

<b>Name</b>		<b>Organization</b>	
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**Goal**

*Every community has access to nutritious, culturally specific food and has the ability to participate in traditional food practices.*

**Description**

The foods we eat are inextricably linked with climate change. As temperatures warm, changes in climate patterns affect agricultural yields and supply chains, as well as the nutritional quality, prices, and stability of our food supply. In addition, industrial mono-crop agriculture itself is a major contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions.

Championing access to culturally relevant, nutritious food strengthens cultural identity and fosters community well-being. By valuing cultural traditions, we create a thriving community where everyone can access healthy, familiar food and connect with their heritage. Approaches like permaculture and others that focus on soil quality and stewardship create healthy food, healthy ecosystems, and can store carbon in the ground.

Cultural food practices can help communities build resilience to climate change by promoting local food production, reducing reliance on global supply chains and fostering community connections. This means supporting the preservation of traditional food practices that honor the wisdom of Black, Indigenous and other people of color who rely on natural resources for sustenance. It involves understanding how they obtain and prepare food, and ensuring these practices are respected and incorporated into solutions for a more resilient and just food system.

Access to culturally relevant food can contribute to food security, as well as food safety, especially for marginalized communities who may face barriers to accessing mainstream food systems. By supporting these practices, we can reduce our reliance on unsustainable food systems and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Metrics	Notes
Increase in community gardens and food production spaces (number, capacity, geographic distribution)	
Household access to culturally relevant foods	
Health Department Food Vulnerability Indicator (Under development)	

Strategies	Description
Provide outreach and education to expand equitable participation in community gardens and farms  <i>Type of action: Create/fund program; Advocacy</i>	Community gardens are places to cultivate community, skills, and produce. Community gardens exist throughout the county on city-owned property, at churches and in schoolyards. People from all walks of life utilize community gardens, building and sharing their gardening skills, growing their favorite and culturally relevant produce, and sharing space. Community gardens are an important food security and sovereignty tool. While some people may be able to draw on decades of experience, or from a family tradition of food cultivation, many people may lack the skills, knowledge and tools necessary to successfully cultivate produce for themselves. Gardening will also become more difficult in the face of the climate crisis as hotter temperatures, unpredictable fluctuations in weather and pests become more common. Outreach and training from skilled gardeners, especially culturally specific outreach and education, are becoming more important than ever and should be supported by the public. Expanding the Oregon State University Extension Service to include Multnomah County may be one way to expand access to education.

<p>Expand community-owned gardens at housing developments, prioritizing affordable housing communities</p> <p><i>Type of action: Create/fund program; Mutual Aid</i></p>	<p>Community gardens can sometimes be included on the grounds of new affordable housing developments or added to existing developments. Allocating space for community gardens is often balanced against other priorities and amenities like space for more units, or other amenities that the community prioritizes. One step could include assessing existing affordable housing to look for community-driven opportunities to expand access to gardens.</p>
<p>Advocate for Indigenous control over state and local lands in Multnomah County, especially in usual and accustomed areas for food gathering like Sauvie Island</p> <p><i>Type of action: Game changer</i></p>	<p>Indigenous communities have cultivated the land, stewarded fish and other wildlife, and gathered food, medicine and fiber, from these lands since time immemorial. Tribal governments and individuals are engaged in the continuous act of keeping vital traditional foodways, like cultivating wapato or gathering lamprey. Communities continue these practices to this very day. Advocating for the return of ancestral lands to Indigenous communities, especially in areas traditionally used for food gathering such as Sauvie Island, is a vital component of climate justice. Traditional ecological knowledge in land management and conservation practices is also emerging as vitally important in the face of a changing climate.</p>
<p>Increase availability of land and farm incubators/collective farms and expand programs like <a href="#">Community Reaps Our Produce and Shares (CROPS)</a></p> <p><i>Type of action: Create/fund program</i></p>	<p>Multnomah County has rich and productive agricultural lands and even has an incubator farm in Troutdale, Oregon. But land is expensive, as is access to capital equipment like tractors. The County can help encourage new businesses, especially for historically marginalized populations like Black and Indigenous farmers, by buying more land and providing necessary infrastructure to operate as incubator sites for farming.</p>
<p>Education programs on reducing and eliminating pesticides</p> <p><i>Type of action: Advocacy</i></p>	<p>Pesticides and herbicides are dangerous for humans, pets and wildlife. Even herbicides like glyphosate that were long assumed safe for household use have been shown to cause cancer. Limiting and, when possible, eliminating pesticides, fungicides and herbicides is vital for community health. Taking action on this issue could include educational programs to raise awareness about the risks of pesticide use and advocating for stricter regulations on pesticide use.</p>
<p>Expand access to healthy foods by supporting new neighborhood grocery stores including small and diverse businesses, food pantries, community supported agriculture (CSA) and innovative approaches like mobile grocery stores</p> <p><i>Type of action: Create/fund program; Mutual Aid</i></p>	<p>There is no single action that will address hunger and lack of access to health, culturally relevant foods. A sustained, coordinated approach across government and community partners is required to address these issues over time.</p> <p><b>Expand Access:</b> Establish mobile grocery stores in areas with limited access to fresh, healthy food, including culturally preferred fruits and vegetables.</p> <p><b>Affordable Prices:</b> Support farmers/food businesses that offer food access programs like SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks, and WIC/Senior FDNP in priority neighborhoods. Reduce and/or subsidize fees that farmers would otherwise need to pay (e.g., vending fees at farmers markets).</p> <p><b>Nutrition Education:</b> Provide nutrition education and cooking demonstrations to help residents make healthy food choices, including supporting newly arrived communities to maintain their healthy, culturally specific diets.</p> <p><b>Expand Community Supported Agriculture:</b> Identify barriers and solutions to increase the number of farmers and support opportunities for food insecure families to take part in CSAs.</p> <p><b>Expand and sustain food pantries:</b> Prioritize high quality food in high need communities, and leverage trusted institutions including SUN School programs.</p>

<p><b>Notes</b></p>
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