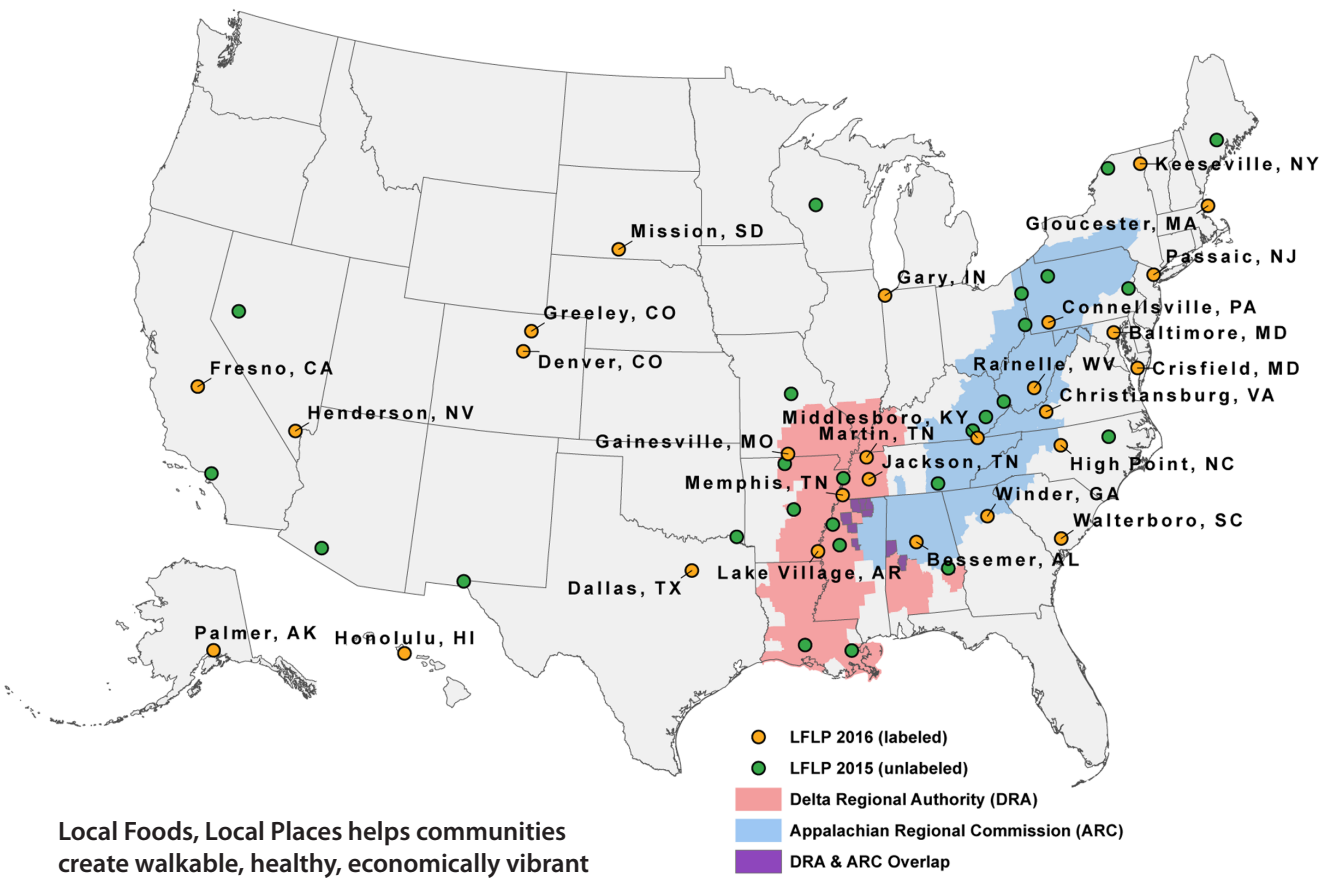
LOCAL FOODS, LOCAL PLACES:
REVITALIZING COMMUNITIES BY GROWING LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

SUMMARY REPORT **JANUARY 2016**

Local Foods, Local Places, established as a national initiative in 2014, helps people create walkable, healthy, economically vibrant neighborhoods through local food enterprise. The White House Rural Council and six federal agencies (U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Transportation, Delta Regional Authority, and Appalachian Regional Commission) selected 27 communities to participate in Local Foods, Local Places in 2016. A team of experts will help community members set goals and plan projects. Projects include farmers markets, local food cooperatives, community gardens, and other food-related enterprises that can boost local economies and drive downtown and neighborhood revitalization. By promoting better health and stronger economies, ***Local Foods, Local Places*** supports the White House Rural Council efforts to alleviate poverty and boost wellness among children. ***Local Foods, Local Places*** helps communities to implement their plans by accessing federal programs and attracting private investment.



Local Foods, Local Places helps communities create walkable, healthy, economically vibrant neighborhoods through the development of local food systems.

Sources: Local Foods, Local Places
U.S. Census Bureau

Alabama

Bessemer, Alabama, will receive technical assistance to start a farmers market in their downtown, convert vacant lots into community gardens, and build an urban farm and garden project using a former public housing property on a federally designated flood plain.

Alaska

Grow Palmer, in ***Palmer, Alaska,*** will receive technical assistance to support a sustainable food system and trail network in its downtown and foster coordination among organizations working on Palmer's local food economy.

Arkansas

Lake Village, Arkansas, will grow the city's community garden, expand worksite wellness programing for local businesses, and connect its parks with new trail systems to improve local food access, promote active living, and stimulate economic development.

California

Fresno, California, plans to establish the Downtown Fresno Public Market as a downtown anchor, leveraging existing resources to provide local food access and attract residents and visitors.

Colorado

Denver, Colorado, will receive technical assistance to identify strategies to enhance local food systems and local food education, and incorporate local foods into the redevelopment of the National Western Center to improve public health and economic and community development opportunities for neighborhood residents.

The University of Northern Colorado in ***Greeley, Colorado,*** will partner with the city, downtown businesses, and community organizations to connect their existing health and well-being initiatives with a new program in sustainable food systems.

Georgia

The Winder Housing Authority in ***Winder, Georgia,*** plans to develop a pedestrian-accessible community kitchen and garden in the city's Community Development Center.

Locating a farmers' market on a main street attracts more people and businesses to the area

High tunnel gardens allow more types of food to grow in a community, extending the growing season and increasing local food sources

Hawaii

The Hawaii Community Development Authority in ***Honolulu, Hawaii,*** plans to identify food-based projects that will spur greater investment and stewardship in the Kakaako Makai community, improve returns on local food production, integrate food security initiatives with community and transit-oriented development planning, and reduce stormwater runoff and vulnerability to sea level rise.

Indiana

Gary, Indiana, will receive technical assistance to encourage urban agriculture programs across 12 neighborhoods, develop strategies to strengthen local garden groups' impact on public health, and forge connections among existing neighborhood planning initiatives.

Kentucky

Discover Downtown Middlesboro, Inc. in ***Middlesboro, Kentucky,*** plans to create pallet gardens, low-cost mobile food carts, and business strategies for restaurants; a co-op grocery store; and other local food enterprises to employ low-income residents.

Massachusetts

Gloucester, Massachusetts, will receive technical assistance to integrate seafood into food systems planning and use local foods to improve health and drive downtown revitalization.

Greenery, expansive sidewalks, interesting signs and other streetscape improvements make areas more walkable and attract customers

Trails and walking bridges connect people to different parts of a community, improving accessibility while encouraging healthy activities

Maryland

The Baltimore Public Markets Corporation in ***Baltimore, Maryland,*** plans to revitalize Avenue Market in the distressed Upton/Druid Heights neighborhood to increase access to healthy food and promote economic development.

Somos Inc. in ***Crisfield, Maryland,*** will receive technical assistance to establish a year-round farmers market downtown, restoring community members' access to healthy foods, which was lost when Superstorm Sandy destroyed the town's grocery store.

Missouri

Ozark County Homegrown Food Projects in ***Gainesville, Missouri,*** plans to start a community garden in the city park and open a community kitchen and food shop in Gainesville Square.

Nevada

Henderson, Nevada, will receive technical assistance to develop a food access plan that connects key community areas and offers residents healthy, convenient alternatives for accessing food, work, school, and play throughout downtown Henderson.

New Jersey

Passaic, New Jersey, will receive technical assistance to strengthen business partnerships in the Eastside neighborhood's ethnic restaurant and food service enclave so those local businesses can better market and connect themselves with the area's redevelopment projects.

New York

The Adirondack North County Association and community partners in ***Keeseville, New York,*** will receive technical assistance to connect revitalization efforts downtown with local food and agritourism activities.

North Carolina

High Point, North Carolina, will receive technical assistance to develop a farmers market and other health and wellness programs for its new central library plaza.

Pennsylvania

The Redevelopment Authority in ***Connellsville, Pennsylvania,*** will receive technical assistance to attract more producers to the farmers market, expand cultivation of specialty crops, develop a flexible kitchen space facility, and establish a restaurant corridor reflective of the area's historically diverse cultures to entice people to downtown.

South Carolina

The Colleton Museum and Farmers Market in ***Walterboro, South Carolina,*** will receive technical assistance to build partnerships, explore funding opportunities, and grow markets for local food.

South Dakota

Rosebud Economic Development Corporation of the Sioux Tribe in ***Mission, South Dakota,*** will receive technical assistance to establish a hub of healthy activity centered on local food using a new trail system that links the local grocery store, community garden, farmers market, creek, and wetlands.

Vacant lots can be transformed into community gardens and provide healthy food for a community

Community pop-up shops provide new entrepreneurs with affordable space to sell local food products

Tennessee

Jackson, Tennessee, plans to create a school-based farmers market using food from the local high school's garden and to connect the West Tennessee Farmers Market with surrounding neighborhoods to improve local food access and increase economic opportunity for farmers.

Martin, Tennessee, will receive technical assistance to launch a "Using Food to Build Community" forum to facilitate regular communication between local food producers and consumers, and encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing between different groups.

Community gardens improve access to healthy local foods and provide places for children to learn and play

Cooper-Young Community Farmers Market in ***Memphis, Tennessee,*** will receive technical assistance to develop a permanent, versatile, and more accessible space to host its farmers market and serve as a public square for the city.

Texas

Dallas, Texas, will receive technical assistance to form a local food branding campaign and an alliance of garden and farm enthusiasts to build public awareness, community cohesion, and relationships between growers and local businesses and help community gardens share expertise and increase the size and variety of their yields.

Virginia

Christiansburg, Virginia, will receive technical assistance to identify funding and marketing strategies to expand its newly established farmers market, find a permanent location for the market, and attract more shops and restaurants downtown.

West Virginia

The Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation in ***Rainelle, West Virginia,*** will receive technical assistance to establish a mentor program for farmers and producers, develop a community grocery store, form a food alliance, and put vacant land into productive use.

For more information: http://www2.epa.gov/smart-growth/local-foods-local-places