

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

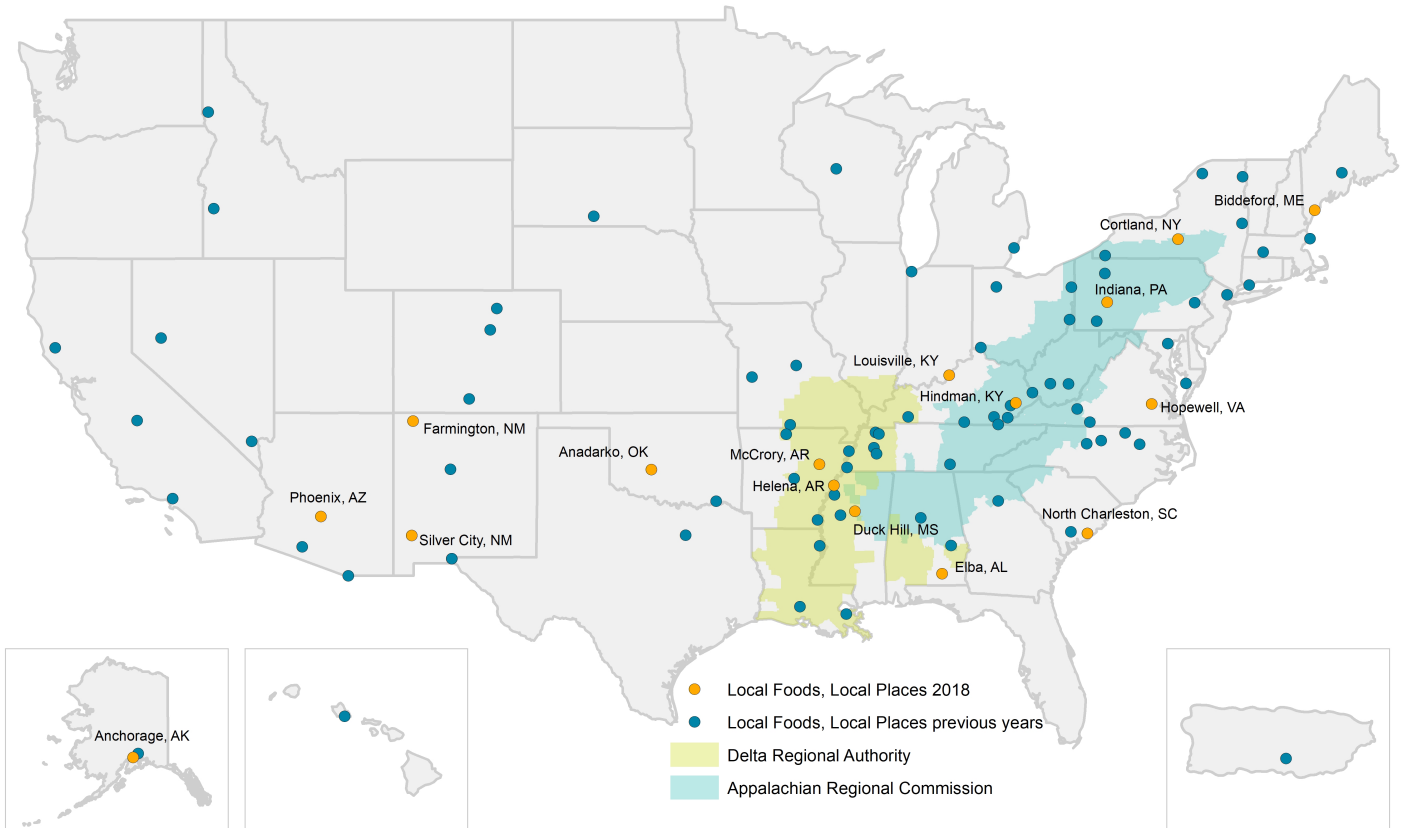
2018 PARTNER COMMUNITIES

MAY 2018

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. Four federal agencies—the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Delta Regional Authority—selected 16 communities to participate in **Local Foods, Local Places** in 2018. In each partner community, a team of experts will help 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 2018, federal partners are investing more than \$365,000 in **Local Foods, Local Places**.



Local Foods, Local Places 2018



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

Restoration 154/Foundation 154 in **Elba, Alabama**, will plan a central farmers market to spur downtown revitalization and help mitigate the loss of people traveling through downtown after the opening of a highway bypass. The workshop will also help identify strategies to green the downtown square, a longstanding goal of the city.

Alaska

The Alaska Food Policy Council aims to create a highly visible, working urban farm in **Anchorage, Alaska**, that serves as a site for food production, a job training center, a sustainable farming innovation and demonstration hub, and a community center. The project will help address real and perceived contamination on the site from a former leaking underground storage tank and a nearby former dry cleaners identified by the city as a candidate for brownfield cleanup funds.

Arizona

The city of **Phoenix, Arizona**, intends to develop a plan to improve access to healthy food in the South Central Light Rail Corridor. The plan will be folded into other initiatives in the area, including creating a strategy for equitable transit-oriented development and restoring and improving access to the Rio Salado (Salt River).

Arkansas

In **Helena, Arkansas**, the Helena-West Helena/Philips County Port Authority will explore a potential farmers market and events space in a long-abandoned building near downtown now that underground storage tanks have been removed and the Port Authority (the local economic development entity) has acquired the site and begun cleaning up contamination from its past use as a school bus repair facility.

The city of **McCrary, Arkansas**, plans to comprehensively address barriers to good nutrition and physical activity by strategically connecting and integrating multiple efforts, including a new community/school garden; a new “healthy hub” that brings clinical screening services, nutrition education classes, cooking demonstrations, prescription assistance, and food pantry distribution under one roof; and a potential farmers market and culinary incubator.



Locating a farmers market on a main street attracts more people and businesses to the area.



High tunnel gardens allow more types of food to grow in a community, extending the growing season and increasing local food sources.



Kentucky

Hindman Settlement School in **Hindman, Kentucky**, wants to strengthen the local farmers market and determine the next steps for several food-based initiatives, including a certified canning kitchen that can help address the loss of coal-based jobs and tax revenue by creating new opportunities for producers, food crafters, and entrepreneurs.

The Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District is seeking assistance to help coordinate multiple revitalization and food security initiatives in a densely populated, demographically diverse area of downtown **Louisville, Kentucky**, that suffers from high poverty and unemployment, a growing urban heat island effect, the recent closure of its retail grocery stores, and a significant number of abandoned and vacant properties. Planning for a new cooperative grocery store will incorporate strategies to improve air, water, and soil quality while increasing tree cover and access to public green spaces.



Greenery, expansive sidewalks, interesting signs and other streetscape improvements make areas more walkable and attract customers.

Maine

Engine, a nonprofit organization in **Biddeford, Maine**, will plan for the redevelopment of a vacant main street building, made possible through a brownfields cleanup grant, to support continued revitalization of the historic Main Street and Mill District. The project will house food-related businesses and nonprofits and include an 8,000-square-foot green space and urban garden on the rooftop.



Trails and walking bridges connect people to different parts of a community, improving accessibility while encouraging healthy activities.

Mississippi

Working with the town of **Duck Hill, Mississippi**, and the Achieving Sustainability through Education and Economic Development Solutions Partnership, Action Communication and Education Reform is looking to use green infrastructure to address longstanding stormwater and flooding problems as a necessary first step to enable revitalization efforts, including a 2.5-acre community garden and downtown farmers market.

New Mexico

In **Farmington, New Mexico**, the New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension, in collaboration with the city and community partners, will coordinate efforts to expand local food production, improve food access, and revitalize the historic downtown. Supporting local food enterprises would help the city reconnect with its historic roots as a farming community while expanding access to jobs and business opportunities; increasing diversified local food options, and protecting natural resources.



In **Silver City, New Mexico**, the Volunteer Center of Grant County will bring the community together to reduce food waste in the downtown districts and nearby neighborhoods, create more garden spaces, and strategize how to grow more local food while providing economic opportunity to those in need.

New York

The Seven Valleys Health Coalition, working with the city of **Cortland, New York**, and the Cortland Food Project committee, will develop a long-term strategy that ties growth and development of an equitable local food system into brownfields revitalization and other ongoing planning efforts in the city.

Oklahoma

The Delaware Nation will focus on revitalization in **Anadarko, Oklahoma**, to create a community anchor for physical activities and healthy, local food. The project aims to establish a permanent farmers market; develop a walking and biking trail; and create a community garden that will help manage stormwater runoff, improve air and soil quality, and reduce waste through composting.

Pennsylvania

The Sustainable Economic Development Task Force of Indiana County wants to further diversify the local economy by creating a plan to help a new co-op in downtown **Indiana, Pennsylvania**, become an effective outlet for local producers. The co-op will provide access to healthy, locally produced foods for people at all income levels and improve the local economy by supporting county producers, especially those employing sustainable farming methods.

South Carolina

The Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities in **North Charleston, South Carolina**, wants to redevelop a former brownfield into a park with walking and biking trails and an open-air market that would create economic opportunities for farmers and businesses.

Virginia

In support of its goal to become a more healthy, walkable, and bikeable community, the Hopewell Downtown Partnership in **Hopewell, Virginia**, will explore creating a new kitchen incubator in a downtown building that could help develop new food entrepreneurs and catalyze new businesses to locate in vacant storefronts. A possible community garden on an adjacent lot will help educate residents and contribute to the area's revitalization.



Community gardens improve access to healthy local foods and provide places for children to learn and play.

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