

LOCAL FOODS, LOCAL PLACES: REVITALIZING COMMUNITIES BY GROWING LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

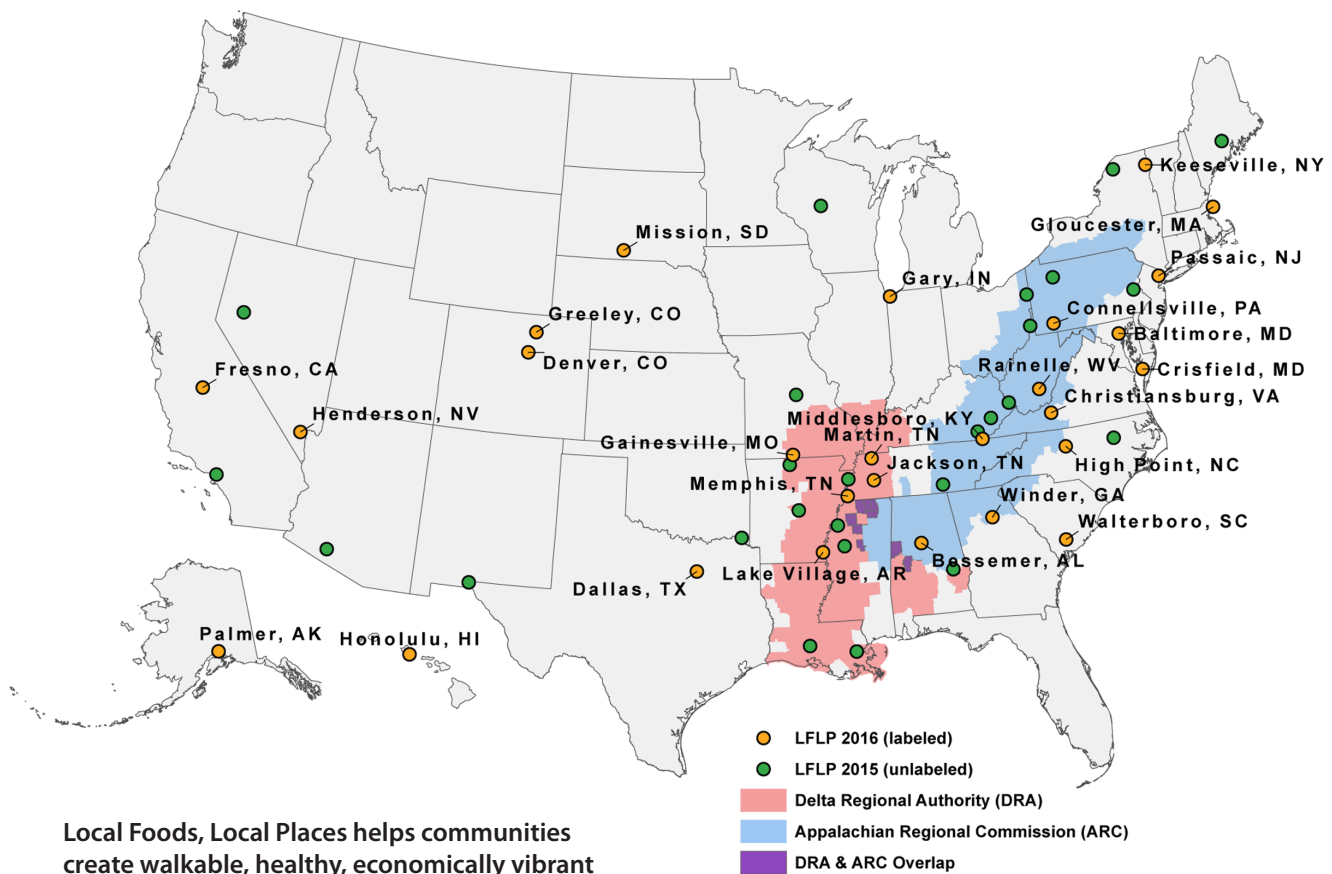
2016 PARTNER COMMUNITIES

APRIL 2017 UPDATE

Local Foods, Local Places, established in 2014, helps cities and towns across the country protect the environment and human health by engaging with local partners to reinvest in existing neighborhoods using local food enterprise. Six federal agencies—the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Delta Regional Authority—selected 27 communities to participate in **Local Foods, Local Places** in 2016. In each partner community, a team of experts helps community members set goals and plan projects that can boost local economies and drive downtown and neighborhood revitalization. Projects might include farmers markets, local food cooperatives, community gardens, and other food-related enterprises. By promoting better health, a cleaner environment, and stronger economies, Local Foods, Local Places also supports efforts to alleviate poverty and boost wellness among children. In 2016, federal partners invested \$850,000 in **Local Foods, Local Places**.



Local Foods, Local Places 2016



Local Foods, Local Places helps communities create walkable, healthy, economically vibrant neighborhoods through the development of local food systems.

Sources: *Local Foods, Local Places*
U.S. Census Bureau



Alabama

Bessemer, Alabama, received technical assistance to strengthen the city's downtown farmers market, convert vacant lots into community gardens and urban farms, and link local food assets to efforts to revitalize its downtown.

Alaska

Grow Palmer, in **Palmer, Alaska**, developed an action plan to improve local food access for residents and vendors while making the city a healthier, vibrant, and walkable destination. Palmer will build on its agricultural identity by promoting farmland preservation and adding vegetable planters along the downtown walking trail.

Arkansas

Lake Village, Arkansas, explored strategies to expand the city's community garden, increase worksite wellness programs for local businesses, connect its parks with new trails to improve local food access and increase walkability, and stimulate economic development.

California

Fresno, California, developed an action plan to help transform a vacant downtown building into a vibrant indoor market. This downtown anchor will make healthy food easier to access and attract residents and visitors.

Colorado

Denver, Colorado, received technical assistance to enhance local food systems and local food education for residents of the Globeville and Elyria Swansea neighborhoods. Assistance included strategic planning to better incorporate local foods into the redevelopment of the National Western Center.

The University of Northern Colorado in **Greeley, Colorado**, partnered with the city, downtown businesses, and community organizations to improve healthy food access on Main Street. They aim to strengthen relationships between local food producers and neighborhood residents and expand economic linkages for the University of Northern Colorado in the local food system.

Georgia

The Winder Housing Authority in **Winder, Georgia**, received technical assistance to develop a community kitchen and community garden in the city's new Wimberly Center for Community Development, which is in a former middle school building.



Workshop participants tour a high school garden in Bessemer, Alabama, where local children learn to grow their own produce. Bessemer's action plan outlines strategies to convert vacant lots downtown into community gardens like this one.



Aquaponic gardens at the Institute for Human Services' Rooftop Training and Education Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, grow food for the homeless and teach them agricultural and job skills. Honolulu's action plan highlights strategies such as rooftop gardens and social enterprise programs for local food jobs, like the institute's, to improve food security and food equity.



The assistance also helped Winder create plans to enhance transportation connections between the center, surrounding neighborhoods, and downtown to improve access to this new amenity.

Hawaii

The Hawaii Community Development Authority in **Honolulu, Hawaii**, explored strategies to improve food access, food security, and food equity to spur investment and stewardship in the Kakaako Makai community.

Indiana

Gary, Indiana, is scaling up urban agriculture to improve access to healthy, local foods and spur economic development. Increased local production will be a foundation for other food-related businesses and will encourage transforming underused and vacant properties into productive, inviting spaces.

Kentucky

Discover Downtown Middlesboro, Inc. in **Middlesboro, Kentucky**, received assistance to integrate local food into the town's downtown revitalization. The assistance helped develop a plan for building trails to connect downtown to the nearby Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, renovating and repurposing abandoned buildings, and partnering with the local hospital and schools to build greenhouses and gardens to enhance access to fresh, healthy food.

Massachusetts

Gloucester, Massachusetts, developed an action plan to boost economic opportunities for local fishermen, farmers, artists, and businesses while increasing the food security of low-income families downtown.

Maryland

The Baltimore Public Markets Corporation in **Baltimore, Maryland**, explored strategies to revitalize Avenue Market in the distressed Upton/Druid Heights neighborhood to increase access to healthy food and promote economic development.

With its new action plan, Somos Inc. in **Crisfield, Maryland**, is establishing a farmers market, community gardens, and active living opportunities downtown. The town wanted to improve residents' health and restore access to healthy, local foods, which was lost when Superstorm Sandy destroyed the town's grocery store. The assistance also focused on increasing local food-based tourism and entrepreneurship opportunities that build on the local seafood industry and natural assets.



Pallet gardens and informational murals transform vacant lots along Middlesboro, Kentucky's Main Street. During its workshop, the town developed actions to build on these low-cost interventions to further integrate local food into its downtown revitalization and increase access to fresh, healthy food.



Building local supply chain partnerships with local farms, like this one, is an important action step to revitalize Baltimore, Maryland's Avenue Market with healthy food options.



Missouri

Ozark County Homegrown Food Projects in **Gainesville, Missouri**, focused its action plan on improving the quality and financial sustainability of its flagship endeavor, the Farm, Fork, and Fiddle. This establishment, near the center of town, sells local foods and products, prepares meals with local food, and serves as local meeting space.

Nevada

Henderson, Nevada, developed an action plan to promote local food as part of its vision to create a healthy and economically vibrant downtown. Through community engagement, greater local agriculture production, and stronger food distribution channels, Henderson plans to revitalize its downtown while reducing food insecurity.

New Jersey

With its action plan, **Passaic, New Jersey**, aims to strengthen business partnerships in the Eastside neighborhood's ethnic restaurant and food service enclave so those local businesses can better market and connect themselves with the area's redevelopment projects.

New York

The Adirondack North County Association and community partners in **Keeseville, New York**, came together to connect downtown revitalization efforts with local food and agritourism.

North Carolina

High Point, North Carolina, focused its action plan on enhancing the central library's services to the community, especially its weekly farmers market and nutrition education. The library is renovating its outdoor space to better house the farmers market, expand its community garden, and improve its educational programs for children.

Pennsylvania

The Redevelopment Authority in **Connellsville, Pennsylvania**, received technical assistance to integrate local foods and healthy living into downtown economic development activities by strengthening the downtown farmers market, improving walking and biking infrastructure, expanding local food access at restaurants and lodging, and enhancing local food access for low-income and senior populations.

South Carolina

The Colleton Museum and Farmers Market in **Walterboro, South Carolina**, explored strategies to strengthen the downtown farmers market and commercial kitchen and help revitalize downtown as a local foods and arts destination.



Workshop participants map the community's assets at the Gainesville, Missouri, workshop.



Walterboro, South Carolina, seeks to strengthen its downtown commercial kitchen by getting more producers to use the facility and sell their products in the adjacent café and gift shop.



South Dakota

Rosebud Economic Development Corporation of the Sioux Tribe in **Mission, South Dakota**, brought partners together to develop an action plan for promoting tribal food sovereignty and the traditional Lakota diet. The partners are also planning amenities to engage tribal members at a new development site including nature trails, a network supporting new farmers and ranchers, and youth programs and facilities.

Tennessee

Jackson, Tennessee, organized stakeholders to create a school-based farmers market using food from the local high school's garden. This effort will connect the West Tennessee Farmers Market with surrounding neighborhoods to improve local food access and increase economic opportunity for farmers.

Martin, Tennessee, plans to launch a "Using Food to Build Community" forum to mobilize local food producers and consumers, stimulate the production of healthy local food and food products, and improve nearby farmers markets and downtowns.

Cooper-Young Community Farmers Market in **Memphis, Tennessee**, received technical assistance to plan a permanent, versatile, and more accessible space to host its farmers market and serve as a public square for the city. With a solid local food vision, the market will better connect with the community and more strongly integrate into the local food economy.

Texas

With their new action plan, community partners in **Dallas, Texas**, are bringing together an alliance of garden and farm enthusiasts that builds public awareness, community cohesion, and relationships between growers and local businesses and shares expertise to increase the size and variety of community garden yields.

Virginia

Christiansburg, Virginia, received technical assistance to redesign the location for the city's downtown farmers market to create a permanent space for the market and community gatherings throughout the year. The assistance also explored ways to brand and market the farmers market and downtown Christiansburg amenities to draw tourists and serve residents.

West Virginia

The Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation in **Rainelle, West Virginia**, will receive technical assistance to strengthen existing farmers markets and other venues for local producers to sell their produce, grow the local food economy and support entrepreneurs, and revitalize downtown Rainelle after severe floods devastated the town in the summer of 2016.



For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places>