

# FLINT LEVERAGE POINTS PROJECT

## FINAL REPORT



December 2023



# WHO WE ARE

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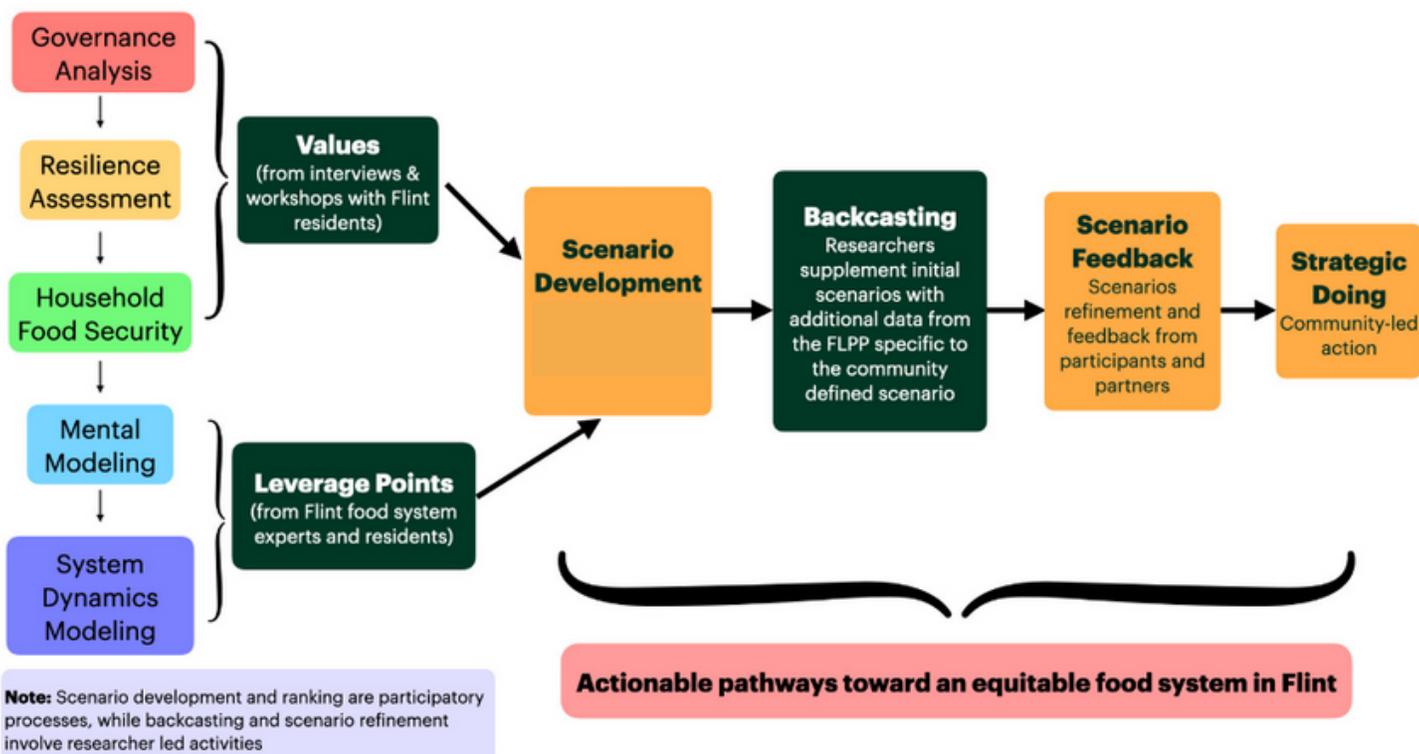
Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, Michigan State University, Community Foundation of Greater Flint, Michigan Fitness Foundation, American Heart Association

For more on the Flint Leverage Points Project, and project results

visit: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/flintfood>

# OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

The Flint Leverage Points Project began as a collaboration between community partners and researchers to find ways to change the food system in Flint so that it is more equitable, healthy, and sustainable. The Community Foundation of Greater Flint (CFGF) partnered with Michigan State University (MSU) to conduct this research. The project was advised by a Community Consultative Panel (CCP) comprised of representatives from the Flint community who work with food in Flint. We looked at the whole food system (including production, distribution, preparing, eating and food waste) in Flint to find improvements that could benefit Flint residents. We also identified strengths and opportunities within the food system that could be built upon. This report summarizes our analysis of how community partners and other stakeholders can intervene in the Flint food system to create positive change.



**Figure 1:** The research process involved identifying values for the Flint food system from the perspective of Flint residents (“where do we want to go?”); and leverage points for transforming the Flint food systems (“how do we get there?”). Both the values and leverage points informed scenarios of the future Flint food system. We used several systems methodologies to collect the data that went into the values and leverage points, included a governance analysis, a resilience assessment, household food security observations, mental modeling, and system dynamics. The process is continuing after the conclusion of the the research, with community-led action

# OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

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Beginning in 2018, community partners and researchers began collecting data about the history of the Flint food system, how that history led us to where we are today, and what residents hope to see in a future food system that ends food apartheid in Flint. This involved learning from community members about previous efforts with government and nonprofit leaders to coordinate food systems work, learning about food decision-making within households, and combining that with broader data about food, health, and economic outcomes for the city of Flint. Each phase of the work built on what we previously learned. From the first half of the research, we identified a set of values important to Flint residents. From the second half we identified a series of leverage points, or places we can intervene in the food system to create positive change. We then combined what we learned to create scenarios and pathways for change that incorporate the values and leverage points identified by community members and partners.

## WHAT IS SYSTEMS MODELING?

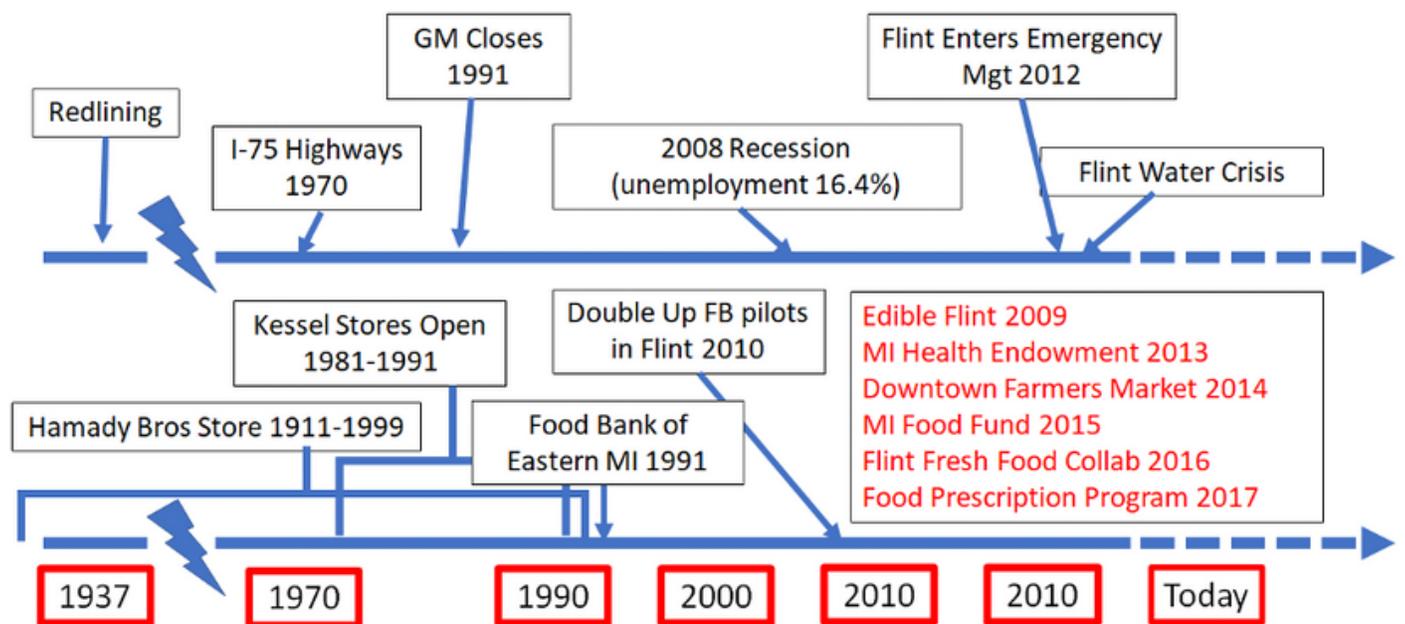
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In this project, we used a systems modeling approach to investigating the Flint food system. A system is made up of multiple parts that interact in sometimes unexpected ways.. A model is a representation of the system which we can use to understand its behavior, and to forecast potential future outcomes in the system. Using a systems modeling approach in this project allowed us to understand how the system got to where it is today, why it is currently functioning the way it is, and where it might go in the future. This helped us gain an understanding of emergent behavior—the behavior a system exhibits that can't be seen by only looking at its parts. Complex systems in the world are full of emergent behavior. For example, your body constantly works to maintain a constant temperature, a process that involves dozens to hundreds of different parts and interactions. You wouldn't be able to understand this process if you only looked at sweating, or digestion, on their own. In the same way, we proposed that we could not understand the Flint food system by only looking at consumption, or retail, or production, or emergency food aid—we had to understand all these components and how they interact to forecast the emergent behavior of the Flint food system, the patterns it displays over time. This is the only way we can alter the behavior of the system to create genuine change. An interactive system dynamics model representing the Flint food system is available online [here](https://forio.com/app/schmi420/flint-food-system-model/index.html#introduction.html) (https://forio.com/app/schmi420/flint-food-system-model/index.html#introduction.html).

# HOW DID WE GET HERE? A HISTORY OF THE FLINT FOOD SYSTEM

Residents of Flint participated in constructing a timeline of the Flint food system, available [here](https://www.canr.msu.edu/flintfood/resources-and-publications/timeline) (<https://www.canr.msu.edu/flintfood/resources-and-publications/timeline>). The timeline helps us recognize how and why the system has changed over time, which gives us insight into how it could change in the future.

It is clear from the timeline that social forces, such as racial segregation and redlining, as well as economic drivers, including the closure of multiple General Motors plants during the 1980's and 1990's, the 2008 recession, and the Emergency Management period that precipitated the Flint Water Crisis, all played a role in shaping the current food landscape of Flint. The events which take place within the food system itself, such as the opening and closing of local grocery stores, and the opening of the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, have been closely tied to these social and economic influences. For example, in the 1990s, following the downsizing of the GM plant, local grocery stores began to close, and emergency food distribution expanded, following the shift in local economics. The segregated neighborhoods created through redlining in the 1930s (a practice of [using race](#) to determine which neighborhoods were eligible for government-backed housing loans) mean that today, Black Flint residents are less likely than white residents to have access to healthy and affordable foods in their neighborhoods. This illustrates how racial discrimination and economic events have a direct impact on food access.



**Figure 2:** Simplified timeline of the Flint food system, showing the economic and social changes that created the current food landscape in Flint (top line) and how the food system responded to these changes (bottom line) The lightning bolts indicate a 'skip' in the timeline between the 1930's and 1970's. The items in red represent ongoing efforts to improve the Flint food system.

# HOW DID WE GET HERE? A HISTORY OF THE FLINT FOOD SYSTEM

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Recent changes in the economic fortunes of Flint have also led to innovation in the food system. Organizations such as Edible Flint, Flint Fresh, the Farmers Market, and innovative programs like the Food Prescription Program, and the Food FARMacy as well as many grassroots food distribution efforts through churches and pantries, have made major strides in providing healthy foods to Flint residents. This demonstrates that innovation in the food system is possible, even in the face of economic downturn.

## CURRENT STATE OF THE FLINT FOOD SYSTEM

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There is widespread consensus among Flint residents that the current food system does not reflect their values. To identify visions of the future of the Flint food system, research team members conducted interviews and workshops with Flint residents and government and nonprofit leaders working in the food system. This resulted in 16 commonly held values from residents, and an additional 10 values from government and nonprofit leaders, which were then synthesized into 7 overarching [values](https://www.canr.msu.edu/flintfood/resources-and-publications/values-for-the-flint-food-system) (<https://www.canr.msu.edu/flintfood/resources-and-publications/values-for-the-flint-food-system>). These values could be used to shape the future of the food system in Flint. Currently, the Flint food system ranks poorly on each of these values. The city exhibits a higher than average food insecurity rate compared with both Michigan and the United States, according to data from [Feeding America](#). In addition, less than 10% of low-income households in Flint have access to stores selling high-quality and lead-mitigating foods (such as fruits and vegetables) in their neighborhoods (Shaver et al. 2018). In terms of affordability, foods in the city of Flint are nearly 1.5 times more expensive than the national average, mainly due to the types of retail located in the city—such as convenience stores and specialty groceries—which tend to have higher prices (Sadler et al. 2019).



**Figure 3:** Photo submitted by participant of the photo project with caption: "I didn't get a picture of the bare water aisles everywhere I went during lockdown. It caused me a lot of anxiety that there wasn't any water anywhere (...) So now I'm stockpiling water for the next lockdown."

# FLINT FOOD VALUES

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Value	Description
Education	There should be opportunities to learn food skills (cooking, gardening, agriculture, nutrition, health, and canning) and apply these to career development if desired.
Community Empowerment	The food system should empower communities to support local economic development that fosters a sense of community and prioritizes residents' cultural values.
Quality of Life is Respected	As residents move through the food system, their dignity, choices, comfort, and safety should be respected to promote the common good and quality of life for all.
Partnerships	The food system should promote creativity and encourage problem-solving to produce trust and strong partnerships that provide leadership and support collaboration and communication.
Nutritious Foods	The food system should offer more food options that are high in nutritional content, contain less additives and preservatives, and come in smaller portions to benefit health.
Affordable Foods	Food should be priced so that community members can access the type, quality, and quantity they require.
Available Foods	The type, quality, and amount of food required for community members to conveniently feed their families and themselves should be physically present and accessible via transportation.

# PAST EFFORTS TO TRANSFORM THE FLINT FOOD SYSTEM

Food systems consist of four main activities: production, processing and packaging, distributing and retailing, and consuming (Ericksen 2008). In Flint, the food system is dominated by distribution, although a small amount of production and processing takes place in the city (this will be discussed further in the Pathways to Transformation section). The Flint food distribution system may be conceptualized as three interlinked sectors, which comprise the dominant means of distributing food in the city: the retail sector (grocery stores, the Farmer’s Market, convenience stores); the emergency sector (the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, food pantries); and the supplemental sector (SNAP benefits; school feeding programs). These three sectors interact with one another in complex ways, generating both barriers to positive transformation and potential opportunities, which we will discuss in the following sections.



**Figure 4:** Screenshot from the video “What’s next for Flint?” produced by Science Animated for the Flint Leverage Points Project (June 2020)

To understand how the Flint food system might be transformed to conform to desired community values, it is important to learn from past actions taken to change the system. We conducted in-depth interviews with food system actors in Flint from the non-governmental, faith-based, governmental, retail, and academic sectors to better understand how groups of people have worked to change the food system in the past. We found that before the Flint Water Crisis, most interviewees agreed that there was limited trust and collaboration among organizations involved in the food system, as well as limited government involvement. Nevertheless, prior to the Water Crisis, there were organized attempts to form a Flint Food Policy Council, inclusion of language about food in the Flint Master Plan, and efforts to raise money for gardening and food access initiatives. The Community Foundation of Greater Flint played a central role in many of these activities, through the efforts of the Food Systems Navigator. The Flint Water Crisis galvanized collaboration among food system actors and built trust among community partners working to respond to the crisis situation. It also focused attention on access to healthy foods in the city, as adequate nutrition is an important public health response to lead exposure, particularly for children. Opinions of the interviewees were mixed as to whether they felt this level of collaboration, trust and coordination would be maintained into the future.

# THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

The global COVID-19 pandemic hit in the middle of this research project, and our team adapted to community needs to support partners as they worked through the devastation and provide insight into the lived experiences of Flint residents as they worked to support one another through another crisis. Working virtually with residents, we developed new questions for interviews, and crafted a [photo project](https://www.canr.msu.edu/flintfood/resources-and-publications/photo-project/) for residents to document the effects of the pandemic on how they accessed food (https://www.canr.msu.edu/flintfood/resources-and-publications/photo-project/). Emphasis on the household revealed how people navigate the food system and why they made the decisions they did about feeding themselves and their families during the pandemic. Drawing on lessons from the Flint Water Crisis, residents focused on supporting their neighbors. Informal networks of neighbors sharing food and resources were important to maintaining food access, particularly for the elderly and immunocompromised individuals. Residents reported spending more time cooking and more time with immediate family members (children/grandchildren). In addition, federal changes to food assistance programs including increases in EBT benefits provided significant relief to families. Families reported that increased EBT benefits coupled with increases in food assistance programs reduced their stress, and supported families in meeting food needs so that limited resources could be directed to support other needs including educational resources for homeschooling, medical expenses, and housing costs.



**Figure 5:** Photo submitted by participant in the photo project with the following caption: “We were also extremely fortunate this summer to be able to get fresh produce from another garden in our neighborhood that was offering CSA boxes. (...) Unfortunately the owners of the adjacent home are selling, so it is not clear that the garden is going to continue in the future.”

# BARRIERS TO TRANSFORMATION

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Here, we briefly describe four of the major barriers to transformation that we found throughout our research (more information may be found in research publications available through the project [website](https://www.canr.msu.edu/flintfood/resources-and-publications/project-publications) - <https://www.canr.msu.edu/flintfood/resources-and-publications/project-publications>). These are patterns that are preventing the Flint food system from achieving the values sought by Flint residents. It is important to understand how these barriers function, so that we can create positive change to remove them.

## **1) The Flint food system is stuck in a cycle of emergency aid.**

During the economic downturn of the city which began in the late 1980s/early 1990s and was exacerbated by the Flint Water Crisis, the city received and distributed substantial amounts of emergency food aid through federal programs, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, food pantries, and faith-based distribution centers, among other programs. This support was necessary to keep many vulnerable families from falling into food insecurity. However, this investment in emergency food was not accompanied by comparable investments in the production, processing, retail and waste sectors of the Flint food system. As a consequence, activities in these sectors of the food system have dwindled as emergency food aid has increased. With free food widely available, support for locally produced food and local retail has been eroded. At the same time, a lack of access to affordable, fresh local foods within easy transportation distance has continued to leave many families dependent on emergency food aid, continuing the calls for this aid and reinforcing this 'vicious cycle'.

## **2) There is an overall lack of coordination and planning in the Flint food system.**

While some language on food was added into Flint's Master Plan, a comprehensive plan for the Flint food system does not currently exist. This prevents food system actors from collectively setting goals and objectives that reflect community values and making a plan to achieve those goals. There is currently no central body responsible for coordination and planning in the Flint food system, although the Flint and Genessee County Food Policy Council is forming to take on this role. Moreover, interviews frequently mentioned a lack of coordination and cohesion among actors in the emergency food sector, leading to confusion over the location and hours of food access sites, increased food waste, and competition for grants and resources rather than collaboration to address community needs.

# BARRIERS TO TRANSFORMATION

3) Patterns of economic and racial marginalization keep many locked out of accessing the system.

As mentioned above, the city of Flint has experienced decades of racial segregation, economic marginalization, and disinvestment. This has contributed to the poor socio-economic status of many in the city, in which 35% of residents live below the poverty line (3 times the national average). Those who are struggling financially are disproportionately people of color. As a consequence, many of these residents are dependent on emergency food aid. Their lack of financial resources and opportunities also keep them from accessing jobs or training opportunities in the food system (for example, the ability to grow or process food themselves, or access to capital to invest in food retail), preventing them from transitioning out of poverty. A cycle of systemic poverty therefore persists in the city. Without attending to this systemic marginalization, there is a danger that improvements in the food system could lead to gentrification. This is because improved food production, processing and retail will likely not be accessible to poor Flint residents without neighborhood-level economic development and/or subsidies.

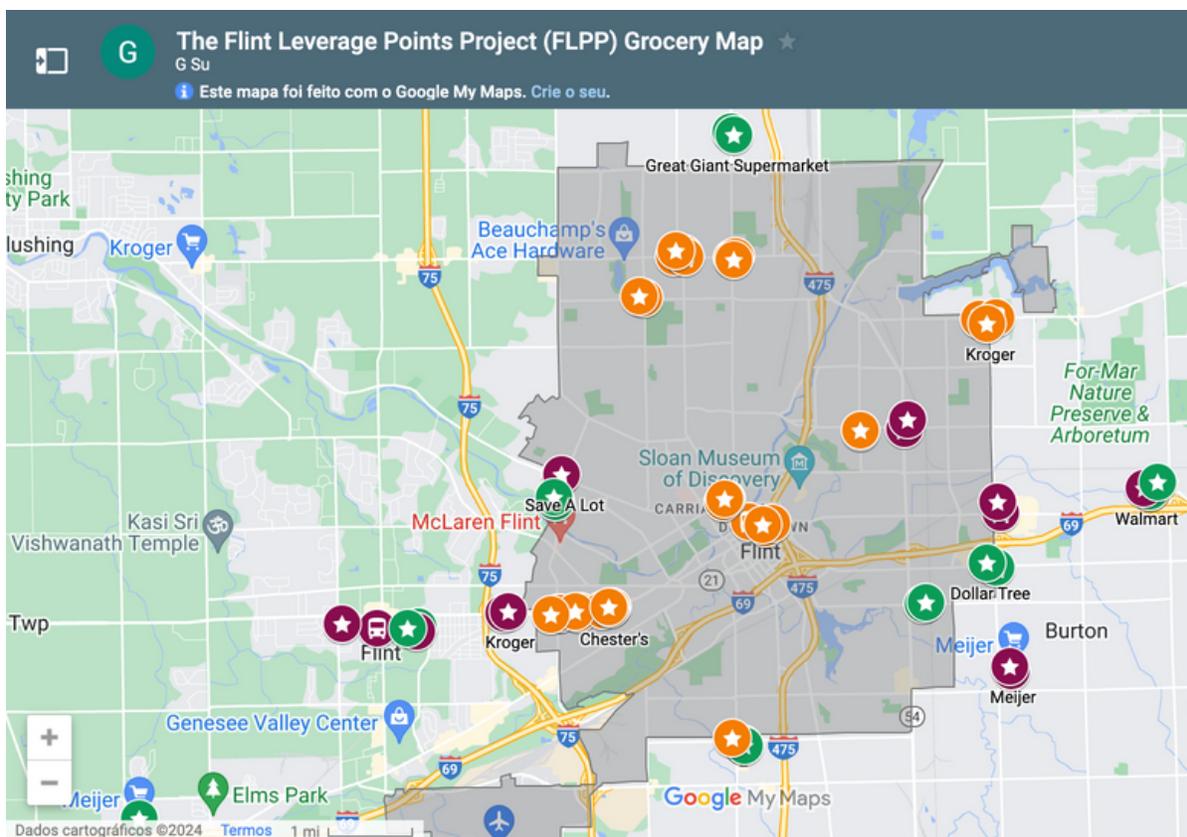


Figure 6: Screenshot from the video [“What’s next for the Flint food system?”](#) produced by Science Animated for the Flint Leverage Points Project (June 2020)

# BARRIERS TO TRANSFORMATION

## 4) Transportation barriers keep many locked out of accessing the system.

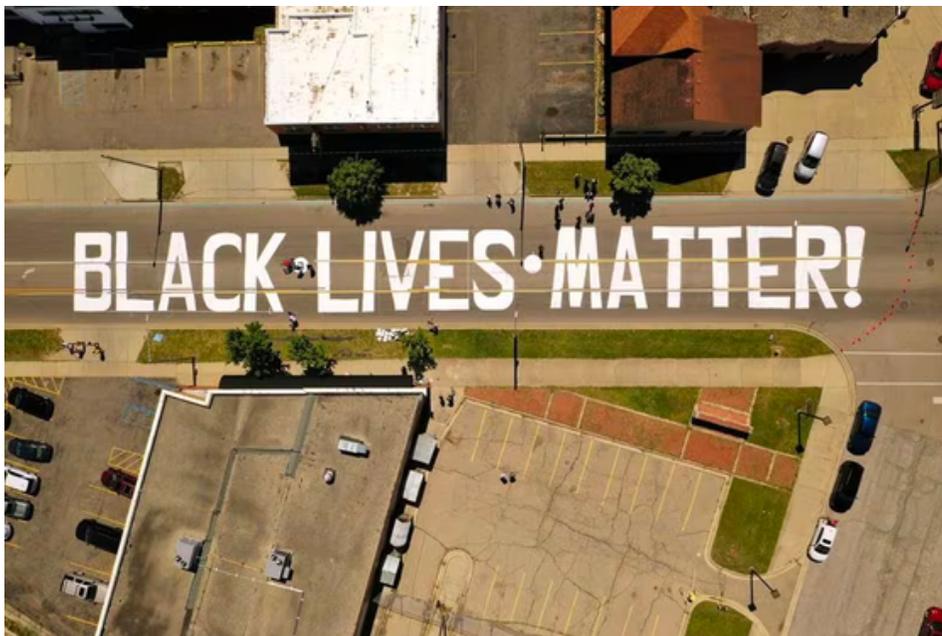
Currently, the most frequently visited food retail points in Flint [are not easily accessible by public transportation](#). This leaves Flint residents who do not own personal vehicles unable to easily, reliably and affordably access retail food, and contributes to their reliance on the emergency food sector. Research illustrated that the stores residents identified as most important for food access were not accessible without a bus transfer from the neighborhoods experiencing the highest rates of food insecurity. During the pandemic, grocery delivery services that accept food assistance benefits were launched. However, interviewees emphasized that transportation access to food in Flint still needs to be improved if they are to achieve their desired food future. We created an [interactive map](#) that graphically shows the retail food stores in the city and their spatial distribution, available on the project website (<https://www.canr.msu.edu/flintfood/resources-and-publications/grocery-and-transportation-maps>).



**Figure 7:** Interactive map of food retail locations discussed by Flint residents who participated in the FLPP stakeholder mapping workshops. Details about what Flint residents say about each store can be found in the sidebar information box when you click on each store location in the interactive map. Purple: frequently shopped locations; Green: occasionally shopped; Orange: less frequently shopped

# STRUCTURAL RACISM IN THE FOOD SYSTEM

Because structural racism has significantly shaped the current food system in Flint, and the United States, it is important to devote particular attention to addressing it. By 'structural racism', we refer to all of the ways in which social institutions—in this case, institutions related to the food system—perpetuate racial discrimination through long-standing patterns of beliefs, values, and distribution of resources (Bailey et al. 2017). In Flint, residents emphasized that racial inequity is a key reason why the city is not realizing the values which residents hold for the future of the food system. Racial inequity therefore interacts with each of the barriers discussed in the previous section. Residents described the desired progress for the Flint food system as the process of moving from food apartheid (a state of segregation in access to food) to food security and, further, to food sovereignty—a state in which Flint residents determine their own food future that reflects their values. For example, this would look like retailers and distributors in the city providing access to nutritious and culturally appropriate foods for all Flint residents. It would also mean centering the voices of Black, Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous Flint residents in food system planning and decision-making going forward. Moreover, any food system plan or improvement in Flint should center a racial equity perspective, to avoid perpetuating inequities. Systems thinking tells us that structural patterns (like racism) tend to persist and reinforce themselves unless they are consciously disrupted. As shocks like the Flint Water Crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic affect the system, they can deepen unaddressed racial disparities related to health, food access, income, and employment. Food aid and other grants can temporarily alleviate the impacts of these shocks, but they do not reduce the underlying inequities without additional targeted interventions.



**Figure 8:** "Black Lives Matter" painted on Martin Luther King Avenue on Sunday, June 14, 2020 in downtown Flint. Photo submitted by Mike Naddeo. News by Jake May on [mlive.com](https://www.mlive.com/news/flint/2023/07/flint-blocks-volunteers-from-repainting-black-lives-matter-mural.html). Source: <https://www.mlive.com/news/flint/2023/07/flint-blocks-volunteers-from-repainting-black-lives-matter-mural.html>

# STRUCTURAL RACISM IN THE FOOD SYSTEM

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The data collected through this project suggest many opportunities for actors in the Flint food system to move towards racial equity and food sovereignty. Fostering partnerships with people of color and elevating them to positions of leadership in food system institutions, and promoting shared leadership and open dialogue about the direction the food system should take can bring more diverse perspectives into decision-making processes. Interventions to improve the affordability of locally produced and retailed food can reduce the risk of food system gentrification. Providing targeted access to grants, land, and capital for people of color to grow, process, and retail food, as well as compost food waste, can address the structural inequities that keep them locked out of accessing these opportunities currently. As described above, transportation access to food retail for all Flint residents can reduce the racial inequities in food access caused by housing and transportation segregation. Finally, Flint residents discussed the power of education around nutrition, cooking, budgeting, gardening, and entrepreneurship to improve food skills and outcomes among people of color in the city. However, this education should be accessible, and ideally co-designed with community members.

## LEVERAGE POINTS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

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Leverage points are places to intervene in a system where a relatively small effort can create a significant systems change. This is similar to how a lever allows you to lift a much larger weight than you would normally be able to. The team worked with the list of leverage points resulting from the research to identify which leverage points could help achieve desirable food futures for Flint, by disrupting the barriers to transformation discussed above. They were organized into three categories:

1. Upstream Leverage Points: Policies, laws, or regulations that improve community conditions, creating system-wide changes.
2. Midstream Leverage Points: Barriers that need to be addressed in order for the system to evolve and/or that support social needs.
3. Downstream Leverage Points: Address individual needs and crisis management.

Generally, upstream leverage points take more time and effort to enact but have the potential to be more transformative than downstream leverage points. We recognize that efforts at each of these levels are important to transforming the food system in Flint. The full list of leverage points, sorted into key themes, is [available on the project website](#). Some of the leverage points are already being put into action in Flint. For example, a community cooperative food retail store is being developed on the north side of Flint, and programs such as Flint Fresh and Double Up Food Bucks are working to connect local growers with Flint residents in need of emergency food.

# COMMUNITY VISION INFOGRAPHICS

Members of the community core team met with the Research Coordinator to analyze key lessons from the research, what this means for community members, and how best to share these results. The team identified four main themes from the research results (in no particular order): 1) Emergency Response Loop, 2) Community Collaborative Action, 3) Economic Investment, and 4) Resident Food Empowerment. For each theme, we collectively wrote statements based on research results describing how the food system currently operates, and a desirable future for the Flint food system. We designed four community vision graphics to help illustrate these results. The team then worked with the list of leverage points resulting from the research to identify which leverage points could help achieve the stated desirable future. The community vision graphics, [linked here](#) for all four with one example shown right, highlight example leverage points associated with each desirable future, and serve as a starting point for community driven action to improve the food system.

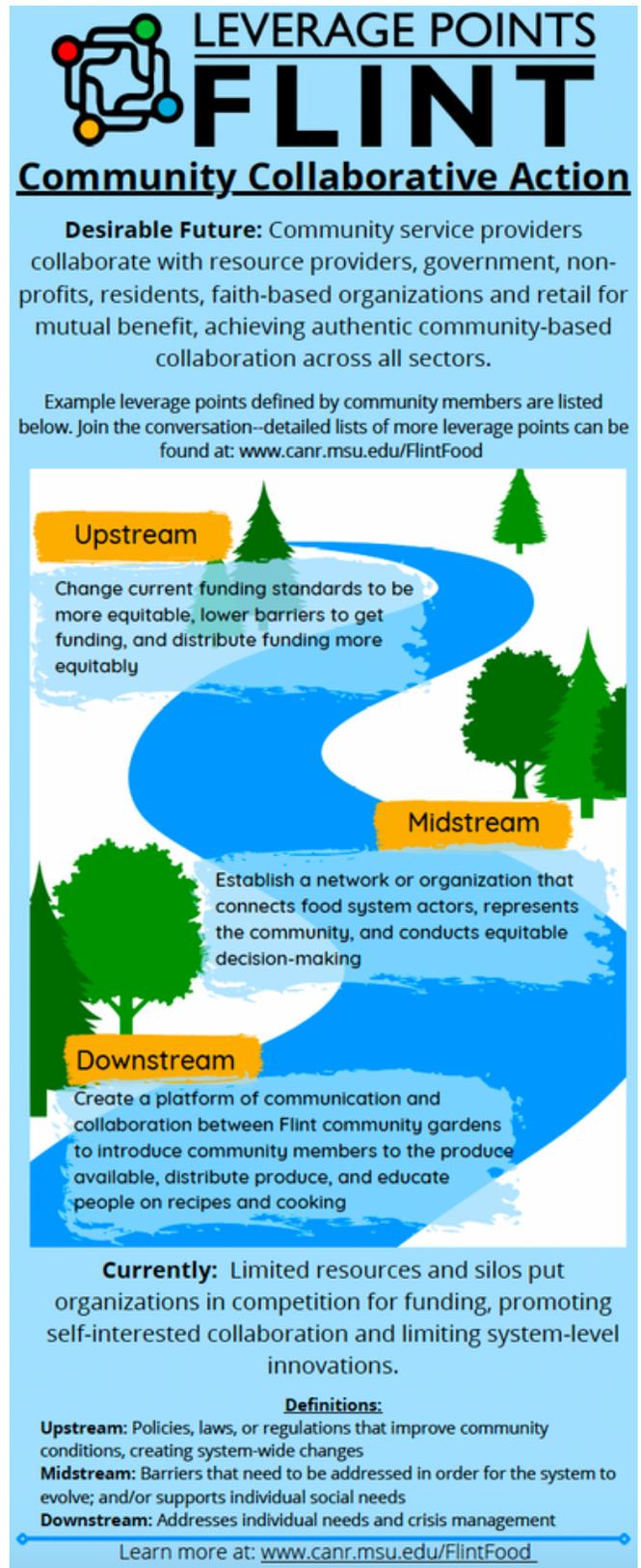


Figure 9: Example of community vision infographic that synthesizes key project results

# SCENARIOS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE FLINT FOOD SYSTEM

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We hosted a scenario planning workshop in October 2022 at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. The scenario planning workshop was designed to facilitate community members and researchers working together to co-create scenarios for the medium-term future of food in Flint based on the community defined values and leverage points previously described. A scenario is a written description of an actionable pathway towards an equitable, sustainable and just food system in Flint. With a goal of guiding activists toward transformative change, community members developed scenarios that could be achieved 20 years from now (2042), along with milestones to achieve along the way. To facilitate the workshop, we created a [workbook](#) that provides information about what we already know about the Flint food system and a "Recipe for building a Scenario" that provides a set of guiding questions and activities for workshop discussion. The workbook, the full report and summaries of the [scenarios](#) are all available on the project website. These four scenarios do not represent the only ways to intervene to improve the food system, and rather reflect ideas for operationalizing some of the leverage points as envisioned by groups of residents. There are numerous additional scenarios that could be developed using different leverage points that can lead to positive food system change. We encourage readers to engage with the full list of [leverage points](#). Use of quotation marks indicates a direct quote from a workshop participant.

## Summary of "Nutrition, Equity and Justice" scenario

In Flint, there is a need to lift people out of poverty and out of the trauma caused by numerous crises (e.g., GM closures, Water Crisis, COVID-19). There is a need to foster collaboration across the different groups and organizations working in Flint to achieve bigger, systemic results. To address this issue, this scenario proposes the creation of a working group (or several working groups) in the spirit of authentic collaboration. One of the participants describes authentic collaboration in the following way: "if you authentically collaborate, you don't give up ownership of anything. You leverage your ownership with somebody else's ownership to achieve a greater result." Although framed as a working group, this scenario is focused on using a group as a starting point to foster a movement and the creation of a community gathering point. The group summarizes the scenarios in the following way: "We gather the community in spirit of authentic collaboration to ensure nutrition, equity and justice across the underserved. The efforts must be informed and co-created by persons experiencing food insecurity and food injustice. We are going to invite people to be a part of the solution by building trust and capacity into actionable steps towards shared promising practices."

# SCENARIOS FOR THE FLINT FOOD SYSTEM

## Summary of "The Peoples Market" scenario

This scenario envisions a more decentralized economic market in the Flint food system. "There is a need to create a strategy that clearly centers Diversity, Equity and Inclusion goals and accessibility at its core. We need to decentralize power, share it with community stakeholders, and craft a framework of collaboration centered around community values. Through this lens, we'll offer farmer development and food entrepreneurship support through capacity building, technical assistance, and value-added production through creative uses of underutilized infrastructure. This will develop accessible economic opportunities that reflect community values rooted in community ownership and self-determination." The creation of strong neighborhood networks through which to conduct this work is a key action in this scenario.

## Summary of "Empowering Choices" scenario

The goal of this scenario is keeping people engaged in eating healthier foods through cooking, gardening, and shopping, by ensuring a variety of foods, food processing and cooking equipment are available, sharing community knowledge, and ensuring overall community value of food that respects quality of life for all involved in the food system. To achieve this, Flint residents will engage in increasing resident participation, ongoing evaluation of community needs and resources, and ensuring choices are appealing to residents. By 2042, when the scenario is achieved, the food available in Flint is reflective of community desires and needs. The choices of food available meet desires/needs so that people are empowered to cook, garden, and make healthy choices. The process of food system change helps people understand the urgency to make change while understanding the reality of daily life, so people can continue these activities far into the future.

## Summary of "Community Unity" Scenario

The 'Community Unity' scenario focuses on collaborative actions in the community that encourage all the stakeholders to work together. To overcome the existing challenges in the Flint food system, promoting ongoing conversations and collaborations between community members, corporations, government, and non-profit organizations around shared values and shaping a united community is essential. It will lead to a transition toward a 'win-win' framework by branding community food activities, reducing competition for funds and grants, and creating excitement around the food system to improve consumption of healthy foods and food security. After this community togetherness, the next step is integrating the food system to be more locally available to the community members—especially the ones who have transportation challenges—and encouraging Flint-based small-scale growers to benefit from existing infrastructures and sell their products out of convenience stores, local groceries, or corner stores.

# SCENARIOS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE FLINT FOOD SYSTEM

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Overall, each of the scenarios proposes solutions to the barriers to transformation described above, through promoting collaboration and community engagement around the food system; addressing systemic barriers to food access; and building a robust local food system in Flint. The discussions during the scenario building workshop were inspiring and highlighted how different stakeholders working on different aspects of food in Flint could build connections to bring about an equitable, just, and sustainable food system. There is no single activity or project that will achieve all the desired changes, but the scenarios provide an important launching point for future work in the Flint food system. Future workshops to develop additional scenarios and action plans could be a productive way to generate new ideas for actionable change. Creating actionable steps and outlining a series of activities and programs that can lead to change was the goal of the scenario workshops. These four scenarios provide examples of how collective action by stakeholders across Flint can result in transformative change for the food system.



**Figure 10:** Scenarios workshop took place at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan on October 2022. Photo: Rafael Lembi

# CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Our intention for the Flint Leverage Points Project work is that it informs ongoing conversations and action in Flint to eliminate food apartheid and to generate a food system that is more equitable, just, healthy, and sustainable. The [Flint & Genesee Food Policy Council](#) is currently working to develop a resilient and reliable food system in Flint, informed partly by the results of this project (visit the embedded link to find out more and to get involved in these efforts). We welcome your feedback on this work and encourage you to visit the project website at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/flintfood/index> for data, reports, interactive maps, and publications produced by the project.

Contact the following individuals for more information about how the project results are being implemented:

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*Photo Credit: FLPP Research Participant*

**For more on the Flint Leverage Points  
Project visit:  
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/flintfood>**



## How to Cite this Report

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Photo Credit: FLPP Research Participant

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**Figure 11:** Members of the project presenting research results at 2022 Healthy Flint Research Coordinating Center Research Symposium

