

# Wake County Food Security Plan 2024 Update

Wake County Board Of Commissioners  
HHS Committee

Cooperative Extension and Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion  
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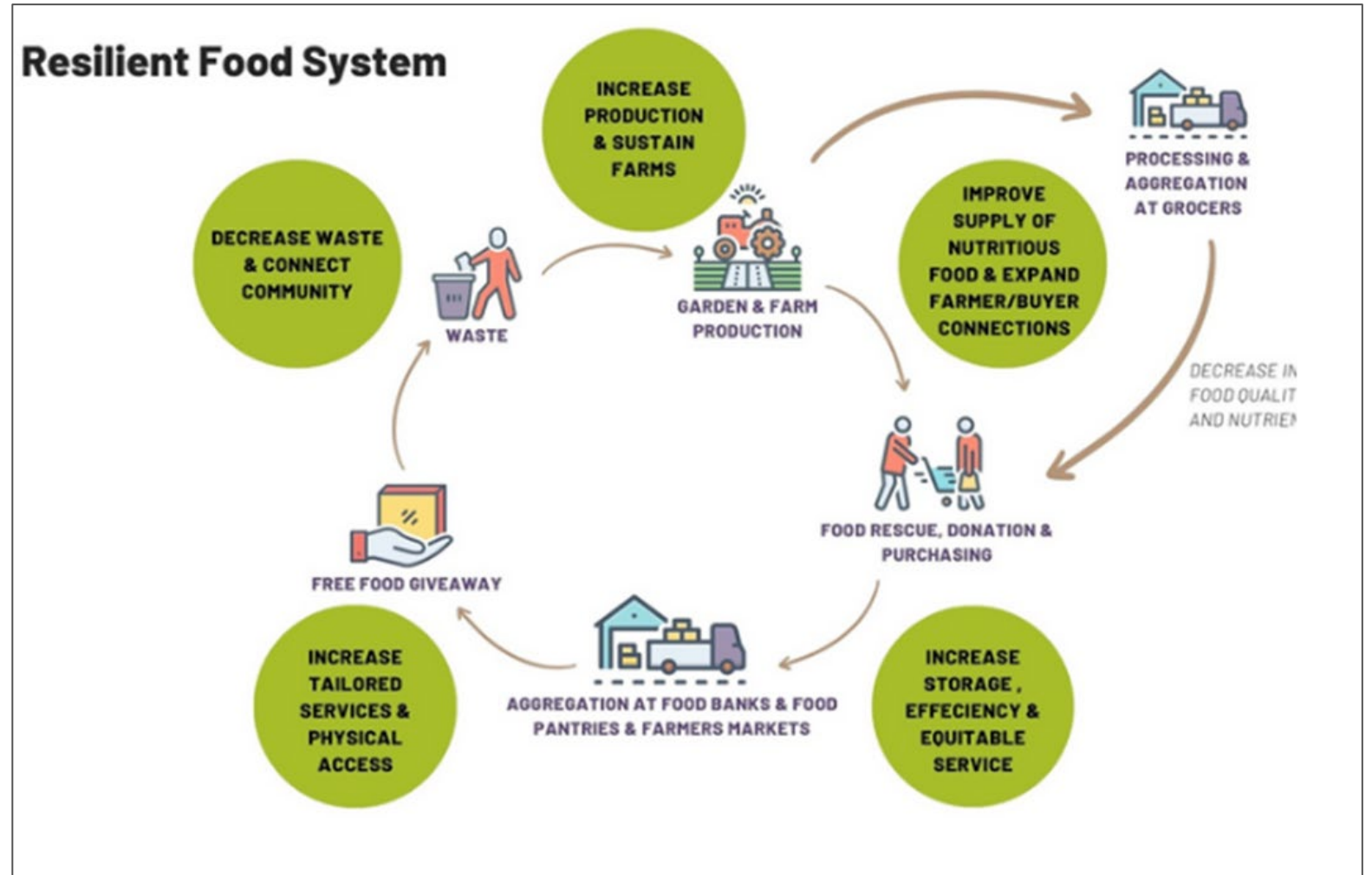
# Overview

- **Review of 2023 Food Plan**
- **ARPA funding update**
- **Outcomes to date**
- **Next steps & ongoing efforts**

# Overview of 2023 Food Plan

## \$7.2 million ARPA dollars invested

- Food Aggregation Support
- Communal Garden Support
- Food Bank Local Purchasing
- Pantry Innovations
- Mobile Markets
- Produce Prescription
- Community Health Worker
- Food Justice Cohort
- Farm to Childcare Pilot
- Farmers Market EBT/SNAP





# ARPA Funding Update

# Funds by Program

Initiative	Status	Total Dollar Amount Awarded
Food Aggregation Support	Encumbered	\$1,248,000
Communal Garden Support	Encumbered	\$62,050
Food Bank Local Purchasing	Encumbered	\$1,985,000
Pantry Innovations	Encumbered	\$213,166.81
Mobile Markets	Contract Negotiation/Signing	\$865,000

# Funds by Program

Initiative	Status	Total Dollar Amount Awarded
Produce Prescription	Contract Negotiation	\$1,500,000
Community Health Worker	Contract Negotiation/Signing	\$612,933
Food Justice Cohort & Intern	Encumbered	\$112,432
Farm to Childcare Pilot	Encumbered	\$50,000
Farmers Market EBT/SNAP	Encumbered	\$163,716
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$6,812,298</b>



# Outcomes to Date

# The Food Justice Cohort

- **Role:** Develop equitable funding system, by setting selection criteria, reviewing applications, and awarding funds.
- **Members:** Elke Weil-Millan, Crystal Taylor, Terrill Debnam, Erica Porter, Erin McClellan
- **Wake County Staff:** Cooperative Extension & Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion



**Elke Weil-Millan**  
Latinx/Immigrant  
Outreach Consultant



**Crystal Taylor**  
Black Farmers  
Market



**D. Terrill Debnam**  
Young Farmers &  
Ranchers in Wake County



**Erica Porter**  
Southeast Raleigh  
YMCA



**Erin McClellan**  
Fertile Ground  
Food Co-op



# Food Justice Cohort & Equity Impact

- **Awarded \$1,273,400.80 to 29 community organizations**
  - Communal Garden Projects
  - Pantry Innovations
  - Mobile Markets
  - Community Health Workers
- **21 New Vendors with Wake County**

# Increase production & sustain farms

- **10 Communal Gardens funded**
- **\$871,031.51 invested in marginalized producers\***
- **\$3,419,049 invested to date in local producers**

*\*Food Bank Local Purchasing & Food Aggregate programs*

*\*\*2022 Annual Sales vs. Year 1 intervention data*

# Improve supply of nutritious foods and expand farmer/buyer connections

- **3,074,156 pounds of local foods sourced through funded partners\***
- **\$59,763.52 in SNAP benefits utilized & matched at Farmers Markets**

*\*purchase local, farmers markets, aggregation partners, food pantries, communal gardens as of Oct 2024*

# **Increase storage, efficiency, & equitable service**

- **\$1,417,182.32 invested in increased cold storage and delivery capacity**
- **13 partners with expanded cold storage**
- **5 delivery vehicles funded**

# Increase tailored services & physical access

- **\$1.5 million invested in Produce Prescription Pilot**
  - Anticipate 1,000 under or uninsured clients served
- **\$385,251 invested in mobile market expansion**
  - Anticipate 12,600 residents over two years
- **\$616,382 invested in Community Health Workers**
  - Estimated to reach 425 households monthly



# Next Steps

# Leveraging Successes to Drive Future Equity Initiatives

- The Blueprint for Racial Equity was developed as a comprehensive strategy to address systemic inequities across various sectors, including health, education, criminal justice, and economic mobility. Its purpose is to guide our initiatives and ensure that we are aligned with our community's needs and values.
  - Food justice is pivotal as it intersects with multiple areas of the Blueprint, particularly economic mobility and health.
  - Our next steps involve translating these principles into actionable strategies.

# Evolving Our Approach: Bridging Food Justice with Race Equity

**Objective:** Continue to work with the Food Justice Cohort to develop and implement a Train-the-Trainer (TTT) and Coaching Program to equip community leaders with the expertise necessary for fostering transformative changes in food justice and racial equity.

- **Target Audience:** Community leaders, nonprofit organizations, and grassroots activists committed to eradicating racial disparities and engaged in food justice and racial equity.
- **Program Aim:** Create systemic change by building local capacity that advocates for and sustains food justice and racial equity efforts.



# Next Steps & Ongoing Efforts - Systems

- **Internal best practices guidance for working with small, community organizations**
- **Continue to strengthen regional food system**
  - Values-Based Procurement Policy recommendations
  - Regional food system development with surrounding counties

# Next Steps & Ongoing Efforts - Funding

- **Investigating potential funding to continue ProduceRx**
- **Innovative funding streams for emergency food partners**
- **Potential departmental request for FY28**
  - Farmers Market SNAP Match & Produce to Pantry



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