**Q: How would you describe the different connection strengths between retail use and the five retail types?**

**Interviewer** 04:00

So the first thing I want to do here is to get some sense for you. What would be the strength of all the relationships that have these question marks? So the way that we're thinking about it is that, you know, basically to contextualize this will be in Flint currently, if people are using retail, how much are they going to local restaurants versus chain restaurants? And then how much are they using grocery stores, or convenience stores or farmers markets? So how much food are they sourcing from those different places? So I guess we could start with restaurants. What do you think would be sort of in Flint, do you think there's a lean more towards chain more towards local? Are they about even? What are your thoughts?

**Participant 102** 06:02

Just thinking of the types of restaurants that are around. And that would make probably some kind of a difference. You know, just going anecdotally, from sometimes what I would see people post on Facebook, I would say almost even.

**Interviewer** 06:22

Okay, yeah. So then we might do medium positive relationships there.

**Participant 102** 06:31

Of course, a lot of this stuff is pre COVID, because restaurants are sort of a little out of whack right now.

**Interviewer** 06:38

Yes. And just like the last interview, we did, we will be adding COVID as a piece and see how it impacts the Flint food system. So I know we've been, you know, in the COVID pandemic for so long, it is becoming the new normal and will have lasting impact for the food system. But I guess it would be trying to think about the snapshot of the food food system in general, without really big changes from COVID. I know that's a little hard to separate out, though, because it has been so long. Great, so then thinking about the different types of stores that people could purchase from is one sort of dominant in Flint or some even or some minimal.

**Participant 102** 07:25

And are we talking, again, about stores that are within the city limits, or stores where Flint residents may go to outside of the city limits?

**Interviewer** 07:33

Yeah, so we definitely want to record that information in general, but I would say limited to stores within the limits of Flint.

**Participant 102** 07:42

Okay. Well, then very little in terms of grocery stores within the city limit. There are some- there are a handful of smaller independent grocery stores in some neighborhoods. The larger you know, Meijer, Kroger, Aldi, you know, Walmart, those places are all outside of the city limits.

**Interviewer** 08:22

So then what- how would you describe the strength of the connection then to convenience stores and farmers markets?

**Participant 102** 08:34

Probably pretty strong if that's your option, you know, primary option.

**Q:** **Okay, then thinking about the connection strengths between use of the supplemental sector and the different types of stores,** **how do you think about these strengths? Are supplemental nutrition programs used at certain places more often in Flint?**

**Interviewer** 08:44

And then similarly, but thinking about sort of the supplemental sector, so, you know, the use of supplemental nutrition programs, is that going to be primarily at grocery stores, at convenience stores, or at farmer's markets? Or, you know, would they- are they evenly split? What is your understanding,

**Participant 102** 09:05

Probably more convenience stores, again, less at grocery stores because of not being within the city proper. And I think to a small degree farmers market, I mean, I do again, just sort of anecdotally will observe people using supplemental payment when I'm at the farmers market.

**Q4: Which of these other values are important to the Flint food system that you want to include in your map?**

**Participant 102** 12:10

I think affordability and availability are probably the most important. Maybe nutritious foods next.

**Q5a:** **Based on how you see the current food system in Flint, how would you draw connections between these concepts?**

**Interviewer** 12:52

Okay. Fantastic. So we can start with those three. And if you think there are others that you would like to add after that, we can definitely do that. So I will flip back to mental modeler. Alright, and then I'll add those components. I'm nervous I'm going to spell something wrong with an audience. All right. So based on how you see the current food system in Flint, how would you draw connections between the concepts that we have in the map? So the different parts of the food system and these different values that you've selected?

**Participant 102** 13:53

Well, let's see. My hunch is there would be stronger connections between nutritious foods, maybe the strongest connection between nutritious foods and farmers market. The next strongest between nutrition and grocery stores and the third or the least strong or the weakest with convenience stores. Availability, strongest connection with convenience stores. Grocery stores is tough because they're out of the city limits but people do I know take buses and things to get there.

**Participant 102** 14:46

So that'd be the next kind of a moderate link there and farmers market. The weakest just because it's one location. You know, and then affordability probably the strongest with grocery stores positive. I'm probably fairly equal with convenience stores and farmers markets as weaker. Now for restaurants, probably the weakest with nutritional foods and both- probably the weaker link with with local excuse me with chain restaurants and nutritious foods and maybe a little stronger link with local restaurants and nutritious foods.

**Interviewer** 16:09

And would you say that this would be I just want to go back and double check would this be a weak positive or a weak negative relationship? So if there were more chain restaurants, then there would be like a small rise in nutritious food or a lowering of nutritious foods.

**Participant 102** 16:28

I think more chain restaurants would be lowering of nutritious foods.

**Interviewer** 16:34

Then would that be the same for convenience stores? Where it will be a weak negative relationships to nutritious foods?

**Participant 102** 16:42

Yes. Let's see, where did I leave off? Restaurants? Availability with restaurants. When I'm thinking local, I'm thinking, you know, a lot of times just the little, you know, the things in a little, in a neighborhood almost strip mall sorts of things or like little barbecue joints and other sorts of places. So availability, probably a weak positive with local. And probably availability and chains, probably a weak positive as well, because people have the ability, the chains are on transit lines and things. And let's see, what am I missing? Did I do affordability and restaurants yet? I didn't do that right?

**Interviewer** 18:10

No. Yeah, how would you like to try-

**Participant 102** 18:15

Probably a weak positive with both local and chain.

**Interviewer** 18:29

Right. And then how would you draw connections maybe between the supplemental sector or the emergency sector and these three values?

**Participant 102** 18:47

I think a fairly strong connection with availability and emergency and availability and supplemental.

**Participant 102** 19:03

I think certainly a strong connection between affordability and emergency because that's tends to be free. A weak or positive with affordability and supplemental. And other connections I'm missing yet. Yeah, you have to- I have to apologize, I'm doing this on my cell phone because that's where I get the stronger internet signal from than on my laptop. So my map is about the size of you know, two postage stamps next to the other.

**Interviewer** 19:47

No worries. I would say if there any connections you see, potentially between these three values or between the three different sectors of supplemental, retail, and emergency.

**Participant 102** 20:02

Thank you.

**Interviewer** 20:03

And there's also of course no right or wrong answer is always just your perception, what you think.

**Participant 102** 20:11

Yeah, I think that there's probably a week negative between affordability and nutritious. I think a week positive between affordability and availability and a weak negative between availability and nutritious.

**Interviewer** 20:44

Yeah, could you speak more about those relationships and how you understand them? I just want to double check that I'm sure you've got, like, the information behind it so that if food is more affordable than people will purchase, then people will consume less nutritious food or less intrusive food will be available.

**Participant 102** 21:17

Yeah, I guess I equate nutritious food with, in some ways, maybe better ingredients or, you know, a little bit more costly preparation. So I think that mean, that's where the negative link between affordability and nutritious is. I think there's I think there's plenty of availability of calories. Yeah. It's just the quality and some of that is I mean, I know that there is a definition for nutritious food, but some of that still is a value judgment. What I may consider nutritious, you know, some of its, you know, scientific, but I think a lot of it is is cultural and perceptive too.

**Interviewer** 22:07

Definitely. Alright, so if it makes sense to you, I flipped the direction of this relationship, so that nutritious foods are more expensive. So if you know it, maybe consider a hypothetical situation. And for some reason, people were forced to only purchase nutritious foods, they would end up with a more expensive grocery bill, their net food budget would- it would be less affordable?

**Participant 102** 22:35

That would be my sense. Yes. Great, any other connections that you think about before we move on to the next step?

**Participant 102** 22:53

Have we done nutrition and emergency? And nutrition and supplemental?

**Interviewer** 23:00

No, we have not.

**Participant 102** 23:01

Okay, I think maybe a week positive between nutritious and emergency. I know that there's every efforts to make nutritious choices available in the emergency system, it just doesn't always happen. Yeah, let's see. Do I have supplemental nutritious linked?

**Interviewer** 23:34

There's no direct link through a supplemental, but there is a link between supplemental to the use of different retail stores and then retail stores to nutritious foods. But if you view a relationship between it if, for example, there might be some aspect of supplemental that does directly impact nutritious foods, and we can definitely make a connection there.

**Participant 102** 24:00

I think a weak positive there too, between supplemental and nutritious.

**Q5b: Were there other values that we went over that you also think are important and want to include?**

**Interviewer** 24:08

Okay, fantastic. So the next thing we're gonna do is, you know, when we started off, we had a few values that we had defined that we really wanted to focus on. We also want to give participants the opportunity to bring in other concepts, other values, other things that they think are important that they want to include in their map. So are there other things that you would want to include that would potentially influence these concepts that we've already talked about?

**Participant 102** 24:41

Yeah, I think, to some degree, we did that last time. And I wonder if if some of those didn't get- like availability, for example. I think we talked about transportation last time as a link. So I don't know if I need to add that in or what. When you said that you could sort of condense the food system values did- I'm trying to remember, I don't know if transportation was in there or not? Probably not.

**Interviewer** 25:08

Yeah, transportation is not explicitly a food system value that participants in the focus groups talked about, but it is definitely a pretty significant impact on the food system. So it's not an inherent value that they discussed, but is incorporated in a lot of ways. So if that's a no, do you want to add? We can definitely do that.

**Participant 102** 25:32

I think so. Just because transport-, I mean, just the where you can go, how much you can carry. So many of those things are dependent on transportation, if you're on foot, if you're on a bus, if you have your own car, if you have to depend on, you know, somebody else to drive you, etc.

**Interviewer** 25:52

So what I'm hearing if it's okay, is that there's a trans- a connection between transportation and availability, a pretty strong connection, because what is available to you is fairly dependent on your ability to get there and bring things back. Would there also be a connection that you would see between transportation? Any sort of like connection between transportation and using retail versus supplemental or emergency? Do you think?

**Participant 102** 26:25

You know, I think I think transportation going through availability, and then the links with availability probably are sufficient, you'll be kind of redundant, I think, to link, you know, transportation with, you know, independently with those other ones, because I think that transportation availability, you know, and maybe another node would be time.

**Interviewer** 26:50

Okay.

**Participant 102** 26:52

And again, I think time would go through availability as well, in my mind, if you're reliant on walking around public transportation or on someone else's timeline to get where you're going, that certainly affects your ability to access the food system in all of its varieties. Or if you're working multiple jobs, or if you have, you know, responsibilities at home that where you can't get away, those sorts of things. But I think funneling that through availability as well. Sort of does what I need, what I'm thinking.

**Interviewer** 27:34

Definitely. Yeah. Are there any other you know, additional concepts, any changes you would like to make to your map?

**Participant 102** 27:53

No.

**Q9: So now considering your map of the current Flint food system, how would you make changes to improve it?**

**Interviewer** 27:56

So are there any sort of initial leverage points that you think would be really impactful on the food system?

**Participant 102** 28:50

Yeah, I mean, I think broadly speaking economics, the cash that people have in their pockets, I think, is probably the biggest influence. Whether it's employment, whether it's, you know, some kind of guaranteed basic income, whether it's, you know, an increase in, you know, disability or unemployment payments, you know, whatever. I think the number one way to improve nutrition in Flint is to improve the income of people in Flint.

**Interviewer** 29:30

Yeah. Are there any, you know, particular ways that you see as sort of like a pathway to improving income or any things that you think, you know, if you ruled the world, things that you change.

**Participant 102** 29:50

Well after the revolution- you know, I mean, that's just so complex. You know, it's dependent upon the education system, it's dependent upon, you know, the ability for people to work places for people to work, you know, for employment to be available, you know, priorities changing where, where human service needs take priority over, you know, maybe some other other or other state and national priorities. So, yeah, you shorted me ruling the world. I'm not sure how to broadly increase the income of residents in Flint, above what it is now. You know, in a, you know, in a systemic sort of way, you know, individuals or, you know, small pockets of individuals, maybe, but I think it's really- it would really take a change in societal values for income to, to increase systematically.

**Interviewer** 31:11

Yeah, I think that's definitely a trend in these interviews. It's like, well, if you really want to fix what's going on it's easiest path is systemic change. And I'm like, yeah, that sounds like the path we should go down.

**Participant 102** 31:23

Yeah.

**Interviewer** 31:25

Great, any other sort of leverage points that, you know, are particularly relevant or salient? And they can be little things, they can be big things? Or, if that's the main one, we can move on?

**Participant 102** 31:40

Yeah, I mean, related to that, but I suppose housing. You know, for example, when we hand out bag lunches now on Tuesdays, because we're not able to do our soup kitchen we'll also hand out, you know, care packages of food that can be prepared to go with people. And we have to ask, you know, do you have a kitchen or not? Or do you have a can opener or not? Right? Do you have a way of heating this up or not?

**Participant 102** 32:08

You know, even something as simple as instant oatmeal, you have to come up with hot water somewhere, right? So, I do think that is, you know, do you have a, you know, kind of a reliable kitchen at your home? Do you have a way to store food safely at home? Some of its education, you're right, do you have a- do you have a sort of the know how to prepare nutritious foods at home? But you know, education is one of the values already, but I would say, yeah, kind of the built environments, housing, whatever term you want to use.

**Q12: We’ve talked a lot about different food system sectors and values, and the impact of COVID-19. Is there anything important about this conversation that I forgot to ask you, or something that you want to add?**

**Interviewer** 36:39

Alright, so I will save this. And I can stop sharing. And so my final real question would be that sort of the wrap up, you know, we've talked a lot about the different sectors in Flint, and a few different food system values and sort of the impact of COVID-19. But is there anything else important about the food system, or about COVID, that you think would be useful for us to know, for this research, anything in the conversation that we haven't talked about that you would want to add?

**Participant 102** 38:41

I don't know really how it relates, but I think, some degree of COVID fatigue, and, you know, relative to how people comply or don't comply with regulations and advisories, you know, masking social distancing, that sort of thing. You know, I was just talking with the with one of our regulars comes to ourTuesday lunch yesterday, and she said that there was a, you know, almost a fight on the bus because- between, you know, someone with a mask and someone without a mask, right, so I think those sorts of things contribute to kind of an atmosphere of uncertainty or tension or fear or frustration.

**Participant 102** 39:25

But I don't know if they have a direct link, I think just sort of adds to that general COVID, weak negative link to almost everything on the map. You know, I think a lot depends on you know, going back to the income and the economics. You know, if people are going to be able to get back to work, if people are going to get, you know, whatever kind of supplemental income if unemployment is going to be extended, etc. You know, those things are all really big questions. And they seem to be primarily COVID related. You know, health recovery, but also economic recovery.Yep, I think that's it.