

# FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE: A PLANNING GUIDE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



Photo Credit: Planting Trees by Farmers.. by Arthon Meekodong. n.d.

## WHY FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE?

- »»» Food system resilience can help jurisdictions or organizations:
- **Prepare** for disruptive events (shocks or stressors) by improving knowledge and understanding of potential food system threats
  - **Respond** to food system disruptions more efficiently and effectively by having plans in place and existing relationships with key actors
  - **Create** more equitable and just food systems by implementing actions that uproot the systems and structures that create inequities in food systems

## WHAT IS FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE?

- »»» Food system resilience applies resilience theories/practices to the food system. It has been defined as, "the capacity over time of a food system and its units at multiple levels, to provide sufficient, appropriate, and accessible food to all, in the face of various and even unforeseen disturbances"(1). Resilience "attributes" such as diversity, connectivity, preparedness, etc. can help make systems more resilient (2).

## HOW TO WORK ON FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE?

- »»» In 2022, researchers from Johns Hopkins University and representatives from local governments released a resource, [\*Food System Resilience: A Planning Guide for Local Governments \(planning guide\)\*](#), to support local governments and their partners in developing food system resilience strategies that can be embedded into new or existing plans, policies, and programs.

## AN EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE APPROACH

- »»» Equitable food system resilience work must (1) **Support** food systems that provide safe, healthy, affordable, and acceptable food for all; (2) **Address** underlying structural and systemic injustices that drive differential needs; (3) **Be co-owned and co-developed** with community partners; (4) **Promote** procedural, distributional, structural, and intergenerational equity (3,4).

# »» THE PLANNING GUIDE IS STRUCTURED INTO SIX KEY MODULES

MODULE 1: GET STARTED

MODULE 4: ASSESS

MODULE 2: EQUITY IN RESILIENCE

MODULE 5: STRATEGIZE

MODULE 3: DEFINE & SCOPE

MODULE 6: IMPLEMENT & MEASURE

## Each module includes:

- **Background Information** and context to use the tools.
- **Equity Checks** with tips for how to ensure equity principles are reflected in each stage process.
- **Peer Perspectives** about the experiences of the city representatives who helped to create the guide.
- **Additional Resources** to learn more about the topic.
- **12 Tools** with worksheets and/or activities that can be completed either individually or with partners.

# »» WHO SHOULD USE THIS PLANNING GUIDE?

The primary audiences of the guide are local government staff and officials in food, health, emergency management, planning, sustainability, or other related fields. Non-profits, community organizations, civil society groups, and other food actors may also find the guide useful.

# HOW WAS THE PLANNING GUIDE CREATED?

The planning guide was created through a year-long Community of Practice comprised of researchers at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, the Bloomberg Center for Government Excellence, and representatives from Austin, Texas; Baltimore, Maryland; Denver, Colorado; Moorhead, Minnesota; and Orlando, Florida.

# HOW SHOULD THE PLANNING GUIDE BE USED? <<<

This planning guide helps users develop a set of strategies for building food system resilience and considerations for implementing them. The modules are to be completed as a team at their own pace. Each module builds on the preceding, so it should be completed sequentially. The guide is designed to be adapted according to local capacity and each community's unique context and needs.

# ACCESS THE PLANNING GUIDE HERE

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Photo Credit: Fruits and vegetables by bdreen. n.d.

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