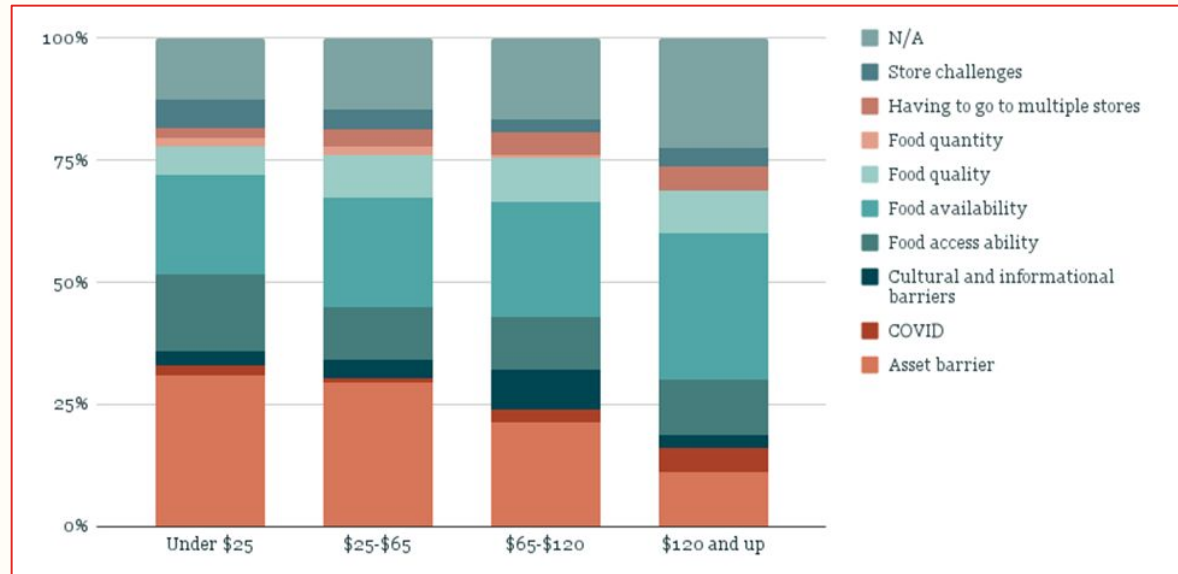
- Involves mismatch between household preferences and the food culture in which they are feeding themselves
- Experienced by at least 25% of households regardless of location and other demographics
- And, as many as 64% when it comes to healthy eating in general

Other

- Ability barriers (e.g., transportation, mobility, disability)
- COVID-related challenges



CHALLENGES WITH GETTING GROCERIES, BY TYPE AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME



CHALLENGES WITH PREPARING FOOD AT HOME

(n=347)

Challenge	Detail	# Households	% Households
Asset barrier	Cost of food; time; resources	205	59%
Cultural	Food preferences (e.g., healthy, local, low-waste, variety, dietary restrictions) not met by accessible options	132	38%
Ability	Handicap accessibility; distance to stores	46	13%
None	No challenges	54	16%

CHALLENGES WITH EATING OUT/IN

(n=422)

Challenge	Detail	# Households	% Households
Cultural	Food preferences (e.g., healthy, local, low-waste, variety, dietary restrictions) not met by accessible options	180	43%
Asset	Cost of food; time; resources	136	32%
COVID-19	COVID-related challenges	56	13%
Restaurant challenges	Hours of operation; poor customer service	49	12%
Ability	Handicap accessibility; distance to stores	41	10%
Personal safety concerns	Sanitation; food safety	13	3%
Other	Respondent did not specify	5	1%

CHALLENGES WITH EATING HEALTHY FOOD

(n=403)

	Detail	# Households	% Households
Cultural	Food preferences (e.g., healthy, local, low-waste, variety, dietary restrictions) not met by accessible options; energy; knowledge; convenience; taste	257	64%
Asset	Cost of food; time; storage	213	53%
Ability	Handicap accessibility; distance; transportation	75	19%
Other	Respondent did not specify challenge type	5	1%

FINDINGS | PRACTITIONERS

A common theme that came up throughout the focus groups was the pervasive and cyclical nature of systemic issues of discrimination (racism, poverty, ableism, etc.) throughout the food system

In focus group discussions, five key challenge areas emerged:

1. Connecting to resources,
2. Policies and regulations
3. Limited food access and food insecurity
4. Communication
5. Collaboration



DATA & METHODS | PRACTITIONERS

Practitioner Survey

- Aimed to gather descriptive information on the state of the Indianapolis food system as well as insights into the pandemic's impact on the local food system.
- The practitioner survey was conducted online via Qualtrics and the practitioner focus groups were conducted online via Zoom using Mural.

Practitioner Focus Groups

- Aimed to understand more about the challenges, successes, and connections between food system actors and businesses in Indianapolis and Marion County, with a focus on identifying the root causes of food system issues.





RESULTS | PRACTITIONERS

There were over 250 responses to the practitioner survey.

There were a total of 18 focus group discussions that spanned a variety of practitioner program areas, including women and minority-owned businesses, farmers and agricultural producers, City-County engaged groups, and emergency food providers.

Two language specific meetings with simultaneous translation in Spanish and Hakha Chin were also held.

MOST COMMON CONCERNS FOR PRACTITIONERS

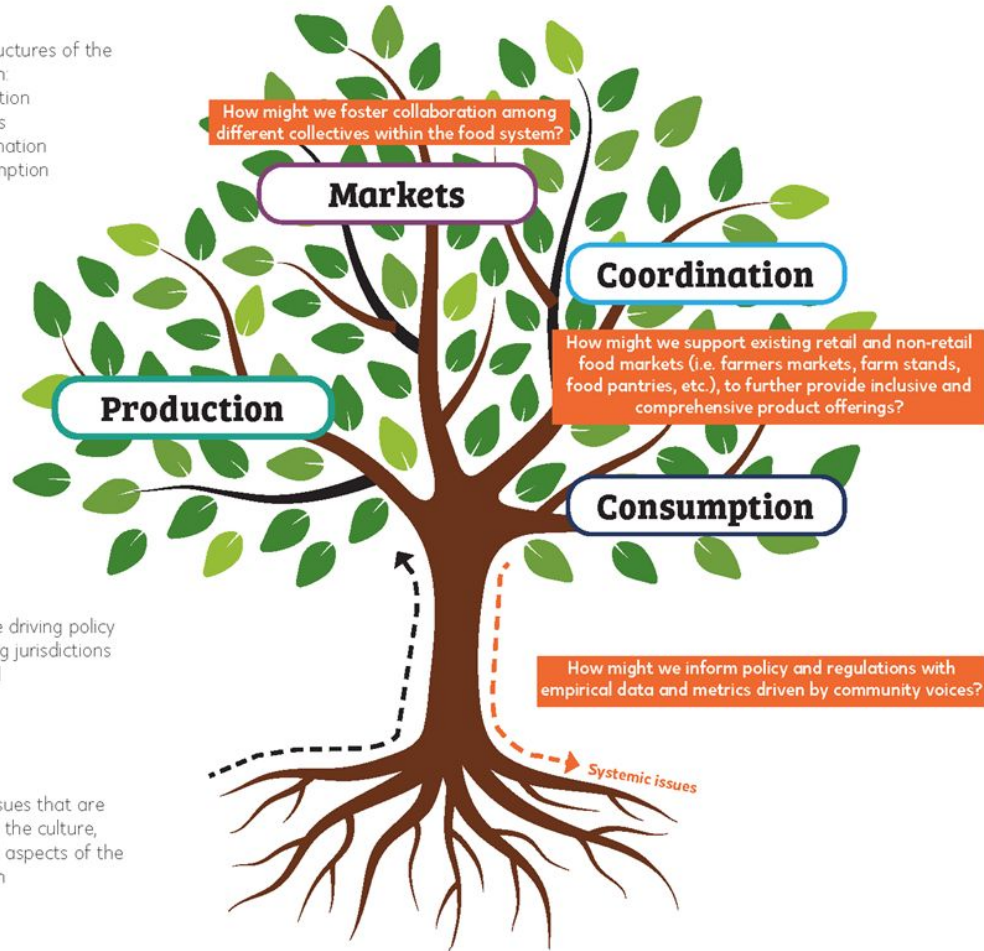
- Collaboration and coordination
- Policy and regulations
- Resources and support
- Education
- Food access
- Root causes
- Barriers and accessibility




Branches

Existing structures of the food system:

- Production
- Markets
- Coordination
- Consumption



PRODUCTION	COORDINATION	MARKETS	CONSUMPTION
The set of practices that are used to grow crops and raise animals and food for human consumption.	The set of practices that are used to harvest, aggregate, process, and distribute food from where it is produced either directly to the consumer or by using a third party to coordinate moving the foods to the markets.	The means of performing business and charitable activities so that producers can sell or donate agricultural and food products directly to consumers or to wholesale or retail establishments.	The act or process of eating- includes where you get, prepare, and consume food or food-related products.
Access/Availability of Food			
Lack of resources and support for food production (policy, zoning)	Coordination of food markets Coordination of food pantries Resource Awareness	Disconnect between business and consumer visions	Barriers to food access
Implementation Issues/Utilization of Food			
	Inequitable distribution of resources Equitability of Capital resources	Challenges for grocery stores	Challenges for consumers
Awareness/Perception Issues			
Cultural perception of urban gardens	Lack of understanding between federal, state and local regulation Disconnect between business and consumer visions	Lack of regulation awareness Cultural perception of food markets	Lack of consumer awareness Food insecurity stigma Mental barriers to food access

The background is a dark green field filled with light green line-art icons of various food items including fruits, vegetables, and grains. In the center, a white rounded rectangle contains the text "FOOD SYSTEM SOLUTIONS" in bold red capital letters.

FOOD SYSTEM SOLUTIONS

DATA & METHODS

Vision-oriented consumer survey and session

- FCR317 Survey Module 5: What If?
- Community pop-up session at Indy Night Market

Solution-oriented practitioner focus groups

- Pilot with practitioners on the FCR317 community advisory committee
- Virtual community pop-up sessions



CONSUMER VISION

Many consumers envisioned an improved food system that often involved supporting households through:

- Increasing access to cooking knowledge
- Demonstrating household food planning
- Relieving food system challenges by:
 - Lowering the cost of food
 - Increasing household incomes
 - Expanding access to government assistance programs
- Increasing access to healthy options



PRACTITIONER SOLUTIONS

Practitioner solutions for an improved food system involved:

- Creating inclusive retail food markets
 - Raising awareness and shifting the narrative on the diversity of existing programs, initiatives, and businesses
- Promoting collaboration in the food system
 - Again, top solutions involved raising awareness – both raising general awareness of food system issues as well as specific awareness for the consumers
- Improving communication among food system stakeholders
- Developing connections to resources
 - Assisting households, organizations, and businesses in connecting to resources
 - Particularly for small retailers and non-English speakers
- Improving food system policies and regulations
 - Including community voices and lived experiences in the policy process



CONCLUSIONS

LONG-TERM VISION OF STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES

Despite the fact that many households in Indianapolis and Marion County express sincere concern for issues of limited food access and food insecurity, there is no singular vision of the food system by local residents, who have a diverse range of cultural foodways and preferences.

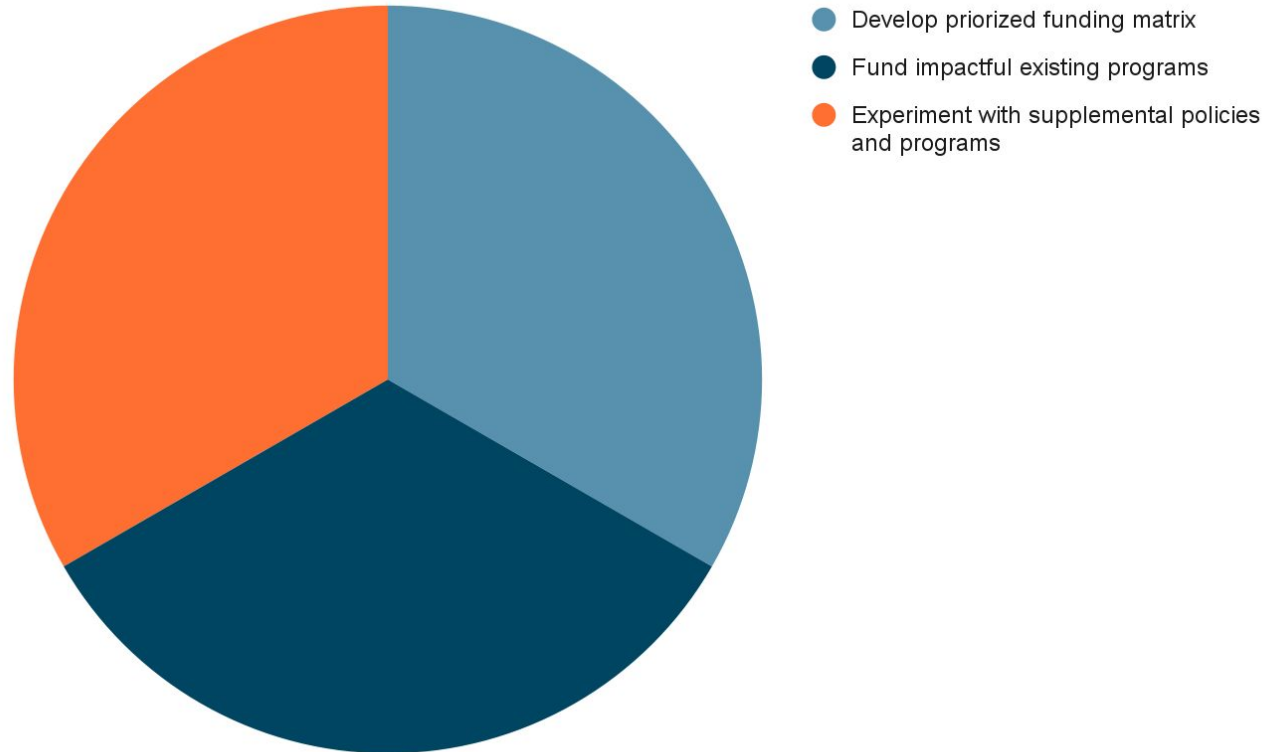
Local food system practitioners strongly recommend a reduction or elimination of systemic issues that create the suboptimal conditions in the food system that lead to limited food access and food insecurity. Practitioners believe that food system improvements can be had through collaboration, coordination, and resource-sharing among food system practitioners that result in culturally appropriate retail options and support networks for healthy eating.

SHORT-TERM POLICY PROTOTYPES

In order to assist the City of Indianapolis's Office of Public Health & Safety in its effort to support residents, organizations, and businesses in reaching the long-term vision toward strategic principles we offer ten policy prototypes that incorporate the interests of local households and food system professionals.

IMPORTANT NOTE

The policy prototype recommendations have three important components:





POLICY PROTOTYPE 1: FOOD CULTURE

How might the City of Indianapolis support culturally appropriate food retail and food service options?

- Finance the expansion of Fresh Bucks to additional small and ethnic neighborhood retailers.
- Develop a funding matrix that prioritizes healthy, culturally appropriate foods and adequate monitoring and marketing support for small and ethnic food retailers to expand capacity for culturally diverse communities in all city-funded food and agricultural programs. Funding should help support capacity growth best suited for the individual retailer (e.g., shelving, storage, refrigeration, food processing, food preparation, etc.).

POLICY PROTOTYPE 1: FOOD CULTURE CONTINUED

- Research residents' interest in growing culturally relevant produce that thrive in the Central Indiana climate.
- Research market potential for community-made prepared foods, especially at neighborhood retailers, including analysis on capacity and knowledge of laws and regulations on food safety, food preparation, and food sales in Indianapolis and Marion County.
- Research food item and food quality requirements of diverse communities across Indianapolis, including refugee communities, religious communities, patients with medically tailor diets, etc.
- Research food retailers with an expanded survey that includes ethnic, international, and specialty diet food staples, food costs (including better understanding of import taxes and ethnic market supply chains), and quality preferences among consumers.
- Research to understand and quantify the culturally appropriate options in local institutional food service.





POLICY PROTOTYPE 2: HEALTHY EATING

How might the City of Indianapolis support healthy eating, which is very important to many Indianapolis households?

- Support local food pantries and hot meal sites in their efforts to promote healthy eating among their clients (including supporting clients with refrigeration and cooking utensils or more regular hot meals).
- Facilitate the connection of existing healthy eating support networks to contribute to healthy eating ecosystems (e.g., institutional food service, retailers, etc.).

POLICY PROTOTYPE 2: HEALTHY EATING CONTINUED

- Explore, expand, and/or develop a peer-to-peer program targeted at peer groups (e.g., mothers, etc.) to help improve access to affordable, healthy meals for families and provide a support network for healthy eating challenges (in the style of a healthy learning circle). May expand on or collaborate with existing local programs.
- Finance the expansion of the Produce Prescription (Rx) Program to offer delivery options.
- Research the interest and feasibility of adding nutrition education to youth program curricula. Coordinate efforts among existing national programs, state agriculture and nutrition efforts, and local youth-led food and agricultural programs. Explore case studies of national efforts, such as FoodCorps.
- Subsize existing City-operated meal programs to improve healthfulness and quality of meals, including Indy Parks meals, etc.





POLICY PROTOTYPE 3: BARRIER BUSTERS

How might the City of Indianapolis help households overcome asset-based challenges (e.g., money, time, resources) that are most common when getting groceries and preparing food at home?

- Create City-County organizational chart by type of data collected on household assets (income, food insecurity, etc.) to understand agencies where the City can finance improvements in institutional food service and food assistance (e.g., Indy Parks, etc.).
- Finance the expansion of the Lyft Grocery Access Program to allow for all local households to have the opportunity for low-cost, private transportation to local grocery stores.

POLICY PROTOTYPE 3: BARRIER BUSTERS CONTINUED

- Subsidize childcare and eldercare in instances where residents with caregiver responsibilities need to get groceries or prepare food at home.
- Experiment with the distribution of prepared dinner meal kits among City agencies that already provide institutional food service.
- Develop “food cost profiles” that detail the cost of healthy eating (resources and time spent on getting groceries and preparing food at home) specific to city zip codes and/or household demographics. Use the model to support economic incentives for healthy eating in prioritized zip codes and/or with prioritized households. Estimate the potential costs and benefits of subsidizing an incentive where prioritized households are subsidized for preparing healthy meals at home or purchasing healthy prepared meals from local retailers.
- Explore opportunities for collaboration and funding of youth home economics programs (i.e., youth education programs that teach time, finance, and resource management skills).
- Research households’ asset-based priorities (i.e., prioritization of assets that overcome food system barriers).





POLICY PROTOTYPE 4: SYSTEMIC EQUITY

How might the City of Indianapolis address the pervasive and cyclical nature of systemic issues throughout the food system?

- Create a City-County organizational chart that details agency interactions. Then, conduct an equity audit of each agencies' processes.

POLICY PROTOTYPE 4: SYSTEMIC EQUITY CONTINUED

- Fund systemic issues training/education for all City employees, facilitated by local organizations led by people of color. Then, develop accountability mechanisms and measure the extent to which systemic issues are addressed after training/education, with and without accountability mechanisms. Fund similar systemic issues training for local food system organizations and educational institutions.
- Develop a funding matrix that prioritizes racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic equity in all City-funded food and agricultural programs.



POLICY PROTOTYPE 5: GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMING

How might the City of Indianapolis create effective government programming for food system issues (with community-informed policy, metrics, etc.)?

- Create a regional directory of “who’s who in the food system” with contact information to serve as a resource for food system practitioners, particularly those looking to connect with the proper municipal agency on food system work. Pilot a workshop where food system organizations, institutions, and businesses with similar missions can find ways to collaborate to better serve their local communities with the help of city government. Research what further support food system practitioners need for the collaborations to be sustainable and productive.
- Develop inclusive processes for incorporating voices of people with lived experience into government programming design and evaluation phases. Build accountability mechanisms for city government to listen, respond, and incorporate community voices. Additionally, build accountability mechanisms for the community to listen, respond, and contribute to government policy and program design as well as the design of evaluation metrics.
- Fund an annual “state of food business” survey and report for insights among local food businesses, including grocery stores, restaurants, etc.





POLICY PROTOTYPE 6: ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY

How might the City of Indianapolis improve food access and food availability for vulnerable households?

- Create a regional directory of “who’s who in the food system” with contact information to serve as a resource for food system practitioners, including non-profit organizations, community gardens, and local institutions serving vulnerable populations.

POLICY PROTOTYPE 6: ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY CONTINUED

- Develop a funding matrix that is inclusive of non-profit organizations, local institutions, urban farms, and community gardens to pursue food access initiatives that provide healthy and culturally relevant food offerings to vulnerable populations.
- Develop accountability mechanisms for City-funded grantees to be obligated to serve vulnerable populations with dignity and respect.
- Research the food system stakeholders included the “who’s who” directory, to understand the vulnerable populations being served and the needs of the organizations providing the human services.





POLICY PROTOTYPE 7: FOSTERING COLLABORATION

How might the City of Indianapolis foster collaboration among different collectives within the food system?

- Raise awareness on the diversity of food system work being done and provide transparency with City-led programs that are currently being implemented.
- Create regular events (e.g., conferences, etc.) where food system stakeholders are convening, meeting, learning, sharing, and building relationships for future collaboration. Ensure these events involve the food system stakeholders in both planning and execution.

POLICY PROTOTYPE 7: FOSTERING COLLABORATION CONTINUED

- Fund collaborative programming and training on food systems that includes a networking platform for food system stakeholders to assess the programming and stay connected with each other.
- Research existing organizations and stakeholders in the Indianapolis and Marion County food system using social network analysis to understand who are the “nodes” and the “linkages” between nodes in the social networks of the local food system; include analysis of who stakeholders trust, who they do business with, and who they turn to for knowledge.





POLICY PROTOTYPE 8: SYSTEM AWARENESS

How might the City of Indianapolis improve awareness and perception issues in food system efforts?

- Develop a funding matrix that allows for advertising and outreach expenses for local food system initiatives and activities.
- Fund a networking platform that allows for food system stakeholders, including consumers, producers, and retailers, to share issues and assist in identifying opportunities.
- Fund a creative, storytelling mechanism to highlight activity in the Indianapolis food system (e.g., a documentary, a local news feature, Food Comida Rawl 317 webpage, etc.) for the general public as well as food system practitioners.



POLICY PROTOTYPE 9: FOOD INCLUSIVITY

How might the City of Indianapolis support existing retail and non-retail food markets to further provide inclusive and comprehensive food offerings?

- Provide grant-writing assistance/training to local food retailers in order for them to apply for external grants to implement creative food access and availability initiatives that incorporate inclusive and comprehensive offerings.
- Develop a funding matrix that prioritizes inclusive and comprehensive food offerings at retail and non-retail food outlets. Develop mechanism to hold City-funded grantees accountable for restructuring their supply chains and food offerings to be more inclusive and comprehensive.

POLICY PROTOTYPE 9: FOOD INCLUSIVITY CONTINUED

- Explore the ways city planning and municipal zoning can encourage more inclusive and diverse communities, particularly including opportunities for food retailers.
- Research what communities need and/or prioritize from local retail and non-retail food markets based on existing efforts of local nutrition and emergency food assistance organizations. Specifically, understand the composition of “basic” food needs across the diversity of local diets and share findings with food retailers. Explore potential prototypes for City policies that address the diversity of “basic” needs based on household demographics across geography.
- Research with an in-depth analysis of current consumer survey (on what foods households have/want in their pantry, what foods they cannot access locally) and store survey (on food availability, quality, and price across retailers and zip codes).
- Research the intersection between the current consumer and store surveys to understand where new retail outlets could be economically viable by store type. Develop “store profiles” (similar to “personas” in design thinking) that describe the types of retail outlets that exist or could exist given typical food items, prices, quality, and services available on-site.

POLICY PROTOTYPE 10: COMMUNITY VOICE

How might the City of Indianapolis inform policy and regulations with empirical data and encourage markets driven by community voice?

- Incentivize City staff working on food or asset-based programs to regularly spend time out in the community engaging with Indianapolis residents.
- Create a long-term funding mechanism to support and expand Neighborhood Food Champions and other food system initiatives that promote and uplift the community voice in food system initiatives.
- Develop a funding matrix that prioritizes the incorporation of voices of lived experience in food system initiatives.
- Research demographics that were underrepresented in the current consumer survey, including individuals under 25 years old, over 65 years old, who identify as male, who identify as non-binary, who are Black, who are Hispanic/Latino, with a household income between \$25,000-65,000, and with less than bachelor's degree.
- Research both underrepresented and well-represented household groups with ethnographic studies that shadow residents to better understand their specific food system challenges.

The background is a solid yellow color with a repeating pattern of white line-art icons representing various food items. These include a bowl of ramen with chopsticks, a pizza slice, a bunch of grapes, a watermelon slice, a pineapple, a lemon slice, a kiwi, a strawberry, a banana, and a bunch of olives.

THANK YOU

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR INDIANAPOLIS COMMUNITY PARTNERS

FCR317's Community Advisory Committee

Kheprw Institute

Growing Places Indy

LUNA Language Services

Residents of Indianapolis and Marion County

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