# Regional Food System Development









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# <u>Cooperative Extension Goal</u>: 2018 Business Plan: Increase food security and healthy food access for Wake residents.

**Initiative CH2.1**: Improve health of populations through the development of infrastructure and education that encourages an active lifestyle.



**Initiative E1.2:** Partner with WCPSS and community agencies to reduce childhood hunger.



**Initiative SEV3.2:** Develop and implement a comprehensive plan to identify and address issues related to hunger, food insecurity and food deserts in Wake County.



**Initiative GG5.1**: Build and maintain partnerships with other public and private entities to leverage resources and increase efficiencies.

### Adopted Food Security Plan, February 5, 2018

### **Strengthen Regional Food System**

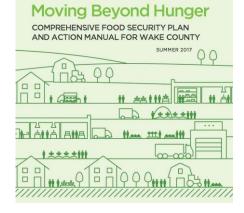
BOC Work Session, November, 13, 2017

- 1) Remove barriers to growing and accessing healthy food
- 2) Help hardworking farmers earn a living
- 3) Preserve farmland and production capacity for the future
- 4) Grow the local food economy
- 5) Create a healthier world



- TRIANGLE FARMS FOR FOOD: Strategy + Action Plan November 2018
- 1) Clear opportunities for economic development in processing, distribution and retail/wholesale consumption markets.
- 2) Acute awareness of benefits: health, economy, farmland preservation.
- 3) Current fragmentation and lack of collaborative framework; joint assessment, planning, shared decision-making & investments.
- 4) Current Thinking too localized: Diverse needs, resources, existing capacity for production, processing, aggregation hubs, institutional purchasing, soils & topography.
- 5) Unique opportunity to align awareness and market demand with surrounding capacity for agricultural production; national model.

### **Common Interests: Economic Development**



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Consumer Demand for sustainably grown local and regional products offers new opportunities for small & mid-size farms, stronger environmental performance in the farm sector; bridging rural/urban divide, addressing access...Wallace Center

- Create Diverse Markets for local growers, regionally
- Design integrated supply chain infrastructure, marketing and resources to support small & growing farms.
- Support small acreage production through hubs that aggregate, add value, distribute products from local producers to wholesale markets, retail & institutions.

### Time Line



#### June-Sept, 2018 Meet with business partners to explore interests in expansion, collaboration, shared framework for investments

#### Feb-May, 2018

Extension Directors , Ag Economic Development rep's meet/outline Framework.

#### Oct – Dec, 2018

Explore & assess market demand, strategic & mutual interests, engagement of partners.

### Feb-April, 2019

Convene stakeholders, broaden engagement & seek collective & external investments.



## **Questions?**





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