

# ALLEN COUNTY FOOD ACTION PLAN

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2015

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Goal: Increase access to fresh, nutritious and affordable food options to all residents in Allen County			
ACTION STEP	OBJECTIVES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	POSSIBLE FUTURE/CURRENT FUNDING SOURCES
<b>Support the development of produce gardens in private and public spaces to increase ready access to fresh fruits and vegetables</b>			
Increase the number of community gardens that are functional for use in Allen County and the number of residents using backyard gardens for personal use	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recruit new spaces for public gardens, goal to establish 2 new gardens</li> <li>2. Educate residents on backyard gardening- health benefits and how to create a garden of their own</li> <li>3. Develop gardening workshops</li> <li>4. Create and promote shared resources and tools</li> </ol>	Lima Allen County Neighborhoods in Partnership	Farmers Market Promotion Program
<b>Work to eliminate food deserts in our community</b>			
Grow the Mobile Produce Market (MPM) to better serve the residents of Allen County's food deserts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop partners for funding of MPM for the future</li> <li>2. Ensure 80% of MPM stops fall within identified food desert tracks</li> <li>3. Track MPM stops</li> </ol>	West Ohio Food Bank	Farmers Market Promotion Program  Private/Community Funders

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	for viability, target population usage and need		
Increase the number of corner stores participating in Healthy Happens Here, the small store program for Allen County	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recruit new stores to join the program</li> <li>2. Increase community usage, knowledge and support of the program</li> <li>3. Track sales of produce and healthy snack options</li> </ol>	The Lima Family YMCA	Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH)
<b>Improvements in public transportation to increase access to healthy food outlets and promote an active, healthy lifestyle</b>			
Conduct a comprehensive assessment of transit services and sidewalks as well as promote and develop transit, walking and bicycling infrastructure-including sidewalk construction, better lighting and crosswalks and street amenities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve transit level of service to those residing in food deserts</li> <li>2. Develop Complete Street Policy</li> <li>3. Promote the Active Transportation Plan</li> <li>4. Conduct School Walk Plans</li> <li>5. Integrate Safe Routes to School program improvements</li> <li>6. Conduct analysis of bicycle and pedestrian crashes to identify areas of need</li> </ol>	PICH Grant, City of Lima, Allen County Regional Planning Commission, Allen County Regional Transit Authority, Safe Community Coalition, Bike and Pedestrian Task Force, Ohio Department of Transportation, Lima Police Department, Allen County Board of Education, Lima City Schools, Elida Local Schools	TAP, Urban, SRTA, COTF, RTF, Nature Works, LWCF, CMAQ, CDBG, OPWC (Multiple Federal and State funding sources)

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<b>Ensure Allen County students receive healthy, nutritious meals and that children do not go hungry</b>			
Raise the level of public awareness and recognition of hunger as a health concern in Allen County	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise awareness, support and participation in local Backpack program and Meals 'til Monday program</li> <li>2. Raise awareness, support and participation in summer feeding programs</li> <li>3. Support removal of barriers to nutrition assistance programs</li> </ol>	West Ohio Food Bank, Allen County School Board, Elida Local Schools, Local Faith Based groups, Allen County Public Health, Lima City Schools, Spencerville Local Schools	Feeding America, Meals 'til Monday-volunteer and donation run  Ohio Department of Education/USDA SFSP
Support farm to preschool/school efforts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create a directory of local farms in 8 county area willing to partner with schools</li> <li>2. Recruit preschools/schools to adapt farm to schools policies</li> <li>3. Educate and train teachers, parents, food service staff, etc.</li> </ol>	Allen County Public Health	Creating Healthy Communities (CHC)
<b>Ensure seniors, the disabled and other at-risk people groups have access to fresh, healthy and nutritious foods and knowledge about preparation of these foods</b>			
Implement Cooking For Change program through funding from the US Conference of Mayors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recruit students to create healthy school lunch recipes, after proper education, to share with their school</li> <li>2. Recruit at-risk adults and families to participate</li> </ol>	Lima Family YMCA, City of Lima, Apollo Career Center, Lima City Schools	Currently plan is funded by award from the U.S. Conference of Mayors  Objective 1 (Year 1)

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	in student run cooking classes (goal 150 participants)		Objective 2 (Year 1)
	3. Follow-up/ Evaluation		Objective 3 (Year 1-2)
<p style="text-align: center;">Conduct an assessment of the food access of Allen County seniors and the disabled</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify needs such as grocery delivery, transportation, education, etc.</li> <li>2. Plan for expansion of transportation services</li> <li>3. Increase awareness of and enrollment in SNAP</li> <li>4. Support and develop Senior Dining centers</li> <li>5. Support use of Mobile Produce Market</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;">Area Agency on Aging, Allen County Council on Aging, Lima Allen County Community Action Commission, West Ohio Food Bank, Allen County Regional Transit Authority</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TBD</p>
<b>Support the continuation of the Downtown Lima Farmers Market</b>			
<p style="text-align: center;">Increase the number of vendors, participants and impact of the Downtown Lima Farmers Market</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create a sustainability and action plan including funding for the market</li> <li>2. Expand market with the ability to use SNAP</li> <li>3. Increase non-craft vendors by 10%</li> <li>4. Track participation, resident usage and community impact</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;">Allen Soil and Water Conservation District, Chamber of Commerce, PICH Grant, Allen County Food Council, Downtown Lima Inc.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Farmers Market Promotion Program Grant</p>

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**Promote policy change at county and city levels to increase access to fresh, nutritious and affordable food and increase wellness for all residents in Allen County**

<p>Create environments that support health, wellness</p>	<p>1. Include local food and healthy food access in any strategic city/county plans</p> <p>2. Establish, promote and support healthy workplace policies in county businesses</p> <p>3. Implement and support school wellness policies</p> <p>4. Establish and maintain city and county zoning policies to limit fast food outlets</p>	<p>City of Lima, Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission, Allen County Commissioners, Chamber of Commerce, Activate Allen County Leadership Team, Allen County Public Health, Lima City Council</p>	<p>Objectives 2-3 - School and workplace support currently being provided by PICH and CHC funding</p>
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**Goal: Increase the ability for residents to grow food in Allen County and the surrounding region for personal use and/or for business purposes**

ACTION STEP	OBJECTIVES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	POSSIBLE FUTURE/CURRENT FUNDING SOURCES
<p>Prioritize food production as a use of land</p>	<p>1. Develop and support programs to produce food on City-owned land</p> <p>2. Work jointly with other jurisdictions to conserve land</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>Increase the number of sustainable farms</p>	<p>1. Support a regional farmer/producer</p>	<p>Allen County/Regional Colleges and</p>	<p>TBD</p>

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<p>and farmers including those within urban agriculture/farming cultivation</p>	<p>network supporting farming as a respectable vocation</p> <p>2. Connect novice and seasoned farmers</p> <p>3. Develop training and resources for produces to expand to year round food production</p> <p>4. Support inclusion of social service entities including prisons and courts as an outlet for this work</p>	<p>Universities, OSU Extension, Allen County Courthouse, Allen County Detention Center, Apollo Career Center, Allen County 4-H</p>	
<p>Attract, Train and Empower new local food producers</p>	<p>1. Expand agriculture and related vocational programs in local educational institutions</p> <p>2. Support programs to diversify and increase the local farm labor pool</p> <p>3. Research best practices to farm incubator programs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TBD</p>
<p>Explore opportunities to expand community gardens, private gardens and other personal use growers</p>	<p>1. Provide education and resources to those who wish to become personal use growers</p>	<p>Lima Allen County Neighborhoods in Partnership, Master Gardeners</p>	<p>Farmers Market Promotion Program</p>

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<b>Goal: Businesses that produce, process, distribute and sell local and healthy foods should increase in number, in correspondence with the number of local partners buying these products in our county and surrounding region</b>			
ACTION STEP	OBJECTIVES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	POSSIBLE FUTURE/CURRENT FUNDING SOURCES
Encourage institutions to support our local/regional food system	1.Create a directory of local buyers and producers to distribute throughout the region 2. Promote farm to school campaigns	Allen County Public Health, CHC grant, Allen County Food Council, Lima City Schools	Objective 1. Year 1- CHC funding
	3.Encourage local schools to create their own gardens for consumption 4.Develop programs that facilitate and support local food purchasing		Objective 2. Goal within current CHC funding, additional possible funding available through Farm to School Grants  Objective 3. Possible funding through Farm to School Grant
Increase the consumption of local/regional foods to improve the financial viability of local food producers	1.Support the creation of a local branding campaign 2.Collaborate with the Chamber and others to produce promotional and advertising materials 3.Educate residents about the value of local foods	Chamber of Commerce, Allen Economic Development Group, Downtown Lima Inc., Activate Allen County Leadership Team, Allen County Food Council	Objectives 1-3 - Possible use for future marketing dollars/collaborative marketing campaign  Objective 4 - Possible funding source- Farmers Market Promotion Grant  Objective 5 - Possible use for future marketing



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	<p>4.Support expansion of farmers markets and other local food outlets</p> <p>5.Promote and increase sales of local seasonal food at local businesses</p>		dollars/collaborative marketing campaign
Develop the local/regional food economy and infrastructure	<p>1.Recommend policy changes that support small food businesses</p> <p>2.Promote government and private investment in local food and agriculture sectors</p> <p>3.Establish and support policies that create access for urban food production</p> <p>4.Support the creation of storage and processing facilities</p>	Allen County Food Council, City of Lima	TBD