**FLPP: Interview Template**

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

**Interviewer** 11:00

So how would you describe the different connection strengths between maybe use of retail and the two different kinds of restaurants that we're talking about?

**Participant 109** 11:29

So, I can't really speak a lot on the retail connections other than parents don't send kids to school with food because they have food at school. That's their mindset. So kids don't really talk about- I guess the local restaurants or chain restaurants. When I ask what they have, they don't know what they have for dinner. They don't know where it comes from. They just know they had chicken nuggets. So then I'm not sure where it comes from. So I don't know if it came from a grocery store, local restaurant, chain restaurant, so I'm just not really sure.

**Interviewer** 12:54

Yeah, this is also be based on sort of your experiences, like being a citizen, and sort of more like, this is how I've experienced this is my perception of what's going on in Flint definitely, through like your professional experiences. Or you can say, I'm not sure I don't want to speak to that.

**Participant 109** 13:18

Um, I guess I would say just from being around Flint, it would be equal part of local restaurants, and then chain restaurants and maybe like a medium relationship in between there. From my experience, and just I guess, my friends' experience, it's an equal thing too. Sometimes we go to the local restaurant, sometimes we go to chain restaurants, it's just, I guess it depends on the day and time more than anything.

**Interviewer** 13:51

And then what would you think about sort of differences in strength between grocery stores, convenience stores, and farmers markets.

**Participant 109** 14:00

I know, for farmers markets, it's like a weak one, because it's intimidating for people to go to the market. A lot of students don't even know we have one. They just think it's a big building with a big parking lot. There's a pretty high relationship with convenience stores because Flint is not really a food desert, but you do have to be able to travel to get to a grocery store. There's convenience stores almost on every block and not so much grocery stores, they're more spread out and more in like a country area.

**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** 14:49

That would be a pretty weak connection to grocery stores. And then sort of what is your sense of, you know, when people use supplemental nutrition programs and nutrition programs are they usually using those at the farmers market and convenience stores at grocery stores?

**Participant 109** 15:08

They're definitely using it at all three, but the farmers market does offer this program called Double Up Food Bucks. So they are I know a lot of families do benefit from that. They're just people in general, I benefit from double up food bucks. So it's definitely a perk to go to the farmers market. But the local grocer might accept Double Up Food Bucks, but no chain like Meijer or Kroger will accept it.

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

**Interviewer** 16:07

So do you have any questions about these definitions? Or sort of a sense of which ones you would like to map?

**Participant 109** 18:10

I don't have any questions, but the one that popped out to me for sure was community empowerment. The other ones were nutritious foods and education.

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

**Interviewer** 18:28

Great, so I'll switch back to the model. I'm going to go ahead and add those. So, based on it how you see the current food system in Flint, how would you draw connections between these concepts?

**Participant 109** 19:05

I would say through, like the emergency part of, you know, food distributions that a nonprofit in Flint puts on. Because they give out, not thinking about nutritious foods. They always have fresh fruits and vegetables, but they don't give out like heavily processed stuff or like they don't give out just the stuff that you find in school lunches. It's things that are sustainable and you can make a meal out of them. And the community really gets together people who are in the nonprofit, they come out and they help they learn through even just driving through previous food distributions about what it is and it just is a great way to get the community together. And then education- I would say, well, it's like an education nonprofit that does it. It's the Flint CEI, so and then they turn around and then they offer education, classes about cooking, budgeting and grocery shopping during school time to parents. And then in the high school, they have their own cooking classes that help not only prepare them for, you know, the real world but career goals too.

**Interviewer** 20:43

So, let's go through , I'll sort of like, reiterate what I heard, and then definitely let me know if I'm capturing this or not. And so what I heard was maybe that you would draw a connection between sort of this emergency sector and providing nutritious foods? And would you consider that to be like a weak, a medium, or a strong relationship?

**Participant 109** 21:12

It's a, I would say medium.

**Interviewer** 21:18

Right. And that also, you know, this leads to some community empowerment, which you think that would be a weak, a medium, or strong relationship?

**Participant 109** 21:27

And I would say it's definitely strong.

**Interviewer** 21:33

And then also, there might be, you know, definitely if I capture this wrong- an NGO that does education, in Flint. And then there are some of these sort of benefits of education, would you want to draw maybe sort of connections of those benefits, or add other sort of concepts that like, what you think would be the sort of the outcomes of these education programs?

**Participant 109** 22:01

Yeah, so I would see a connection between grocery stores and farmer markets, because within the education, they promote farmer market buying because of Double Up Food Bucks.

**Interviewer** 22:21

Other connections that you see?

**Participant 109** 22:27

I would say the education is a community empowerment also, because it's not just for students, it's for the whole community. So if you, like, if your neighbor goes to the school down the street, and they're offering that program, you're allowed to go. And the education also focuses on nutritious foods, we never, we're not even like allowed to focus on like candy or even, it has to be like an event for us to promote some type of candy.

**Participant 109** 23:02

And then it still has to be healthy in some form. I would say local restaurants with community empowerment, because when we do the distributions, there is community or there's local restaurants that come out and will feed us. So I would say there's a use of like,-oh, no, never mind. That's already connected. I think that might be-

**Interviewer** 23:51

Okay. Other connections between the sectors that we haven't talked about already that you see you or any connection between other sectors and nutritious foods or community empowerment that you see?

**Participant 109** 24:16

I know that farmers markets on there, but Flint Fresh is kind- Flint fresh is kind of like a farmers market now that offers supplemental help. So I don't know if we could add that in there. Because when they're newer, and they're trying to get connected with the education, they're connected with nutritious foods, and then they go out to all of Genesee County.

**Interviewer** 24:54

And so this is sort of my understanding is that it's sort of retail but also sort of supplemental?

**Participant 109** 25:00

Yeah, because they- yeah, most of it is purchased through. I talked with them last year about it, and over 50% of their purchases are through SNAP or Double Up Food Bucks. So it's a really big part of their income.

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

**Interviewer** 25:21

Great. Were there any other values that we went over that you think are important and want to include? Or are you sort of content to move on with that?

**Participant 109** 25:42

I think we can move on.

**Interviewer** 25:44

Okay, great. So the last thing we're going to talk about is sort of like, you know, those are the things that we really wanted to cover sort of the sectors and these different values. But we also want to make sure to capture, you know, other things that you think about other things that you think are important influences on the system.

**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** 26:01

So this would be the opportunity to add sort of other other concepts that you think are important. So my little example of the traffic, I might say that, you know, alright, cars influence traffic, but what influences cars a lot, in my opinion, like, the number of cars on the road, I say, like carpooling, right? Would be something that has an influence on cars, if there's more carpooling, there's less car, so it'd be a negative connection. So similarly, for your map, is there any other concepts that you would like to add things that you think are important influences on the food system or other sort of outcomes that you think would be significant?

**Participant 109** 26:47

I would say SODEXO, which is the place that supplies Flint students foods, I'd say it's more like a negative relationship, because it doesn't teach any kind of healthy eating.

**Interviewer** 27:07

Might have to spell this for me.

**Participant 109** 27:11

S-O-D-E-X-O

**Interviewer** 27:14

Okay. And so what I was hearing is that it has a negative impact on nutritious foods?

**Participant 109** 27:23

Yeah.

**Interviewer** 27:25

Gotcha. Other connections that you see?

**Participant 109** 27:28

A negative impact on community empowerment just from talking with the workers. And they're just treated really poorly, especially during the pandemic. I would say a negative relationship between SODEXO and like Flint Fresh in the farmers market, because they've offered I don't know how many times but a few times to get a program where Flint kids can have, you know, more of an access to fresh veggies and they're just not willing to participate.

**Interviewer** 28:13

Other connections or other concepts you want to add?

**Participant 109** 28:32

I would say the Flint school board. And then that would be a negative with nutritious foods. Negative with education. I know you put the NGO in there, but does that also include partnerships?

**Interviewer** 29:09

Not necessarily. So we can if it would be helpful for you, I think it was just that I didn't quite catch that exact name you were referencing. If you want to put in the exact name of the organization, we can do that. Or we can leave it as NGOs in general.

**Participant 109** 29:29

You can put it as CEI. And then the Flint school board and the CEI, they have a positive relationship.

**Interviewer** 29:47

Is it from Flint school board to CEI or the other direction?

**Participant 109** 29:54

I would say from the flight school board to CEI because a lot of people in CEI have their own opinion on the Flint School Board and the Flint school board just uses us for cheap labor. So definitely kind of like a one sided positiveness. I mean, partnerships are, I would say, like a huge part of the Flint food system, because before COVID, they would be the only ones doing food distributions.

**Participant 109** 30:28

And we consider churches as a partner. So they have a positive relationship with the use of the emergency sector. And then I would say, a positive relationship with education and CEI, and then the CEI would have also have a positive relationship with partnerships.

**Interviewer** 31:14

Based on your comments, I'm just reviewing sort of things, I think, maybe would be a connection this way that like CEI supports the fund school board, not necessarily about the Flint-, or maybe, I guess I'm asking for clarity, that that CEI supports the Flint school board or Flint school board support CEI?

**Participant 109** 31:35

Support as in financially or just?

**Interviewer** 31:39

Either or through work, through research, through communication.

**Participant 109** 31:47

So CEI is not- doesn't receive any funding from the Flint school board, we're just allowed to go into the schools. So that's kind of the only thing they give us is like, we're letting you do your work in our buildings with our students.

**Interviewer** 32:04

So maybe it's a weak negative, or weak positive from school board to CEI, and then a stronger maybe positive from CEI different school board? Or would you say that there's not really a connection the opposite direction?

**Participant 109** 32:19

No, there is a connection, just one isn't as positive as the other like you were saying. I would say there's a positive connection both ways with the Flint school board, and so SODEXO because they, I'm assuming, use it for cheap food. I think that's the only reason why because it's definitely not healthy food.

**Participant 109** 32:54

I would say there is a- I would maybe positive relationship between supplemental and SODEXO both ways, because like 98% of Flint students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. So they, I mean, I've never seen a student pay for food. I think everybody just automatically gets free food. And then to qualify for free or reduced you have to be a- be on some kind of like government assistance. So that's what that's based on.

**Participant 109** 33:44

I mean, as far as affordability goes, and availability, it's there. It's just if they have the money at the time, because you know, food stamps only comes out once a month. Sometimes you can get transportation to the grocery store, sometimes you can't. So I don't really know how you would add that in there.

**Interviewer** 34:10

Maybe that having transportation or not, like sort of influences the use of grocery stores so, strong positive relationship that if transportation is easy and accessible and convenient, then your [inaudible], like easy and convenient then to go to grocery stores.

**Participant 109** 34:32

And Flint Fresh offers delivery for everybody in Genesee County, so it's hosted in Flint, but they'll take it anywhere.

**Interviewer** 34:43

So maybe that's sort of the availability aspect. That transportation affects that and Flint Fresh helps out too. Great. I know it's getting a little complicated, I have a few tricks up my sleeve to make things a little more clear if we need to. Yeah. Are there any anything else you'd like to add or change by your map?

**Participant 109** 35:17

I would say quality of life is respected. I would say there's a negative part of it, I would say it's actually disrespected.

**Interviewer** 35:27

Great, do you want to talk a little bit more about that sort of how you see negative connections to that?

**Participant 109** 35:41

Oh, go ahead.

**Interviewer** 35:42

Oh, no, I'm just saying like, what do you think would be the influences on that, the negative influences?

**Participant 109** 35:50

I would say to that SODEXO is a negative influence.The flight school board has a negative influence. Maybe chain restaurants? We have a pretty good transportation system, so that would be a positive one. I say partnerships, you know, respect the quality of life, we're trying to give it back to Flint citizens. That might be-

**Interviewer** 36:56

Great-.

**Interviewer 2** 36:58

Can you say a little bit about, quality of life is disrespected?Just kind of give us a little insight around that.

**Participant 109** 37:07

Yeah, so the water crisis really isn't a big secret. And a big thing for Flint kids that were in utero were born, or were being raised around that time that have high lead poisoning, kind of that only hope for them to reverse or get those lead levels down is providing healthy foods. And that's really pushed to these families and it's kind of put on the family to ensure all of that food, but then the food that we give to these families is like a slap in the face because it's all processed.

**Participant 109** 37:46

It has low protein, you know, not a lot of other of that good stuff in there. And then it's never healthy fresh veggies, not that green that they need to reverse that lead damage.

**Interviewer 2** 38:08

Thank you for that.

**Participant 109** 38:09

Yeah. And then I actually for this interview, had my old coworker she took a picture of the food that SODEXO just had given out as a very random day. And I was actually trying to debate what I- I don't know how to send it to you through here, but it looks like they got a bag of macaroni and cheese in like a plastic bag and there's no fresh fruits or veggies. The closest thing to a fruit is a cup of I think it was either oranges or peaches that was filled with that high fructose corn syrup.

**Interviewer** 38:55

I might send you a follow up email part of our research team is doing sort of this photo research project where they're asking participants that if they have photos of ways they've experienced the food system in Flint. And I think that would be a really powerful addition to it. If y'all would be willing to share it.

**Participant 109** 39:20

Yeah, definitely. Because it just shows kind of like, the randomness or I guess the realness of what they actually serve. It's not like oh, well we're gonna pretend to you know, serve good things. And I mean, I guess I do give them credit because during lunches, they are offered a salad bar but the veggies I kid you not, they like bend in half. They're just not actually fresh. I don't know what they put on them to keep them that way. But I've had a few of like, some fries and some veggies and it was disgusting. I don't know how we can serve it to those students.

**Interviewer** 40:02

Yeah, yeah, obviously I can't speak at all to the food system, but my mother's a middle school teacher in Indiana, it's in the Midwest. And she has also just been shocked by, you know, changes at sort of like the higher level of like, oh, instead of, you know, actually cooking stuff, we're just going to subcontract to this company, it's going to be way cheaper, but then the quality is just so much less for students. And it's, you know, we live in rural Indiana. And so it's obviously a very different situation than Flint. But it's also like, a lot of kids, this is a big part of their diet is getting a free school lunches.

**Participant 109** 40:40

Especially in Flint, because the students, they're there for, from like, 7am to 5pm at night, so they're there for almost every single meal. And, oh, hold on, I lost my train of thought. So they're there for every single meal but the meals aren't actually prepared at the schools, I don't think a lot of parents or people even know that. So they have like this whole site. And the whole site that it's at is this rundown school, that it's Northwestern.

**Participant 109** 41:16

And they have like mold in the building, they have rats in the building, it was previously shut down, because of the lack of function of the building. And then they put, I don't know how much money but enough to get it up and going past probably one inspection. And then they started serving food out of there. And students who go there for sports events, they refuse to use the bathroom or change in the bathroom even because it's so disgusting. It's like, you won't even use the bathroom because it's that gross, like, how can you eat out of the kitchen. So it just goes back to the you know, the quality of life is respected. It's just absolutely disrespected by how they prepare that food.

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

**Interviewer** 42:15

So the next thing we're going to talk about that hopefully, ties into this conversation, you know, one of the goals of this research project is not only to like, get a better understanding of what's going on with food in Flint, but try to come up with some sort of leverage points, right things that we could change things that we could do that would lead to better outcomes. Considering sort of your knowledge and maybe if you want to- if you want to contextualize it in this map, but you definitely don't have to, what would you sort of change about food in Flint to improve it. So this could be small things, it could be big things, this could be if I ran the world, I would do X, Y or Z, it's sort of it's freeform, whatever, whatever you think about

**Participant 109** 43:02

Well, first off, I would cut out SODEXO, and they are the huge things I- I just, I hate them so much. And just even their disrespect towards their workers, like throughout the pandemic was just unbelievable. So I would definitely get rid of them. I would keep the workers if I could. And then I would start making food at the schools again, to ensure freshness, you know, quality, those workers are more than prepared to make and serve the food because when they go to work, they clock in serve breakfast clock out, wait at the building because they can't leave for like two and a half hours clock back in for lunch do the same thing until after school programming and then they're allowed to go home.

**Participant 109** 44:04

So they're being unpaid for those hours. And they could in the meantime be making you know fruits and veggies in salads and things like that, that are actually nutritious for our students. I would I maybe put more support and effort into the school gardens because every school has a garden and the garden whoever is in charge of the garden they have two garden so like for me I have two gardens. And it's a lot of work to get two gardens, you know, on a small scale, but if they put more energy and effort into those gardens, they could have a big garden that could you know, feed the whole school because each school has about three or two hundred to 300 kids, I would say.

**Participant 109** 45:02

So I would start there with for sure bringing actually fresh fruits and veggies back into the school start by making the food where they are serving the food. Allowing, I guess, more options, because last year, there was a child who was diagnosed with celiac disease, parents brought in paperwork and everything, but the parents couldn't afford to send their child with food every day. Because, you know, gluten free stuff is super expensive already. So they're like we can't afford it.

**Participant 109** 45:37

But the school needs to do something. This school fed her like a cheese stick, tortilla chips, and salsa and milk every single day. And then if they had a salad bar, they were like- because sometimes the salad bar didn't have actually salad in it. It was just like other fruits and veggies. And then when they had a salad, she actually got to have, you know, an legit lunch. It wasn't just a snack. So I guess understanding of, you know, diseases, illnesses, culture, cause some students, they brought their own lunches due to that. And I don't know, school lunches, were just such a fun time when I was in school. And it's just not like that anymore.

**Interviewer** 46:33

Yeah, I- this is a bit of a tangent. But I met a woman who worked, I think, in Florida as a consultant. And our whole job was so cool. She was like, I basically just connect public schools and local farmers to like, have direct sourcing for sort of, like school cafeterias, and she was like, it is awesome. Every time I get to go anyplace, and whenever I leave, I know that, you know, the kiddos are gonna have a much better sort of meal experience.

**Participant 109** 47:04

Yeah. And the sad thing is, is that Flint can afford it just from the aid that they received, but they would rather spend $100,000 redoing their board room and never use it. But yeah, I'll never understand them. But we just, we did get new ones. And so I'm hoping that maybe the with the upcoming election, it will be a little bit of a change. But we'll see.

**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** 56:20

And then the final question is also sort of freeform, you know that we we've talked a lot about different sectors in the food system, different values, and parts of COVID-19. Is there anything else sort of important about this conversation around food in Flint, you know, that you want to make sure that we know that we carry forward in this research, anything that you want to add? And that we haven't talked about?

**Participant 109** 56:45

What's the outcome of this research? Is it going to provide funding or just kind of knowledge?

**Interviewer** 56:51

Yeah, so we are not directly a funding source, but we have sort of collaborations and partnerships. So hopefully, this is going to be used to inform different decision makers in Flint. So potentially one would be, you know, putting funding or putting efforts or programs towards, you know, certain things that we've identified as, like, good and powerful leverage points. [inaudible]Yeah, sorry, what's up?

**Participant 109** 57:23

Oh, no, that makes sense. From what you said, I wasn't sure if it was like, specifically for a funder, or if you were just like, you know, trying to get more funders for Flint kids. So I would say it would be a waste of money to give the money directly to the Flint school board. It would be an absolute waste of money. Where your money will have benefit from is long term partners in the school district.

**Participant 109** 57:56

So if it's the United Way, which they help fund the Crim and then other AmeriCorps programs. So finding an AmeriCorps program, you know, starting an AmeriCorps program, putting your funds towards that, if you after all this research, you come to the conclusion like oh, this would be so perfect. If we had one person to do this thing, then you could easily just turn around, write an AmeriCorps grant, you know, find somewhere in Flint to host it, which there would be hundreds of places that would be willing to host it. Depending on the church, I would just have to do your- you would just have to do your research before giving them money because some churches are more I guess independent and community based than they are like Flint kid based.

**Participant 109** 57:56

I don't know finding somebody to replace the SODEXO too, if like, that is even a possibility or even just like, hey, maybe we need to change this kind of thing would be a good because I don't think people realize like how bad just SODEXO in general is like they give like the food- the food Flint students get they give to like people in prisons. And you know, I think that people in prison deserve like healthy, nutritious food too. Don't get me wrong, but when you come down to like justifying, you know, giving food to prisoners versus you know, Flint kids like kids in general. It's just how do you how do you feel comfortable about that?

**Participant 109** 59:53

Because it's cheaper because it's, you know, it gets you more money in your pocket. So, sadly I did, I do notice a lot of that in flat, where it's just like, I have a great idea, give me funds, and then that great idea never happens. And it's like, well, where did all that money go? And it's like, well, we put it here, here and here. But where are they put it actually isn't a good place to put the money.

**Participant 109** 1:00:29

I would say my program FoodCorps though, which is the garden program. We have pretty high funders too. So if you do go the route of, you know, thinking of putting it into an AmeriCorps program, I would just recommend looking at all the funders that AmeriCorps program has. Because sometimes it's like, it'd be a waste of money, like one of our funders is Walmart. So like, don't waste your money if we can take Walmart's money, so.

**Interviewer** 1:01:00

Yeah. Great, well, that's kind of the end, I have one thing, I'm gonna put a link in the chat. And that is for sort of like an exit survey, that we have all participants who are involved in any kind of like part of our research. So it should take you about two to five minutes to complete. And I'd really appreciate if you did that, after we hang up. As this is our standard sort of questionnaire that we ask everyone with just a few questions related to this specific project, there will be several questions that seem very unrelated to what we talked about today.