



# Food Systems Change Fellowship Application

*Supported by Modeling the Future of Food in Your Neighborhood Study (foodNEST 2.0)*

## About foodNEST 2.0

The Modeling the Future of Food in Your Neighborhood Study (foodNEST 2.0) is a project of the Mary Ann Swetland Center for Environmental Health at Case Western Reserve University, School of Medicine. It is conducted in partnership with multiple stakeholders from diverse sectors in Greater Cleveland. Working together, this team developed a [Menu of Actions](#) focused on potential leverage points for jumpstarting community driven food system changes that lead to:

- Households with financial strength and food security,
- Neighborhoods with fair access to affordable, fresh, and healthy foods, and
- Communities that are strong in body, mind, and spirit.

## About the Food Systems Change Fellowship

In 2021, the Swetland Center is launching the Food Systems Change Fellowship that serves as a “test kitchen” for incubating ideas related to potential leverage points identified in the [Menu of Actions](#). The fellowship will provide support for local leaders to develop and validate their ideas while growing partnerships essential for bringing an idea to life. The fellowship will conclude with a pitch to potential partners and funders who may provide support for implementing the idea in the future. Ideal fellows come to the “test kitchen” with passion and creativity for food systems change combined with openness to trial new ideas while getting feedback from others. The fellowship is not designed to support an existing idea that is ready to implement.

## The Food Systems Change Fellowship builds on the principles of:

- **Collaborative change** strengthened by high quality, trusting relationships that build on the assets of the community.
- **Community-centered change** rooted in lived experiences of the community and guided by local data.
- **Systems analysis** that examines the deeply rooted forces shaping local food systems and the potential leverage points for accelerating changes that tip the food system to fairness.
- **Culture of experimentation** that supports creative approaches tested through feedback and simulation, trial and adaptation.
- **Spirit of co-learning** to grow from insights, connections, and resources shared among leaders in the fellowship program, local teams, and mentors.



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## At the end of 6-month engagement, fellows will:

- Strengthen relationships with mentors to jointly grow capacity.
- Identify potential leverage points to tip the food system to fairness.
- Examine data trends about factors influencing the local food system.
- Experiment with different actions to test their impact on economic opportunity, food security, and/or fair access to fresh and healthy foods.
- Choose a pathway for action for local food systems change.
- Develop a pitch to gain support for implementing the action plan.

## The foodNEST 2.0 Study Team will provide the following support to each fellow:

- Develop a mentoring team to support sustainability.
- Host monthly capacity building workshops.
- Identify and analyze relevant data related to ideas for action.
- Translate team ideas into simulation models.
- Host forums for gathering feedback from foodNEST 2.0 team.
- Host a pitch presentation with key stakeholders and decision makers (tentatively July 2021).
- Promote the work of the applicants throughout Swetland Center communication channels (website, social media, newsletters, etc.).

## Resources Dedicated to Fellows

- Personalized mentoring team of 2-3 mentors.
- Data gathering, analysis and modeling support.
- Graphics support to translate “pitch” into professional format.
- Coordination of monthly workshops.

## Every month, each fellow will commit to:

- Attend a 2-hour capacity building workshop with the other fellows and the foodNEST team.
- Host 1-2 conversations with mentors.
- Facilitate at least one strategy meeting with local team.
- Complete project milestone(s).

## Key Dates & Deadlines

### *Application Deadline*

January 15, 2021

### *Acceptance Notification*

January 25, 2021

### *2021 Cohort Timeframe*

February 15 - July 30, 2021

### *Fellowship stipend*

\$3,000 [paid in three \$1,000 installments]

**Submit your Application to the**  
**Food Systems Change Fellowship**