



Fresh Food Pathways Pilot Food Hub RFP

A Critical Food System Link for Alachua County Low-
Income Neighborhoods and Small Farmers

November 14, 2023

Presentation

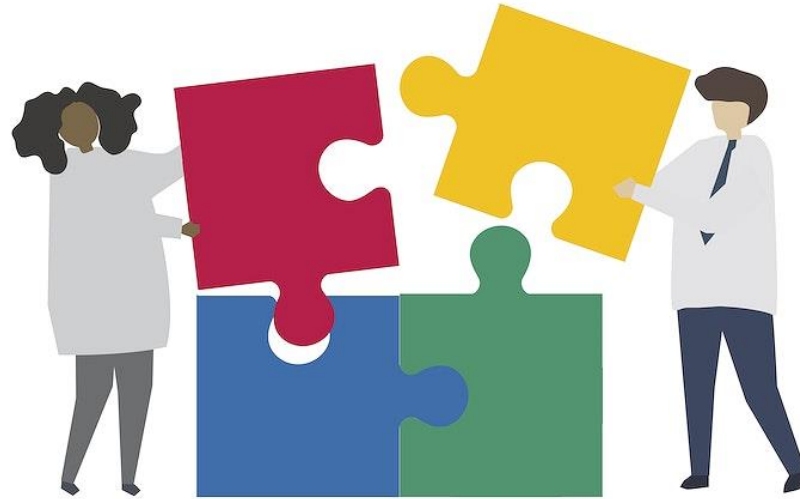
1. Ideal Food System Overview
2. Food System Definition and Issues
3. 2022 Board Direction
4. Community Outreach and Feedback
5. Community Need and Definition of Food Hub
6. Timeline
7. Recommended Action

Defining The Food System



Alachua County Food System Issues

- Lack of Healthy Food Access for Low-Income and Marginalized Communities
- Small Farmers Struggling
- Low Institutional Food Demand for Locally and Sustainably Produced Food
- No Food Distribution and Aggregation Services



Board Direction

- December 2022 direction included the need to find community-rooted organizations, conduct outreach, and make recommendations on the redesign, expansion, and sustained funding plan of action for Fresh Food Pathways.

Food Hub

- Board **action today**
- 2-year pilot for a sustained funding plan/expansion

Food System Solutions

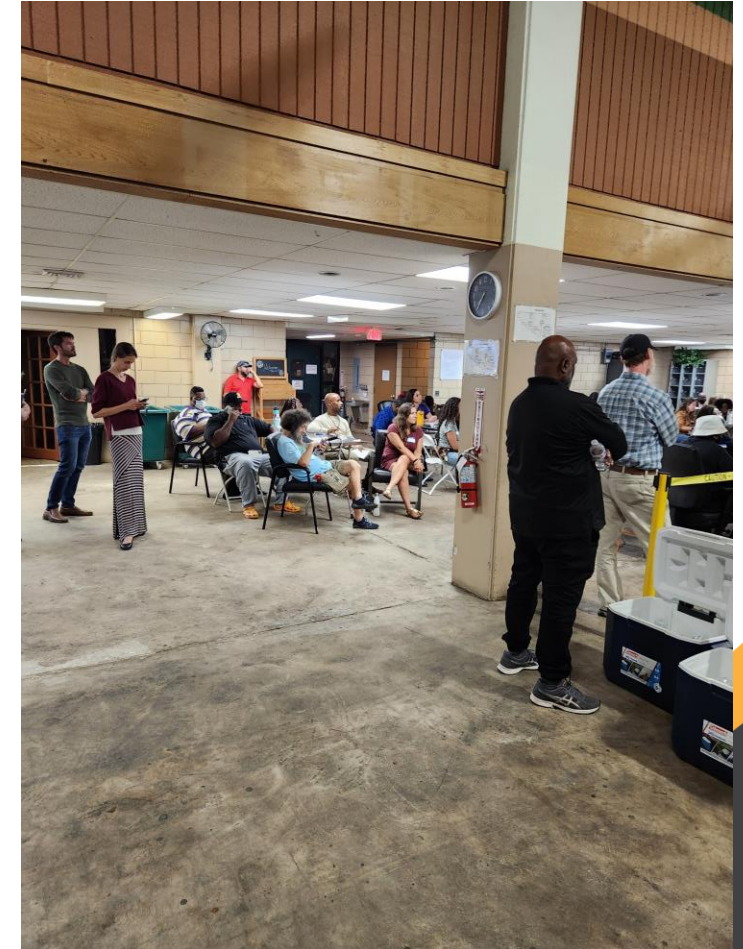
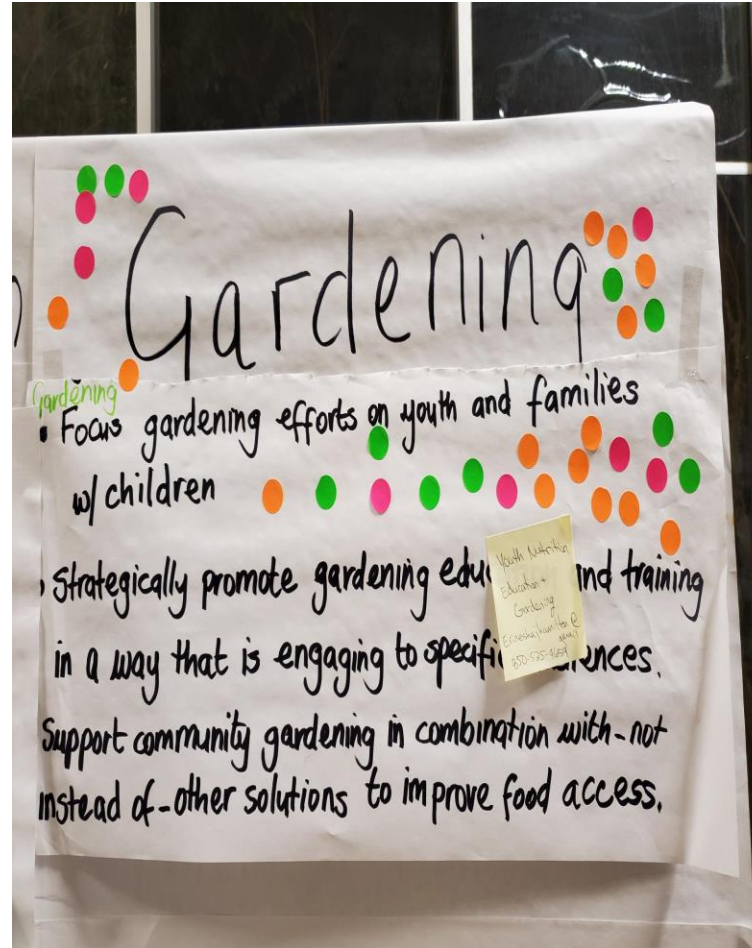
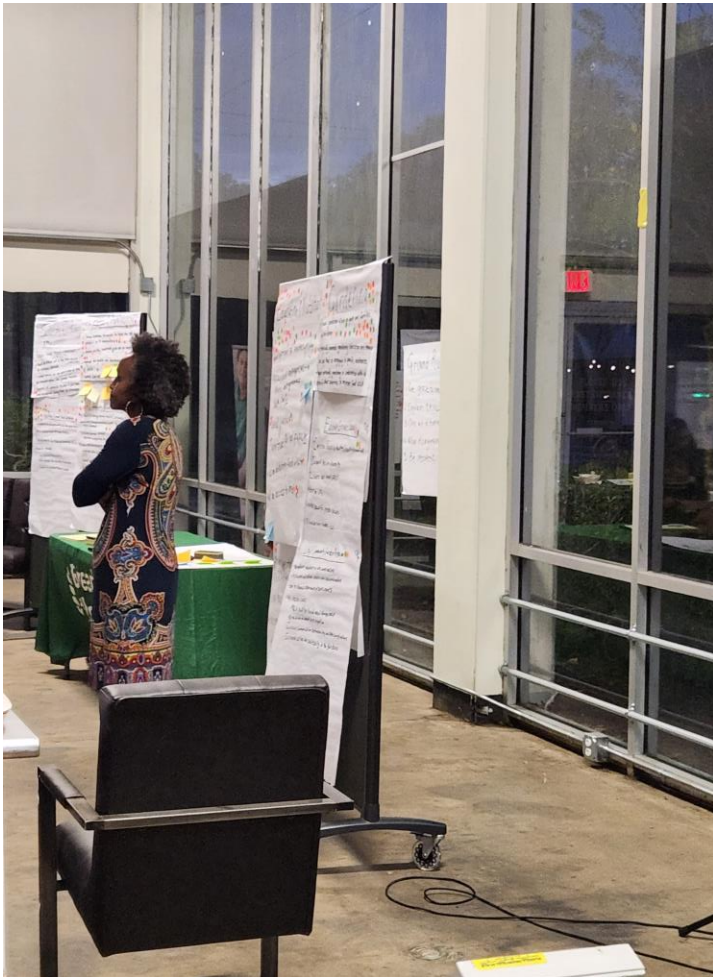
- Continue to engage
- **Report back later**

Community Outreach & Feedback

90 stakeholders –
and a years worth
of conversations

A thriving local
food constellation
all with needs for
more inputs!

Community Outreach



Access & Availability

Access and Availability

- Pursue economic strategies to lower the cost of produce in E. Gainesville.
- Support healthy, convenient, grab and go meal options
- Improve the quality and freshness of available foods
- support East side residents to find food options

Network of neighborhood markets providing local fresh food

Most people working here I don't have time to shop right now right I want less food but it's too busy shopping

Community group food bank home owner

Policy

Good Food Purchasing Program (adopted 2021)

- Local Economies
- Health
- Valued work
- Animal welfare
- Environmental sustainability

GRACE GROWS

Food Hub

Food Economy

Entrepreneurship

FOOD IS MEDICINE

I can buy more local food, what buying plan

Education & Nutrition

- Development of leaders & policy

- micro food enterprises - plate entrepreneurs plate chefs

- seed justice

- Farm tours for ed. purposes

- ed. on diverting food waste

- ed. on access to land

We should have education of food from a "modern" point of view

Food System Solutions

- Aggregation Hub
- Continued Small and Local Farmer Investment and Advocacy
- Nutrition, Food Growing, Gardening and Cooking Education and Family Programs with Giveaways
- Continued Accessible Emergency Food Assistance
- Continued Economic and Infrastructure Development for Marginalized Communities and East Side
- Consider Transportation and Dining Options on East Side
- Promote Good Food Purchasing Values

RFP Overview

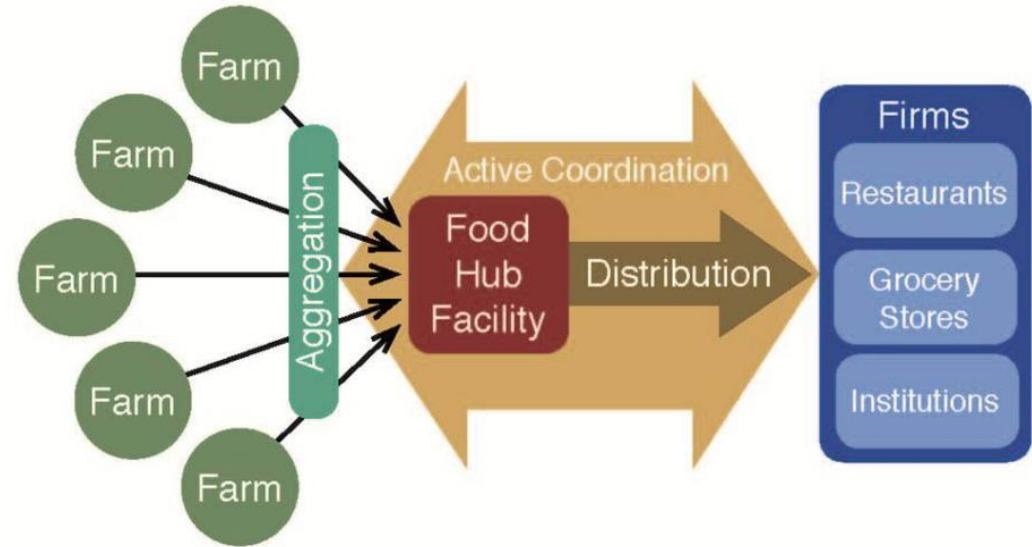
Fresh Food Pathways - Pilot Food Hub

Two-year pilot program 2024-2026

Budget: \$962,000

Open to all organizations interested in implementing Food Hubs in Alachua County.

What is a Food (Aggregation) Hub?



Food Hub diagram courtesy of Craig Page.

Timeline

- November 2023 Release RFP and Continue Community Conversations on Food Systems and a Food Hub's Critical Role.
- February 2024: RFP Award
- March 2024: Discussion of Additional Food System Solutions
- April 2024: Contract Negotiated and Pilot Project Starts
- April 2025: Report Back to Board with Mid-Project Findings and Update on Food System Progress
- April 2026: Final Report and Recommendations on a Full-Scale Facility and update on Food System Progress

Recommended Action

- 1) Approve work scope, authorize staff to advertise the RFP, and bring recommendations back to the Board for approval.
- 2) Continue food system solutions engagement and report back to the Board in 2024 with findings

Questions?