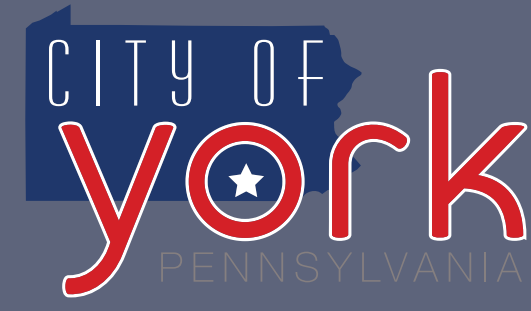


CHAPTER 5

ELIMINATING FOOD INSECURITY



Food insecurity is a serious and pervasive issue that affects many people in York; over 14% of households in York County are food insecure.

Obj. 1 - IMPROVING THE CHARITABLE FOOD NETWORK

A charitable food network is a collaborative system of organizations and partners addressing community food insecurity. Improvements to the city's charitable food network are vital to helping the system reach every citizen it needs.

YORK CITY CHARITABLE FOOD NETWORK



THE CHARITABLE FOOD GAP

York County needs **11.6 MILLION LBS OF FOOD** to feed **55,155** food-insecure residents.

The charitable food network distributes **7.6 MILLION LBS OF FOOD** resulting in a gap of **4 MILLION LBS OF FOOD** in York County, PA

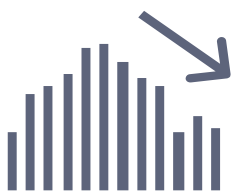
CAUSES OF FOOD INSECURITY



POVERTY



UNEMPLOYMENT



ECONOMIC SHOCKS

Obj. 2 - EXPANDING HEALTHY FOOD OPTIONS

Healthy foods are generally considered beneficial for overall health and well-being.

HEALTHY FOODS



WATER



FRUITS



DAIRY OR SUBSTITUTE



LEAN PROTEIN



HEALTHY FATS



VEGETABLES



NUTS AND SEEDS



HERBS AND SPICES



WHOLE GRAINS

ACCESSIBILITY FACTORS



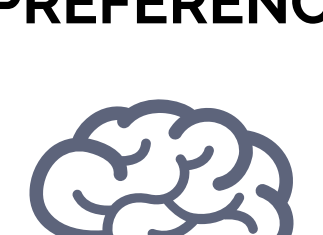
GEOGRAPHIC ACCESSIBILITY



ECONOMIC ACCESSIBILITY



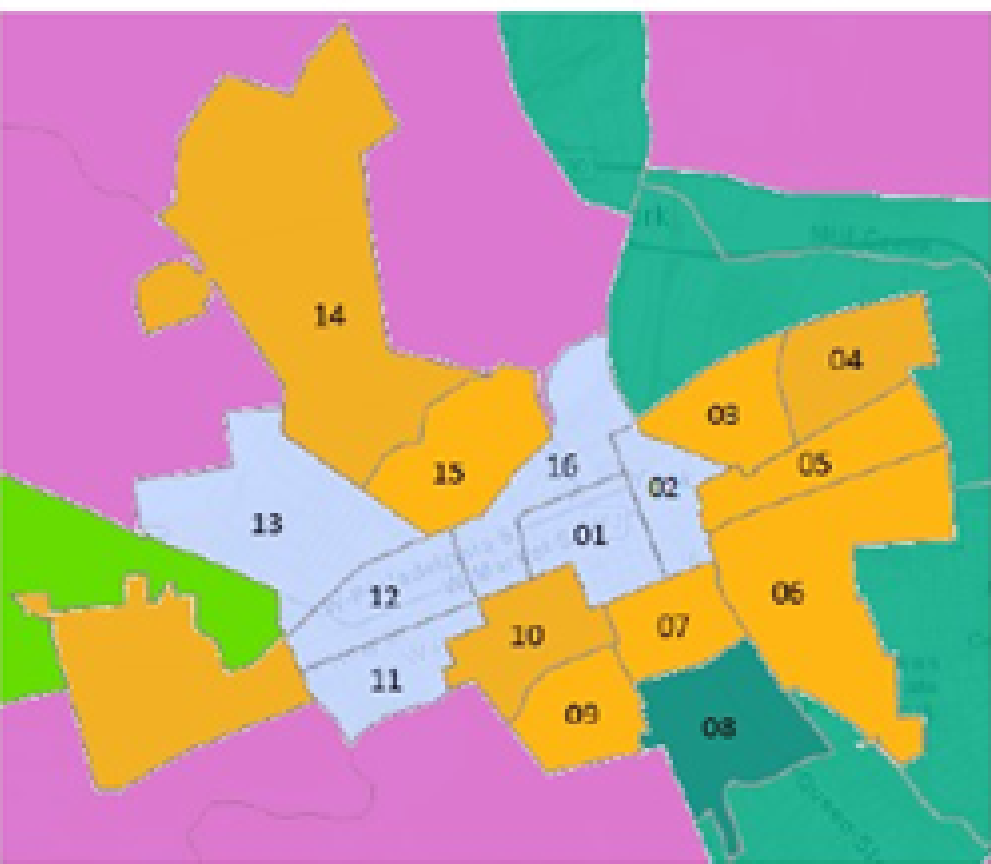
CULTURAL PREFERENCE



KNOWLEDGE

Obj. 3 - ELIMINATING FOOD DESERTS

- Low Income & Low Access to food within a 0.5 miles.
- Low Income Census Tracts
- Low access to food .5 miles to 10 miles.



WHAT IS A FOOD DESERT?

A lack of accessible, affordable, and nutritious food options in a geographic area.

There are numerous healthy food options and food assistance organizations within the City's Downtown, West, Southwest, and Avenues Planning Areas

However, most of the City, the Industrial Park, Fireside, South, Springdale, and East Planning Areas lack access to nutritious food.

Contributing Factors



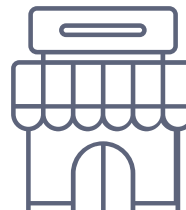
Economic Constraints



Lack of Awareness and Education



Lack of Transportation



Lack of Grocery Store

Community Impacts



Poor Health Outcomes



Mental Health Challenges




Learning Limitations

Obj. 1 - IMPROVING THE CHARITABLE FOOD NETWORK

The Vision


“Our vision is a streamlined, efficient food network that minimizes waste, offers variety, and serves the community through accessible hubs. By fostering partnerships with local farmers, educating residents about available resources, and extending volunteer staffing, we create a resilient network that consistently meets the needs of our community.”

The Solutions




Education & Persuasion

- Partner with York County Food Bank to implement a marketing campaign to increase awareness of the available food distribution options within the charitable food network. **Tier 1**
- Develop educational materials to promote healthy eating and insist that food sourcing focus on quality and nutritious foods. **Tier 1**
- Encourage all eligible households to apply for SNAP Benefits. **Tier 1**




Inducements & Incentives

- Encourage collaboration between food banks and pantries through networking events and partner resource sharing. **Tier 1**
- Create outreach campaigns to increase food donations, especially by local restaurants. **Tier 2**
- Target CDBG grants to food banks and pantries that purchase or source more nutritious foods. **Tier 2**
- Establish a city-wide matching grant program to assist in increasing the reach of donations made by individuals and organizations to the charitable food network. **Tier 3**




Services & Capacity-Building

- Work with local partners to create and expand a program for volunteers to be on-call or available to assist 24/7. **Tier 1**
- Work with YCFB to expand and improve their online food request services. **Tier 1**
- Conduct a study with Rabbittransit to ensure adequate public transit to food distribution locations and identify gaps. **Tier 2**
- Support the expansion of school meal programs to ensure all children in need have adequate access to food outside school hours. **Tier 2**



System Changes

- Promote using community partners' buses for transportation to and from food pantries and distribution centers. **Tier 2**
- Expand the use of community facilities (schools, fire halls, churches, etc) to host food distribution sites and pop-up food pantries. **Tier 2**
- Prioritize funding resources to make pantries accessible to all. **Tier 2**
- Increase the availability of culturally relevant foods with the city's Charitable Food Network. **Tier 2**



Laws & Mandates


- Facilitate and encourage alternate distribution models (mobile pantries, pop-up markets, and school pantries) to maximize efficiency as an alternative to brick-and-mortar sites, specifically in the city's Avenues, Fireside, and Devers neighborhoods. **Tier 2**
- Assist in implementing a county-wide communication strategy to share, redistribute, and rebalance food distribution. **Tier 2**
- Require providers to implement a recipe testing program when using the city's CDBG dollars. **Tier 2**
- Require providers to meet nutrition guidelines regarding types of food and portion control. **Tier 3**

Obj. 2 - EXPANDING HEALTHY FOOD OPTIONS

The Vision


In York City, we envision a community where every resident has equitable access to healthy food options. Our comprehensive plan aims to create a vibrant food ecosystem that promotes well-being, sustainability, and cultural awareness. We'll empower residents by ensuring they have the necessary equipment and knowledge to prepare nutritious meals at home. Additionally, we'll collaborate with local food producers to streamline the supply chain, expand healthy food offerings in corner stores and local delis, and reduce food waste. Our goal is to make healthy food accessible, affordable, and culturally sensitive for all residents.

The Solutions




Education & Persuasion

- Partner with local community members and organizations to establish free or low cost cooking classes at community centers. **Tier 1**
- Partner with schools in the city to promote field trips to local farms. **Tier 1**
- Host workshops dedicated to healthy eating and nutritional tips. **Tier 1**
- Create and run a media campaign focused on highlighting healthy food options hosted by the city or the mayors office. **Tier 1**




Inducements & Incentives

- Partner with local community agricultural organizations to promote the creation of home gardens and provide residents with the necessary educational materials to begin one. **Tier 1**
- Create and host a community day focused on health, healthy food options, and health as medicine. **Tier 3**
- Expand the staff and support for the Wellness Committee. **Tier 3**




Services & Capacity-Building

- Partner with local agricultural organizations to establish and host an edible gardening competition among residents. **Tier 1**
- Encourage employers within the city to provide incentives, such as reducing health care costs to employees who choose to eat healthy. **Tier 1**
- Provide financial incentives for city residents and businesses who join and actively participate in a composting program. **Tier 3**



Laws & Mandates

- Provide incentives such as tax write-offs for local agricultural producers to donate the surplus to local organizations fighting hunger. **Tier 3**
- Partner with local organizations and businesses to create an urban gardening group to help promote the development of gardens on public land, and provide necessary items to the public to encourage the creation of gardens on private properties within the city. **Tier 2**
- Partner with local health-care providers to help provide patients with reduced-cost food preparation equipment. **Tier 3**



System Changes

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CHAPTER 5

ELIMINATING FOOD INSECURITY









Obj. 3 - ELIMINATING FOOD DESERTS

The Vision

Our city aims to eliminate food deserts by ensuring equitable access to healthy food options. We'll strategically place affordable groceries along transit routes, reduce costs for healthier choices in corner stores, and promote urban gardens. Education about healthy eating and proactive efforts to attract grocers will create a vibrant, nourishing community.

The Solutions

 Education & Persuasion	 Inducements & Incentives	 Services & Capacity-Building	 System Changes	 Laws & Mandates	 Taxes, Fees, and Fines
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a program that helps educate local corner stores and deli owners about expanding their healthy food options and accepting SNAP. Tier 1• Create a family-friendly event program that visits local food stores and educates the public on healthier eating habits. Tier 1• Create educational material that helps the public expand their knowledge of healthy eating habits with all the City's options and identify beneficial eating resources and opportunities for healthy eating in York City. Tier 1• Create educational material such as a "How-to Manual" for developing and managing a community garden. Tier 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a program that would allow vendors at the farmers market to accept SNAP. Tier 1• Support Rabbittransit in an effort to better promote and continue to fund the free grocery bus. Tier 1• Encourage and provide the space for fresh food vendors to have a stand during the farmers market off hours. Tier 1• Provide tax rebates for grocery stores that want to open up within York city. Tier 2• Provide funding to establish community gardens. Tier 2• Provide funding for mobile food pantries. Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a task force within the city to mitigate food deserts within neighborhoods. Tier 1• Publish a request for proposals from non-profit providers to create a mobile food pantry program. Tier 1• Help facilitate a coalition of corner store owners who can purchase fresh food in bulk to help lower costs. Tier 1• Help connect local food vendors and producers with corner store owners to streamline the purchasing of fresh local products. Tier 1• Help facilitate the creation of an online reservation system for goods provided by the York Food Bank. Tier 2• Create "smart lockers" to allow residents to pick up goods provided by the foodbank during off-hours. Tier 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partner with local organizations and businesses to create an urban gardening group to help promote the development of gardens on public land, and provide necessary items to the public to encourage the creation of gardens on private properties within the city. Tier 2• Identify vacant land suitable for a community garden on the cities official map. Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove barriers to establishing Controlled Environment Agriculture and Urban Agriculture in the City's Zoning Ordinance. Tier 1• Remove barriers within the city's zoning ordinance that limit the development of neighborhood stores. Tier 2• Mandate that stores that accept SNAP provide or stock a certain amount of healthy food options. Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase business taxes to help subsidize the cost of establishing a grocery store within York City. Tier 3