

About the Menu

The Menu of Actions brings together our collective insights, captured through various data-gathering approaches, about the dynamic complexity of the local food system in Greater Cleveland. These insights build on ten-plus years of local innovation that pointed to the need for more integrated approaches to food systems change. Like many cities, food systems change in Greater Cleveland has often occurred without fully linking connections between different strategies that may be even more powerful when they are working together. Lessons learned, presented here, are specifically focused on food systems in historically redlined neighborhoods within a Rust Belt city.

About our Team

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 in Cleveland, Ohio. The foodNEST 2.0 study brings together researchers and community leaders working to unpack the complexity and deeply rooted forces structuring our local food system. The Menu of Actions is designed to share insights about the food system as it is—and the food system we hope for. It identifies potential leverage points for transforming the local food system in historically redlined neighborhoods to achieve justice.

Planning Food Systems Change: We Must Be Adaptive and Responsive

Because it's all connected, we need to learn how to SIT—Sequence, Integrate and Tailor

Sequence

What actions should be sequenced in time together? For example, A should go before B and B before C?

Integrate

What actions are synergistic when paired together? For example, A and B should always be implemented together because without A then the impact of B is lessened or delayed.

Tailor

No two communities are the same. In some, A is a good fit for achieving goal C. In others, A should be replaced with B to achieve C.

What's next in your community?

- Who needs to be at the table as you plan for food systems change?
- How will you grow and nurture relationships needed for collaborative change?
- What are the possibilities for transformation within your community?
- What are the leverage points for tipping the deeply rooted forces toward fairness?
- How may your actions today lead to impacts tomorrow?
- Who will benefit the most from your approach?
- What are the unintended consequences of your work?

Potential Leverage Points for Community-Driven Food Systems Change



Fair Access to Affordable Fresh and Healthy Foods

Comprehensive, community-driven approaches are in place that better link quality and affordable food supply with consumer demand so people get the foods they want.



Nourished Neighborhoods

All residents have nourishment for optimal wellbeing—in body, mind and spirit—to fully achieve individual, family and neighborhood potential.



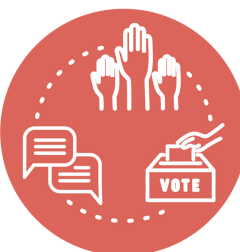
Neighborhood Thriving

Connections within the neighborhood feed the soul of the community while growing local wealth and ownership.



Economic and Community Development

Investments are made to advance neighborhood sovereignty and community-driven development so people are empowered to thrive.



Social Connectivity and Policy Engagement

Collective power is cultivated to transform political, social and economic forces shaping community capacity to nurture dignified and flourishing lives.

Pursuing options that:

- **Secure funds to support locally-owned, food business development**
- **Enhance procurement options for healthy foods in smaller retail**
- **Expand comprehensive health and wellness care**
- **Expand neighborhood-based, emergency response systems**
- **Expand affordable and safe housing options**
- **Expand universal Pre-K education**
- **Provide living wages**
- **Increase the value of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits**
- **Provide staffing support for food systems change coordination**
- **Increase voter engagement**

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