

National Webinar

# **State Food System Plans: Are they worth it?**

July 15<sup>th</sup> 3:00 – 4:00 pm EDT

Sponsored by:


MSU Center for Regional Food Systems

University of Michigan Sustainable Food Systems Initiative



# State Food System Plans: Are they worth it?

## Webinar agenda

- Overview of national trends and directory of state food system plan draft
  - Insight from three states at various stages in their plan
  - Audience weighs in on the value of food systems plans
  - Next steps regarding draft and gauging interest in continuing the conversation about food system plans
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**Quick! Type in the chatbox...**



....Which State was first to develop a statewide plan in 2005?

# National Trends and a Statewide Directory of Food System Plans

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**Study conducted in cooperation with:**

MSU Center for Regional Food Systems

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# Methods

## WHAT WE DID

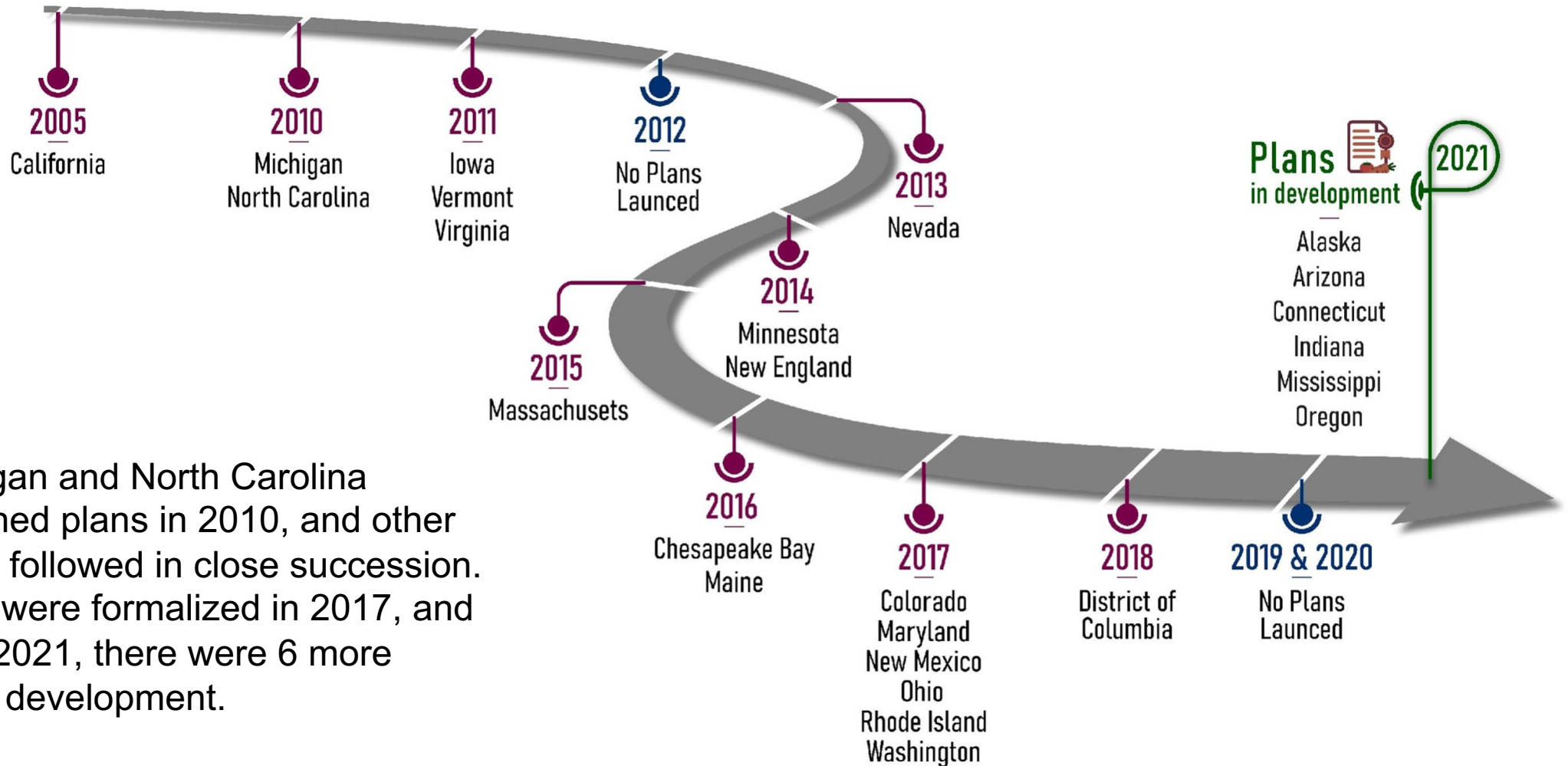
- **Timeframe:** Completed April, 2021
- **Method:** Desk review of documents and websites + e-mail/short calls with lead organizations or individuals - when possible - to verify information
- Created a **snapshot** of trends – not a deep dive – and **directory** focused on:
  - Year launched or stage of development (in process, launched, 2.0)
  - Funding sources
  - Type of backbone organization
  - Strategies used to develop the plan

## CRITERIA WE USED

- **Scale:** state level or multistate (not city or county)
- **Scope:** systems-based and cross-sector – a holistic treatment of the entire food system (not assessments or strategic plans that focus on single sector issues, such as local food procurement, farm to school, etc.)
- **Approach:** participatory – engaging multiple stakeholders across the state in numerous ways (e.g., summits, working groups, etc.) to crowdsource ideas and build broad commitment
- **The title didn't matter:** We include “visions”, “charters”, “strategic plans”, “roadmaps”, “frameworks”, “food strategies”, “action plans”, etc.

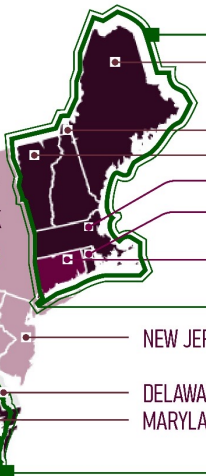
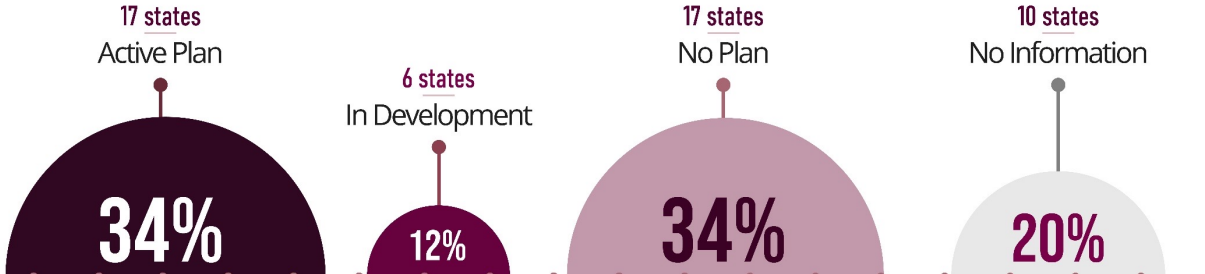
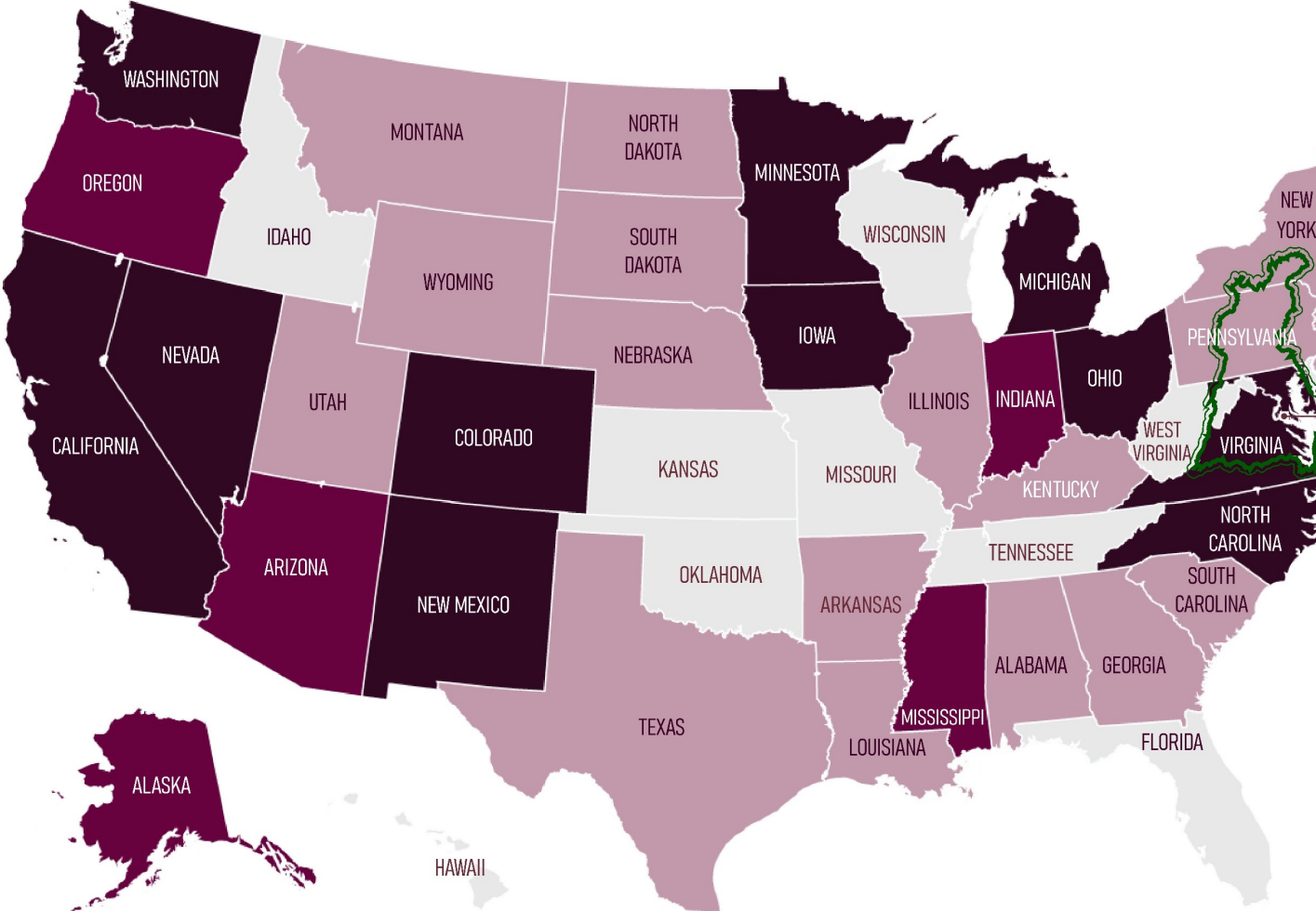
# State food system plans launched starting 2005; many still in development

- California was the first to develop a statewide plan as early as 2005, The New Mainstream Food and Farming System: A Vivid Picture of California's Food System in 2030.



- Michigan and North Carolina launched plans in 2010, and other states followed in close succession.
- Many were formalized in 2017, and as of 2021, there were 6 more under development.

# Map showing statewide and regional food system plans



**New England Region**

Six states jointly launched:  
**A New England Food Vision**

All states in the New England regions also have their own statewide plans except for Connecticut.



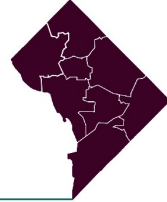
**Chesapeake Bay Watershed Region**

Stakeholders that make up the Chesapeake Watershed Region came together to launch:  
**Good Food For All: An Assessment of Food System Efforts in the Chesapeake Foodshed**

Maryland & Virginia also have their own statewide plans

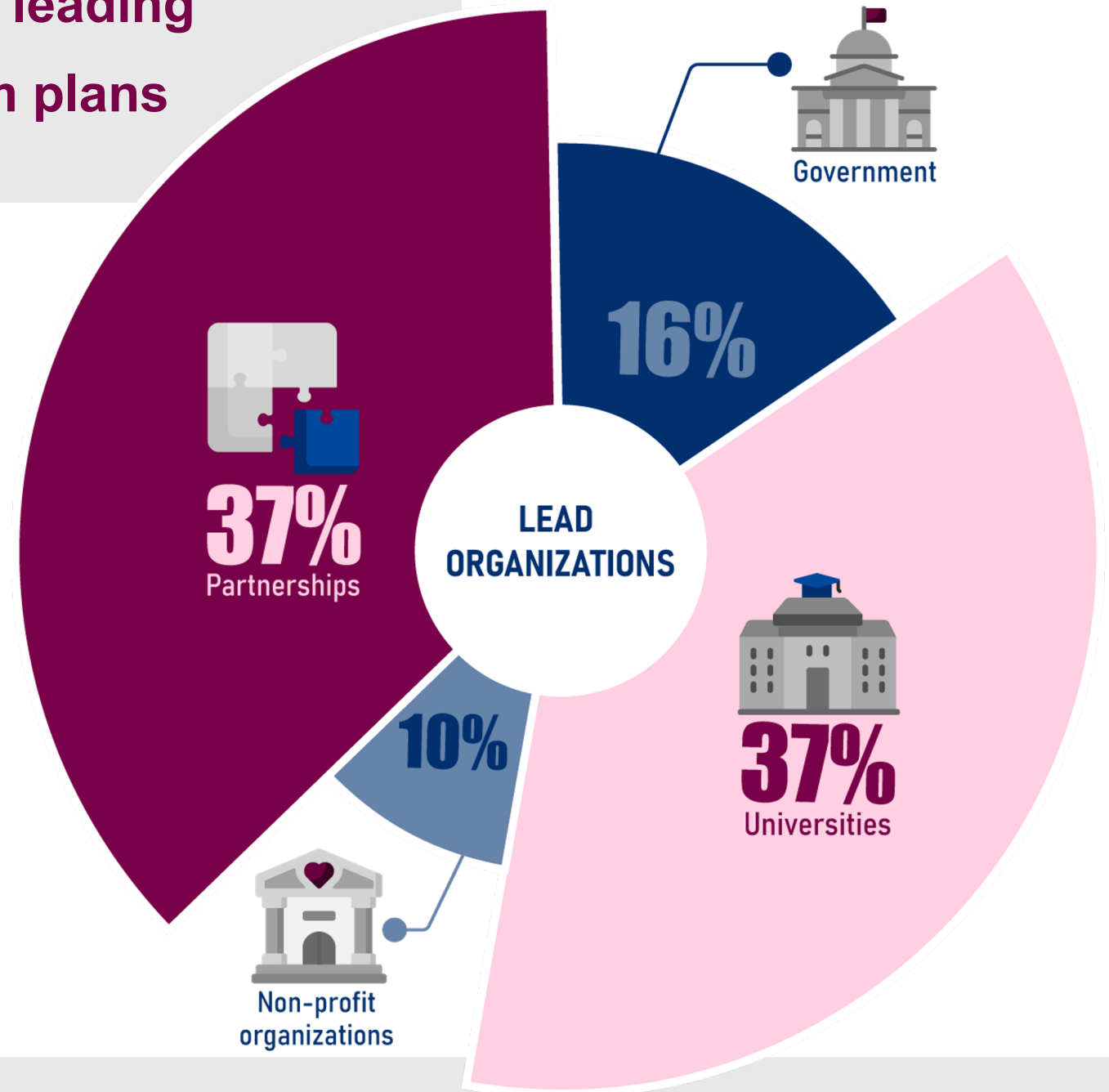
**Washington DC**

The DC Food Policy Council and the DC Office of Planning released in 2018:  
**DC Food Systems Assessment**



# Universities and partnerships are leading development of most food system plans

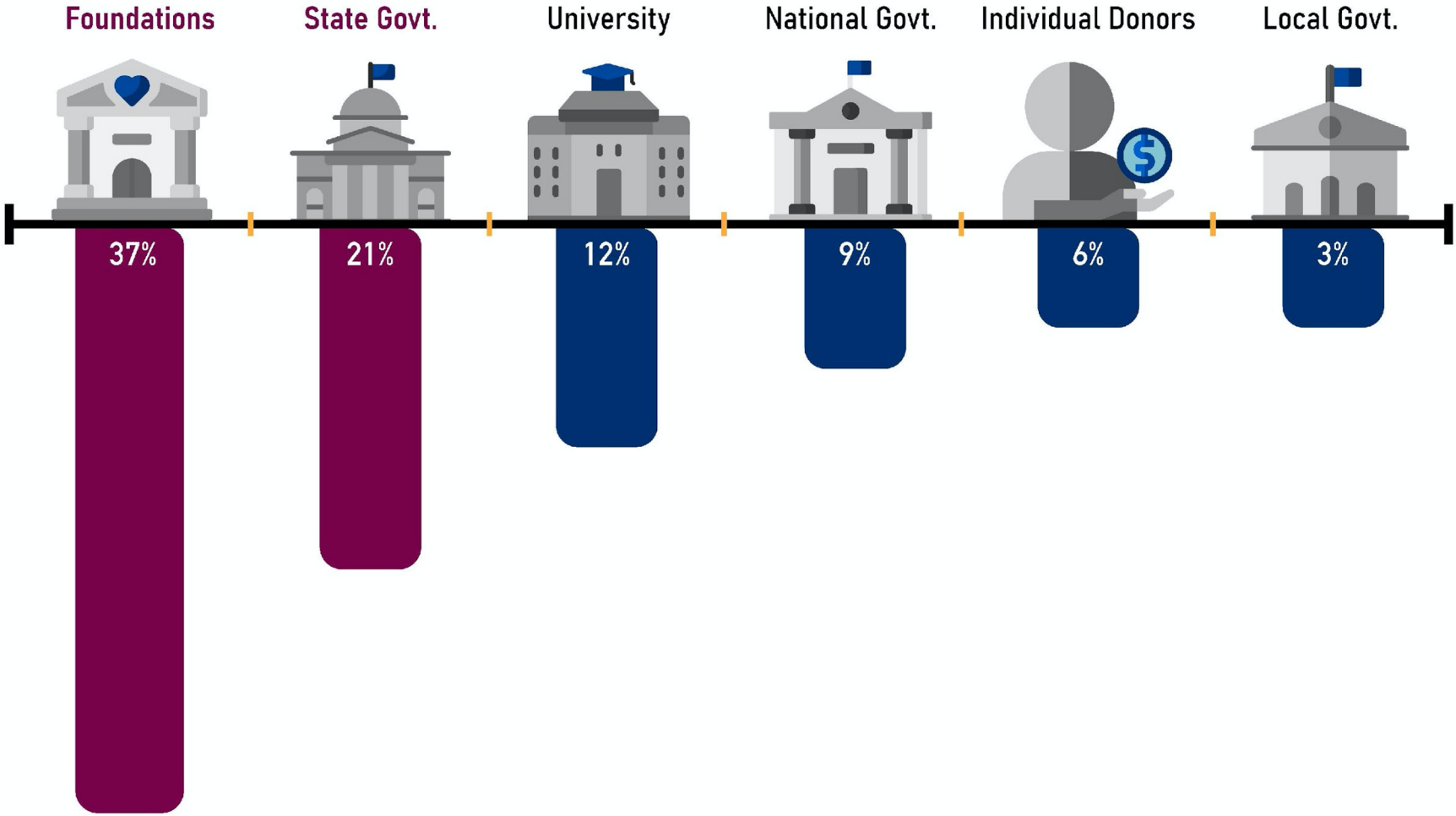
- Organizations leading the development of statewide and regional food systems plans are often referred to as “**backbone organizations.**”
- They have tended to be either a collaboration of many partners, or a university entity.
- State government agencies and nonprofits have also led some of this work.





State and regional food systems plans **draw on multiple sources of funding simultaneously**. Over the last 15 years, foundations have supported more than a third, and state governments one-fifth, while universities, national government grants, individual donors and local governments have also contributed.

More than half of state food plans are funded by foundations and state government



# Statewide and regional food systems plans are supported by 77 different funders

Several funders have supported food systems plans in multiple states

1772 Foundation

Arkay Foundation

Augusta County Farm Bureau

Baker Foundation

Blue Moon Fund

Boston Foundation

Broad Reach Fund

Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota

Claneil Foundation

Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation

Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station

Columbia Foundation

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Donald Sussman

Doree Taylor Foundation

Elmina B. Sewall Foundation

Empire Health Foundation

Eos Foundation

Food Action (formerly Washington State Food and Farming Network)

Fred Gellert Family Foundation

Fund for Healthy Nevada

Gaia Fund

General Mills Foundation.

Golden LEAF Foundation

Henry P. Kendall Foundation

Hudson Foundation

Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) at Ohio State University

Island Foundation

Jane's Trust

Jean Johnson

John Merck Fund

Kaiser Permanente

Kresge Foundation

Main Street Resources

Maine Community Foundation

Marisla Foundation

Massachusetts District Local Technical Assistance Program

McCune Charitable Foundation

Merck Family Fund

Michigan Health Endowment Fund

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Minnesota Department of Health

Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

N.C. Rural Center - Agricultural Advancement Consortium

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation

New Mexico Dept of Ag

Northern Virginia Health Foundation.

Pete Miller

Prince Charitable Trusts

Rhode Island Foundation

Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund

Sandy River Charitable Foundation

Santa Fe Community Foundation

Share our Strength

Shenandoah Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council

Shenandoah Valley Buy Fresh Buy Local

Slow Money NW

State of Colorado

State of Rhode Island

Thornburg Foundation

Tides Foundation

Tim Crosby

Town Creek Foundation

UNH Sustainability Institute

University of Minnesota Extension

University of Virginia Institute for Environmental Negotiation

US Department of Agriculture Snap Ed

US Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency

Van Beuren Charitable Foundation

Virginia Food System Council

Virginia Foundation for Agricultural Innovation and Rural Sustainability (VA FAIRS)

Virginia State University

Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Internal Integrated Competitive Grants Program

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Washington Regional Food Funders

William Zimmerman Foundation

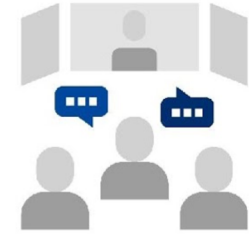
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

# Strategies used to develop plans

Committees & Working Groups



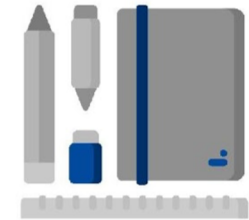
Public Meetings & Listening Sessions



Surveys



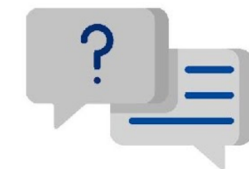
Workshops



Food Summits



Interviews & Focus Groups



# Directory of Statewide and Regional Food Systems Plans

May 2021

 Geographic Coverage	 Name of Plan	 Plan Status	 Year Launched	 Lead Organizations	 Contact Information
Alaska	Under development	In Development	Expected: 2022	Alaska Food Policy Council	<a href="mailto:info@alaskafoodpolicycouncil.org">info@alaskafoodpolicycouncil.org</a>
Arizona	Under development	In Development	Expected: 2021	Arizona Food Systems Network	Adrienne Udarbe <a href="mailto:adrienneudarbe@pinnacleprevention.org">adrienneudarbe@pinnacleprevention.org</a>
California	<a href="#">The New Mainstream Food and Farming System: A Vivid Picture of California's Food System in 2030</a>	Active Charter	2005	Roots of Change	<a href="mailto:mail@rootsofchange.org">mail@rootsofchange.org</a>
Chesapeake Bay (Region)	<a href="#">Good Food For All: An Assessment of Food System Efforts in the Chesapeake Foodshed</a>	Active Charter	2016	Chesapeake Foodshed Network	<a href="mailto:Info@ChesapeakeFoodshed.Net">Info@ChesapeakeFoodshed.Net</a>
Colorado	<a href="#">Colorado Blueprint</a>	Active Charter	2017	College of Agricultural Sciences at Colorado State University	Becca Jablonski <a href="mailto:becca.jablonski@colostate.edu">becca.jablonski@colostate.edu</a>
Connecticut	Under development	In Development	Uncertain	Connecticut Food System Alliance	Meg Hourigan <a href="mailto:meg@hartfordfood.org">meg@hartfordfood.org</a>
District of Columbia	<a href="#">Sustainable DC 2.0</a>	Active Charter	2018	District of Columbia Food Policy Council	<a href="mailto:dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov">dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov</a>
Indiana	Indiana Food Charter	In Development	Uncertain	Indiana University	Jodee Ellett <a href="mailto:ellett@iu.edu">ellett@iu.edu</a>

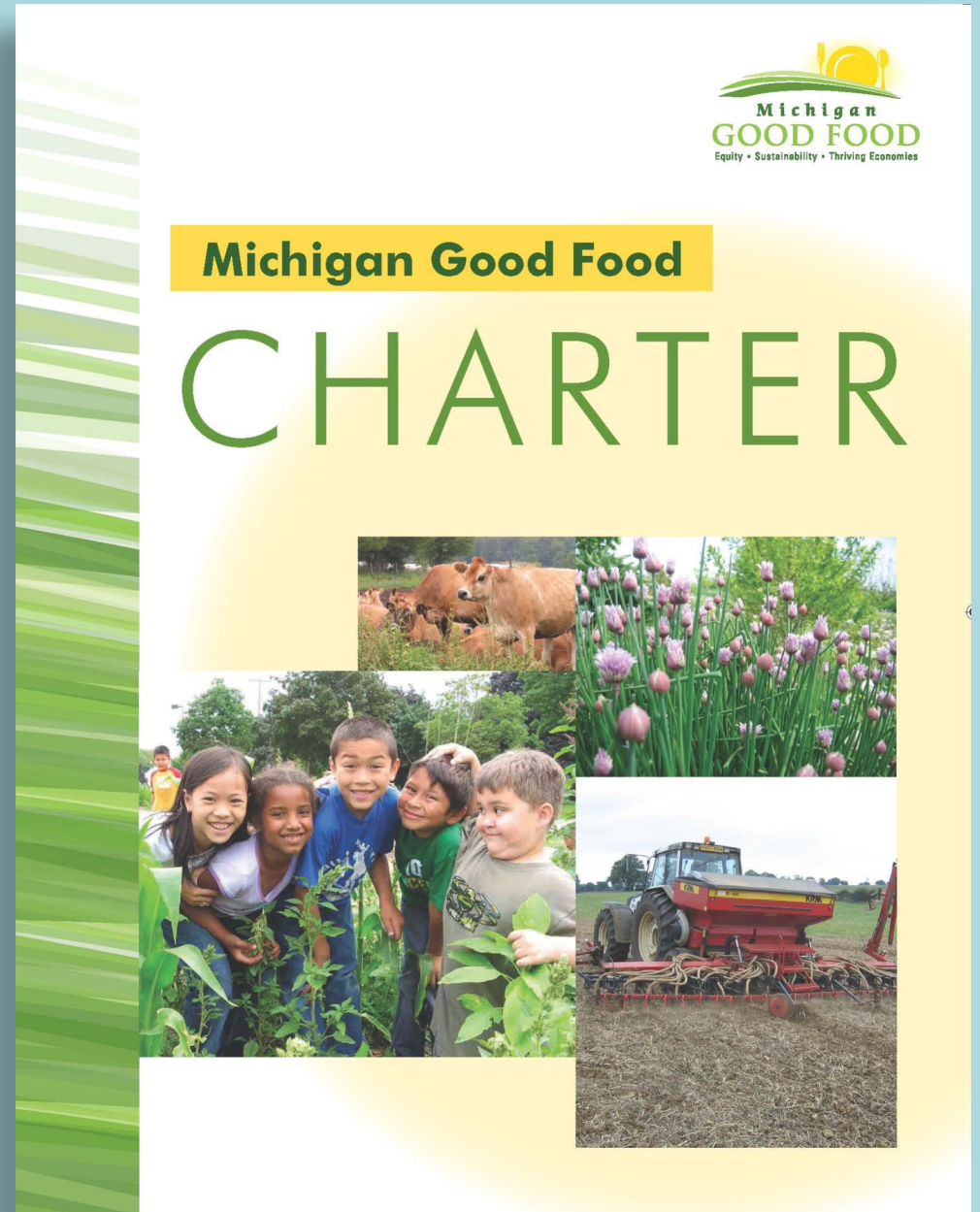
# State Food System Plans

## Insights from 3 states

- Michigan (more than 10 years) ----- Lindsay Scalera – *MSU CRFS*
- New Mexico (more than 4 years) ----- Theresa Cardenas – *New Mexico First*
- Hawai'i (just getting started) ----- Albie Miles – *University of Hawai'i*

# HISTORY

Initially published in 2010, the **Michigan Good Food Charter** helped build momentum for efforts across Michigan to advance a **food system that promotes equity, health, sustainability, and thriving economies.**



# Why a Statewide Charter?



Explore and  
amplify ideas



Identify common  
ground and  
connect systems



Organize  
collective action  
& shared  
measurement



Inform  
policymakers of  
statewide and  
local priorities

# ACTIVE STATEWIDE NETWORKS

## Michigan Ecosystem of Networks



### **“Strong Collaboration Infrastructure”**

- Cross-sector partnerships
- Years of building trust
- Interconnected networks
- Culture/atmosphere of collaboration
- Common agenda
- Shared Measurement



# EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

## Diversity in Food Systems

- Ownership of supply chain
- Agricultural and biological diversity for sustainable ecosystems
- Cultural foodways
- Scale of food & farm businesses

## Health Equity

- Seeking to eliminate disparities of health outcomes
- Racial equity is intertwined, but not the same thing

## Racial Equity or Overcoming Racism

- Intentional Action, collaborative and co-leadership
- Both a process and end goal
- Both systemic & interpersonal, as well as personal

## Food Sovereignty

- Policies and programs that support individual and community agency to make decisions about the food system
- Seeking to transform systems to embody these principles

# Lessons Learned & Ongoing Challenges

## Lesson

Authentic, meaningful partnerships and collaboration are how we make things happen

## Lesson/Challenge

Going from “champions” to embedded systems-change

## Challenge moving forward

Creating intentional space for voices to be heard and participatory, democratic process to take place

# What has Happened?

*A few examples...*

## **Cultivating Collaboration Infrastructure**

- Ecosystem of networks

## **Building demand for Farm to Institution, growing supply, cultivating connections**

- Michigan Farm to Institution Network & Cultivate Michigan
- 10 Cents A Meal

## **Growing Capacity for Good Food Advocacy**

- MI Local Food Council Network
- Local & national ecosystem of networks and organizations with shared agendas

## **Supporting food and farm businesses to start and scale up**

- MI Group Gap Network
- MI Food Hub Network
- MI Kitchen Incubator Network
- Michigan Good Food Fund



2010

A Michigan Good Food Charter priority

2013

Regional pilot under a non-profit partner in northwest Lower Michigan

2016

Regional pilot funded by Michigan Legislature

2020

Statewide program funded by Michigan Legislature

2021

Statewide funding increased from \$2 to \$5 Million



10 CENTS  
A MEAL  
FOR MICHIGAN'S KIDS & FARMS



# Resilience in New Mexico Agriculture Strategic Plan

**2016-2021**

## Key Partners

New Mexico First – Civic Engagement & Policy Manager  
Thornburg Foundation

New Mexico Department of Agriculture  
New Mexico State University, College of Agriculture

# Developed recommendations & strategies

Next generation ranchers & farmers  
Water and land use  
Agricultural supply chain  
Agricultural economic viability

- Achieve greater agricultural and natural resource resiliency
- Ensure stability for the next generation of ranching and farming
- Address food deserts and food insecurity





Challenges/Lessons learned  
Equity consideration  
Existing & potential benefits



# Hawai'i

Albie Miles

University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu



# Participants weigh in...

## Are food system plans worth it?

- Responses from states with existing food system plans
  - Responses from states interested in developing a plan
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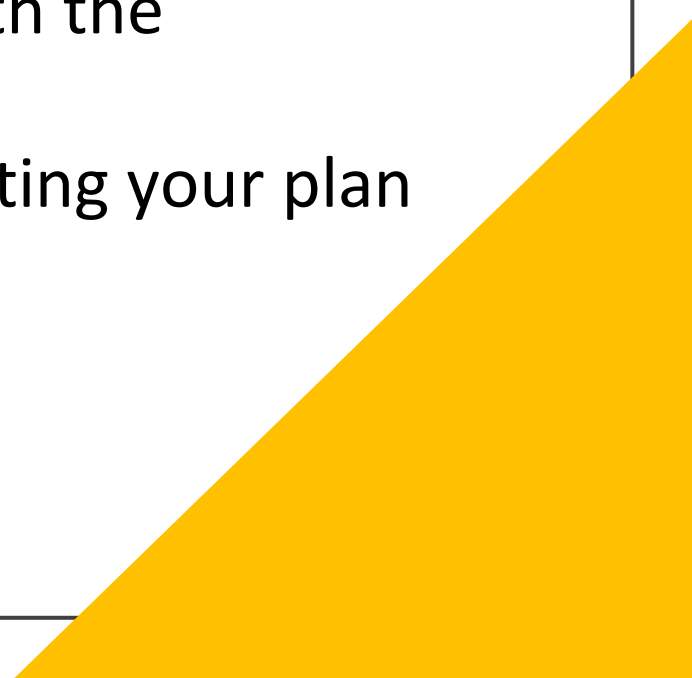
# States with plans weigh in...

## Are food system plans worth it?

- How has a state food system plan led to food systems change in your state?
  - Name your state (or region)
  - Briefly describe one or two key changes/impacts

# States with plans weigh in...

## Are food system plans worth it?

- Name your state (or region)
  - Based on changes/impacts, was the plan worth the investment? (yes, no, too early to tell)
  - Name one big challenge you found implementing your plan
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## States interested in a plan weigh in...

- What is your primary reason(s) for pursuing a state plan?
  - Name your state (or region)
  - Briefly describe one or two key reasons for pursuing a plan

## States interested in a plan weigh in...

- What are key challenges/concerns in developing a plan?
  - Name your state (or region)
  - Briefly describe a key challenge/concern you perceive in developing a plan

# Closing comments

- We'll send a link to the draft directory - to gather your corrections - the webinar recording and slides
  - Potential learning community on state plans/charters – Midwest
  - Ending poll question on continuing the conversation
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## Poll Question

How interested are you/your state in continuing a national conversation about the value of state food system plans or charters?

- Very interested
- Somewhat Interested
- Not interested
- Uncertain – need to check with partners