**FLPP: Interview Template**

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

**Interviewer** 13:44

So I'll start with retail and sort of contextualize what this relationship means. So the strength of this relationship is basically saying, you know, in Flint, you know, when people go to restaurants, are they going more to local restaurants or chain restaurants? If they're doing that? Or maybe they don't go to restaurants at all? So like, do people sometimes go to local restaurants most of the time, is that a strong, medium or weak relationship? So what is sort of your understanding or your thought about maybe these two relationships?

**Participant 105** 14:18

Now, should I be answering based- I mean, essentially, based on personal experience, versus what I think is actually happening?

**Interviewer** 14:30

I would say, if I mean, so it is based on your so not like personal experience as in your personal behavior.

**Participant 105** 14:39

Right.

**Interviewer** 14:40

Yeah, it would be sort of your understanding of what's going on in Flint, which can be informed by your personal experiences, but not your personal behavior.

**Participant 105** 14:52

So could I give you like, indirect answers, and then we'll try to come to a consensus on what they mean. Cuz for that one, I would say, at least in my orbit, and like, especially considering downtown Flint, I feel like there's a strong, you know, like, majority of people are interested in local restaurants, like that's talked about. But I would also add, I suppose it's just a guess is that the majority of residents of Flint are probably less concerned about whether it's a local restaurant and are more out for convenience and price, because those local options are expensive.

**Interviewer** 15:40

Great, so maybe we can place them both as sort of like medium connections, that there are reasons for both that you know, people are going to, it's that there's not like a dramatic, lean one way or another, that people go to local restaurants have interest in them. Then also, there's a thriving chain restaurant, sort of sector in Flint. Great. So what are your thoughts on maybe the connection strength between two grocery stores, convenience stores or farmer's markets?

**Participant 105** 16:17

And what can you tell me the context of the relationship again, like use of retail, like what that means?

**Interviewer** 16:23

Yeah. So when people go to the store and purchase food in Flint, is this mostly coming from grocery stores? From convenience stores? Is it split? Are people going to farmers markets a lot? And so you could conceptualize it of like, oh, I think, you know, for example of you know, maybe all of them would be sort of like modern relationships of like, I think people evenly go to grocery stores and convenience stores and farmers markets, or, for example, it's like, oh, well, people, like definitely go to grocery- convenience stores more, maybe we'll do a strong relationship there. And weak relationships on the other.

**Participant 105** 17:00

And, this is all existing situation, not what they would prefer to do?

**Interviewer** 17:05

Yes, this is like, currently what is happening,

**Participant 105** 17:08

Then it would be highest to convenience stores. I would say grocery stores is a stronger connection than farmers market. But it's still weak only because of the lack of grocery stores. Yeah, definitely.

**Participant 105** 17:37

And is this, um, when we're talking about the Flint food system are like or if you say people, are you referring to like residents of Flint, or like say, like, the surrounding area that impacts the Flint food system?

**Interviewer** 17:52

Yeah. So it is sort of an interesting scoping question. And we are at this point, trying to focus on sort of like the physical boundaries of Flint, and people who live there. Even though we do acknowledge that, you know, there- not that Flint residents don't go to grocery stores, because there aren't that many Flint, like they just go to the ones in the surrounding Genesee County and stuff like that. We are trying to it is setting the bounds on the food system is odd, because it's so global.

**Participant 105** 18:29

Yeah, it's all connected. That's what tripped me up. But so just- if, if ever a vague term is used as far as like people or residents, what we're talking about is people within that live within the city of Flint. Okay, all right. That was my answer.

**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** 18:48

All right. And so the last set to decide sort of the connection strengths would be supplemental food programs, if those are used more in grocery stores, convenience stores, or farmers markets, or they're even or sort of what's your understanding of that?

**Participant 105** 19:10

I don't know I- you know, I my gut says it's the same distribution as the lines that are coming out of use of retail. If we're talking in like, absolute totals, but for like, looking at the farmers market, for instance, that portion, the farmers market is underused, which is why I think that the use of retail is positive but lower. But if you're looking at of those people that do go to the farmers market, their use of supplemental would be very strong. There's a lot of Double Up Food Bucks. People are- know how to use that system now. So, the people that are going to the farmers market are there's a strong Ron relationship with those individuals and the use of supplemental, you know, food assistance.

**Participant 105** 20:09

Convenience stores and grocery stores? I'm not entirely sure, I would think it's whatever the value is, it's somewhat even amongst the two, I would only say more to convenience stores for the same reason, as I'm saying more people go to convenience stores. But I would think of each of those separated populations, they're probably using it at the same rate.

**Interviewer** 20:36

Definitely, I'll make some sort of fairly even with convenience stores slightly higher. Okay, and then farmers market, a fairly strong relationship just because it is used at farmer's market.

**Participant 105** 20:50

Yeah, less people. But yeah, frequency, yeah.

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

**Interviewer** 20:59

So of those seven, are there two or three that you think are particularly important to the food system that you want to include in your map?

**Participant 105** 23:41

Oh, that I think are- so not necessarily what I know the most about?

**Interviewer** 23:47

Pick the ones you know the most about. It's things that- I mean it's your map and your understanding. So things that- I mean all of these, you know, because they come through the queue, they all are significant, right? These are things that people want from the Flint food system.

**Participant 105** 24:00

Yeah.

**Interviewer** 24:01

So it's things that you think are important things that you know about that you would like to add to your map.

**Participant 105** 24:08

Yeah, I guess if I were to pick three it would be education, affordability and availability.

**Interviewer** 24:19

So I will switch back to mental modeler. We'll go ahead and add those. I have three things going on the one where actual zoom is, the computer that I'm screen sharing on and my notes so it's a lot of looking around but I'm so engaged. Alright, so education-

**Participant 105** 24:41

On my end if I'm not- like I got a little laptop but that has the webcam and I got a much bigger screen above it. So yeah, also paying attention.

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

**Interviewer** 24:54

Right. My home office setup has gotten a little bit ridiculous. Cool, affordability, and then availability. Great. So based on how you sort of see and understand the current food system in Flint, how would you start drawing connections between these concepts? So, between these values that you've picked out between the sectors and these values between the sectors themselves potentially? I know it's kind of vague and freeform, so we can focus on one or if you have, you know, ideas off of that you can go for that.

**Participant 105** 25:32

Yeah, I mean, I don't- I guess I have a question first, just on the education definition. The only part that I was curious about that is the focus on career development. So like, cause obviously, people think about that, like food education, and those two separate ways, right? It's like, if we're talking about the nutrition side, that's, you know, educating people for their lives. Versus the like, the other portion of that definition that was like gardening, agricultural education, which couldn't be supporting them nutritionally, but and, you know, in food, you know, improving their food security, but also has that has more of like a career bent? So I don't know. I don't know, it's all kind of like, vague, I guess. But I don't know. I want to make sure I'm not answering- I know there's no wrong answers but I want it to be like, I want to be useful. So-

**Interviewer** 26:35

No, and it's definitely, because that is sort of like a broad definition of what education means. It's totally fine to sort of draw impacts based on the multiple dimensions included. So it's like, oh, well, you know, if we're focusing on nutrition, you know, that maybe educational opportunities might have an impact on, I'm just gonna pull something out and be like physical health, if that was a concept in your map, design, but it could also, you know, affect affordability, because if people are applying that to, you know, potential employment, that maybe they are, you know, having a higher income. So, also, because we are, you know, recording these interviews, and it's not just a physical map, but it's also, you know, you talking about it, we're able to sort of have that qualitative information behind the connection. So we can always go back and understand exactly what this connection means. So, yeah, if they are kind of big concepts, and it's, it's totally fine to, you know, pull one part of it and explore that impact, pull another part of it and have that be something different, if that we're getting your question.

**Participant 105** 27:41

So then, as a starting point, I would think that education has a positive impact on affordability, meaning that things are more affordable. As people have, you know, agricultural education, and I guess just, I'm thinking in the sense that not in the retail space, necessarily, I guess, also in the retail space. So I guess my initial thought was, you know, if I teach you how to farm, then you can grow some of your own food, your total spending on food then is going to be lower, even if some items are more expensive that you can't grow yourself.

**Participant 105** 28:26

The other aspect of that, though, is that if I'm teaching you how to farm and you're farming to sell things, the better you are at it, the more productive you are, and then the lower price you can charge. So I guess I would say is a fairly strong connection between education and then making things affordable. Similar, I guess, thinking with education and availability. Basically, like the same factors I was just talking about are kind of a play where if, if you're a well educated farmer, or growing for your own personal use, there is more food available to yourself and potentially to your your neighborhood or community. Then availability would then have a positive impact on affordability. But you know, larger amounts of things will bring down the price a bit.

**Interviewer** 29:33

Other connections that you see?

**Participant 105** 29:42

I don't know off the top of my head, but I'll have to think about it for a moment, I guess.

**Interviewer** 29:47

Yeah, definitely. If it will be helpful to verbally process you can definitely do that. We can also take a second

**Participant 105** 30:06

Not that I'm thinking of one right now but I think it's tripping me out that like, oh, everything's connected like it's done. It's a complete circle.

**Interviewer** 30:14

Yeah.

**Participant 105** 30:15

Is there like? Can these things also have negative connections?

**Interviewer** 30:20

Absolutely.

**Participant 105** 30:20

Simultaneously? Or? Okay, not that I am thinking of one right now. But I'm just-

**Interviewer** 30:27

Yeah, you could also maybe think about connections between the sectors and these values. So, [inaudible] retail and stuff affect affordability? Yeah. If you're feeling like I think those are all connections between education, affordability, availability, like, that's great, we can move on to considering other parts of the map.

**Participant 105** 30:48

Oh, I mean, if, okay, this is gonna be silly. But if we're thinking in the real abstract, it's possible that affordability and, and availability as they increase, you would then see a decrease in the value of education because people were concerned about it. But I don't know that that's really pertinent to this. Let's see. So, affordability, and availability are, are pretty closely tied in my mind. And I think each of those would have an impact on the use of retail.

**Interviewer** 31:44

So if retail was more affordable, then people would use it more? So it'd be a positive relationship there?

**Participant 105** 31:55

Yes.

**Interviewer** 31:58

Yeah. And then availability, are you saying that's also a positive relationship?

**Participant 105** 32:06

Yeah. And then, so positive relationship, meaning that like, if it were more affordable or available, the retail sector would use it more? Is that what we're saying with that?

**Interviewer** 32:18

Yeah. So if potentially, people are not using retail as much right now, because it's not very available, and it's not very affordable.

**Participant 105** 32:27

Okay. Yes, then yes, that's a strong correlation. I don't know, it's tough to think through, the more complex it gets. I'm sure it's a problem that you guys have, yeah.

**Interviewer** 33:13

Sure.

**Participant 105** 33:15

Education and I guess I feel like it doesn't even need to be said, but like the relationship between education and the use of the supplemental sector, in the sense that there's a lot of people that don't know, all the benefits available to them, or how to use them. That'd be a relatively strong relationship there.

**Participant 105** 33:50

I think, let's see, affordability and availability would both, like strongly impact the ability of the emergency sector. Especially if we're talking about the quality of what they're providing, you know, like, considering that there's a difference between providing calories and providing nutrition.

**Interviewer** 34:23

Yeah, could you speak about that a little more, maybe.

**Participant 105** 34:30

In our experience, especially over this last year, I think that the the public perception of people that are receiving emergency food assistance is well, you should be grateful for whatever you get, right. You need it and we're giving it to you. So take it and eat it right is just like what average person might think. And just a lot of the calls we would get especially for seniors that we had been working with a lot and different communities that we had already been involved with, where the voicemail would essentially be

**Participant 105** 35:10

You know, I've gotten, I've got boxes from the food bank or wherever stacked up, you know, I've got 'em, I have food, like, when am I getting my next fresh food box? Like we, I'm sick of rice, like I really, we need some fruits and vegetables. And then certainly, if those things were affordable and available, the same way that you know, some of those staple products and different things were, then it might be possible for the emergency sector to actually provide them.

**Interviewer** 36:02

Then do you see any connections? Maybe the opposite direction, so from these sectors, to the three values that we've pulled out?

**Participant 105** 36:13

Okay. Okay, yeah. Maybe the first negative connection I use of the emergency sector negatively impacts the affordability of the retail sector.

**Interviewer** 36:36

Yeah, can you speak more about that?

**Participant 105** 36:38

So the, the more free food that's available, and the community reduces what can be charged or even sold and, in total by the by participants in the local food system. We run into this sometimes when we were holding markets, where we know that people want certain things. I mean, from past experience, from survey, any number of reasons. But if you try to sell it, even at a discounted price, that's not realistic for- from a farmer's perspective, but we as an intermediary, we can subsidize that, we're gonna sell you these collards at half of what they actually cost to grow, people will still not pay for them, because they're expecting them to be free.

**Participant 105** 37:39

Because they're so accustomed to receiving free food, that if I have to pay anything for it, while I'm just gonna go somewhere else, and get whatever they have for free. Now, that's not always true there. I think the more people are educated on these things, and understanding about supporting the food system and things of that nature, we do see over time an increase in people understanding that the free thing you get wherever you're getting, it doesn't give you the choice or the nutrition that you from making your own selection and paying for it. But there's a knee jerk response that's fairly strong and consistent. That's like, wait, I thought this was going to be free. Yeah, you know, that was almost always the case.

**Interviewer** 38:35

Great, so then the connections I made, sort of capture what you're talking about that the issuers and sector in a way lowers the affordability of food in general, sort of through this impact. And it also decreases the use of retail, because people are procuring food for free, but they don't see it a reason to go then purchase it.

**Participant 105** 38:59

So use of the emergency sector, definitely strong negative impact on the use of retail. If I can go on a tangent real quick, I don't- I think it's even gonna confuse me if it gets too muddy. But like, Is it okay to stick with like, kind of like these hubs as a thing, like use of emergency on restaurants, you know, like, I don't know if making those like tiny connections or?

**Interviewer** 39:30

Yeah, so yeah, the goal is of the structure is kind of that by being able to go from like use of emergency to use of retail, it flows throughout the system. So that means an impact to restaurants, not goods that a lot of people were wanting to talk about, especially like impacts on health of like, they're like, I can't talk about the impact of health of all retail like it's super different if you're spending your money at the farmers market versus McDonald's and so I can't say that retail food is healthy or not. You're right, we should probably split those out.

**Participant 105** 40:05

Okay, so that's basically like the, I'm just gonna restate that. Let's make sure I understand. Basically, that by making the connection from use of emergency to use of retail, it's that negative impact is flowing through to the others, we don't necessarily need to call out the individual negative impacts. Okay. All right. So then, yeah, that one is definitely strong, the emergency sector needs to think about that one for a second affordability. I guess that one might be a weak connection.

**Participant 105** 40:48

The reasoning being that much like the use of retail, so if people are getting emergency food and not purchasing it, then from the retailer's perspective, or the growers perspective, I need to charge more, because I'm selling less. So it's not a big, incredibly strong direct impact, there's definitely a relationship because that event is going to ebb and flow based on the amount of emergency food available, there's maybe a stronger impact between use of emergency and availability. So like, from a producer's perspective, they're seeing their total volume of sales go down. So if in 2020, there was so much food available as an example.

**Participant 105** 41:44

And then, you know, that year, they didn't sell as much, right, because people are getting this free food, well, then right now, they're deciding what to grow up for 2020 or 2021. And they're, if they don't grow as much, because they're not expecting the market to be there, then it's gonna be a somewhat strong relationship between strong negative impact on down the availability for that given year. Okay, so I guess let's look at use of supplemental, that has a positive impact on affordability and availability. Because even though the source is different, the end result to the retailer or the grower is the same. So they don't necessarily need to charge less, that's strongly impacting their you know, the affordability of their product, even though on their end they're receiving the same amount of money.

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

**Interviewer** 43:06

Any other concepts you want, or any other connections that you see?

**Participant 105** 43:14

I guess the only one that I'm seeing that we don't have a connection with is like education and retail, but I can kind of see that one going both ways, which is tricky, like, on the nutrition side, if people were better educated, on not only nutritious foods, and how to cook them, and all that, you know, standard stuff, but, but like on the food system in general, and why it's good to buy these things locally, etc, etc. That type of education has a positive impact on retail. But, and not that this is a bad thing for the food system as a whole. But the reality is that if more people are educated on sustaining themselves with agriculture, that's going to decrease the use of retail. I guess I don't know how to capture that really. I think the stronger of those two relationships in my mind is that education will improve use of retail, because most people don't have the time or desire to actually go and grow everything for themselves.

**Interviewer** 44:38

So I'll maybe propose some connections and we'll see what you think you can revise it however you like. So that education, you know from learning about nutrition and the benefits of you know, shopping local and supporting local systems would be that people would be more likely to go to farmers markets and local restaurants, maybe even grocery stores if that's something you see. But then also this aspect of education, where people sort of like take up gardening or urban agriculture that decreases the use of retail. And so if that makes sense to you to include as sort of this other concept, and then as you talked about earlier than this has an impact on both affordability and availability of food. Yes, yeah.

**Interviewer** 45:36

I'm trying to shift things so that it's more readable. Okay, great. Are there any other values that we went over? that he would want to include? Are you happy with these three?

**Participant 105** 46:06

Reading the definitions again. I guess no. I'm sure if I just like sat down I could draw all kinds of lines. But I think those three are the ones that I have the strongest relationship to feel like it might be forced, if I start-

**Q6: Are there other things that influence these variables? For example, if we got back to the traffic example, I might add carpooling, as something that decreases the number of cars on the road. Is there anything else you would like to add to your map?**

**Interviewer** 46:54

Yeah, no that- this is, again, I lose it in two to three is usually a good number to focus on. Yeah. Cool. So then we do have also an opportunity for you to bring in any other concepts that you think are particularly relevant, that you think are big influences on the food system are particularly relevant for your map. So for example, we pulled in the sort of gardening or urban agriculture concept. And if you think about my old traffic example, I could also say like, okay, you know, cars impact traffic, but you know, what impacts the number of cars on the road, I might add carpooling as a concept, or if I'm like, what directly might change the amount of traffic, I could say, well, they do urban infrastructure changes, like traffic circles, and there would be less traffic. So any other concepts that you would potentially want to bring into your map, that you think are important impacts on the system or, you know, other values that you think are important? So sort of outcomes that you want to include?

**Participant 105** 48:07

I'm not sure how to say it, I guess I I might just start talking and then if you hear anything, then let's go with that. My personal view is that the some of the strongest interplay in the system has to do with like I had mentioned a minute ago, the the emergency sector, and essentially reliance on it or just its its pervasiveness flows through and has a strong influence on the retail sector, when we're talking about, like, fresh foods and things like that, like that interplay is, is one of the strongest driving forces to me, and I guess, like, perception might be the word to use.

**Participant 105** 49:02

So, there's a perception on both the supply side and and the consumer side. So there's, on the consumer side, there's a perception that food should be cheap, not only because of the emergency sector, but even like, your neighbor puts a stand out front and says free tomatoes. Well, tomatoes are free right there or they're 10 cents, why are they so expensive at the grocery store, right? So there's an- maybe that's education, I don't know. But there's always that bent on the consumer side.

**Participant 105** 49:39

And then especially at Flint Fresh being in the middle of these two, the the push on the grower side, particularly with new and beginning farmers, is if you know that they expect to be able to get top dollar for everything they've ever grown. Independent of quality, or volume or any other factor, they've got this perception that I saw a YouTube video that showed this guy making a million dollars on a quarter acre or I see that such and such farmers market, you can sell this for, you know, twice as much as people around here are willing to pay. And so they have the opposite perception that food should be should cost so much more. And, of course, the reality is somewhere in the middle. I guess I feel like that might already be kind of captured in this.

**Interviewer** 50:41

Yeah, I think it might be a bit. So how does interplay between use of emergency sector and retail and affordability? But I know, we could definitely add sort of in an intermediate concept as sort of an explanation of like perception of cost of food. If you think that'd be helpful, or we can just keep it sort of as this, you know, in the notes, as you know, the conversation.

**Participant 105** 51:12

Yeah, I mean, I don't know, because I don't know, on your end, I kind of like putting all these intermediary steps and things like that in there. I, I'm happy with this, I suppose it's hard to remember, with so many lines at this point.

**Interviewer** 51:28

We can also test it out. So we could see like a scenario. If we, for example, you know, if we bumped up the use of the emergency sector, what would happen is that people would use less retail, including grocery stores, convenience stores, farmers markets, and restaurants. There would be an impact on the afford- a negative impact on the affordability and availability of food in Flint. And then there would also be a connection to the ability of the emergency sector to provide food if there was a bunch of demand. Does that sort of those impacts- does that make sense to you? Does that kind of in line with your understanding?

**Participant 105** 52:14

I guess what the only question I would have is, like all this, like a matter of perspective, I guess. So from the residents perspective, an increase in that same increase in that increase, would- for them, wouldn't it have a positive impact on availability unavailability, because there's more food in the system? But it just depends on what kind of food we're talking about, like what I was saying before, like, are we talking about calories? Or are we talking about- because I, at least in my mind, when we're talking about a food system, we're actually talking about the agriculture and the consumer, and how that all interconnects. Not necessarily, like, if there's enough like, processed, packaged not saying that's a negative thing that things are processed, but like, there's just there's a difference between calories and like whole foods, right?

**Interviewer** 53:25

Yeah. Yeah, so those are kind of coming from these, these negative connections to affordability and availability that you've talked about as sort of like the long term effects of this sort of overreliance and shift to emergency sector away from retail, is that like more of like, in the market, then, you know, in the retail sector, then food is less affordable, because people are relying so much on free food that it is harder for sort of producers to sell, so they're charging higher prices. And if that maybe we can make it a weaker relationship, if that would sort of better suit it or change anything or like,

**Participant 105** 54:16

I'm not sure how to draw these lines. But what it seems like is that- so the increase in the emergency sector would increase availability for the residents, which is almost like availability is an intermediary between the two, between emergency and retail. So an increase in the emergency sector increases Flint's food availability, but then decreases the availability that would be at a retailer.

**Interviewer** 54:51

Gotcha. Okay, so maybe then it's-

**Participant 105** 55:05

But like, the tricky part for me is because if you're coming from the other direction on those lines, if I would think that the use of retail would increase, if there were more food available and retail, so it's almost like they're two separate things.

**Interviewer** 55:26

Yeah, it's definitely availability.

**Participant 105** 55:28

Quality of both is not an absolute value.

**Interviewer** 55:35

Yeah, it's definitely- we're trying to simplify a very large and complex-

**Participant 105** 55:40

Yeah

**Interviewer**  55:40

A number of concepts. Okay, so maybe- alright, so it's sort of tracing around this circle is that this increases availability in general. Right, so availability for consumers. And then if I think it's maybe that if these were more available, it's like there was, I guess, availability in general, maybe this is the connection to sort of explore more is, what the effect of availability would be on retail of maybe it is a less direct relationship, potentially that, like, availability is, is complex, that if we're talking about availability of retail, then if things are more available, people will use them more, but it's also like this connection of availability of food, maybe doesn't inherently have a connection to using retail versus using other things. What are your thoughts there?

**Participant 105** 56:47

Maybe that's what's tripping me up as I'm thinking of not the- oh geez, I don't know. But so if things are more than just if it all depends on the direction so much, right. So as a retailer, I would think that if we have more products available, people will use this more. But yeah, I don't know. I'm not sure that's, that's a tricky one.

**Interviewer** 57:26

Yeah. So maybe, let's keep it as sort of like a weak, positive relationship, if that makes sense to you. And maybe also what's potentially missing is sort of the circuit- the circle of impacts that like, retail contributes to availability, and then availability of retail prompts more usage of it.I don't think right now there is sort of that circle of [inaudible] value. I know, it's very, it's a very messy map at this point. There's a lot of things going on. Yeah, because right now, availability impacts the use of retail and the ability of the emergency sector. We can sort of- oh, and affordability.

**Participant 105** 58:27

Yeah. Okay. Yeah. So those lines- I- yes, I think are right, if there's more of it, if there's more available independent of what created more availability, that improves the ability of the emergency sector. There's more available at retailers, and there's more available in total, so it's more affordable. Okay. Yeah. I agree with that.

**Interviewer** 58:59

Great. And then things that impact availability, maybe we can, because this education goes through gardening agriculture to affect availability. Do you think now that we've added that, do you think we should delete this connection? Are there other impacts of education that would affect availability of food?

**Participant 105** 59:27

I guess maybe the direct line, yeah, you're right could be gone because it's like, it's more like a roundabout way that it impacts availability.

**Interviewer** 59:51

Gotcha. All right. Do you feel good about this sort of availability question that we've now hopefully addressed? Awesome. So is there anything else you would like to change about your current map? There will be a couple more opportunities, but we'll move on a little bit.

**Participant 105** 1:00:13

Sure.

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

**Interviewer** 1:00:14

Okay, great. So I'm going to save this map really quick. So I guess the next thing we're going to talk about is, you know, one of the purposes of this entire project, right is to identify leverage points, opportunities, to sort of change the system to sort of get better outcomes, and have sort of a positive impact. I'm considering maybe your knowledge and experience in Flint, but also potentially contextualizing it in the map that we've created? What sort of leverage points do you think of what sort of changes would you make to improve it? So this can be sort of vague and conceptual, or it can be really specific, and we can look at sort of, like, you know, adding other concepts, changing relationships, stuff like that, whatever level of talking about it makes sense to you.

**Participant 105** 1:01:13

Are there any examples you could give?

**Interviewer** 1:01:18

So one person talked about, you know, having their- food retail as a problem in Flint. So they talked about having smaller, high quality grocers of like, and didn't think that supermarkets were a good fit for Flint. And so supporting the smaller, high quality grocers that already exist and creating opportunities to recruit others. So you know, sort of the size of convenience stores, but selling more healthy local fresh foods. And sort of like doing efforts to recruit customers for that sort of effort that they thought would have a good impact.

**Participant 105** 1:01:55

Okay.

**Interviewer** 1:01:57

So yeah, it can be I know, it's sort of a big, vague question.

**Participant 105** 1:02:03

I agree with that. But especially in terms of people's ability to travel. I mean, certainly people using convenience stores more is I mean, convenience that, you know, or the lack of grocery stores is like, sort of, like an obvious line that can be drawn, but that I'm sure that there's also use of convenience stores because of their like frequency and distribution. You know, if, I guess that's not to say, if there were a scenario where there were a giant grocery store, right in the middle of the city, and there were also all these little grocery stores throughout the city, my expectation is that people would still go to the little grocery stores that are close, versus traveling to the large one. That's how I guess I would think of that.

**Interviewer** 1:03:13

Yeah, so yes, yeah. Any sort of, you know, if you ruled the world, controller of the Flint food system, you know, again, it can be big things could be really specific.

**Participant 105** 1:03:23

Yeah. Okay. The big things that I- maybe not the largest things, like if I were to spend more time thinking about this, because like, despite working in the system, so much like your mental energy goes into actually working in the system. But in my experience, I guess the thing that I think about the most is the interplay of education, and the supplemental sector. I, and this may or may not be true, of course, but like, like I was saying, I think that I'm so on the right side of this, the emergency sector, however important, it is not to diminish that, but it has a dampening effect on a lot of this map. The fact that it's there, regardless of how much it's needed, has a strong negative impact on a lot of these other aspects of the food system.

**Participant 105** 1:04:31

Whereas it would be great as far as education and careers, if people could on their own, you know, generate their own wealth and support the food system that way. But, you know, as the the point in between that and, you know, the this like utopian future, supporting that leverage point of the supplemental sector I think has the strongest impact on the supply side and the system where, like I've mentioned a bit before, I think the from the retailer or the farmers perspective, they're making what they need to make. And that supplemental assistance that the residents are receiving is allowing them to pay the price that the farmer or the supplier needs. So I guess I think that that's the strong one in my view, or an important one, I should say.

**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** 1:13:50

Anything else you want to change? Or do you feel good about the map we've created? I guess I feel good about it. I know sometimes the map seems never done. I'm sure it adds up. Okay. All right. So I'll stop sharing my screen cause that is the majority, the last thing I have basically is, you know, if there's anything else, you know, else about the fifth of some sectors, and we've talked about the values about COVID-19, that you think is important for us to sort of take forward in this research that we haven't talked about.

**Participant 105** 1:14:25

No, nothing comes to mind that we haven't talked about, I guess. I think that the biggest thing for me is, like I said a couple times, and I think where we started was like, just making sure that there's a when questions are being asked or or when things are being considered that like that, that farmer agriculture side of things as a part of the consideration, because I just don't think that the long term food system succeeds and builds upon itself. If you don't have that?