

# The How and Why of Local Government Support for Food Systems

November 1, 2016  
1 p.m. EDT / 10 a.m. PDT

The logo for FoodPolicyNetworks.org features a vertical orange bar to the left of the text. The text is in a dark red color. The main text is "FoodPolicyNetworks.org" and the tagline below it is "Creating Opportunities to Strengthen Food Systems".**FoodPolicyNetworks.org**  
Creating Opportunities to Strengthen Food Systems



JOHNS HOPKINS  
CENTER *for* A LIVABLE FUTURE

# Featured Speakers



**Jelani Newton**

*Director of Survey Research, International City-County Management Association*



**Laura Goddeeris**

*Specialist, Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems*



**Ed Barrett**

*City Administrator, City of Lewiston, Maine*



**Holly Freishtat**

*Baltimore City Food Policy Director, Office of Sustainability, Department of Planning*



**Kathleen Holian**

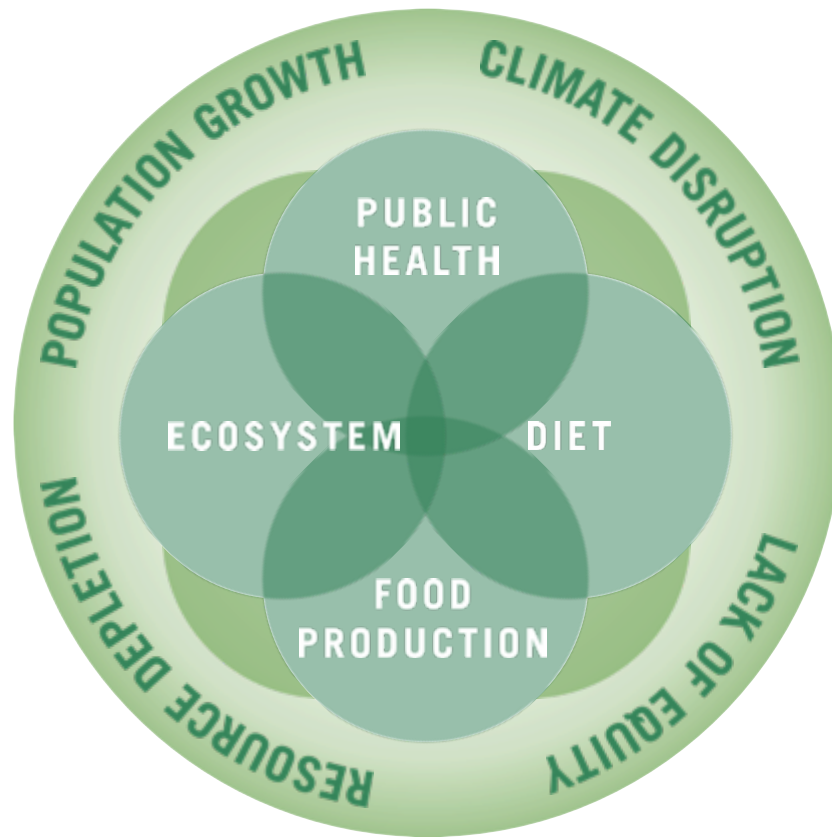
*County Commissioner, Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners*

# Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future

**Education**

**Research**

**Programs**



# Food Policy Networks Project

## NATIONAL LEVEL

- FPN listserv – ~1200 subscribers
  - Food Policy Council Directory – online database of FPC
  - Food Policy Resource Database – +900 resources
  - Quarterly Communication & Outreach activities
- **TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
- Network building
  - Pre-conference workshops & conference sessions
  - One-on-one technical assistance



## Food Policy Networks



[ABOUT](#)

[DIRECTORY](#)

[FPC MAP](#)

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# Food Policy Networks

The Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future's Food Policy Networks (FPN) project supports the development of effective state and local food policy through networking, capacity building, research, and technical assistance. We work directly with food policy councils, national organizations, and other groups seeking to improve the food system through public policy.

### OUR RECENT POSTS

**Stuck in the middle with you: Peri-urban areas and the food system**

Peri-urban areas are an inherently difficult concept to define: they are neither



## ICMA's Food Systems Research

*Exploring the role of local governments in supporting food systems*

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Jelani Newton, Director, Survey Research | November 1, 2016

## About ICMA

- The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) creates excellence in local governance by developing and fostering **professional local government management** worldwide.
- More than **11,000 members** representing communities around the world
- Core activities:
  - Advocacy
  - Professional Development
  - Technical Assistance
  - Research

## About ICMA

- Research & Policy Team
  - **Collects information** on local government priorities and practices
  - Develops and disseminates **practical information resources** to improve the practice of local government management
  - Well-established **survey research** practice



# Importance of food systems to local gov'ts

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- Public health
- Economic development
- Sustainability and resilience
- Policy and governance

# Food systems research and activities

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- National survey conducted in 2012 on local government activities related to food systems

[Results of ICMA and MSU 2012 Food Policy and Program Survey](#)

[Local Government Support for Food Systems: Themes and Opportunities from National Data, 2013](#)

- Follow-up case study series released in 2015, featuring the work of four communities:
  - Catawba County, NC
  - Decatur, GA
  - Topsham, ME
  - Washtenaw County and Ann Arbor, MI

[Growing Local Food Systems: A case study series on the role of local governments](#)

# 2015 Food Systems Survey

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- **Methodology**

- Paper questionnaire with option for online submission
- Administered to 14,223 U.S. local governments
- Response rate of 15.7% yielding 2,237 valid responses
- Survey respondents were primarily chief administrative officers (city managers, county managers, etc.)

- **Topics covered**

- Food systems planning
- Local government programs or policies
- Key motivators and drivers for food programs or policies
- Departmental alignment of food programs
- Awareness and/or use of federal resources

# Current and future activities

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- **Sharing survey results**
  - Summary report
  - Roundtable discussion at ICMA's annual conference
  - Upcoming article in special edition of PM magazine

[Results of ICMA and MSU 2015 Food Systems Survey](#)

[2016 ICMA Food Systems Blog Post](#)

- **Other opportunities to leverage survey data**
  - Continue to share findings
  - Education and professional development activities
  - Follow-up research

# ICMA

INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY  
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



# FINDINGS OF 2015 MSU-ICMA LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOOD SYSTEMS SURVEY

Laura Goddeeris, AICP

November 1, 2016

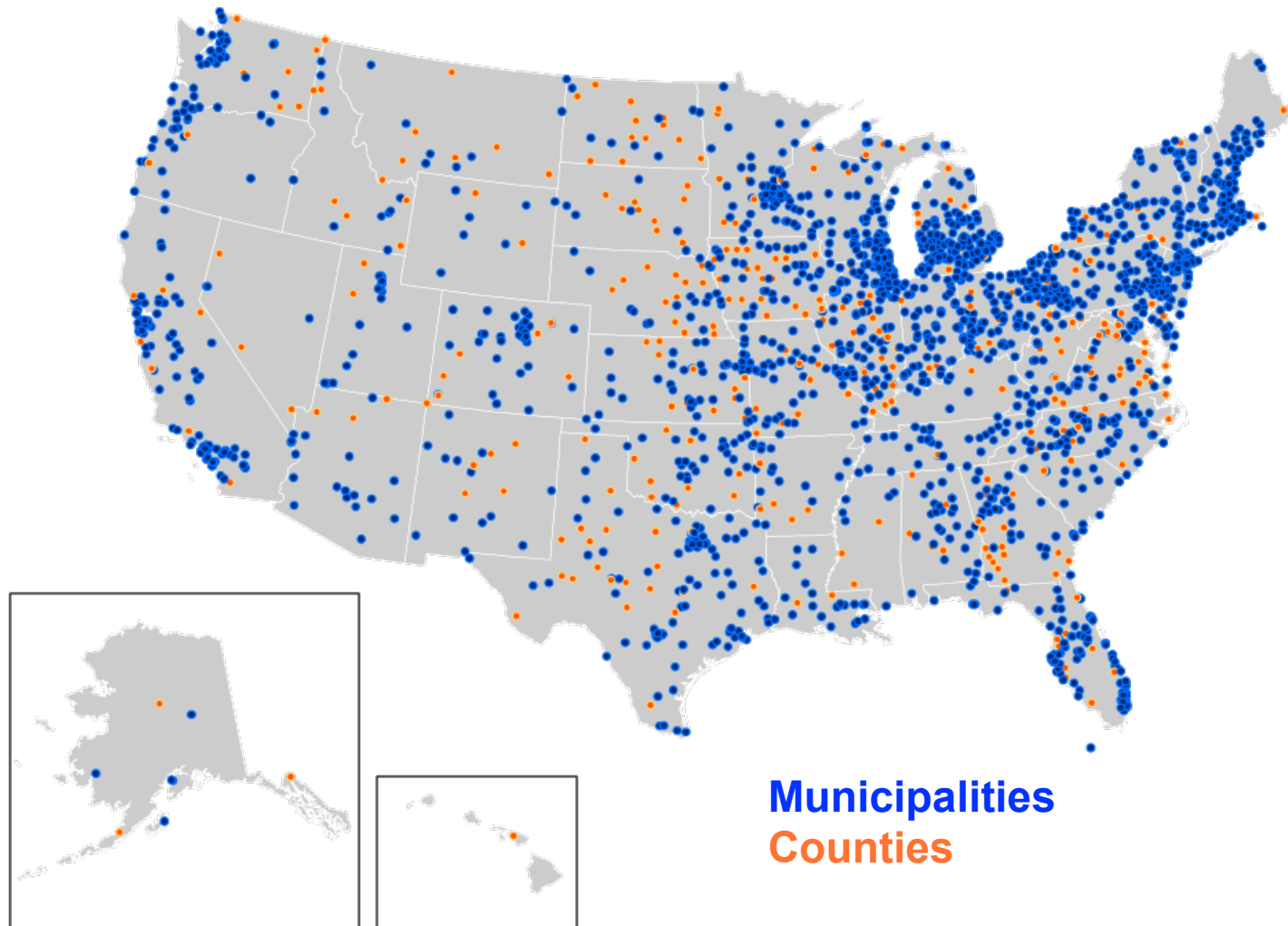


**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

Center for  
Regional Food Systems

# LOCAL GOVERNMENTS RESPONDING, 2015

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# NOT NECESSARILY ALL SUPPORTERS...

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*Food is not a core responsibility of city government.*

*Believe survey mailed to city in error seems questions were n/a to local govt.*

*Most of the questions in this survey are things that in my opinion cities should not be enrolled in. As a free country most of those answers should be with the private market or city government.*

*Government should stay out of Food Business and let non-profits and Churches help feed the poor.*



# BUT CERTAINLY SOME ARE!

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*We are highly interested in promoting/assisting/becoming more involved in the local food movement/sustainable agriculture/food security work that has begun in our area. Our main challenges are financing/staff time/resources and common priorities.*

Quick Poll:

**How would you characterize your local government's support of local food activities?**

# SPECIFIC FOOD ACTIVITIES PRESENT, SUPPORTED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

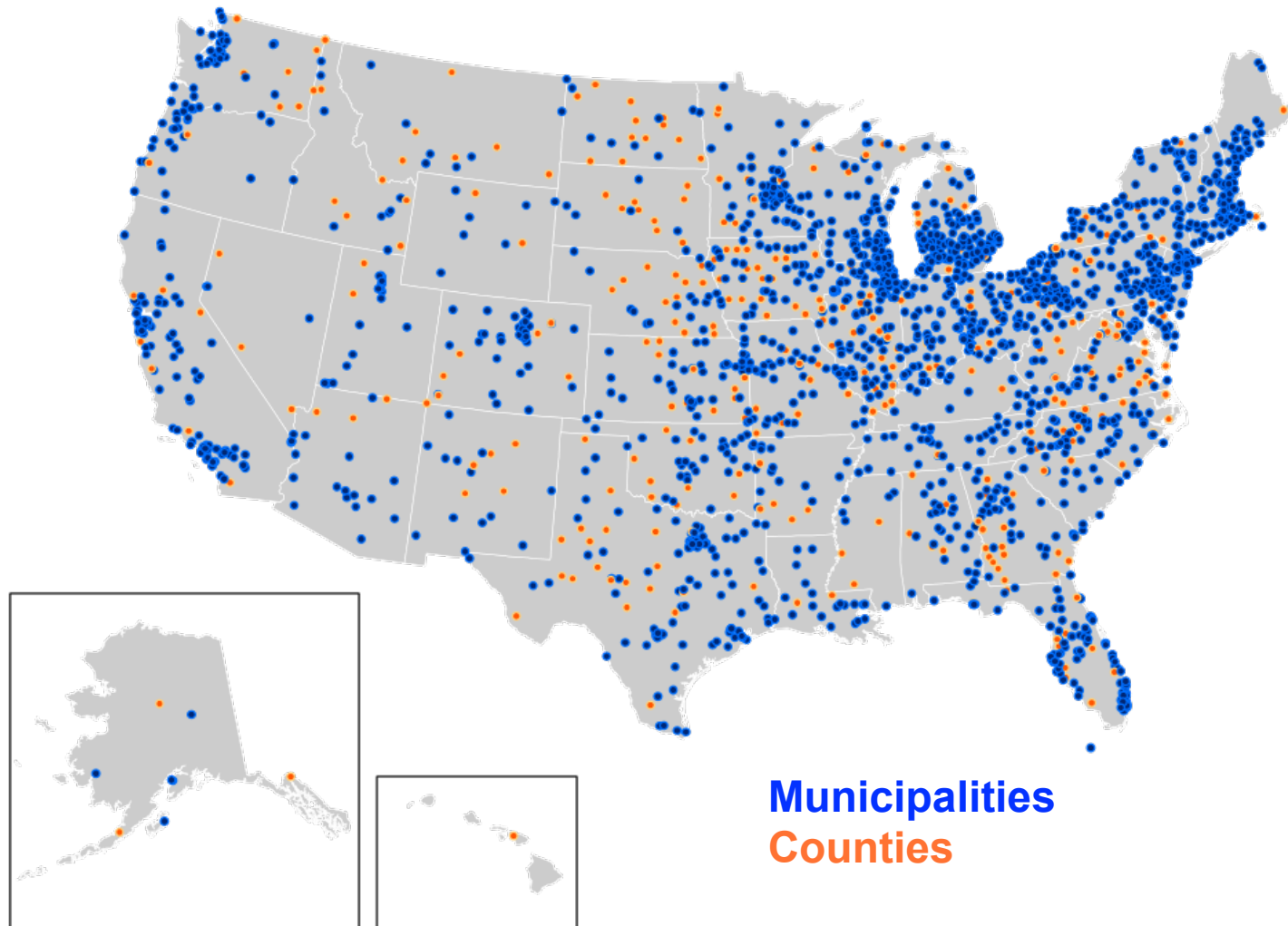


# MOST/LEAST COMMON ACTIVITIES OBSERVED

Most Common – Top 6	Least Common – Bottom 6
Establishing or maintaining farmers markets	Expanding purchasing power of food assistance benefits
Emergency food provision	Creating/operating food hubs
Allowing urban livestock/animal husbandry	Encouraging corner stores to stock healthy food
Providing land for community gardens	Establishing grocery stores in under-served areas
Preserving farmland	Redeveloping brownfields for food-related activity
Promoting healthy eating/obesity prevention	Restricting availability of or taxing unhealthy food

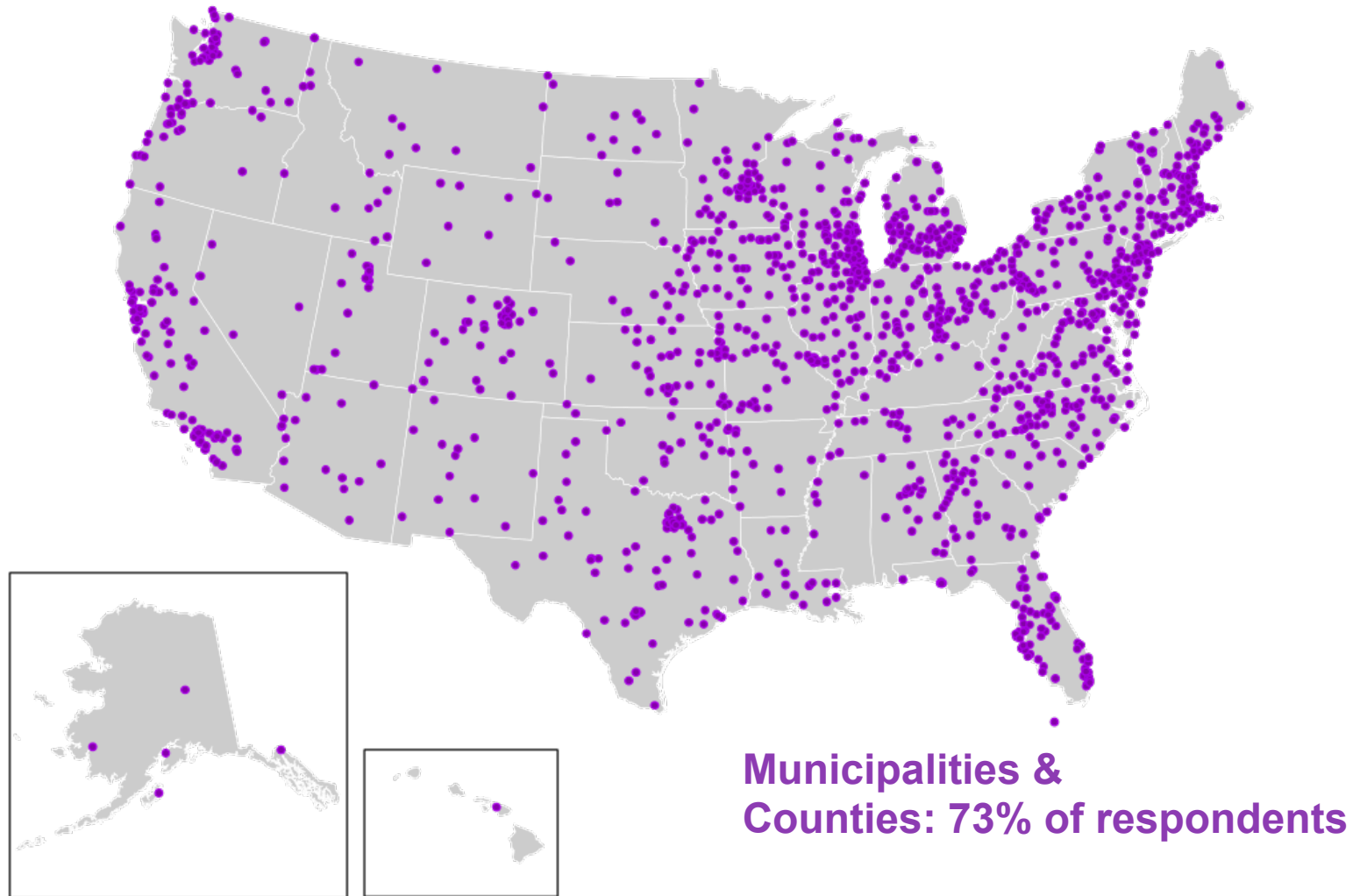
# LOCAL GOVERNMENTS RESPONDING, 2015

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# LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SUPPORTING AT LEAST ONE FOOD ACTIVITY, 2015

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# FOOD SYSTEMS & COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

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**More than half of responding communities associate food with at least one community priority, average of 2.9 priorities**

Quick Poll:

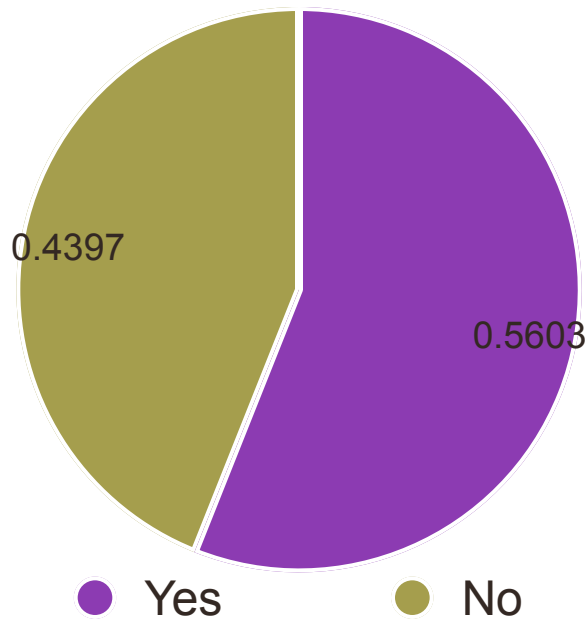
**What motivates your local government's food activities?**



# FOOD SYSTEMS & COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

**More than half of responding communities associate food with at least one community priority, average of 2.9 priorities**

Does the LG Associate Food Activities With Other Community Priorities?  
(n=1,981)



**Top priorities of these 1,110 communities:**

- Public health (55%)
- Community development (49%)
- Economic and workforce development (38%)
- Agricultural land preservation (36%)

# WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?

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**More than half of responding local governments identified at least one department with food-related responsibilities.**

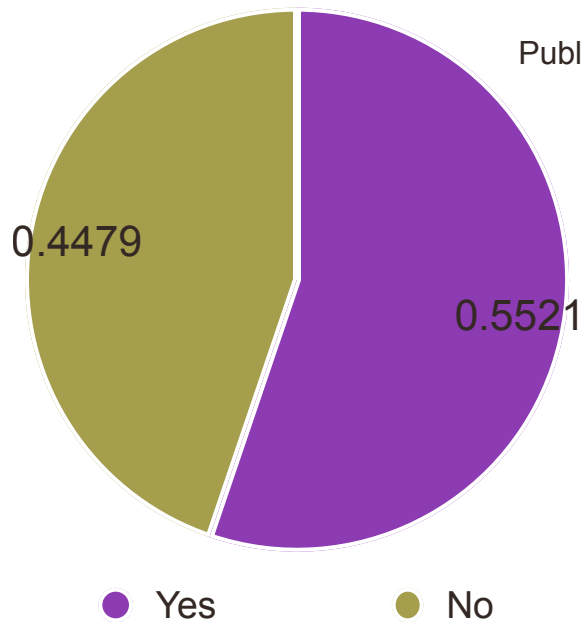
Quick Poll:

**What local government department do you represent (or go to most often for food-related issues)?**

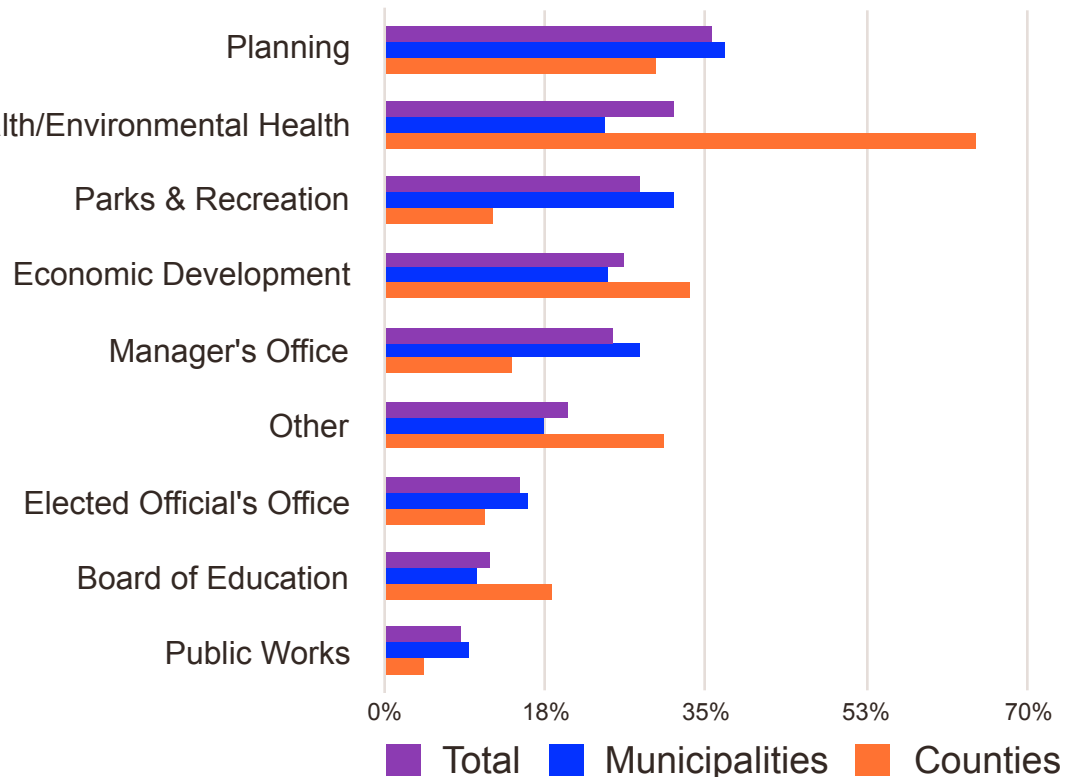
# WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?

**More than half of responding local governments identified at least one department with food-related responsibilities.**

Does the LG Have Least One Department With Food-Related Responsibilities? (n=1,985)



Common Departments Responsible for Food



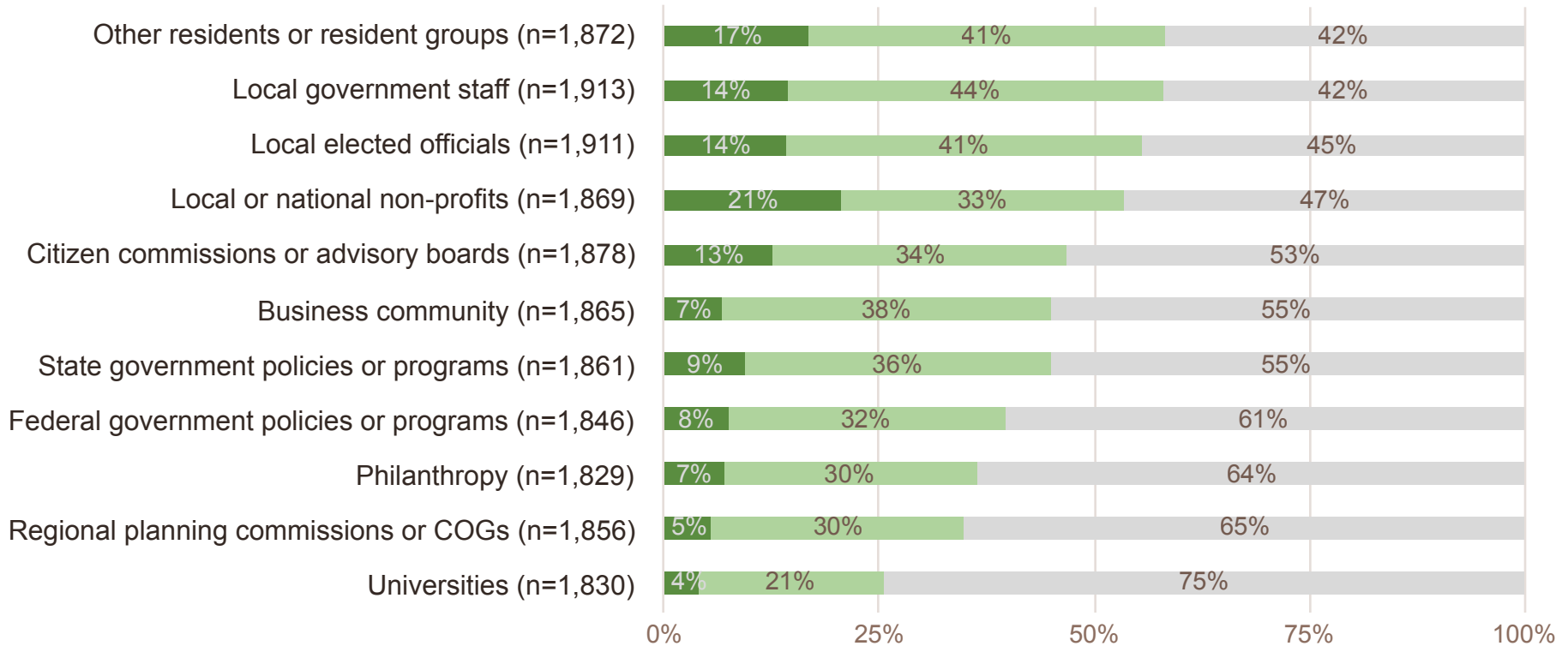


## FOOD SYSTEM PLANNING

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- **20% of respondents (approximately 400 communities) indicated official plans that dealt with food**
- **About half were master/comprehensive plans**
- **Approximately 50 food-specific plans**
- **Only 8% have mapped food environment**

# INFLUENCE OF STAKEHOLDER GROUPS



# OTHER TYPES OF SUPPORT

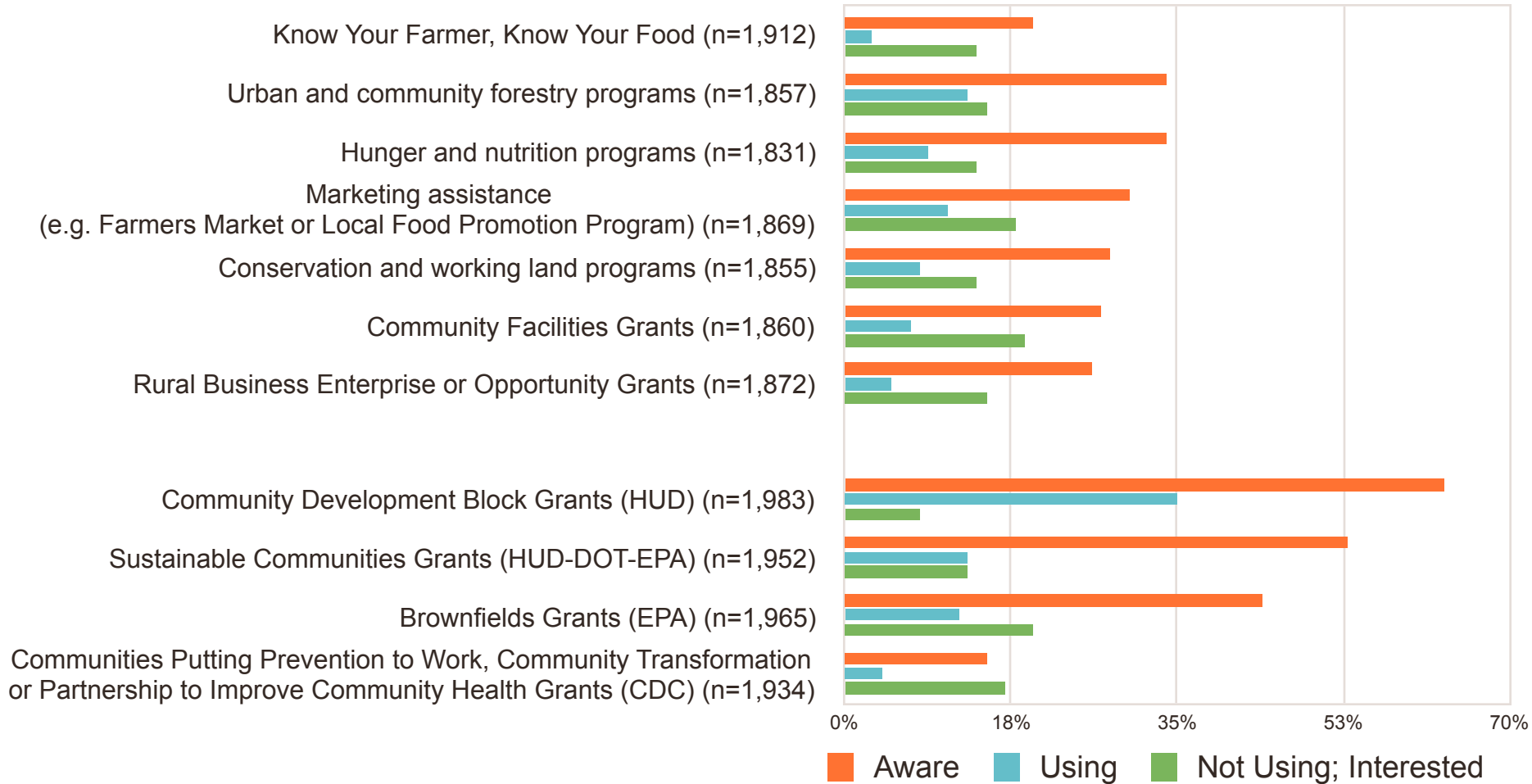
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More than **900 local governments** provide **at least informal support** to food system activities in their communities.

Of those, about **one-third** have staff that **participate in or lead a food policy council**, commission, or similar body.

**19%** of total respondents are **collaborating with neighboring communities** on food-related activities.

# 2015 AWARENESS OF, USE OF, AND INTEREST IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS







## **FOLLOW UP**

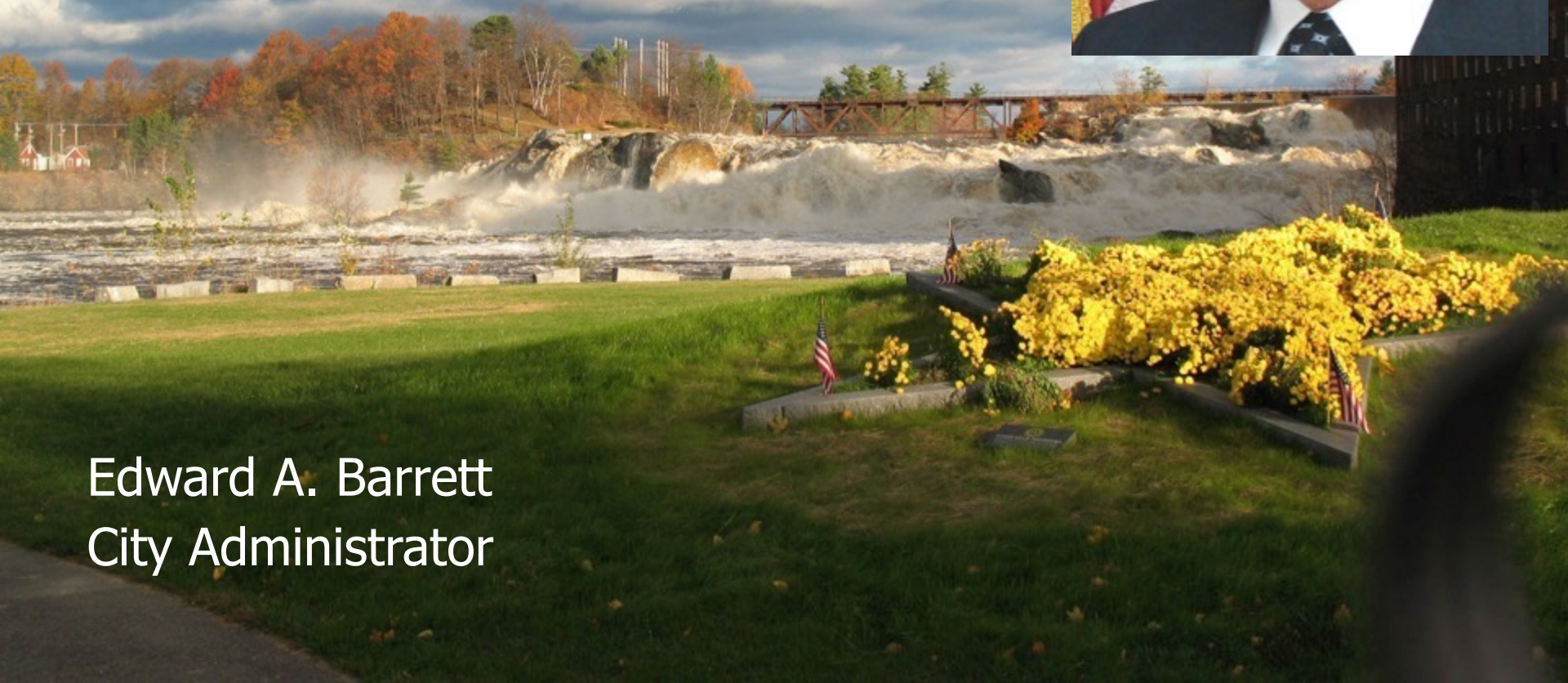
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**Laura Goddeeris**

**[laurag@msu.edu](mailto:laurag@msu.edu)**

**517-353-0005**

# CITY OF LEWISTON MAINE



Edward A. Barrett  
City Administrator

# Lewiston Facts

- Second largest City in the state
- 36,592 population
- 34 square miles – Very Dense Urban Corps w. suburban/rural fringe
- 6,000 recent immigrants – East and Central Africa
- Employment center - 24,000 jobs
- 53% Renters
- Median Household Income – 36,696
- Persons in Poverty – 23.6%

# WHY

- Healthy Food Access contributes to community and economic development
  - Improved Student Performance
  - Improves Family and Workforce Health
  - Builds a Sense of Community
  - Economic Impact – Buy Local Movement
  - Increases Low-Income Spending Power/Good Food Access
  - Skill Training
  - Strengthen Collaboration
  - Put Land Back Into Productive Use
  - Utilize Skills of New Americans

# FOCUS AREAS

- Food Insecurity – Identify and Address
- Support for Regional Agriculture
- New Americans Programs



# FOOD INSECURITY

- Community Food Assessment – 2013 -- Good Food Council of Lewiston Auburn (Nutrition Center/Bates/University of Southern Maine/Healthy Androscoggin/Downtown Education Collaborative)
  - Lack of transportation access
  - Limited Downtown Choices
  - Cultural Obstacles
  - Limited Gov't Programs to meet nutritional needs
  - Lack of connectivity and collaboration
  - Lack of education about food and health eating

# PARTNERSHIPS

- The Food Assessment Highlighted the need of Coordinating and focusing the efforts of a wide range of Non-Governmental Organizations dealing with elements of the problem.
- City role was primarily supportive – Participating in these efforts and, where possible, providing some level of support – in-kind; small CDBG grants; property donations.



# St. Mary's Nutrition Center

- Food Pantry
- Community Gardens
- Nutrition Education
- Children's Garden and Cooking Program
- Food Access Initiative
  - Farmer's Market (\$2 for \$1 Snap Benefit)
  - Bulk Buying Club
  - Good Food Bus Mobile Food Market

# SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL AGRICULTURE

- Agricultural Protection – Comp Plan and Zoning
- Support for Regional COG Efforts in Agriculture
  - Grant to establish bulk organic grain storage facilities at 22 organic farms
  - Grants to support innovate energy systems at farms such as biomass, geothermal
  - Establish a seed capital program for emerging and growing natural resource based businesses – hops farming and processing, organic farming
  - Support for infrastructure development and integration to allow local farms to operate more efficiently and expand production.

# FARMING GROWTH IN MAINE

- Over 5 years, Black and African American Farms have increased from 17-68
- Total Farm Starts at 4 times the national average
- 40% growth in farmers 34 and younger
- Ag production value up 24% over 5 years
- Land Farmed up 8%
- Number of Farms up 25% since 2000

# NEW MAINER PROGRAMS

- New American Sustainable Agriculture Project
  - 18 acre leased farm near Lewiston
  - Enroll and Trained
  - 30 farmers
  - Farm Stands/Farmers Markets/CSA/Wholesale
  - New Roots Cooperatively owned farm in Lewiston this year -- Spin off from NASAP

# LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Good Food Council of Lewiston-Auburn: <http://goodfood4la.org/>
- St. Mary's Nutrition Center: <http://www.stmarysmaine.com/nutrition-center/st-marys-nutrition-center>
- Healthy Androscoggin: <http://www.healthyandroscoggin.org/healthy-androscoggin/healthy-eating/>
- Cultivating Community: <https://www.cultivatingcommunity.org/>

# Baltimore Food Policy Initiative



Holly Freishtat  
Baltimore City Food Policy Director  
November 1, 2016



# Baltimore Food Policy Overview





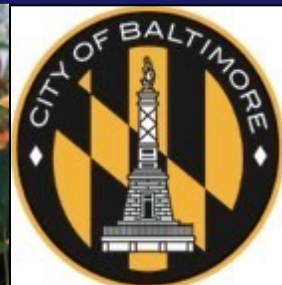


Establish Baltimore as a  
leader in sustainable  
local food systems



Improve health outcomes by  
increasing access to healthy  
affordable food in food  
deserts in Baltimore City



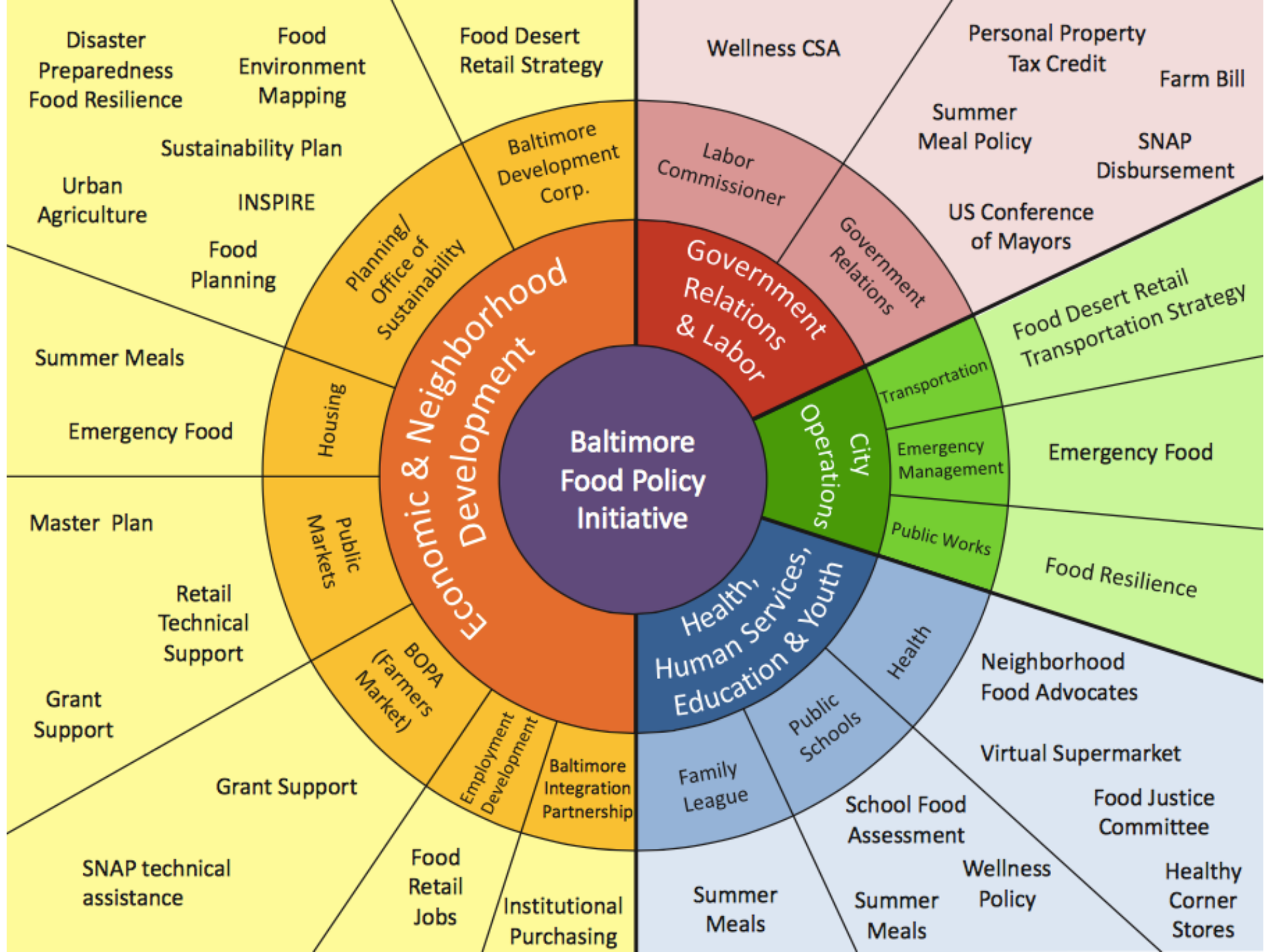


# Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI)

- Inter-governmental collaboration:
  - Baltimore Office of Sustainability, Department of Planning, Health Department & Baltimore Development Corporation
- Food Policy Advisory Committee (Food PAC)
  - Provide Advisory Capacity to implement Food Policy Taskforce recommendations
  - 60 Diverse stakeholders (such as Anti-hunger community, extension, city government, community nonprofits, schools)







# Influencing Policy Data & Reports:

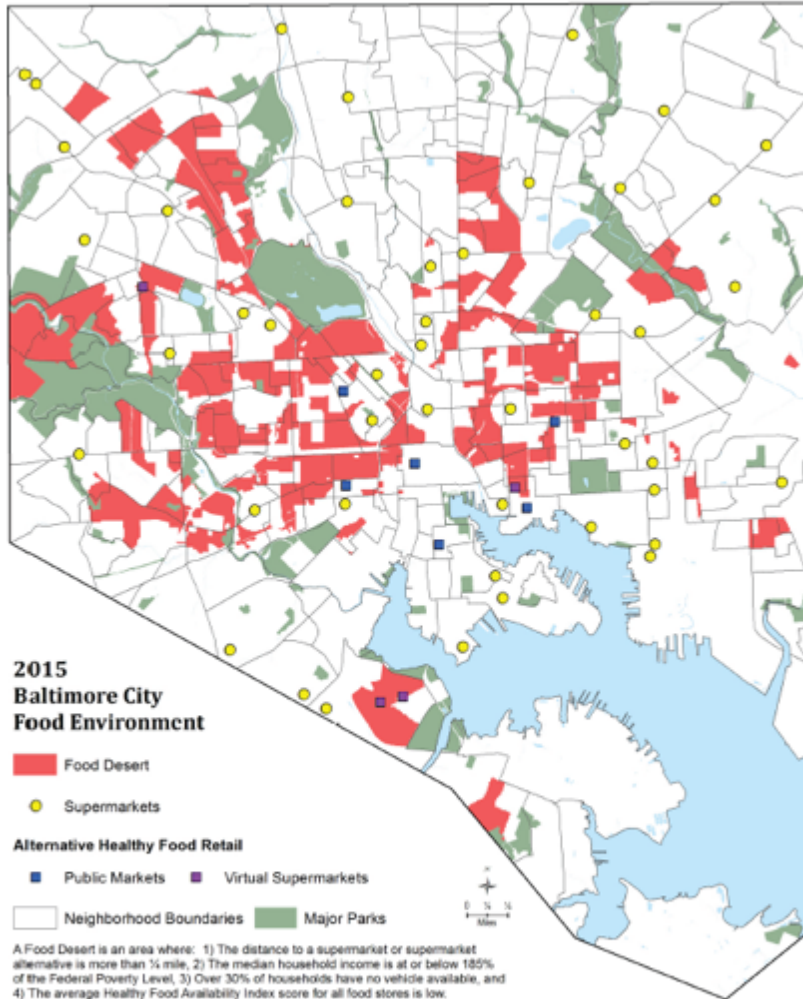




# Food Desert Map



#BmoreFoodMap



## Food Desert Definition:

- 1/4 mile from supermarket
- Low vehicle availability
- At or below 185% federal poverty level
- Low Healthy Food Availability Score

## Impact:

- 25% City residents (158,000 people)
- 30% School aged children
- 25% Seniors
- Black residents 4x more likely to live in a food desert than White residents

## Food Environment

- 45 Supermarkets
- 435 Corner Stores
- 300 Convenience Stores

# Council Districts

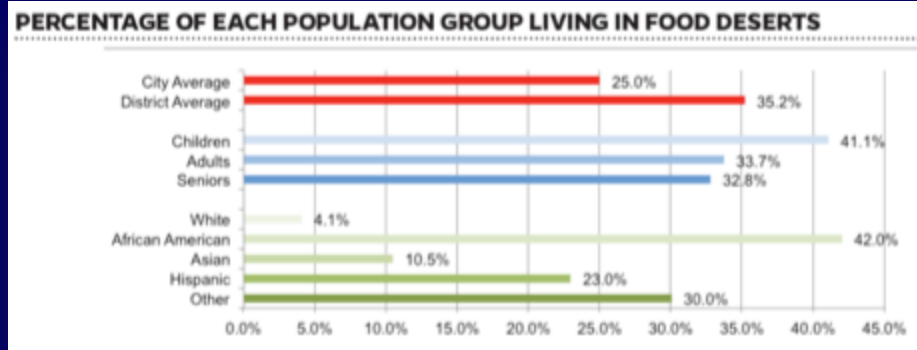
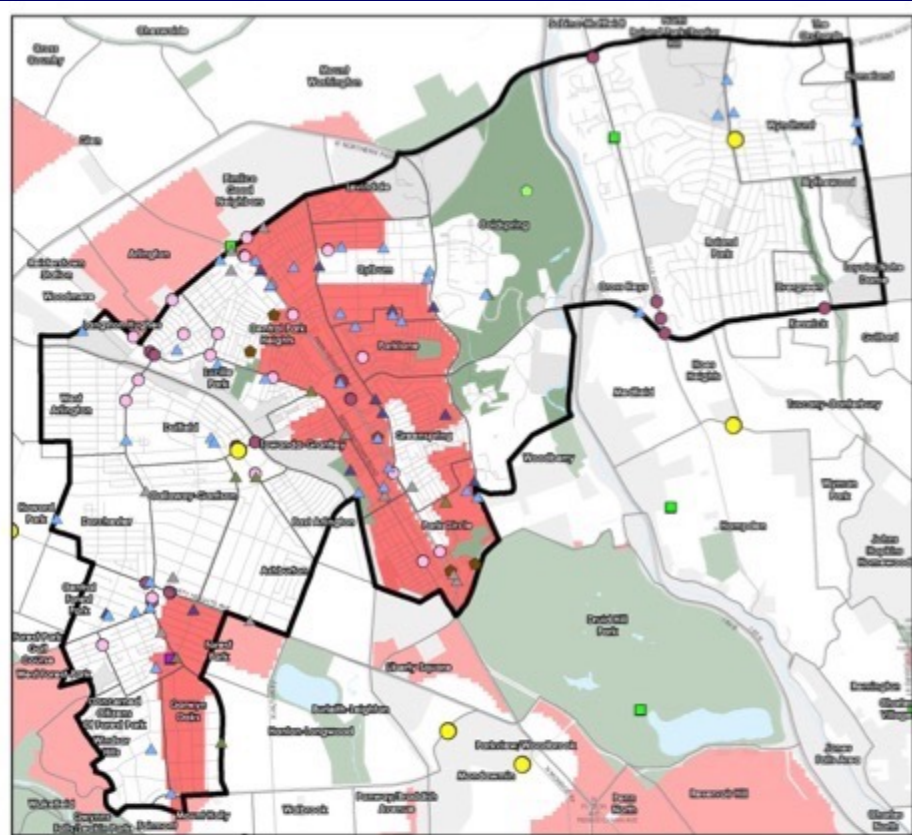
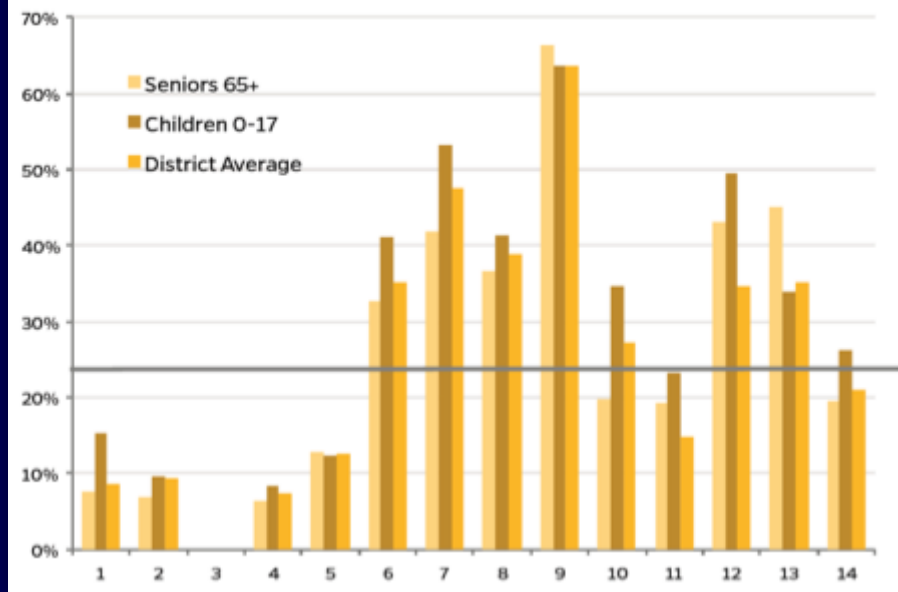


Figure 10: Percentage of each age group living in a food desert by district





# Local Food & Farm Efforts





# The Four P's

## 1. Policy

- [Food Desert Incentive Personal Property Tax Credit for Supermarkets](#)
- [Urban Agriculture Tax Credit](#)
- [Changed city Labor Union policy to allow CSAs as an allowable Wellness Reimbursement](#)

## 2. Plans & Strategies

- [Healthy Baltimore 2020](#)
- [Sustainability Plan 2009](#) (update in 2017)
- [Food Resilience Strategy](#)
- [Food Desert Retail Strategy](#)

## 3. Programs

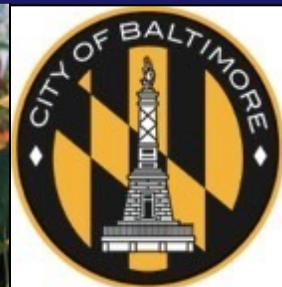
- Baltimarket [Virtual Supermarket](#) and [Healthy Stores](#) program

## 4. People

- Food Policy Action Coalition (Food PAC)
- Neighborhood Food Advocates







# Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Award

- Baltimore City won top honors in the inaugural Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Awards held in Rome on World Food Day
- The framework of the Pact includes:
  1. Ensuring an enabling environment for effective action (governance)
  2. Sustainable diets and nutrition
  3. Social and economic equity
  4. Sustainable Food production
  5. Food supply and distribution
  6. Food waste



# Conclusion:







**For More Information Please Contact:**

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**BFPI is currently supported by:**





# County Commissioner Kathleen Holian



*Santa Fe County*

# Discussion



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*County Commissioner,  
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