

Food is Medicine Capstone

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Project Background

Key Research Questions:

How can we build partnerships between community-based organizations and hospital/healthcare partners to create a resilient and just food system?

How can BIPOC growers/producers and food businesses be brought into food as medicine programs?

What are best practices from other states in screening and referral and food as medicine programs?

How can the case be made for food as a central pillar to health and wellbeing in the way 'food is medicine' programs are evaluated? How can the case for reimbursement be made through evaluation?

What are sustainable funding pathways for screening and referral and other food as medicine programs?

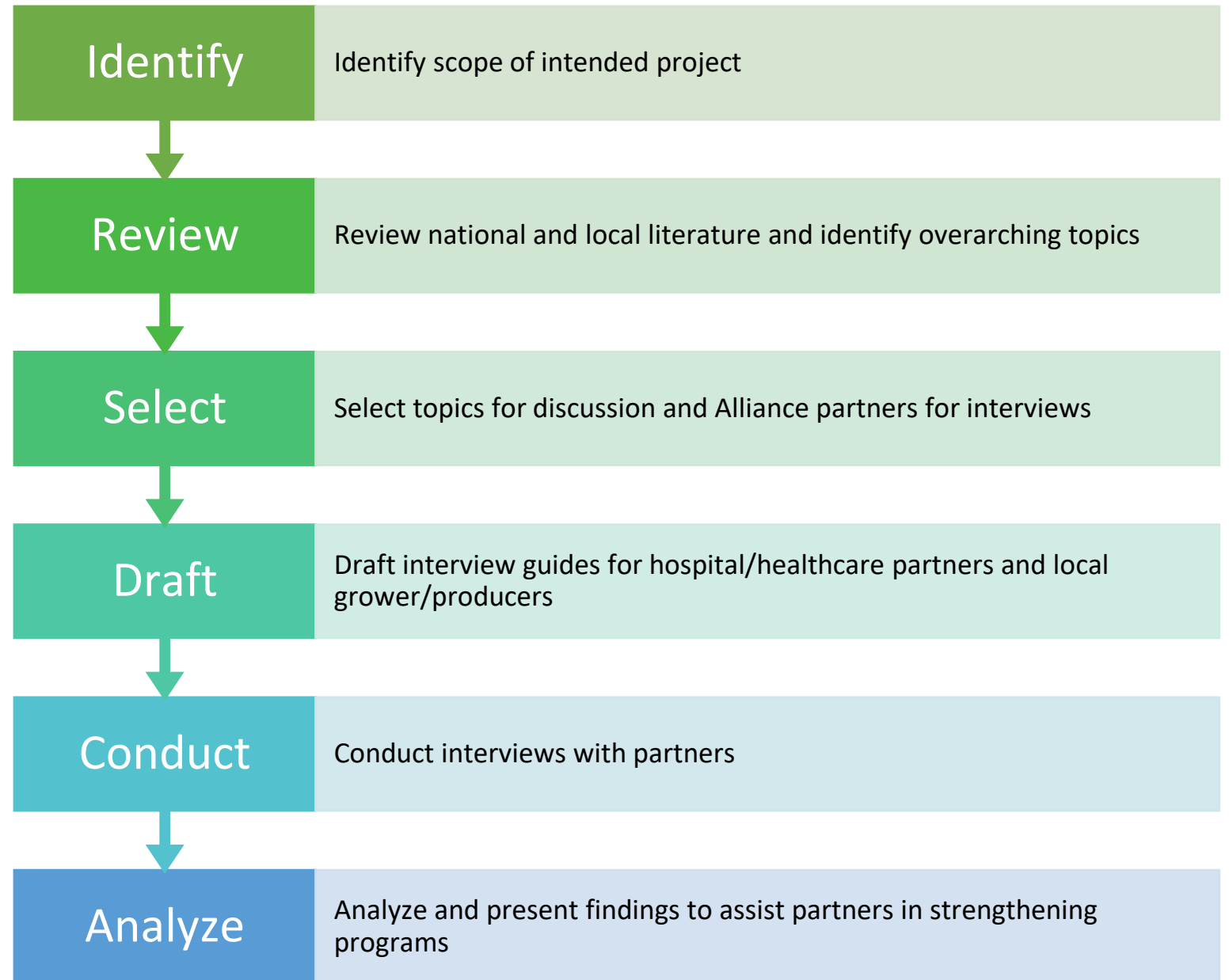


Project Background Cont.

With these questions in mind, we hope to:

- Build upon the food access work of the Alliance for Health Equity
- Identify challenges, barriers, best practices, and gaps in the literature around screening and referral and food is medicine programs
- Identify opportunities for creating food is medicine partnerships between hospital/healthcare systems and local BIPOC growers/producers
- Shift the narrative around food is medicine initiatives to make them a central pillar of care
- Strengthen the case for reimbursement and sustainable funding of programs

Project Activities





Project Implementation

- 12 interviews conducted with hospital/healthcare partners and local growers/producers
- Resources developed for partners with findings:
 - Working list of local BIPOC growers/producers
 - Working list of screening and referral and food distribution programs
 - Preliminary metrics surrounding food is medicine partnerships between hospital/healthcare systems and local growers/producers

Local Growers and Producers

Note: This is a working list in progress, we are looking to expand and update with your contributions. We will share a Jamboard link on the next slide where you can contribute updates and additions.

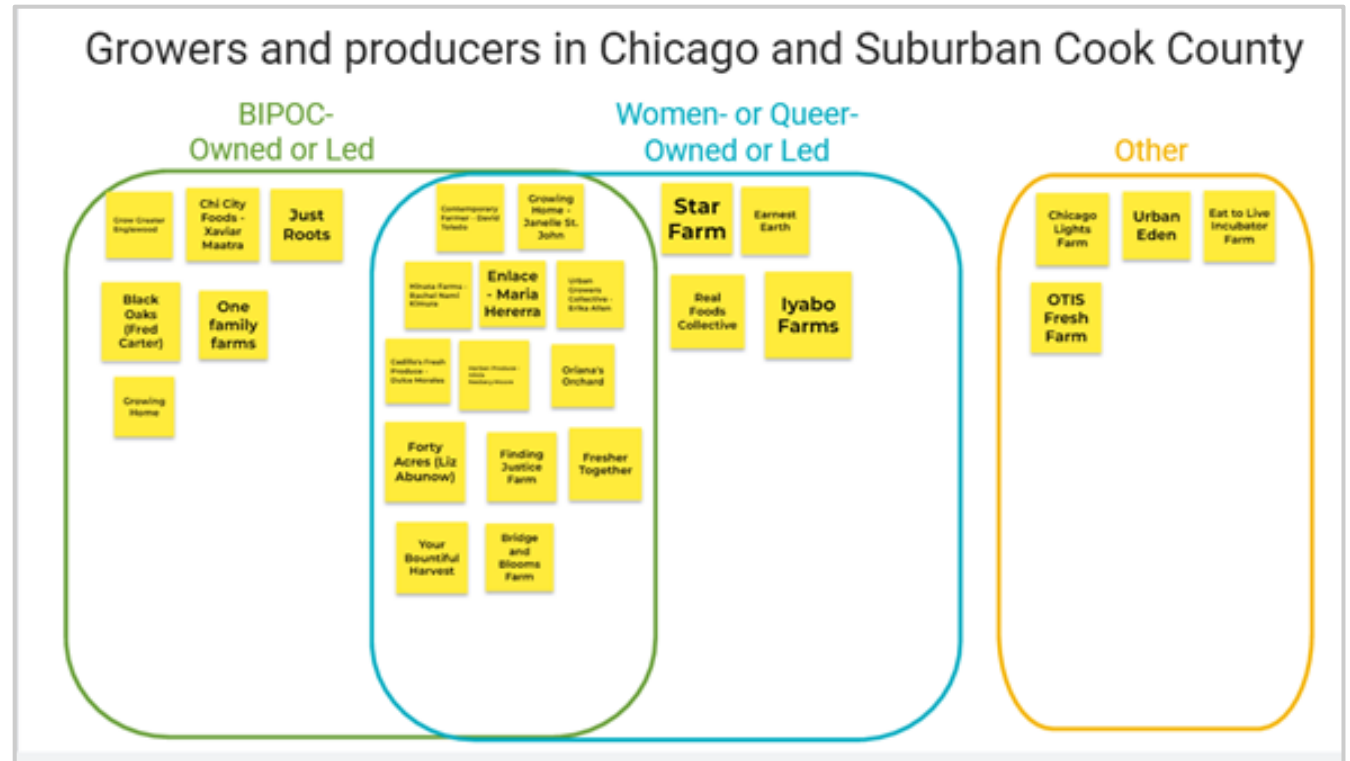
- Contemporary Farmer- David Toledo***
- Chicago Lights Farm
- Growing Home
- Urban Growers Collective***
- Enlace community gardens- Maria Herrera***
- Eat to Live Incubator Farm
- Urban Eden
- Your Bountiful Harvest***
- Fresher Together***
- Cedillo's Fresh Produce- Dulce Morales & Juan Cedillo***
- Chicago Patchwork Farms CSA
- Sistas in the Village***
- Catatumbo Co-Op***
- Grow Greater Englewood**
- Chi City Foods- Xavier Maatra
- Just Roots
- Star Farm Chicago*
- Herban Produce-Alicia Nesbary-Moore***
- Earnest Earth
- Hinata Farms-Rachel Nami Kimura***
- Real Foods Collective*
- Urban Canopy
- OTIS Fresh Farm
- Cicero Community Farm***
- GIY Chicago*
- Urban Stewards Action Network (USAN) **

* woman- or queer-led farm

** BIPOC led farm

*** BIPOC and woman-/queer-led farm

Local Growers and Producers



<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1Cx12ZloQpPMhAQhI0jYkEBj05EGNMg9wb2xIzKqZ5Wg/viewer?f=0>

Note: This is a working list in progress, we are looking to expand and update with your contributions. We recognize that we don't have first-hand knowledge of how all the leaders of these farms identify, so we definitely want to incorporate updates and additions.

Current Screening and Referral Partnerships

- Cook County Health and Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD), including the GCFD Fresh Truck
- Lawndale Christian Health and Windy City Harvest VeggieRx program at the Farm on Ogden
- Advocate Aurora and Irv and Shelley's Fresh Picks and Lakeview Pantry
- Swedish Hospital "Veggies for Health" with Common Pantry, Forty Acres Fresh Market, and Lakeview Food Pantry; referrals for SNAP and WIC enrollment
- VeggieRx Maywood and Windy City Harvest
- ACCESS and the GCFD Fresh Truck
- Northwestern Hospital and Onward Neighborhood House (GCFD)



Food is Medicine Partnerships

Partnership Barriers

- Hospital/healthcare
 - Receiving enough produce from partner
 - Compensation for grower
 - Seasonal challenges
 - Community health priorities
 - Leadership buy-in
- Grower/producer
 - Race-based discriminatory lending and purchasing that has historically disadvantaged Black farmers
 - Smaller farms and food production
 - Seasonal challenges
 - Transportation of produce to distribution
 - Costs
 - Adhering to growing/safety requirements from hospital/healthcare system
 - Smaller scale producers faced with barriers to certifications, land access, and water

Partnership Best Practices

- Identifying and creating partnerships with farmers' markets and farms in relation to hospital/healthcare systems
- Identifying mutually beneficial program metrics
 - Amount of food provided, delivery schedule, grower/producer compensation/support
- Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) style food shares
- Nutrition/recipe information
- Community leadership
- Food justice education to inform public policy work



Evaluation Metrics

How can the case be made for food as a central pillar to health and wellbeing in the way 'food is medicine' programs are evaluated?

How can the case for reimbursement be made through evaluation?

Current Metrics

Number of positive food insecurity screens

Number of people accessing food distribution sites (food truck, farmers market, mobile market)

Number of members in household who benefitted from food distribution

Number of people who accessed with vouchers

Pre/post survey to identify needs/how distribution has improved food at home

Metrics: Next Steps



- Closely track referrals to close loop on process
- Leverage technology to improve programming (ex: automated referrals)
- Develop return on investment metrics for programs
- Set percentage goals for food procured from local growers and producers
- Align with evaluation best practices of Healthcare Transformation Collaboratives
- Tie in the evaluation of programs with Registered Dietitians (RDs) and Community Health Workers (CHWs)

Community Mapping

- Highlight community resources (community gardens, food distribution sites, community-based organizations) in relation to a nearby hospitals/healthcare systems
- Preliminary drafting, seeking feedback/suggestions on how to improve this mapping and utilize it for future initiatives

Englewood Community

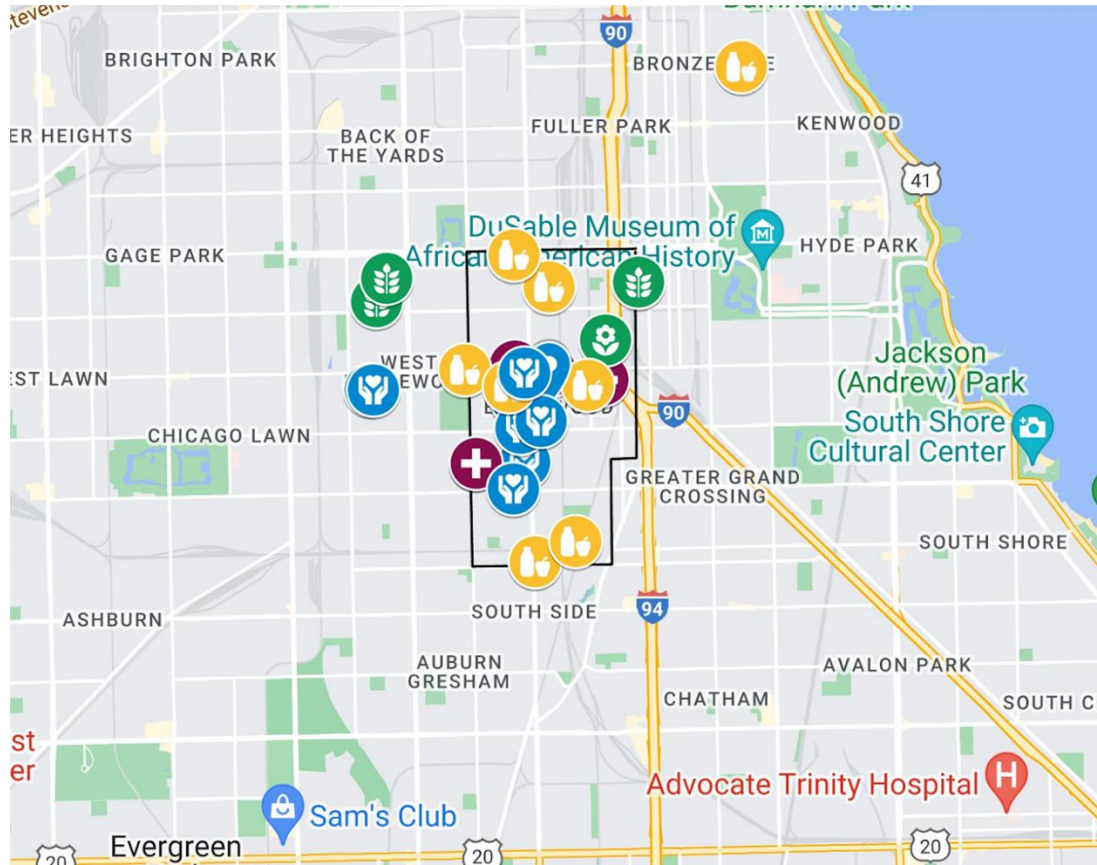
Hospitals/health centers

Community gardens/urban farms

Food distribution sites

Community-based organizations

Community Mapping



Health Center/Hospital

- Englewood Health Center
- University of Illinois Mile Square Health Center: Englewood
- Cook County Englewood Family
- Oak Street Health Primary Care - Englewood Clinic
- St. Bernard Hospital

Food Distribution

- Great Englewood Parish United - Food Distribution Center
- Englewood United Methodist Church Food Pantry - Food Distribution Center
- Visitation Parish Food Pantry - Food Distribution Center
- Shepherd's Hope - Food Distribution Center
- Food Desert Action - Food Distribution Center
- Koinonia Ministry - Food Distribution Center
- Chosen Tabernacle Full Gospel - Food Distribution Center
- IMAN Food and Wellness Center

Community/Urban Garden

- Sherwood Peace Garden
- Sweet Water Foundation Think-Do House
- Growing Home Urban Farm
- Hermitage Street Community Garden

Community Based Organizations

- Teamwork Englewood
- Intergenerational Growing
- R.A.G.E
- IMPACT Family Center
- Action Coalition of Englewood
- Growing Home Administrative Office
- Imagine Englewood if...
- Chicago Eco House
- I Grow Chicago

Community Mapping

- Presented as a resource that could come out of hospital/healthcare and grower/producer partnerships
- Utilize funding toward expanding resource mapping
- We recognize many others are working in the mapping space, this is an example of what mapping could include

References

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Improving Health Across
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