

# JOHNSON COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT



## 2022 BY THE NUMBERS



**22**

Guests attended  
FPC meetings

**57**

Working group  
meetings

**60+**

People attended  
FPC events

**7**

Tabling sessions at  
community events  
and markets

**1**

Tour and meeting  
at the Historic Poor  
Farm

**2**

Focus groups for a  
10-Year Iowa Food  
System Plan

## COMMUNITY FOOD AND FARM GRANT

The FPC helped Local Foods Staff create the framework, develop an outreach plan, and review applications for the Community Food and Farm Grant, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. The FPC and staff, with approval from the Board of Supervisors, selected 9 farmers, food business owners, and nonprofits to receive funding this first cycle.

### GRANT GOALS

- 1** Farm and food businesses grow, process, preserve, or cook more food in the Johnson County foodshed
- 2** Farm and food businesses expand sales, markets, and/or jobs through education, professional or peer support services, and/or worker benefits
- 3** Low-income communities have more opportunities to access community-based food through free food distribution sites, deliveries, community gardens, and/or income-based payment options

**75+ HOURS** dedicated by the council to the grant review process alone!

**126**

Applications submitted

**74**

Applications eligible  
and reviewed by staff

**31**

Applications advanced  
to FPC review

**9**

Applications selected  
for funding



## COUNCIL MEMBERS

Giselle Bruskewitz, Chair  
Emily Roberts, Vice Chair  
Molly Schintler, Past Vice Chair  
Will Kapp, Secretary  
Hannah Shultz, Outreach & Events Chair

Ayman Sharif  
Bill Weedman Jr.  
Consuelo Guayara Sanchez  
Debbie Klein  
Deborah Kuiken

Ethan Bettis  
Joseph Klingelutz  
Mike Roelf  
Penny Rembolt

# WORKING GROUPS 2022

## PROCUREMENT POLICIES

Members met monthly with University of Iowa stakeholders and Field to Family to research and explore policies and strategies to increase local food procurement at the University. Members also planned the annual forum focused on farm to institution sales.



## FOOD JUSTICE

Members planned the Local Foods Roundtable. This group also developed the outreach plan for the grant, considering details such as how to spread the word, how to offer materials in multiple languages, and how to support folks who needed assistance with the application.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Members organized a focus group to inform the Iowa Food System Coalition's 10-Year Iowa Food System Plan. Members used feedback from this event and other input gathered in 2021 to update the strategic plan and advise on Community Food and Farm Grant development. This group also connected with the Director of Rural Development from Iowa City Area Development to share about local food infrastructure needs and challenges. Members also helped plan the forum which included infrastructure-related conversations.

## ARPA LOCAL FOOD INITIATIVES

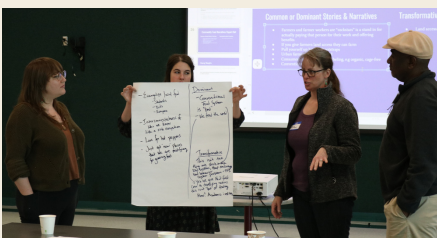
Members of this working group used research and their food system knowledge to advise on the design of the Community Food and Farm Grant. They also assisted with the development of the application and review processes. This committee's work contributed to the successful administration of this first grant cycle and increased community knowledge of the FPC.

## EVENTS

### FARM TO INSTITUTION PURCHASING: HOW DO WE INCREASE SALES?

The 8th annual forum increased awareness of the benefits of local food procurement and barriers and solutions to increasing sales. Panelists discussed the role of food hubs and policies and how to build relationships between producers and purchasers. Panelists included: **James Nisly**, Producer and Food Hub Manager; **Marlie Wilson**, Chicago Food Policy Action Council; **Michael Graham**, Ulowa Dining; **Teresa Wiemerslage**, ISU Extension & Outreach.

Watch the recording on the [county's website](#).



## LOCAL FOODS ROUNDTABLE

At the 2022 Local Foods Roundtable, "Transforming the Food System Through Storytelling," attendees identified and reflected on common food system narratives and how they influence actions, behaviors, and policies. Then, attendees identified food system stories that could be shared out to transform understanding.

