**FLPP: Interview Template**

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

Interviewer 10:03

So do you have any sense of sort of what would be the connection strength from, you know, people in Flint using local restaurants versus chain restaurants?

Participant 104 10:11

Yeah, I think my sense is that it's pretty well mixed between local and chain. So I would probably done both at medium.

Interviewer 10:23

Gotcha. Great. And then for the three different kinds of stores, how do you see similar, different? What connection strikes you?

Participant 104 10:42

I think so starting with the farmers market, I think it's definitely a place where people go to get food, but I don't know that for a lot of people, it's their primary source of food. So I would probably put that one lower than both convenience stores and grocery stores. And maybe grocery stores a little bit stronger than convenience stores, even though you know, there's not a ton within the city limits, I think people still do seek out grocery stores to do their, their bulk of their shopping.

**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 11:21

And then for, you know, use Supplemental Nutrition Programs, is that mostly used at grocery stores, convenience stores, farmers markets, split evenly. What do you think?

Participant 104 11:34

I think, honestly, I think it would be the same breakdown, as the general use of retail, yeah.

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

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

Interviewer 15:46

So based on how you see the current food system in Flint, how would you draw connections between these concepts?

Participant 104 16:06

Between the concepts?

Interviewer 16:09

So between the values between the sectors and the values between sectors. Sort of very freeform I know, it's kind of a big open question, but it is really your understanding.

Participant 104 16:21

So I think maybe the first one is, like connection between education and community empowerment. So when we talk more education around food, specifically those like career options, then there's more empowerment for a truly local food system. And then, between education and nutritious foods would also be kind of a positive relationship.

I think also positive between community empowerment and nutritious foods.

I think- so kind of looking at connecting the sector parts between grocery stores, and nutritious foods would be positive. Between convenience stores and nutritious foods would be negative.

Interviewer 17:47

Would that be- what do you think about the strength of those relationships?

Participant 104 17:51

Yeah, I think for, for convenience stores, I think in the middle. For grocery stores more positive, so closer to that one value. And then I would probably put the relationship between farmers markets and nutritious foods similar to that of grocery stores.

Connection between community empowerment and local restaurants.

Interviewer 18:39

From community empowerment to local restaurants, from local restaurants to community empowerment.

Participant 104 18:44

So more community empowerment means more local restaurants. So from- yeah, like that. I think from farmers market to community empowerment.

Um, let's see, I think there's also like- well I guess I already did that. Trying to think of like, connections between supplemental and other things.

But I guess the use of supplemental sector is connected with the grocery stores and convenience stores and things. So-

Interviewer 19:44

Yes, yeah. So things can kind of be like- can affect nutritious food through the increasing use of those.

Participant 104 19:53

Okay. So I don't want to leave out our emergency sector. So I think that they is, you know, just in some sense a positive relationship between use of the emergency sector and nutritious foods. I wouldn't put it as positive as like, grocery stores or farmers markets.

Let's see — I'm kind of torn on the relationship between community empowerment and the emergency food sector.

Interviewer 20:37

Tell me more.

Participant 104 20:39

So on the one hand, you know, like, I was just on a call with a food pantry director from Flint. And because there are so many emergency food outlets in the community, there is a lot of community ownership around kind of distributing that food to community residents.

But, it's the food that's provided is at the whim of, you know, federal grant dollars. And, you know, what donors have decided to be generous to which organizations and so there's not that like community decision making in what is offered and how much and how, even. So that's, that's where I'm thinking right now. So I don't know how to represent that on here.

Interviewer 21:30

Definitely, I mean, so there could be- so one way to address it is to I mean, so all of this information, right, even if it doesn't make it into the map is like recorded and part of the research, right, and so can use to go back and explain maybe some like dynamics that we ended up seeing in the testing could also, you know, add more nodes, more concepts, if that will be helpful, or you can sort of aggregate all the things together and try to reduce it down into like, okay, there's this positive thing and this negative thing, and if I smush them together, I end up with something that is just like slightly negative or slightly positive. Kind of whatever makes the most sense to you.

Participant 104 22:15

Okay, Okay. I think then. So going from use of the emergency sector to community empowerment, I put it like, slightly positive, but not incredibly positive.

Interviewer 22:33

Perfect.

Participant 104 22:40

Let's see. I think the like relationship between education and local restaurants, positive.

Interviewer 22:57

Okay. I can also verbally process if that will be useful for you. Or if there's anything like thoughts you have that you're not sure exactly how to translate into the map we can definitely talk about those about those. Or if you're feeling good about this stage, we can move on to the next step.

Participant 104 23:43

Let me just think a little bit more. So I think I captured most of the kind of main relationships that I could think of. Yeah, there's nothing else really related to these. These three values that's really jumping out at me right now.

Interviewer 24:08

So, are there any other sort of concepts that you would like to add to your map?

Participant 104 24:52

Yeah, so I mean, I think one that I hope you've heard before in other interviews like this, that's just really prevalent in Flint in general. But specifically the food system is just the high rate of poverty in the community and how that impacts, I think specifically, like, why emergency and supplemental foods are so prevalent in the Flint food system. And so yeah, I think that there's a connection to a lot of these things.

Interviewer 25:26

So, connect that to use of the emergency sector, use of the supplemental sector. Other connections, or other concepts you want to pull in?

Participant 104 25:48

I think there's like a negative relationship between poverty and community empowerment.

Yeah, I think that all makes sense to me.

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

Interviewer 26:41

So again, another kind of big freeform question, but you know, things that you would consider changing about the Flint food system that you think would make it better that would improve it?

Participant 104 27:19

Yeah, I think. So two things are coming to the top of my mind, one is related to food retail. And just this idea that there might be something in between like a corner liquor store, convenience store, and a full fledge, like grocery store, chain grocery store, that might meet the needs of Flint, better.

And we do, I mean, we do have a few locally owned and operated smaller grocery stores. And, and we know that, you know, the large chains have up and left Flint. And so I feel like a, an opportunity is to one support the kind of smaller, more high quality grocery stores that we already have, and to find some ways to encourage other smaller grocery stores to establish throughout the community and remain open.

So, so that was the first thing I thought of this second thing kind of relates to education. So I think Flint, I mean, obviously, we could always use more educational opportunities about food about you know, we've got the the Culinary Institute, we've got different opportunities to learn about farming and gardening everywhere from, you know, being a school aged kid to being an adult.

But the real sustainable career opportunities in urban agriculture and food production. They're very few and far between in the community. And so, you know, I think every day I'm like, okay, if we're inspiring kids, with our school gardens to be really interested in, you know, horticulture and food production, we also need to be working- and I haven't figured out how to do this yet- to make sure that there are those job opportunities in this community for them, when you know, they're ready to enter the working world. So those are the two kind of leverage points are kind of missing pieces that I think of first.

Interviewer 29:31

Yeah, yeah. And then if we could talk a little bit, both incredible leverage points. I'm going to flip back to this really quick [referring to the map]. When you think about both this, this opportunity to sort of support and maybe change a little bit the retail, sort of like, landscape in Flint, do you see sort of connections to any of the values that we talked about, like things that would be impacted? Just jot them down, like, Oh, this would improve this or some other thing that you think is important in the food system that maybe isn't perfectly named in the set of values.

Participant 104 30:12

Yeah, so I think with that kind of retail example that I gave definitely impacts availability of food. Also, I mean, depending on how, how the ownership went, I think community empowerment could be, could be strengthened.

And I think of, you know, examples like the North Flint food market, which is really employing that Co Op model to, to have a community owned, you know, food source on the north side. So, um, yeah, I think availability, community empowerment, potentially partnerships, depending on you know, who got involved. And, of course, I mean, access to nutritious foods would hopefully be strengthened.

Interviewer 30:57

Right. And then for the second one, thinking about the sort of education piece, and sort of, like career opportunities is, would there also the sort of connections, again, to the set of values or other things that you think are important outcomes of this idea?

Participant 104 31:17

Yeah, I think that definitely goes with the community empowerment, I mean, really, creating a local food system that, that has opportunities for everyone, I think it ties to quality of life too where, you know, hopefully, there are well paying jobs with benefits that can sustain a person in their family to stay, you know, in the city, and do really, really meaningful work. So those two community empowerment and quality of life are what I see connected to that piece.

**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 36:09

So one last real question is, you know, that we've talked a lot about, you know, these different food system sectors and these different values and COVID-19. But there's anything else that we haven't talked about, that you think would be important for this research to sort of take forward and mind sort of make these maps?

Participant 104 36:37

I can't think of anything at the moment.