Growing Food & Opportunities in South Carolina

Economic and Community Development through Healthy Food Access

a publication of the
South Carolina Food Policy Council
Growing Food & Opportunities in South Carolina: 
*Economic and Community Development through Healthy Food Access*

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South Carolina Food Policy Council

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the SC Commissioner of Agriculture--------------------------------------------------------1
A Word from the Funder – Lowcountry Housing Trust: A Catalyst for Community Transformation ------2
Planning Committee Members ----------------------------------------------------------3
Foreword -----------------------------4
Acknowledgements --------------------------------------5
Workshop Overview ----------------------------5
Setting the Stage: Health, Fresh Food & Economic Opportunity in South Carolina ----------------------6
Presentation Recaps
  “Success Stories of Profitable Grocery Stores in Food Deserts” ------------------------------------------7- 8
    – Keynote Speaker: Jeff Brown, CEO Brown’s Super Stores, Inc.
  “What Is a Food Desert & Where Are They In SC?” -----------------------------------------------------8- 9
    – Michelle Mapp
  “Update on Current SCDA Initiatives with Grocery Stores” -------------------------------------------9-10
    – Sonny Dickinson
What Services Are Currently Available to Address Food Insecurity in SC?
  Panel Discussion
    – Phyllis Allen, SC Dept. of Health & Environmental Control ---------------------------------10-11
    – Mary Abney Young, SC Department of Social Services -----------------------------------------12-13
    – Jennifer Moore, United Way of the Midlands -------------------------------------------------14
The Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program – EFNEP -----------------------------------------------15
    – Kristen Welch, Clemson University
Food Banks------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------15
    – Anna Hamilton, Lowcountry Food Bank
Funding Opportunities through USDA-------------------------------------------------------------------16
    – Shannon LeGree
What Community Initiatives Are Already Underway in SC?
  Panel Discussion
    ALLENDALE COUNTY ALIVE---------------------------------------------------------------------17
    – Wilbur Cave, Executive Director
    LOWCOUNTRY PRODUCE MARKET & CAFÉ IN BEAUFORT ---------------------------------------------17
    – Campbell Thorpe
    CATAWBA REGIONAL LOCAL FOOD COALITION -----------------------------------------------------18
    – Ben Bayles, Clemson University
    COLLETON COUNTY MUSEUM & FARMERS MARKET --------------------------------------------------18
    – Marilyn Peters, Farmers Market Manager
    URBAN GARDENING -----------------------------------------------------------------------------19
    – Scott Park, City of Greenville Planner
    METANOIA – URBAN GROCERY STORE IN NORTH CHARLESTON ------------------------------------19-20
    – Bill Stanfield, Executive Director
    FOOD HUB IN SPARTANBURG ---------------------------------------------------------------------20
    – Curt McPhail, Mary Black Foundation & Ana Parra, Hub City Farmers Market
Focus Group Discussions
  1. Planning: Community Organizing to Address Food Deserts-----------------------------------------21
     in Your Neighborhood
    – Facilitators – Bill Stanfield & Wilbur Cave
  2. Financing: Financial Resources Available to Address Food Deserts in SC----------------------22
    – Facilitator – Patrick King
  3. Operating: Barriers and Opportunities to Operating Retail Outlets-------------------------------23-24
    In Food Deserts
    – Facilitator – Dwayne Wharton
  4. Advocating: A Public Policy Initiative to Address Food Deserts in SC------------------------25-26
    – Facilitator – Brian Lang
General Recommendations for Addressing Food Deserts in SC ---------------------------------------27
Workshop Agenda--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------28-29
List of Workshop Registrants------------------------------------------------------------------------30-32
MESSAGE FROM THE
SC COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Dear Reader,

The term “Food Desert” is defined by the USDA as a rural or urban area with little or no access to
grocery stores or markets that offer fresh produce, dairy and meats that are needed for a healthy diet.
Instead, many of these areas contain mostly fast food restaurants and convenience stores. South
Carolina has a significant number of both rural and urban “food deserts” and also struggles with a high
rate of childhood obesity.

To address these issues, people from all over the state came together in September 2012 for “Growing
Food & Opportunities in SC: Economic & Community Development through Healthy Food Access,” a
workshop which focused on the opportunities and challenges presented by food deserts in South
Carolina. This report is generated from the workshop sessions, focus groups, and discussions from the
workshop. The workshop focused on developing solutions to food deserts in South Carolina by
concentrating on the economic development opportunities associated with increasing healthy food
access.

This workshop was initiated by the Lowcountry Housing Trust in Charleston, SC, and I am pleased that
they sought the support of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and the SC Food Policy
Council to plan and host this event. Together, along with the rest of the planning committee, they
planned one of the most highly attended meetings of its type in the country.

By continuing to work together to support this initiative, I believe that the SC Food Policy Council,
Lowcountry Housing Trust, the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, and other partners, can
accomplish this twofold goal of increasing healthy food access and providing economic development
opportunities in food deserts across South Carolina. My staff and I look forward to participating in this
process and hope that you will check back with the SC Food Policy Council regularly to receive updates
on the progress of addressing Food Desert challenges in South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Hugh E. Weathers
A WORD FROM THE FUNDER

Lowcountry Housing Trust:
A Catalyst for Community Transformation

The Lowcountry Housing Trust (LHT) is a non-profit community development loan fund, founded in Charleston in 2004, whose mission is to build vibrant, sustainable communities by financing the production of affordable housing, healthy food retail, community facilities and community businesses and to act as a catalyst to meet the capital needs of underserved neighborhoods throughout South Carolina.

LHT finances a broad range of community development projects in underserved neighborhoods signaling an expansion from focusing exclusively on affordable housing production to improving the quality of life and investing in the neighborhoods in which the housing is built.

LHT seeks projects that provide access to essential services, increase the quality and availability of neighborhood facilities, create employment opportunities, attract additional investment and strengthen the social and economic fabric of the community.

Affordable housing production remains a priority. In addition, LHT invests in neighborhood-enhancing activities including, but not limited to, fresh food retail, child care and education, health and recreation facilities, start up and expansion of community businesses.

Recognizing that among the challenges facing many South Carolina communities is access to fresh, healthy food, LHT invests in underserved communities by providing financing to healthy food retailers and wholesalers. In turn, communities benefit from the economic development opportunities that arise from a local grocery store, farmer’s market, or food hub.

In 2011, LHT was one of twelve organizations nationally to receive a Healthy Food Financing Initiative award from the U.S. Treasury CDFI Fund. The purpose of this capital award is to increase access to healthy food options and attract investment in underserved communities by providing critical loan financing to fresh food retailers.

LHT is capitalizing a SC Healthy Food Financing Fund to provide predevelopment, acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, equipment, and leasehold improvement loans to healthy food retailers located in underserved communities across the state.

For more information visit www.lowcountryhousingtrust.org or contact the Lowcountry Housing Trust:

1535 Hobby Street, Suite 209, North Charleston, SC 29405
info@lowcountryhousingtrust.org
843-973-7285

Since its inception in 2004, LHT has provided $15 million in financing that has facilitated the development of more than $146 million in community development projects; funding has created or retained 3,295 jobs, 1,018 housing units, and provided a safe, decent and affordable place to call home for 2,545 individuals and families.
FOOD DESERT WORKSHOP PLANNING COMMITTEE

Katrina Boyce  
Program Manager  
The Food Trust

Beth Crocker  
General Counsel  
SC Department of Agriculture

Carrie Draper  
Study Coordinator  
University of South Carolina

Kevin Elliott  
Professor  
University of South Carolina

Jamee Haley  
Executive Director  
Lowcountry Local First

Anna Hamilton  
VP of Community Initiatives  
Lowcountry Food Bank

Teresa Hill  
Nutrition Coordinator  
SC Department of Health & Environmental Control

Patrick King  
Assistant Director  
Lowcountry Housing Trust

Dave Lamie  
Professor/Extension Specialist  
Clemson University

Michelle Mapp  
Executive Director  
Lowcountry Housing Trust

Katie Maroney  
Graduate Student  
Clemson University

Burnie Mazycz  
Chief Executive Officer  
SC Association of CDC

Amy Overstree  
Public Affairs & Outreach  
SC USDA-NRCS

Ana Parra  
Executive Director  
Hub City Farmers Market

Nikki Seibert  
Director of Sustainable Ag  
Lowcountry Local First

Amy Splittergerber  
Executive Director  
Eat Smart Move More SC

Woody Swink  
Owner  
McCall Farms

Lisa Jones Turansky  
Sustainable Ag Program Director  
SC Coastal Conservation League

Diana Vossbrinck  
Regional Coordinator  
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association

Debby Waid  
Program Director  
Lowcountry Housing Trust

Joe Watson  
Owner-Farmer  
Watsonia Farms

Growing Food & Opportunities in SC 3
FOREWORD

In 2006, a multi-stakeholder group recognized the impact of health, environmental, educational and economic factors on the state's food systems and formed the South Carolina Food Policy Council ("SCFPC"), which is housed under the State Department of Agriculture.

The SCFPC is one of many food policy councils across the nation, but one of only a few that functions as a state-level food policy council. The SCFPC provides a forum for South Carolina stakeholders in food, health, environmental and agricultural sectors to collaborate on the sustainability of agriculture and food systems in the state, and to propose solutions and initiatives to key decision-makers.

As a result of those discussions and meetings, written reports have been developed and shared with the State Commissioner of Agriculture and other interested policy makers.

In early 2012, the Lowcountry Housing Trust approached the SCFPC and the SC Department of Agriculture about working together to fund and host a statewide workshop addressing Food Deserts in South Carolina.

On September 25, 2012 the “Growing Food & Opportunities in SC: Economic & Community Development through Healthy Food Access” workshop was held. This is the third workshop that the SCFPC has successfully hosted in collaboration with another agency to bring together a diverse audience to address a topic of interest or concern to many citizens and organizations throughout the state. Participants included government officials, non-profits, farmers, corporations, and interested students and citizens.

The results of this workshop and the feedback from the nearly 200 participants are captured in this report, including recommendations for the next steps forward in addressing and moving towards the elimination of food deserts in South Carolina.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The success of this workshop and the information generated to create the report would not have been possible without the support and involvement of the Lowcountry Housing Trust and the South Carolina Food Policy Council planning committee.

Special thanks to the Phillips Market Center staff at the South Carolina Farmers Market in Columbia, as well as Spotted Salamander Catering for providing the group with wonderful meals prepared with local foods. Additional thanks go out to SCDA staff contributors Marie Lybrand, Becky Walton, Max Sauvé, Elizabeth Shuler, Susan Bowles, and Kelly Coakley for their time and support of this project.

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

On September 25th 2012, the SC Food Policy Council and the Lowcountry Housing Trust hosted the first Food Desert Workshop, which was located at the State Farmers Market. The session began with a welcoming speech from Commissioner Weathers followed by Keynote speaker Jeff Brown regarding his success in operating supermarkets in food deserts in the Philadelphia area. The morning session concluded with a definition and overview of food deserts, where they are located in South Carolina, and the current ongoing projects addressing them.

The conference continued with a five-person panel discussion on services currently provided for the issue of food security. Attendees then received a presentation on the funding opportunities available through the USDA.

The afternoon session kicked off with a second panel highlighting local community projects already underway in South Carolina. The panel discussion consisted of project representatives from seven different regions of the state that address food insecurity.

Participants then broke into four focus groups covering the following topics: Planning, Financing, Operating, and Advocating. The groups then came together in a final wrap up where each group summarized their discussions.
SETTING THE STAGE:
Health, Fresh Food & Economic Opportunity
in South Carolina

Health:
Numerous studies have shown that engaging in a healthy lifestyle that includes regular physical activity and good nutrition, including increased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables and decreased consumption of foods with higher calorie, sugar, sodium, and fat content, can greatly contribute to decreasing the risk of many chronic health diseases. Unfortunately, South Carolina continues to rank high in many negative health indices, including obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, infant mortality and lack of access to affordable health care. According to America's Health Rankings, a comprehensive assessment of the nation's health, in 2012 ranked South Carolina the 46th least healthy state.

One of the challenges facing many South Carolina rural and urban communities, that are interested in providing environments supportive of a healthy lifestyle, is providing regular access to fresh, healthy food.

Fresh Food:
South Carolina grows a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables almost year round! South Carolina ranks second in the nation in peach production. The state vegetable is collard greens and South Carolina is in the top ten states in watermelon production. In addition, Lexington, SC is home to the second largest Farmers Market in the Southeast, where over $300 million worth of fresh produce is sold annually.

Overall, South Carolina has a diverse agricultural heritage and tremendous growth potential for increasing fresh fruit and vegetable production as consumer trends demand greater access to fresh, local produce.

Economic Opportunity:
This report provides information about resources that are currently available, local groups that are working to address these concerns, and barriers to be addressed in order to achieve the goal of creating a healthy South Carolina through increased access to healthy foods.
Jeff Brown is the founder, President, and CEO of Brown’s Super Stores, Inc. and operates ten ShopRite supermarkets in the Delaware Valley. A fourth generation Philadelphia grocer, Jeff employs more than 2,300 associates who are committed to making a difference for their customers and the local communities they serve.

As Jeff became aware of food deserts and the needs of communities living within these food deserts, he was motivated to find a way to create a successful business model for his grocery stores to operate and be profitable in these areas, while achieving its mission of “bring[ing] joy to the lives of the people we serve.”

To achieve this goal, Jeff spent a lot of time listening to the needs of the food desert communities where he might potentially open one of his stores. He recognized that he would need full community support in order for the stores to be successful in meeting the needs of the community and, more importantly, profitable and sustainable. By actively engaging these communities, Jeff and his stores have been able to work closely with community groups not only to fight hunger, but also to create programs that help prevent violence and help underprivileged youth have a brighter future by preparing them for viable careers.

For example, Jeff learned that many local community members could not be employed by his stores because of a common restriction employers have against hiring people who have a criminal record. By taking a look at his stores’ hiring policies and practices, Jeff was able to work with the community group leaders to develop a career track within his stores for community individuals (who happen to have criminal records) to help them achieve a stable, steady job within their local communities.

Through this experience with his ShopRite grocery stores in Philadelphia food deserts, Jeff recognized that this was an issue across the nation and that there was an opportunity for others to benefit from the lessons he had learned. So Jeff formed UpLift Solutions, Inc. which is a national non-profit organization that supports food businesses, government and non-profits that work to create sustainable environments for underserved communities. UpLift Solutions believes that full service supermarkets in underprivileged communities can become the anchor to fulfill community needs and ensure consistent access to fresh, affordable food. UpLift Solutions is able to implement its programs in underserved markets across the country by creating synergies between government agencies, non-profits and businesses. UpLift focuses on three primary program areas including: Sustainable Food Systems, Health Innovation, and Economic Development.
Furthermore, Jeff has had the opportunity to consult with the Secretary of Agriculture for the United States Department of Agriculture to talk about healthy food financing and ways to help retailers invest in local communities to increase access to healthy foods in food deserts by creating and supporting profitable and sustainable business models.

“What Is a Food Desert & Where Are They In SC?”
- Michelle Mapp

Food deserts are low-income census tracts where people live more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store; in rural areas, the distance expands to 10 miles. Simply put, these are communities where healthy, affordable food is difficult to obtain. In South Carolina, food deserts are located in urban areas along with small, medium, and very rural towns. According to the USDA’s Food Desert Locator, there are approximately 250,000 residents living in 21 food deserts located in 14 different South Carolina counties. This means that almost 57% of the population lives in communities where there is low access to a supermarket or large grocery store. (See http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-desert-locator/go-to-the-locator.)

Lack of access to fresh, healthy produce contributes to South Carolina’s ranking as 46th for overall public health. Yet, the problem goes beyond health; poor communities are often cut off from the economic development opportunities that arise when a local grocery store exists.

“...HEALTHY, VIBRANT communities require more than just housing; they require infrastructure and services to meet the needs of the community. Therefore, we expanded our mission to include HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING. In 2011, we received a $500,000 award from the Healthy Food Financing Initiative to help increase food access to underserved communities across South Carolina. Today, we help finance the construction and rehabilitation of grocery stores, food hubs, and corner stores that serve low to moderate income neighborhoods. We also advocate for the creation of a statewide SC HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE that would bring together stakeholders and community leaders to address food deserts and food insecurities across our state. We believe that together, we can provide access to HEALTHY, AFFORDABLE, AND SUSTAINABLE FOODS FOR ALL SOUTH CAROLINIANS”

– Lowcountry Housing Trust
South Carolinians in food deserts spent $310,900,000 on groceries outside of their local community; this is known as grocery retail leakage. These markets can support 529,000 square feet of grocery retail that directly translates into jobs, transportation cost savings, citizen engagement, economic development, an increased tax base and, most importantly, improved access to healthy food.

South Carolina needs to bring together key stakeholders to address the issue of both rural and urban food deserts in our state. Today’s workshop is the first step in that direction.

“Update on Current SCDA Initiatives with Grocery Stores”
- Sonny Dickinson, SCDA

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) is focused on assisting farmers with identifying and securing markets for South Carolina agricultural products. One way that has been done is through the Certified SC branding campaign which helps retailers and consumers to identify when South Carolina products are being purchased or consumed. This is something that consumers consistently demand and want to be aware of: opportunities to buy and support local.

The Certified SC campaign was launched in 2006 by the SCDA. Grocery stores, restaurants, farmers, food distributors, schools, roadside markets, farmers markets and a variety of other venues have been using this brand to help identify South Carolina products so that consumers can make informed choices.
Through this campaign the SCDA has been able to develop relationships with all of the grocery store chains in South Carolina and better understand their goals, as well as ask for their support in our Certified SC campaign. The grocery stores have been responsive.

Now that there is more information about food deserts in South Carolina and about the tight profit margins on which most grocery stores operate annually, we know that conflicts exist. But there is economic opportunity if the issue is addressed correctly. Today’s presentation by Jeff Brown serves as a great inspiration to what we might be able to achieve in South Carolina. The SCDA is ready to assist in having conversations with grocery stores, not only to explore the economic development opportunity that exists in food deserts, but also to provide new markets for Certified SC produce while increasing access to fresh produce for all South Carolinians.

What Services Are Currently Available to Address Food Insecurity in SC?
Panel Discussion
Phyllis Allen, SC Dept. of Health & Environmental Control

WIC is a Special Supplemental Food Program established by Congress in 1972, and federally funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to assist states in safeguarding the health and nutritional well-being of our low income women, infants, and children during critical growth periods. The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has been designated to administer the WIC program in South Carolina. The mission of the Division of WIC Services at DHEC is to provide leadership to assure the health and well-being of women, infants and children.

During summer months, select public health departments participate in the WIC Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program, which operates through a partnership between DHEC and the SCDA. WIC participants are encouraged to add more fresh fruits and vegetables to their diets, especially during summer months when fresh, South Carolina produce is plentiful.

Approved Fruits and Vegetables

Farmers Market checks may be used to purchase only South Carolina grown, unprocessed fruits, vegetables and herbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fresh Vegetables</th>
<th>Fresh Fruits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>Apples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beets</td>
<td>Blackberries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broccoli</td>
<td>Blueberries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage</td>
<td>Cantaloupes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrots</td>
<td>Casaba Melons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cauliflower</td>
<td>Figs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Cabbage</td>
<td>Honeydew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collard Greens</td>
<td>Melons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>Kiwi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cucumbers</td>
<td>Nectarines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking Herbs</td>
<td>Peaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pears</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kale</th>
<th>Rhubarb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kohlrabi</td>
<td>Rutabagas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lettuce</td>
<td>Spinach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mustard Greens</td>
<td>Squash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okra</td>
<td>Swiss Chard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onions</td>
<td>Tender Greens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peas</td>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peppers</td>
<td>Turnips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pumpkins</td>
<td>Watercress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radishes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Check with your DHEC regional office to find participating farmers markets and produce stands participating in WIC. (See Regional Office map.)

**Region 1** (Abbeville, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, and Saluda Counties)
**Region 2** (Cherokee, Greenville, Pickens, Spartanburg, and Union Counties)
**Region 3** (Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Lexington, Newberry, Richland and York Counties)
**Region 4** (Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Kershaw, Lee, Marion, Marlboro and Sumter Counties)
**Region 5** (Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, and Orangeburg Counties)
**Region 6** (Georgetown, Horry, and Williamsburg Counties)
**Region 7** (Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties)
**Region 8** (Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties)

Another important function of SC DHEC is to provide and encourage vendor support and acceptance of WIC vouchers. The Vendor Support Unit’s activities are designed to ensure the WIC Program goals are met. This is accomplished by ensuring that the established procedures for redeeming WIC food instruments are met by the more than 700 approved vendors, including grocery stores and pharmacies, as well as program participants.

The program provides specific nutritious foods in quantities tailored to meet the needs of the participant. Participants obtain the foods by use of WIC Food Instruments (Checks and Cash Value Vouchers) in grocery stores and pharmacies that are approved to accept WIC Food Instruments.

The grocery stores and pharmacies that agree to participate in the program are called WIC Vendors. WIC Vendors play an important role in helping to improve the health of South Carolinians. If WIC Check redemption transactions occur according to procedures, participants are best able to realize the full benefit from the program.

The State WIC Office authorizes only a sufficient number and distribution of vendors to assure reasonable participant convenience and access, and to permit effective management of the program. The SC WIC Program through its vendor selection process is committed to providing adequate service to participants at the lowest possible cost.

For more information on these programs and other services provided by DHEC, please visit: [http://www.dhec.sc.gov/healthy-living](http://www.dhec.sc.gov/healthy-living).
The South Carolina Department of Social Services provides a wide variety of services related to helping south Carolinians who are food insecure. Here is a summary of many of those services that are currently available:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</td>
<td>The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, serves as the foundation of America’s national nutrition safety net, working to end hunger and improve the health of low-income people by helping families buy the food they need for a nutritionally adequate diet. These benefits can be redeemed at grocery stores, convenience stores and even participating farmers markets and produce stands. These benefits are provided through Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP)</td>
<td>ESAP is designed to simplify the SNAP benefit application process for elderly households.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Food Service Program</td>
<td>The Summer Food Service Program was created to ensure that children in low-income areas could continue to receive nutritious meals during long school vacations, when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast. Sponsors feed children at meal service sites that may be located in a variety of settings, including schools, recreation centers, playgrounds, parks, churches, community centers, day camps, residential summer camps, housing projects, and migrant centers, or on Indian reservations. A sponsor may prepare its own meals, purchase meals through an agreement with an area school, or contract for meals with a food service management company (vendor).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After School Snack Program</td>
<td>The After School Snack Program provides reimbursement to after school care organizations to ensure that each child participating in their program receives a healthy, nutritious snack. After school care providers must offer regularly scheduled educational or enrichment activities in a supervised environment in addition to creditable meal items for snack.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)</td>
<td>The CSFP program works to improve the health of participants by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA commodity foods. This program is provided in a limited number of counties in South Carolina. DSS is an authorized state agency that receives commodity products from USDA. DSS then distributes the commodities to local community organizations. Program participants receive a monthly food package and are provided nutrition education. Food packages include a variety of foods, such as infant formula and cereal, non-fat dry and evaporated milk, juice, farina, oats, ready-to-eat cereal, rice pasta, egg mix, peanut butter, dry beans or peas, canned meat or poultry or tuna, and canned fruits and vegetables. Local agencies also provide referrals to other welfare, nutrition, and health care programs such as SNAP benefits, Medicaid, and Medicare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emergency Shelters Food Program</strong></td>
<td>The Emergency Shelter Program (ESP) provides reimbursement to emergency and homeless shelters to ensure that each child participating in their program receives healthy, nutritious meals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Emergency Food Assistance Program</strong></td>
<td>ETEFAP helps to supplement the diets of low-income Americans, including elderly people, by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost. USDA makes commodity foods available to State Distributing Agencies. The amount of food that each state receives out of the total amount of food that is provided to local agencies usually food banks, which in turn, distribute the food to local organizations such as soup kitchens and food pantries that directly serve the public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program</strong></td>
<td>The SFMNP provides fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs from farmers’ markets, roadside stands and community supported agriculture programs to low-income seniors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child and Adult Care Food Program</strong></td>
<td>The Child and Adult Care Food Program is a federally funded program that gives meal reimbursements to child care centers and adult day care centers for service nutritious meals.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about these programs and other services offered by DSS, please visit: [http://www.dss.sc.gov](http://www.dss.sc.gov).
The mission of United Way of the Midlands is simple: To unite people and resources to improve the quality of life in the Midlands. To accomplish that mission, the United Way of the Midlands (UWM) brings people and resources together to find new solutions to problems through the Community Impact model. The goal of Community Impact is to ensure community resources are targeted effectively to improve the quality of life in the six counties of the Midlands in the areas of education, income and health. UWM works to determine and respond to the critical human service needs of the community, and this work is achieved by a four-part process:

UWM works to determine and respond to the critical human service needs of the community, and this work is achieved by a four-part process:

1. Determining community needs
2. Prioritizing community needs
3. Developing community resources
4. Distributing community resources

Some of the specific initiatives that UWM support related to increasing access to healthy foods include:

1. **Food for Thought**: United Way of the Midlands (UWM) was awarded $35,000 in March 2012 by the Nord Family Foundation to pilot a school-based, community-linked approach to identifying, assessing, and meeting the needs of children who are experiencing food insecurity and hunger. The Food for Thought (FFT) project is a partnership with the University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health and College of Social Work (USC), Harvest Hope Food Bank (HHFB) and Lexington County School District Two (LCSD2).

2. **Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)**: EFSP funds are generated by a FEMA federal grant to be used to supplement emergency food and shelter programs. UWM administers this federal grant in Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry and Richland counties. Funding for each county is determined by a formula based on poverty and unemployment information. Agencies that already operate emergency food and shelter programs are eligible for EFSP funds to provide food, shelter and client rent/mortgage/utility assistance.

3. **Grant Funding & Initiatives**: UWM competitively funds programs meeting the housing and basic needs of individuals and families with children. UWM funds Harvest Hope Food Bank to operate 17 Kids Café and Backpack sites in the Central Midlands. UWM also promotes healthy eating through promotion of the ‘Choose My Plate’ campaign with local elementary schools and childcare centers.
The Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program – EFNEP
– Kristen Welch, Clemson University

The expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program is administered through Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service. The program provides children, youth and families with instruction in basic nutrition and food-related topics. For example, the adult instructional program includes instruction in how to make good choices based on nutritional quality of meals, understanding the MyPlate program offered by the USDA and Dietary Guidelines for Americans. These lessons are taught through a hands-on, learn-by-doing approach that allows the participant to the practical skills necessary to make positive behavioral changes in the areas of nutrition, food safety, food resource management and physical activity. EFNEP also provides instruction for children and youth through programs such as Color Me Healthy, Jump Into Food and Fitness and EatFit.

The EFNEP program has existed for 43 years in South Carolina, and is currently offered in 17 counties including: Aiken, Beaufort, Berkeley, Chester, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Horry, Lancaster, Marion, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Sumter, Union and Williamsburg. For more information about EFNEP, please visit: www.clemson.edu/efnep

Food Banks
– Anna Hamilton, Lowcountry Food Bank

Four food banks serve South Carolina: Golden Harvest, Harvest Hope Food Bank, Lowcountry Food Bank and Second Harvest of Metrolina Food Bank. These food banks offer services by soliciting and procuring food from sources such as food distributors, farmers, private citizens, and grocery stores and redistributing it to people who are facing food insecurity.

In particular, the Lowcountry Food Bank focuses on the ten coastal counties. Working with over 300 partner agencies, the Lowcountry Food Bank distributes over 19 million pounds of food per year through agency distribution, child hunger programs, and senior feeding programs. The Lowcountry Food Bank also provides SNAP outreach through the Benefit Bank and nutrition education through its Cooking Matters program.
Funding Opportunities through USDA  
– Shannon LeGree

USDA Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and the quality of life in rural America. The South Carolina Office of Rural Development is committed to achieving this goal by working closely with profit and non-profit sectors, as well as governments to create positive partnerships. The Rural Development Office is set up to provide financial assistance through a variety of mechanisms such as grant and loan programs to assist in providing essential public facilities and services such as water and sewer systems, housing, health clinics, emergency services, electric and telephone services. The Rural Development Office also assists with economic development by providing loan assistance through banks, credit unions and community-managed lending pools.

In addition, the Rural Development Office provides technical assistance and information for agricultural producers and cooperatives, as well as technical assistance to community projects undertaking community empowerment programs.

The USDA Rural Development Office is in line to administer $20 billion in this fiscal year through loans, loan guarantees and grants through its program. For more information on the specific loan and grant programs, as well as technical assistance that may be available in the South Carolina USDA Rural Development Office, please visit: www.rurdev.usda.gov/SC_Home One other helpful resource is the Federal Resources for Sustainable Rural Communities, which can be accessed at: www.sustainablecommunities.gov.
What Community Initiatives Are Already Underway in SC?
Panel Discussion

ALLENDALE COUNTY ALIVE
– Wilbur Cave, Executive Director

Allendale County Alive is an initiative that seeks to better its community by focusing on a few core areas including: encouraging and educating effective leaders in the county; increasing access to healthcare and providing healthcare education; providing education and training for untrained workforce; developing infrastructure throughout the county, and revitalizing business within the county.

One of the needs that has been identified in Allendale County is increased access to fresh produce. Allendale Alive worked diligently to bring in and establish a grocery store to meet this need, but unfortunately the store was not profitable and as a result had to close. Allendale County now understands the need to develop a business plan to make sure its next grocery store is profitable, in addition to focusing on building community support for the store. Simply having the grocery store is not the answer.

Despite, the challenges of the previous grocery store, Allendale Alive is working diligently to find ways to increase fresh food access to areas of Allendale County that have limited or minimal access to fresh produce.

LOWCOUNTRY PRODUCE MARKET & CAFÉ IN BEAUFORT
– Campbell Thorpe

The Lowcountry Produce Market & Café is a wonderful example of how listening to the needs of a local community and combining local funding with other sources committed to addressing food deserts can be a success story.

The story started with a local family that wanted to expand its growing farmstand business. Lowcountry Produce is an authentic Southern artisan company that believes in small-batch, hand-packed products. We support our local farmers, and we make each product at the time when ingredients are at their peak. The recipes represent the best food traditions of the lowcountry.

Neighborhood groups in Beaufort shared that there was a need for some type of grocery/market in the city core. By combining the two goals of expanding local business and providing greater access to fresh produce in a food desert area, they have developed a true neighborhood market which offers something for everyone, including local produce, dairy, meat, seafood and other food items.

Currently, Lowcountry Produce Market & Café is located in Beaufort’s old city hall, where it offers fruits and vegetables, as well as baked goods and other specialty food products that they have developed through family recipes. Prior to opening Lowcountry Produce Market & Cafe, downtown Beaufort was a Food Desert.

Lowcountry Produce has been a success story because of its ability to secure funding and a great location to open a vibrant produce market and café in downtown Beaufort. Most importantly, the business was committed to making a difference in its local community. For more information about this success story, please visit: http://www.lowcountryproduce.com.
CATAWBA REGIONAL LOCAL FOOD COALITION  
– Ben Boyles, Clemson University

The Catawba Regional Local Food Coalition seeks to advance and sustain food and farming in which agricultural productivity, environmental stewardship and profitability reinforce each other for the benefit of the entire region. Core strategies of the Coalition are: 1.) Providing Sustainable Agriculture Education; 2.) Providing Agribusiness Development & Diversification; 3.) Assisting in forming Strategic Partnerships & Planning; 4.) Developing New Local Food System Marketing Channels, and 5.) Agritourism Development & Promotion.

In August, 2012, the Coalition hosted its first local food summit. In addition, the Coalition has launched its “Catawba Grown” online community, which is a network of agricultural organizations and agencies, farmers and ranchers, community non-profits, businesses, and individuals coming together on issues regarding local agriculture and food production. This Coalition serves Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union and York counties. For more information please contact Ben Boyles or visit: http://www.catawbagrown.com.

COLLETON COUNTY MUSEUM & FARMERS MARKET  
– Marilyn Peters, Farmers Market Manager

The mission of the Farmers Market is to provide a thriving public market for local small farmers and "craft" vendors, increasing their productivity, sustainability, and profitability; to give residents and visitors access to locally-grown fruits, vegetables, flowers, and plants; and to encourage a healthy lifestyle and healthy eating for all.

The Colleton County Museum and Farmers Market is a multi-purpose facility that provides retail opportunities for local farmers; a meeting room available for functions, parties, and local business training; and a dynamic museum celebrating the arts, culture, and history of this Lowcountry community.

In addition, Colleton County recently piloted a Mobile Farmers Market that provided access to healthy, locally-grown foods to four identified food deserts/subsidized housing communities. Response and participation in this pilot program has been very good. SNAP benefits are also accepted at both the Museum Market and at the Mobile Market. In addition, the Museum Market has been able to provide dollar-for-dollar incentives for all SNAP transactions up to $8.

Currently, the group is in the process of conducting a Kitchen Incubator Needs Assessment in Colleton and working towards revitalizing a building in downtown Walterboro. A kitchen incubator is a place where farmers, caterers, gourmet food producers, and others interested in the production of food items have access to a facility to prepare food products at a reduced cost. The facility is rented at an affordable rate and provides a licensed and fully equipped kitchen that will provide the equipment necessary for interested parties to prepare, package, store, and label their products. Further, the facility will provide business services, training (financial, marketing, product development), and mentoring services to give the food entrepreneur every opportunity for success in their venture. Results from the survey will allow planners to assess the level of interest in using the kitchen incubator in Colleton and to determine specific needs in local food processing.

To learn more about the Colleton County Farmers Market and the ongoing assessment for a Kitchen Incubator in Colleton County, please visit: http://www.colletoncounty.org/department-a-services/museum.
Gardening for Good is part of the Greenville Forward initiative, which is focused on making Greenville County one of the most livable places in the country by 2025! Community gardening is a part of that vision, and Gardening for Good was started to support this goal by serving as a network and resource center for community gardens in Greenville County.

Gardening for Good is a network of local community gardens that utilizes the energy of the community garden movement to coordinate neighborhood redevelopment efforts, improve the health of residents and neighborhoods, and transform Greenville through gardening.

Gardening for Good is coordinating gardening partnerships throughout Greenville County to create a healthier, more sustainable and socially just local food system. To learn about the plentiful community garden activities and resources in the Upstate, please visit: www.ggardeningsforgood.com. To learn about other community gardening initiatives in Greenville, please contact Scott Park with the City of Greenville.

**METANOIA – URBAN GROCERY STORE IN NORTH CHARLESTON**

*– Bill Stanfield, Executive Director*

Metanoia is a non-profit in North Charleston that is focused on economic development projects that create opportunities for local residents to build and sustain their income. For the past few years, Metanoia has hosted annual town hall meetings and every year the lack of a supermarket has been the top issue identified by people in this community.

Based on research, two types of grocery stores doing well in today’s economy are high-end organic markets — like Earth Fare and Whole Foods — and small-scale bargain stores like Save-A-Lot and Aldi’s.

Based on this research and the on-going need expressed by the community, Metanoia reached out to City Councilman, Michael Brown, and Save-A-Lot executives to see if they would be interested opening a store in North Charleston.
As a result of that initial appointment between community members and Save-A-Lot executives, in 2010 Save-A-Lot grocery store opened at the corner of Rivers and Durant Avenues in North Charleston. The store is smaller and selection is not as diverse as larger chains, but the prices on produce are competitive and sometimes cheaper than other grocery stores in Charleston.

This is a great example of how Metanoia has furthered its goals of economic development involvement projects answering the needs of the community by providing greater access to healthy foods, but of also creating opportunities for local residents to build and sustain their income. For more information about Metanoia, please visit: http://www.pushingforward.org.

**FOOD HUB IN SPARTANBURG**  
— Curt McPhail, Mary Black Foundation & Ana Parra, Hub City Farmers Market

Currently, Hub City Farmers Market operates regular, community-based farmers’ markets in a few locations around Spartanburg. A few years ago, they also introduced a mobile market to help increase accessibility to fresh fruits and vegetables in areas of Spartanburg that might not otherwise have easy access to these items. Hub City Farmers’ Market has tremendous support from the communities and various partners, such as the Mary Black Foundation.

The Mary Black Foundation has been a wonderful supporter of Hub City Farmers Market and related projects, as it is a foundation that supports improvements to the health and wellness of the people and communities of Spartanburg County, SC. The Mary Black Foundation defines health and wellness broadly – as complete physical, mental and social well-being. The Foundation is a grant-making organization that devotes the majority of its resources to efforts that address the underlying causes of poor health outcomes. For more information about the Foundation and the projects it supports, please visit: http://www.maryblackfoundation.org.

These partners are working together, along with the City of Spartanburg and the Spartanburg non-profit, the Butterfly Foundation, on supporting the creation of and implementation of a Food Hub in Spartanburg. The Food Hub will include an Urban Farm, covered shed to hold HCFM’s Saturday Market and other community events, a retail space and café, and a classroom kitchen.

The Hub will be located in the Northside of the City of Spartanburg. The Hub’s location in the Northside community will help to spur community regeneration by providing a comfortable and inviting location for residents to gather, eat, work, learn, and hold events.

The creation of the Hub was made possible when the partners received a Healthy Food Financing Grant from Health and Human Services and by funding commitments from the City of Spartanburg and the Mary Black Foundation.
Focus Group Discussions

1. Planning: Community Organizing to Address Food Deserts in Your Neighborhood
   Facilitators – Bill Stanfield & Wilbur Cave

The most fundamental aspect of addressing food deserts is garnering community support. Experience has shown the issue is not lack of support but rather ignorance of the issue in the surrounding communities. A combination of money and key people solve this problem through inspiring the community. When people in the community realize a need, an outpouring of support can be felt. Already, the local media (Beaufort Gazette) has begun to make inquiries into the current situation; not previously having fully realized the magnitude of what lies ahead.

The focus group realized it will take a full gamut of community leaders getting on board to get this initiative in full swing, and brainstormed key components to making this a reality:

- Raising awareness on both a local community and statewide level.
  - Funding and support is needed at both levels to make sufficient progress

- Building stronger economies inside the local communities where food deserts exist.
  - Farmers and grocery stores alike will want to see economic promise and sustainability before they invest.

- Need for proper economic research to present.
  - This can lead to the city tracking on its own and leads to greater progress in the future as continual progress is sought.

- Getting the city planners on board.
  - Present the information in their language through graphical representation, time frame and task goals.

- Identifying the skill sets of the different grocery stores.
  - Likely only the right store will have the resources to thrive in the local community’s distinct environment.

In summary, communities can begin to address food deserts by:
1) Bringing awareness to the issue;
2) Building relationships; and
3) Identifying proper skill sets to start the project.
2. Financing: Financial Resources Available to Address Food Deserts in SC  
*Facilitator – Patrick King*

Access to fresh and healthy food starts on the farm, but when there are no local produce farms or outlets, a food desert is the likely result. Start-up/small farmers can be a big part of the solution to address food deserts. Financing institutions loyal to the cause have helped to identify and share what, who from, and how these farmers can get funding.

The first thing for farmers to think about is where they are going to find funding with the resources available. There are a number of federal grants and financial institutions that work with the USDA for which farmers can qualify. On a smaller scale the State of SC offers financial incentives to start up farmers as well. Our main focus, however, is how community organizations like Lowcountry Housing Trust (“LHT”) are a must for supporting start up farmers to really get them going.

While government resources are available to local farmers, much of the time this will not be enough for farmers to pursue the agricultural needs of our growing communities. LHT provided us with a brief overview to dispel some of the worries and fears of farmers looking for financing.

**Financing Farming and Grocers with LHT- The Do’s & Don’ts:**
- LHT lends to both for profit and non-profit organizations with no preference in either direction.
  - Sustainability levels are different, but comparable.

- LHT does not do in-depth credit scores, but does require a decent amount of credit in general.
  - Those with extenuating circumstances are still likely to qualify for loans.

- LHT looks for sound business plans as their qualifying criteria.

- LHT requires collateral on their loans.
  - Allow the inclusion of machinery with property to meet terms.

- The application fee is $400 and can grant farmers up to $500,000 to fund their farming needs.

- Applicants must be serving low to moderate income areas.
  - LHT is geared toward serving the community and invests their resources likewise.
  - LHT currently operates under the 2000 census numbers.

- Applicants need to be hiring from the local community.

**In summary, financing challenges for farms/fresh food distributors can be addressed by:**
1) Providing loans and also grants;
2) Providing resources for working capital for organizations working on the issue; and
3) Providing technical assistance to entrepreneurs, food producers, or retailers who are applying for funding.
3. Operating: Barriers and Opportunities to Operating Retail Outlets in Food Deserts

Facilitator – Dwayne Wharton

Operating a grocery store profitably inside a food desert is no easy task, because it requires the combined efforts of many to make it a success. A patient grocer with a strong commitment is needed to see the process through. If operated properly, a grocer can see success where others have failed. This focus group took the approach of using The Food Trust as an example to examine what was done right and what should be emulated in South Carolina.

First, it is important for the grocer to get key legislators on their side. These people can help bring key community business leaders together to address the food desert situation. This, in turn, brings the conversation to the grocers to figure out why they have not located stores in the area or why they have moved out.

Getting grocers to understand the issue is the most beneficial conversation your community can have, as they clearly will have identified your specific problem areas. Grocers will cite an array of problems, most of which are concerns that have realizable solutions which can, if carefully implemented, be put to rest:

1. Most commonly, grocers cited issues of the population being too small or too low income for a grocery store to be a profitable venture.
   a. Grocery stores frequently lack profitability when only looking at the trade market of the surrounding area. However, the grocery store would provide service to a much more wide reaching area due to a community’s food desert status. The larger service area must be considered.
   b. The low income status of the area is greatly solved by this increased geographic market area. The grocery store just needs to implement a strategy which addresses profitability.
2. The area just can’t support a full service market.
   a. Maybe so, but this doesn’t mean a food desert should be the result. Innovative businessmen and great grocers are the ones who understand the market and fully utilize its capabilities. Smaller scale grocery stores have long flourished and become a hometown staple of their community.
3. Another grocer is fighting to keep them out.
   a. This is a non-issue really. The grocer keeping you out doesn’t provide the fresh food your system will thrive upon. A grocer need not worry that consumer loyalty will hold true where only one store provides what they desire. “The dehydrated man in the desert isn’t buying sand from his brother if you’re selling water”; loyalty only goes so far.
4. Need for community/government support to survive.
   a. Community support is a valid concern from any grocer, but does not justify staying out of a market. Community support in food deserts has generally come over a relatively short period of time.
   b. Grocers have the ability to go into the community and make these connections with the locals. As long as they have paced themselves appropriately and not presented themselves as a conglomerate, community support should not be an issue.
c. Implementing your program by involving other local business creates a more efficient system while concurrently bolstering the community’s faith in your cause. Example: Local business does trucking, refrigeration, or provides a significant portion of the goods to be sold.
d. Contracting with local hospitals and nursing homes where possible to provide their needs has proven successful.
e. Governmental support is not always as hard to find as some grocers think. As an example, some cities have provided boxes and running water for the grocery store at no cost. Getting Public Health Officials involved can be a big support. This likely won’t be hard as they have an interested goal of getting fresh food with their community.

5. How can I serve a community which lacks the transportation to reach my store?
   a. This is a serious problem which requires careful planning and sometimes legislative action to rectify.
   b. Strategic location of the store becomes a key element here. The most heavily traveled areas of the community are the best places to set up shop.
   c. Getting local legislators involved at an early phase is fundamental to solve this problem.
      i. Getting a formal set of policy recommendations to local legislators with well thought out pros and cons to quell their fears is important. If they’re going to go to bat for you, they need to be well armed.
      ii. Encourage legislators to increase the SNAP enrollment to your store under the argument that it will bolster the economy by having a community with greater buying power.
      iii. Providing special tax breaks for grocery stores entering these areas.
      iv. When the city sees the issue up close and personal they make it a priority.
      Things happen fast when the government gets involved.

In summary, barriers often associated with bringing retail food outlets to food deserts can be addressed by:
1) Getting community support;
2) Engaging grocery stores in the conversation; and
3) Creating incentives, such as grant and loan programs.
4. Advocating: A Public Policy Initiative to Address Food Deserts in South Carolina  
*Facilitator – Brian Lang*

The purpose of this focus group was to discuss how to get the government to implement the eradication of a food desert and to help with financial support for the solution. The immense importance of government involvement should come as no surprise, and it was a key component of all three previous focus groups. Garnering governmental support can only happen if the right players in legislation are approached correctly. The Food Trust developed crucial points and strategies for getting legislators on board:

1) Advocate with “Our Common Purpose”
   a. Finding middle ground will help create a mutually beneficial relationship.
      i. Childhood Obesity
         1. Legislators want to take action to address this issue; increasing access to healthy foods will help them do it.
      ii. Healthy Food Access
         1. It is unlikely that a legislator is going to take a stance against this, and those that specifically serve constituents in a food desert are likely to have this be of the utmost importance on their agenda.
   iii. Policy Development
      1. Legislators want/need input from the community to adequately serve/represent them. Most will what to be in the forefront of your cause when it is a good one.

2) Present Facts, Not Opinions
   a. Legislators are not likely to easily buy into your cause where you have not done the proper research to show a genuine need for change. When you can show statistical analyses and community feedback it goes a long way in keeping them interested. Facts should show:
      i. Statistical representation of just how large a percentage of the community is currently without healthy food.
      ii. Numbers and figures as to why access is limited.
         1. Percentage lacking transportation access
   b. While presenting in this format it is important to keep the data presentation at a point that does not overwhelm your viewership and use only the most persuasive arguments.
   c. Presenting data also works well with supermarket operators to get them to enter your market area.
      i. Show the disparity of supermarkets in low income areas and the general need/success story numbers.
3) Use of Maps and Geographical Interpretations
   a. Legislators are very particular about these type of representations as they can show where their area falls on the map and it is important to keep that in mind when deciding whether or not to use a map.
   b. Geographical representation gets confusing fast. Keep the information simple to Interpret.
   c. The past use of the graphs that show increases over time have been useful.
4) Get the Small Store Subsidiaries as Opposed to the Big Ones
   a. Big money contributors wield greater influence, but it is the small town shops that can really help you press a legislator to make changes in the law.
      i. Smaller grocery stores have a more realizable interest in your success, since they are more than likely going to be the solution to your food desert.
      ii. Smaller grocery stores also seem to do a better job of keeping their concerns overlapping with the community they serve.
5) Presentation Format and Numbers
   a. Engaging legislators in a series of meetings is more effective than going in with an all or nothing approach.
   b. Come to meetings prepared to present clear identification of the surrounding problems and a well formulated list of recommendations to address them.
   c. Legislators are also going to be concerned with who your backers are. In reaching your list of recommendations include people who matter in the local community to help bring name recognition to your cause.

   **In summary, advocating for your cause & garnering support requires:**
   1) Good research and data collection;
   2) Good collaboration with community and business partners; and
   3) The need to think outside the box.
General Recommendations for Addressing Food Deserts in SC

#1. Form a Food Desert Task Force
Create a Statewide Food Desert Task Force, which could be housed under the umbrella of the SC Food Policy Council
1) The task force will meet on a regular basis to address and support implementation of programs and policies designed to increase fresh food access and economic development in both rural and urban Food Deserts; and
2) The Task Force could provide oversight and guidance for partners and interested citizens.

#2. Engage stakeholders:
1) Increase awareness of and identify locations of Food Deserts in South Carolina;
2) Build relationships with partners interested in or with the resources to eliminate Food Deserts in SC; and
3) Identify and engage people with the proper skill sets to start and implement a solution in those respective communities.

#3. Increase financial resources to local farmers and businesses:
1) Increase access to loans and also grants;
2) Increase resources for working capital for organizations working on the issue; and
3) Provide opportunities for technical assistance in applying for funding.

#4. Operating barriers for retail food vendors:
1) Gain community support (bringing people together to identify and listen to community needs);
2) Get grocery stores engaged; and
3) Create incentives, such as grant and loan programs.

#5. Public policy initiatives to address food deserts:
1) Create local research and data establishing need and potential models for solutions;
2) Collaborate among private business, government, and community members; and
3) Think outside the box regarding community specific solutions.
Growing Food & Opportunities in SC: Economic & Community Development through Healthy Food Access Workshop Agenda

Tuesday, September 25, 2012
Phillips Market Center - SC State Farmers Market
3483 Charleston Hwy, West Columbia, SC

8:30 am Workshop Registration/ Networking

8:55 am Workshop Overview
SC Food Policy Council & Lowcountry Housing Trust

9:00 am Welcome
Commissioner Hugh Weathers, SC Dept. of Agriculture

9:10 am Keynote Speaker
Jeff Brown, CEO of Brown’s Super Stores, Inc. and Founder of Uplift Solutions

10:00 am Presentation: “What is a Food Desert and Where are they in SC?”
Michelle Mapp, Lowcountry Housing Trust
Presentation: “Food Desert Opportunities & Update on Current Initiatives”
Sonny Dickinson, SC Dept. of Agriculture

10:25 am Break

10:40 am Panel Discussion: What Services Are Currently Available to Address Food Insecurity in SC?
Moderator Nikki Seibert, Food Policy Council Board Member

- Phyllis Allen, SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control
- Mary Abney Young, SC Dept. of Social Services
- Kristen Welch, Clemson’s Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program
- Jennifer Moore, United Way of the Midlands
- Anna Hamilton, Lowcountry Food Bank

11:45 am Presentation: Funding Opportunities through USDA
Debbie Turbeville, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development

12:10 pm Buffet Lunch -
Featuring Certified SC Grown Menu Items Prepared by The Spotted Salamander – Sustainable Catering

1:15 pm Panel Discussion: What Community Initiatives Are Already Underway in SC to Address Food Deserts?
Moderator Lisa Turansky, Food Policy Council Board Member
Allendale - Rural Grocery Store  
Wilbur Cave, Allendale County Alive

Beaufort - Urban Market & Café  
Lowcountry Produce Market & Café

Catawba - Incubator Farms  
Ben Boyles, Catawba Food Coalition

Colleton - Farmers Market  
Marilyn Peters, Colleton Museum & Farmers Market

Greenville - Urban Garden  
Scott Park, Greenville County Community Planning & Development

North Charleston - Urban Grocery Store  
Bill Stanfield, Metanoia

Spartanburg - Food Hub  
Curt McPhail, Mary Black Foundation and Ana Parra, Hub City Farmers Market

2:15 pm Break

2:30 pm Focus Groups  
Planning: Community Organizing to Address Food Deserts in Your Neighborhood  
Facilitators: Bill Stanfield, Metanoia & Wilbur Cave, Allendale Alive

Financing: Financial Resources Available to Address Food Deserts in SC  
Facilitator: Patrick King, Lowcountry Housing Trust

Operating: Barriers and Opportunities to Operating Retail Outlets in Food Deserts  
Facilitator: Dwayne Wharton, The Food Trust

Advocating: A Public Policy Initiative to Address Food Deserts in SC  
Facilitator: Brian Lang, The Food Trust

3:45 pm Wrap-Up & Next Steps  
Focus Groups Report and Discussion with Audience
### Food Desert Workshop 2012

#### Registrants

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization/Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Toni Able</td>
<td>Healthy Greenwood Neighborhoods, Inc.</td>
<td>Greenwood, SC</td>
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<td>Phyllis Allen</td>
<td>SC DHEC</td>
<td>Columbia, SC</td>
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<td>Sharon Alvarez</td>
<td>Sharon’s Garden</td>
<td>Chappells, SC</td>
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<td>Bryan Alavarez</td>
<td>Sharon’s Garden</td>
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<td>Najuma Austin</td>
<td>University of South Carolina</td>
<td>Columbia, SC</td>
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<td>Todd Bedenbaugh</td>
<td>SC Dept. of Education</td>
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<td>Mary Bell</td>
<td>Eat Smart, Move More</td>
<td>York County</td>
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<td>Elyse Benson</td>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>Greenwood, SC</td>
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<td>Ben Boyles</td>
<td>Catawba Food Coalition</td>
<td>York, SC</td>
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<td>Barbara A. Brown</td>
<td>CIECD Cooperative Extension</td>
<td>Clemson University Sumter, SC</td>
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<td>Jeff Brown</td>
<td>UpLift Solutions Inc.</td>
<td>Westville, NJ</td>
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<td>Betsy Cashen</td>
<td>Center for Health Services and Policy Research, USC</td>
<td>Columbia, SC</td>
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<td>Wilbur Cave</td>
<td>Allendale Alive</td>
<td>Allendale, SC</td>
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<td>Renee Chewning</td>
<td>Thorn Chase Farm</td>
<td>John’s Island, SC</td>
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<td>Diane Conte MSPH</td>
<td>Public Employee Benefit Authority</td>
<td>Columbia, SC</td>
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<td>Chanda L. Cooper</td>
<td>Richland Soil and Water Conservation</td>
<td>Columbia, SC</td>
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<td>Beth Crocker</td>
<td>SC Dept. of Agriculture</td>
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<td>Sydnee Daigle</td>
<td>Office of Health and Nutrition</td>
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<td>Chris Daly</td>
<td>Harvest Hope Food Bank</td>
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<td>Anna Hamilton</td>
<td>VP of Community Initiatives</td>
<td>Lowcountry Housing Trust Charleston, SC</td>
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<td>Felecia Henderson</td>
<td>ROAR Farms</td>
<td>Edgfield County, SC</td>
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<td>Yenory Hernandez-Garbanzo PhD</td>
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<td>Xavery Hopkins</td>
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<td>Megan Hutto</td>
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<td>Chery Johnson Benjamin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick King</td>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
<td>Lowcountry Housing Trust Charleston, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kavita Koppa</td>
<td>Lowcountry Local First</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Lang</td>
<td>The Food Trust</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janice May</td>
<td>Quality of Life Chairman</td>
<td>York, SC</td>
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<td>C. Suzette McClellan</td>
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<td>Larry McKenzie</td>
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<td>Rebecca McKinney</td>
<td>Sustainability Specialist</td>
<td>Greenville, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda L. McLaughlin, BSW</td>
<td>USC 2013 MSW Candidate</td>
<td>Spartanburg, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curt McPhail</td>
<td>Program Officer</td>
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<td>Jane S. Nelson</td>
<td>Pioneering Healthy Communities</td>
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<td>Jennifer Moore</td>
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<td>Lauren Neely</td>
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<td>Ryan Nevius</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashlee Newman</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Sumter, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda O’Neill</td>
<td>Social Worker</td>
<td>Lexington, SC</td>
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<td>Amy Overstreet</td>
<td>Public Affairs &amp; Outreach</td>
<td>Columbia, SC</td>
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<td>Nelsa Padin</td>
<td>Certified Parent Educator</td>
<td>Columbia, SC</td>
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<td>Scott Park</td>
<td>Principal Planner</td>
<td>Greenville County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ana Parra</td>
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<td>Rebecca Parrish</td>
<td>Community Mobilizing Coordinator</td>
<td>Columbia, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christine Patrick</td>
<td>Food Safety &amp; Nutrition Education</td>
<td>Bamberg, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marilyn Peters</td>
<td>Farmers Market Manager</td>
<td>Colleton County, SC</td>
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<td>Lori Phillips</td>
<td>Physical Activity Coordinator</td>
<td>Columbia, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tameka T. Phillips</td>
<td>A Community of Learners</td>
<td>Hartsville, SC</td>
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</table>
Tracy M. Priest MPH  
Executive Director  
Greenville Organic Foods Organization  
Greenville, SC

Max Sauvé  
SCDA  
Columbia, SC

Patricia Sharpe PhD  
Prevention Research Center  
Public Health- USC  
Columbia, SC

Mary Alice Spring  
Mobility Manager  
Lowcountry Reg. Transportation Auth.  
Bluffton, SC

Cindy Sweigart  
State Consultant for School Soc. Work  
SC DHEC  
Columbia, SC

Weatherly Thomas  
Farm to School Regional Coordinator  
SCDA  
Columbia, SC

Debbie Turbeville  
Agricultural Marketing Specialist  
USDA Rural Development  
Florence, SC

Darel Watts  
Owner, Sugarfoot Farms  
Conway, SC

Janette Wesley  
Chapter Leader, Slow Food Upstate  
Greenville, SC

Susan White  
Eat Smart Move More SC  
Columbia, SC

Sonya M. Younger MBA  
Comp Cancer Program Manager  
DHEC Cancer Prevention  
Columbia, SC

Donna Putney  
Market Administrator  
Upstate Locally Grown  
Greenville, SC

Anna Schneider  
Market Manager  
Upstate Locally Grown  
Greenville, SC

Wayne Shuler AICP  
Regional Planning Director  
Central Midlands COG  
Columbia, SC

Bill Stanfield  
CEO, Metanoia  
N. Charleston, SC

Coleman Tanner  
Community Coordinator  
Eat Smart Move More SC  
Columbia, SC

Katie Tillman  
Co-Owner  
Friends Farm and Catering

Debby Waid  
Program Director  
Lowcountry Housing Trust  
Charleston, SC

Hugh Weathers  
Commissioner of Agriculture  
Columbia, SC

Dwayne Wharton  
Director of External Affairs  
The Food Trust  
Philadelphia, PA

Evelyn Whitesides  
State Resource Conservation  
Columbia, SC

Alissa Ritzo Duncan, MCR  
Sustainability Planner  
Spartanburg County Planning & Dev.  
Spartanburg, SC

Nikki Seibert  
Director  
Lowcountry Local First  
Charleston, SC

Amy Splittgerber  
Eat Smart Move More SC  
Columbia, SC

Rick Stone  
Owner  
Beaufort Bread Co.  
Beaufort, SC

Amy Teixeira  
Research Associate, Center for Research  
in Nutrition/Health Disparities  
Columbia, SC

Lisa Turansky  
Coastal Conservation League  
Charleston, SC

Samantha Wallace  
Co-Founder & Publisher  
Edible Upcountry Magazine  
Greenville, SC

Kristen Welch  
Upstate Area Coordinator  
Clemson’s Expanded Food & Nutrition Programs  
Clemson, SC

Suzan Whelan  
Wellness Program Coordinator, MUSC  
Charleston, SC

Teresa Windsor  
Anderson Area Farm & Food Association  
Anderson, SC
Ensuring That Everyone Has Access To Affordable, Nutritious Food

The Food Trust, a nonprofit founded in Philadelphia in 1992, strives to make healthy food available to all. Research has shown that lack of access to healthy food has a profound impact on food choices and, therefore, a profound impact on health.

For almost 20 years, The Food Trust has worked with neighborhoods, schools, grocers, farmers and policymakers to develop a comprehensive approach to improving the health of America’s children. The Food Trusts innovative initiatives integrate nutrition education with increased availability of affordable, healthy foods.

This approach has been shown to reduce the incidence of childhood overweight; a study in the Journal Pediatrics found that the agency’s School Nutrition Policy Initiative resulted in a 50 percent reduction in the incidence of overweight among Philadelphia school children.

The Food Trust is recognized as a regional and national leader in the prevention of childhood obesity and other diet-related diseases for this and other notable initiatives to increase food access in underserved neighborhood, including the Healthy Corner Store Initiative and the Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative, a public/private partnership which has sparked the development of 88 fresh-food retail projects across Pennsylvania.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention honored the Fresh Food Financing Initiative in its Showcase of Innovative Policy and Environmental Strategies for Obesity Prevention and Control, and the program was named one of the Top 15 Innovations in American Government by Harvard University.

For more information or to order additional copies of this report, visit thefoodtrust.org or contact The Food Trust.

“The Food Trust is transforming the food landscape one community at a time, by helping families make healthy choices and providing access to the affordable and nutritious food we all deserve.”

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

1617 John F. Kennedy Blvd. ● One Penn Center, Suite 900
Philadelphia, PA 19103 ● contact@thefoodtrust.org
(215) 575-0444 ● Fax: (215) 575-0466