



# Do Something Recipients: 2017 Indy Healthy Food Access Challenge Six-Month Follow-up<sup>1</sup>

Name	Please summarize your idea and approach over the last 6 months:	What have you learned thus far? What has worked well (or not so well)? What are the challenges?	What other insights would you want to share with others aimed at addressing food access issues?
Lawrence Community Gardens, Inc., Sharrona Moore	Our garden evolved from having a farm stand to a mobile farmers market that collaborates with other local farmers and apartments to have pop up markets weekly at their location. We accept snap and donated over 4,330 lbs of food this season.	We learned that volunteers are our most valuable resource and that we need to include youth in our activities.	Look for innovative ways to address food access in food deserts to improve the quality of health for that area. Be sure to include educational material on how to cook the food and nutritional information as well.
For the Love of Honey, Dustin Mehringer	Bought two nucs of bees and built two hives. Unfortunately one hive of bees swarmed (just left the hive) and the other one was killer off by other honey bees that robbed the hive of all the honey.	Bees are neat and still "wild" animals and hard to keep. I learned a ton and still have the "bug" to keep bees. I bought some personal wood working equipment to build my own hives for next year. I plan on buying two more nucs next year and have a new location to keep bees. I still plan on donating half the honey.	Look at ideas from other cities that have worked.
Free Food Box, Tim Barton	Addition of a 2nd Free Food Box. I reached out to The Weekly View newspaper for another newspaper stand and reached out to the community for a recipient of said box.	The idea is great and although very few people came forward to adopt the 2nd box, we did have takers. I learned what foods to put in the fox and what hasn't worked. The challenges are to have enough food to stock it more than once, daily. The Box has been well received from the community and at times, more than 2-3 will stop by the box on a daily basis.	The need is immense!

<sup>1</sup> Information in this summary has been approved by grant recipients to share with a wider audience for the purpose of co-learning.

Free Food Box, Aaron	I created and supplied a free food box in my neighborhood.	I have learned that there is a great need in my neighborhood for food. Every time I put food in the box it is taken quickly, within 24 hours. I noticed that one group in particular would collect the food. Some folks stole the sidewalk chalk and shelves that were in the food box. Some folks have donated food, though I don't know whom.	I want to print a list of food pantries and times they are open, and locations, and put them in the food box. I also want to put leftover produce from my garden in the food box, and maybe include recipes. I might want to hold events where people are taught how to cook healthy food. I might want to partner with food pantries to provide a remote location for their outreach.
Fresh Food Access Incubator, Kyle Edgell	Fresh Food Access Incubator	I was too ambitious from the beginning. I've scaled back to focus on working on a pilot program. It's challenging to communicate the vision, but more so, it's difficult to shepherd a project without any funding on the front-end (besides the \$500).	
Urban Garden, Lane Waters and Lori McIntosh	Our hope is that our garden, being physically in the center of our building, can become a hub for learning, curiosity, and creativity for the entire Lower School and the family community. This space would also be an extension of a greater effort to make gardening and food production more of a focal point for integrated learning experiences in the entire school.	We have visited other schools with community gardens and have invited a resident gardener to help us envision our space. We have made more space for vegetable production and a pollinator garden. We have learned a lot about maintenance of a garden and the importance of soil health. Our challenge has been working in a confined space. With the help of the community, we have cleared the space and prepared it for winter by spreading alfalfa to enrich the soil. A map of our current plan is in the other comments as well as a youtube video from the fall.	Don't be afraid to reach out to other people in the community. There are many resources available that you may not know about

Cool Bus and Gardens, Jeff Piper	<p>A school bus transformed into a Mobile Grocery Store, SNAP certified, loaded with healthy food choices that will roll on a regular route throughout our food desert. A Propane powered tag along generator provides the power to the coolers and freezers for safe food transport while servicing 40 scheduled stops per month at 20 locations allowing citizens access two times per month. The trailer housing the power source is mounted inside of a 12' trailer, leaving space for paper goods inventory. We utilized auctions and horribly the Marsh closings to acquire most of our retrofitted equipment, shelving, checkout area etc.</p> <p>We have a headquarters for the bus, part of which is becoming our warehouse/distribution location. A huge step.</p> <p>We did receive a grant from the Office of Sustainability, City of Indianapolis.</p> <p>We have continued to build relationships with growers and we have recently helped to form Farmer Veteran Coalition of Indiana. Our own gardens are in the works with collaboration from the City of INDY. Veterans growing food on Vacant City properties. Dirt Therapy is a great way to help cope with both emotional and physical issues that many people, not just Veterans experience.</p> <p>A portion of the crops will go on the Cool Bus and the rest belongs to the at risk veteran farmers to either sell or consume themselves. Use and Nutrition information will be supplied for the individual</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As things develop you always need more funding.</li> <li>2. Don't count on a volunteer workforce.</li> <li>3. Don't let your mission consume you, keep a balance. I am challenged by a launch date being 6 months later than I wanted. A very long story, but just give the mission time to evolve with no big pressure on yourself. I have been reminded to ask for help. Lone Ranger signing off here.</li> </ol>	<p>Don't think any one of us is the solution, but together we are.</p>
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<p>Mobile Garden, Bailey Shannon</p>	<p>The mobile garden is a community green space on wheels for food production, education, creativity, and neighborhood engagement. It is a hyperlocal and relational way to engage youth and their families in learning how to grow their own food and keep active outdoors. It makes gardening and growing food less daunting and more accessible, while encouraging entrepreneurship and leadership skills, mental and physical health and wellness, and healthy communities.</p> <p>The mobile garden's home base is at the House Life Project, in the Saint Clair Place neighborhood on the Near Eastside of Indianapolis. The HLP partners with Renew Indianapolis and is given a vacant house to do art-based programming in, with the one stipulation that HLP might have to move at any given time, if someone were to purchase the house. In order to keep and maintain a garden it had to be able to move with us.</p> <p>The mobile garden consists of a wash station on wheels, a compost cart that attaches to a bike, and an old wagon converted into an herb garden. We've added containers, tubs, buckets, and pots to our collection of items with food growing in them.</p>	<p>What I learned: it isn't about producing the most food, but exposing people to the idea that they can grow their own food, explained best by this analogy: placing a hook in people's minds that will hopefully be added to throughout their life...as they learn about sustainability, accessibility and affordability of healthy food, growing their own food, nutrition and wellness, etc.</p> <p>Challenges: capacity, interest from neighbors, lack of experience leading programming/teaching</p> <p>Worked well: the kids' natural inclination and desire to be curious and learn about the garden, people asked questions, kids tried the food, brought community members together, good mobility and had no problems moving it</p> <p>Not worked well: theft, consistent participation in workshops, capacity (of myself and the organization)</p>	<p>relationship is the backbone of sustainability, without personal relationships (whether those are relationships with other people, the earth, the community, god, etc.) nothing can be sustained. with that in mind, sometimes it is good to keep things small-scale and hyper local. impacting a few lives deeply is better than a lot of lives shallowly and I found that this is done best on a small, hyperlocal, personal scale.</p>
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Mapleton Fall Creek Food Co-op, Leigh Riley Evans	<p>The Do Something Grant funds were used to bolster the exploration phase of creating a food co-op in the Mid-North neighborhood of Mapleton Fall Creek. During the second and third quarters, the Food Co-op Exploratory Group was convened and began meeting. The group consisted of representatives from the public &amp; private sectors including the City of Indianapolis and Purdue Extension, Mid-North residents &amp; stakeholders such as members of the Mid-North Church Council and Food Pantry, and the Indiana Cooperative Development Center.</p>	<p>One of the big lessons has been having the opportunity to connect neighborhood partners to previously unknown resources such as where to obtain a meal every day in the neighborhood or other funding opportunities to support improving health outcomes in the community. The biggest challenge resulted from MFCDC staffing changes which required us to adjust our sustainability strategy slightly by engaging an AmeriCorps Public Ally to fulfill the continuing role of building awareness of community health needs, with a specific focus on food access and security. We have also been challenged with securing additional funding to create a community grocery-store.</p>	<p>The greatest benefit of this food access challenge has been the exposure to a cross-section of creative ideas &amp; potential solutions for addressing food insecurity. Additionally, the opportunity was a valuable leadership development tool for local talent.</p>
The Food Artery, Anagha Varrier	<p>System that helps food-insecure people find information about availability of healthy food nearby their location of interest.</p> <p>Approach</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Met with Jen Love-Tillotson, Regional Supervisor of the Nutrition Education Program, Purdue Extension, and her team. The team met up a couple of times to brainstorm on how to proceed with my initiative. The team tried reaching out to Connect2Help211 but they were undergoing a leadership change so it was difficult to meet them.</li> <li>2. Attended the Food Summit Strategy Planning Session conducted by Shelly Suttles that focused on what different teams were planning to do in the food-insecurity space.</li> <li>3. Read research papers on food insecurity and existing technology and contacted people who have worked in similar areas in different universities.</li> </ol>	<p>I have learnt that although the gravity of the issue, especially in Marion County, is huge, there is still very less momentum in the work being done in this field. People are enthusiastic and passionate about the cause but there is some difficulty in logistics in getting all the interested people together and keeping them connected.</p> <p>I have also gained a new insight on using volunteers (who are already passionate and motivated) as part of the solution than rely on the food-insecure population themselves or as their immediate concern is to get food and not help research that would get them food. Another insight is the possibility of gamification (trying to incorporate games) to help gather information that can motivate public (apart from using existing databases.)</p>	<p>There should be a common communication channel where people who are passionate about the cause can share our findings and collaborate and offer each other resources that the other is lacking, also to keep each other motivated and help clear roadblocks.</p>

Oasis Food Co-op, Shaamora Harden	<p>Our intention was to engage and learn from the Community through a widespread community survey. We identified events throughout the summer to attend that would not only allow us to interact with community members but also distribute the survey. Our group attended: block parties, church carnivals, Indiana Black Expo, Neighborhood yard sells and community meetings. In addition, we reached out to a few apartments to see if they'd partner with us to survey their tenants. We offered incentives to encourage people to fill out the surveys.</p>	<p>There were plenty of challenges (as to be expected). It was not always easy to get apartments on board to assist in the distribution of the survey. Of the 10 approached, 2 agreed. We had a electronic survey but people seemed more apt to complete a paper survey when we requested their participation in person. Though we did achieve the goal of mingling with the community, the event-per-event distribution plan proved a bit taxing on our small group. Today, we have about 300+ surveys but our goal was 2,000 so we are quite a ways from that. The Indiana Black Expo provided the bulk of our surveys in the beginning but many of the respondents were not Far Eastside residents, so it skewed the results a bit more than we'd anticipated. Most recently, however, we have been able to get more surveys from other Far Eastside events so that should result in a more accurate representation of our neighborhood. Obtaining volunteers to distribute the surveys was a challenge. Many of these events were on Saturdays....during the Summer (need I say more). To wrap things up, we are going to a Postcard mailing/emailing/Facebook campaign to draw attention to the surveys and do 1 last push. In hindsight, it would've been great to come up with this idea earlier in the process but there was probably a reason that we went through that experience. One of the positive outcomes of the survey was a nomination for another grant. Carriage House East heard about our church's efforts and nominated us to receive funding from the Glick Foundation. We were awarded \$5,000 which is helping us to pay for the Postcard campaign as well as some community events that we have planned</p>	<p>If groups can find a way to really engage the community in the solution process, I think that would be helpful. Also, if there's a way to connect communities that aren't as "connected", we'd love to hear it. We are going to try a few things on our end in 2018 but I believe that this was a major factor in our inability to meet our initial timeline and goal. I like the mix of solutions thus far in finding solutions to food access. There are those who want to just give food away while others want to use this problem to promote economic empowerment (this is what our group wants to focus on with the Co-op). There are so many good ideas/projects going on in Indianapolis to combat this issue. At times, I feel like it would be beneficial for all of us to have stronger relationship so that we could work with each other a bit more. Especially since we all have the same goal in mind. We must do a better job at involving job creators and our lawmakers in the solution process. The root cause of food deserts are actually outside factors like zoning, laws, lacks of jobs, poor transportation options, etc. I don't know if we all do the best job at incorporating these factors into our solutions. From the grocery store/ food co-op perspective, I'd like to work more with the Latino and</p>
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Roving Scientists & Urban Growers Resource Website, Paulette Fair	<p>Over the summer we trained our youth and they trained other youth in collecting soil samples. Our youth also got trained in GIS by the Polis Center at IUPUI and they in turn trained other youth engaged in the project. We worked with IUPUI's Center for Urban Health, Groundwork Indy and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful to collect the first round of soil samples over the summer. We are currently developing the branding and website for the collaboration the Healthy Cities Project, which will help Indianapolis residents access important information about lead, safe gardening, data maps and become involved in the project. Our youth participated in an Environmental Justice symposium at IUPUI presenting about their work.</p>	<p>We've learned that big projects take time to come together and that it's only possible with the support of others.</p> <p>One of the major challenges has been adapting the vision with our organizational capacity and allowing things to develop as the right people/partners show up.</p>	<p>The work to build relationships and community is fundamental to any kind of solution. By increasing relationships, making people feel welcomed and needed we can create a space where people are open to learning new things, sharing their knowledge and investing their time and energy into being a part of the solution.</p>

Feed Now, Iris Wang	<p>My idea is to connect excess food with people with food insecurity nearby in real time. I have talked to several potential partners, including founder and CEO of Cluster Truck Mr. Chris Baggott, seeking for advices and possible partnership. I also did some research on food regulations and liabilities involved in both our organization and the food donors. Lastly I studied tax law for non-profit organizations, and learn about tax credit on charitable contributions/donations.</p>	<p>I learnt that the biggest constraint of my business model, is the start-up costs. To build an app with full function, the cost for app development is around \$20K. Further, I have talked to a fellow from Indiana State movement about possible government funding for projects like this. It seems that there are many obstacles to get funded by the government and it takes a very long time to get through this process. Furthermore, my business model replies on the number of donors and donees. The more users we have, the more valuable our app/program would be. However, there is no self-sustainable financial model for my program to run by its own. Our overhead and labor will heavily rely on funding, donations, and volunteers, which will not be consistent throughout the years and not sustainable either. Based on these considerations, it is very likely that we will not reach the targeted volume of users/activities/popularity for our program to be successful before we run out of resources and discontinue our project.</p>	<p>Food insecurity is a major problem and needs to be tackled from smaller pieces, step by step. Raising awareness from the public and create bigger impact, is easier said than done. I think major corporations and government should work together to set up a trust to fund smaller organizations (i.e. Feed Now) to provide the resources we need to do to hard job.</p>
Chickadee Gardens, Laura Dubish and Nick Milan	<p>Our do something grant was intended for expansion of our nonprofit by filing for federal status. Our organization is focused on providing fresh food access and education for the residents of the Far Eastside. This season, we implemented a demonstration garden based on permaculture principles that produced over 1,200 lbs of food. We have also partnered with other organizations and individuals on the Far Eastside to better integrate ourselves into the community and increase</p>	<p>In the past several months, we have learned a lot about establishing a non-profit. We were able to file our federal application and complete their follow-up questions. At this point, we are in the process of resubmitting our federal application with the long form application as opposed to the 1020 EZ form. This should allow us to operate on a larger scale in the future and was advised to us by our federal representative. On the farm, our most successful program this season was our backyard chickens</p>	<p>The most important thing in our opinion is the ability to listen. A great idea is nothing without a receptive audience. Listen and learn from your community and the people that you desire to serve. Also, it is crucial not to attempt to go it alone. Our partnerships have been a huge blessing in our progress over the past season. We believe that building relationships with existing organizations</p>

	<p>awareness of our services.</p> <p>operation and class. We developed functional animal systems on property to allow for highest egg production possible with minimal input and damage to the land. We also taught a backyard chicken class on site and at several events throughout Indianapolis, as well as established new flocks with our system in the neighborhood. It seems that fresh eggs are the most desired product, according to Neighborhood residents. In the coming season, we plan to focus on expanding that effort with the help of a grant from the Glick Foundation. The biggest challenge in the past few months has been navigating ways to integrate with the community. While the ability to produce food on site and establish our organization is important, it achieves very little in terms of our goals if we are not able to offer our services in meaningful ways to the community. Our partnerships with members of Good Food Connections have been crucial to addressing this issue. We plan to continue building these relationships and reaching out to our neighbors so that they might definite the solutions to food access that would be most useful for them.</p> <p>is the best way to learn what a neighborhood wants and needs.</p>
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