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

**Participant 121** 13:51

So do you want me first to answer the question about whether people are going a lot or not?

**Interviewer** 13:57

Mmhmm.

**Participant 121** 13:58

I think people do. I personally don't. I like to know what's in the food that I eat. So I don't do a lot of restaurants but just based on my own personal relationships with people. I think people eat out a lot or pick up food, or you know, what was the second part of that question?

**Interviewer** 14:22

Yeah. Do you think people go when they go out to restaurants, do they go more to chain or fast food restaurants or local restaurants?

**Participant 121** 14:31

I will say people my age which would be local restaurants, not fast food. And they might be chained but they're not going to be a lot of fast food, not people my age.

**Interviewer** 14:53

What do you think then about maybe the connection strikes for different stores. Do you think people are going, getting more of their food from grocery stores, convenience stores, from farmers markets?

**Participant 121** 15:06

Their food in general? I would probably say grocery stores. Well, let me see. Depends on what part of town, you know, if you're on the south then probably grocery stores, north end, it might be more convenience service there's a what they call it food desert on the north end, there's no there's no major grocery stores on the north end of Flint, they've all closed. So I would think they utilize convenience stores and probably very little farmers market. People on the north end of the city. I'm on the south end. And so there are grocery stores on this side accessible.

**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** 16:03

Just added sort of this grocery store closure concept that it- because they're closed, they have less access to grocery stores, that they're more likely to go to convenience stores. And then last ones would be sort of your sense of where people use Supplemental Nutrition Programs, if it's more at grocery stores, at convenience stores at farmer's markets?

**Interviewer** 16:32

I would say grocery stores and convenience stores.

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

**Participant 121** 19:38

I would say availability. And I won't say affordability because there's a lot of places to get free, especially vegetables and stuff like that. Availability and quality of life is respected.

**Interviewer** 20:17

We can definitely come back and add more if you're interested in doing it. Sometimes it's easier to focus on fewer and add stuff. So I'm going to add availability. Quality of life is respected.

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

**Participant 121** 21:02

Well, I already spoke to the food desert. You know, I think just a lack of grocery stores where people can get affordable food affects their quality of life. They end up going to, for instance, a convenience store and getting things that aren't as nutritious as they should be. Hmm. Say that question again, repeat that question.

**Interviewer** 21:42

If there's sort of connections that you would make, maybe how these different sectors or places that people get food affects availability or quality of life or other values that you think?

**Participant 121** 22:04

Well, I think if people could get to a place like a farmers market, yeah, I think that could very positively affect their quality of life. Number one, because of the variety of things that they find at a farmers market, even the restaurants that a farmers market offer, you know, an experience that people might not get otherwise in their own neighborhoods. But like I said, I don't- when I go to farmers market, that the people that are there, you know, it's sort of a, you know, farmers market is sort of a thing, especially now that they've moved it downtown.

**Participant 121** 22:53

And you know, your professionals go there. And those aren't the people that need to have that experience. They're the ones that can get there, and they work close to there, or they can drive there. For the people that really need to go to a farmers market and find out, you know, what kinds of food and what wide variety of foods and restaurants there are, they don't have access to it. It's transportation, it's distance, it's, you know, they might not be going because, because they don't know anybody else that does go, you know, but I think if it was more accessible, people really, that really need to have better nutrition in their lives, better quality of life really benefit from the farmers market. When I go there, you know, it's like all the suits, in there or, you know. I don't know.

**Interviewer** 23:54

This is something that we have heard in other interviews that something people felt that that holds a barrier to people using a farmers market, is this, this feeling of welcome or feeling of connection to [inaudible]. Is that a fair way to sum up sort of this sort of some of the things we're talking about of people not feeling comfortable, or?

**Participant 121** 24:21

Yeah, any of you look at the vendors at the farmers market, so many of them are, I mean, they're from far away, and they're not even from this county you know? So I don't know if there's a big connection between the community that comes to the farmers market, and the vendors. You know, I don't. I don't know if there's a connection there. There's a couple of local people that I can recall there. But for the most part, they're farmers from far away, you know?

**Interviewer** 25:23

Other connections you would like to make or that you see?

**Participant 121** 25:30

I don't have any more right now.

**Interviewer** 25:34

You were also interested in adding the concept of sort of gardening and urban agriculture. And I guess there's sort of two things I might want to talk about here. First of all, is sort of the outcomes that you see any benefits or even disadvantages of gardening and urban agriculture, how it's currently happening in Flint, or sort of see all the connections out from it, or the connections in what really influences how much people are able to participate in food production in Flint?

**Participant 121** 26:13

Well, I think the resources are there for you know, somebody who's interested in growing their own food or having a neighborhood garden. I think the help is there. Different organizations like the Neighborhood Engagement Hub and Edible Flint and other organizations. Still, probably some disconnect. I don't know I can say what it is.

**Interviewer** 26:58

Is it more a disconnect between these different organizations?

**Interviewer** 27:03

Between the organizations and the people and the neighborhoods.

**Interviewer** 27:07

Gotcha.

**Participant 121** 27:08

And that's not to say that they're not helping them because they are. But I think there's still a segment of the population that doesn't know where to turn. Yeah, you know, or might not feel comfortable approaching an organization about getting some help.

**Participant 121** 27:43

Think there might be more success if they knew that there were people like them, people who live in their neighborhoods coming to help them there. I think there's still a level of mistrust.

**Participant 121** 28:05

Organizations or I don't know what- what word to use. Organization is not the right word. I'm just saying some people would- would take any organization or person that's in a position to influence and help that they would- they- any of them, and they will consider them to be "them," you know, as opposed to "us." I don't know how else to word it. But there's, I think that's a real barrier. And I'm trying to think of something better, something more specific. I don't know, I just think there's about a mistrust, and especially on the north end, you know, so many people have come through there and misuse the residents there, whether it be with programs or anything.

**Participant 121** 29:11

I just don't think there's a lot of trust, like what are you here for? We're going through that with the vaccine, they're having such a hard time getting black and brown peoples specifically to get the vaccine, but there's just so much mistrust of establishment or established organizations that, you know, they're not going to be readily open, even if it's free, they're not going to be readily open to open to opening their doors to just anyone to come in. Even on the farm, always get this sense and we try to make it clear, you know, this food is free, you know, but we I still get the sense that people are saying, you know, for, you know, what do I have to give you in return? You know, they just, they don't just take our word for it. So we still got work to do. And it got to a point when we were over across from Hurley Hospital in the garden, in the garden where people in the neighborhood came by, and they came by and drove to get vegetables, but that took years to massage.

**Participant 121** 30:18

And it's gonna take some time on the farm to get the local residents to just come by and get their vegetables, and know that we're not going to be asking questions or asking them to do something or, you know, so it's gonna take some time, and it'll happen, we're starting to see people come through. And we're fortunate that there's places where we can take the vegetables that giveaway food to two places, the giveaway pool, like the Hurley Food Farmacy, they have an established population that knows, you know, what's expected of them, and what they're going to get what they have to do in return. And so, you know, we give tons of vegetables to them. So we've got another party that can get the vegetables distributed to people that need it.

**Participant 121** 31:05

So that's a good partnership. But yeah, I have to say there's, I think there's still some lack of trust. And be honest, some of it, some of it is, is race, you know, if you live in an all black neighborhood, and the only people that are coming in to help are Caucasian, there's gonna be a lack of trust. And I think that, you know, organizations need to take a hard look at, at hiring people that look like the folks that they want to help. Because there's plenty of them out there, there's plenty of people out there that are qualified to do that work, and can just walk right in people's houses and walk right on their property and make some progress and that trust issue won't be there. You know? So, but I'm not putting down the organizations because they are doing a lot of good, you know, when I look at the Neighborhood Engagement Hub, there's lots of activity, you know, so they did massage some relationships very well. But if you look at the numbers of people that need their services, then, you know, they have the capacity to serve a whole lot. And I don't know what the answer is to that.

**Interviewer** 32:42

What do you see as maybe some of the benefits of urban agriculture, employment, whether that's something that is happening right now, or something that you think has potential.

**Participant 121** 32:54

The benefits of what?

**Interviewer** 32:56

Of urban agriculture or gardening for folks, for individuals, community?

**Participant 121** 33:02

Yeah, I personally believe that, you know, eventually, people are going to have to grow their own food. You know, some people start out with it just being a hobby. But I just think this is a good time for people to understand that, you know, if we're going to sustain ourselves and survive, we're gonna have to go back to that. Growing our own food, it's going to be safer to do so I think there's a lot of curiosity out there. I also think that people don't know how much work goes into that. And I think that's what they need to know is that it's a lot of hard work, when we work on a farm, you know, we work really hard, but at the end of the season, we forget about the work because we're enjoying the results so much.

**Participant 121** 33:51

So I think people need to have that experience, even if they start small, maybe start small by helping somebody or you know, helping at a garden not having their own and, and start small and slow. But I think we can get there. Yeah, was that question about the benefits of urban gardens?

**Interviewer** 34:18

Yeah, definitely.

**Participant 121** 34:21

Well, number one, I just think it's healthy, especially if they're doing organic, and that's what we teach and do is organic gardening. I know there's a lot of people out there that are still, you know, heavily dependent on chemicals. But organic works, and you know, it's gonna be a little bit more work. We have to pull our weeds. We don't kill them with chemicals. But it's worth it. You know, you can go to our farm and eat something right off the thing. You don't have to wash it, you know, just and we do that sometimes we'll stand over something and just eat. But yeah, I think I think that's a benefit. To know that you grew your own food, like I said, you know what said it, you know, I'm big on that.

**Interviewer** 35:08

Yeah, that was something we heard in our workshops with Flint residents that a big thing for them, you know, health is an interesting thing. At a certain point, like, if you want to eat cake, you want to eat cake. It's more so that people have control and knowledge about control over what they are eating and knowledge [inaudible] of nutrition to them. That was, yeah, a big part of-

**Participant 121** 35:34

Yeah, and in our conversations with a good portion of the African American community is limited to foods that we are familiar with, in our, in our own culture, which is really delicious. But I, you know, I'm just always surprised that people don't know about certain vegetables, you know, maybe even not even heard of. And then there's other places that will teach them about it, like the Hurley Food Farmacy, you know, they do cooking classes, or they give people recipes, like we'll give them, we give out spaghetti squash. One time, she said she wants us to grow spaghetti squash, because she wanted to show the people that come through there what to do with spaghetti squash, you know, and some of the dishes you can make, and she hands out recipes and stuff like that.

**Participant 121** 36:35

But I also think that's one of the benefits, you can learn more about different foods, I think all of us need to do a better job of teaching them, and letting them taste what you can do with those foods. And, you know, maybe somebody out there can really do that, we can't necessarily do it outside of the farm. But we have, we have had an outdoor classroom built. And one of the things we wanted to do was, you know, have people be able to do cooking samples right there on the farm with what we grew out there. But that's exciting to me, because I like watching people, when they find out about a particular vegetable that they never had before and they like it, you know. Doesn't necessarily mean they're going to go home and cook it but hey, they learned something that day.

**Participant 121** 37:29

So I feel the same about the, you know, like the Latinx community, they have some big gardening initiatives. But you know, one of the things that I was told they want is they need a big plot of land to grow just corn, because corn meal is expensive for the amount of corn meal that's in their diet, they need to grow their own corn. So that tells me right there that, you know, there might need to be some expansion of experiences in that community to you know, but they know that most cultures have their own food. That's just all there is to it. I just get excited when I see somebody learn something new. Even I learned about new vegetables by working on the farm. You know, there's some stuff I'd never heard of, or I'd never had and didn't know how to prepare it, you know? So.

**Participant 121** 38:30

But the other thing I like is providing stuff that people do like, like I had the- Scott and Jenny. Before I came there, they had okra. It didn't do well the first two years. But last year, we had so much okra and then the demand for it grew. But that was something that Scott and Jenny weren't that familiar with. But I was and when I started telling people there was okra boy, demand just skyrocketed and the same at the Food Farmacy. They started asking for okra once they found out that you know what's coming. So, you know, those are experiences that I like to have. And we started asking people, what do you want us to grow?

**Participant 121** 39:22

And you know, they weren't aware that in the community we were in by Hurley and over here at the farm. We have to grow a lot more collards and mustards and turnips than then we did you can't just do two rows because every time somebody comes by, they want to know we have collards, mustards, turnips, okra, you know, we got plenty of tomatoes, so they don't ask that we got plenty of those. But no, those are foods and they're healthy, they're good for you. But we're we're learning how to grow what the community wants and in addition We're gonna grow some stuff that they need to try, we've got an herb garden, and they're learning a whole lot more about herbs now, you know, we get off of this sodium thing and start cooking with other herbs. So there's lots of benefits to these, you know, these community gardens. Big educational piece we need to have probably got off track, I don't remember what the question was.

**Interviewer** 40:30

I'm just gonna run through some of these connections that I've made. And sort of the benefits of gardening and urban agriculture is a sort of sustainability or resilience piece, and for the future, that people have the skills. There's also a connection that people can grow cultural foods, and I drew sort of a connection to sort of this quality of life is respected, just because in our definition, that's part of it is that people have access to the foods that suit their culture or the community. I also put in this sort of land connection, just because you mentioned it, but we can definitely take it out that you're saying that one of the things we're you're talking about a program that wanted to start doing urban agriculture, but they needed to get land for that. But I can take that out, if it's-

**Participant 121** 41:25

No, I think you should leave there. And I think there's some people that do need land. And that was just one example of just because I heard about it just recently was that they needed a big plot of land so they could grow corn. So I was gonna ask Jenny, if that was something, we have the space, we're going to talk about it some more, whether they can come over to the farm and grow their corn.

**Q7: When you look at the model you created, is there anything you think is missing, or that you want to add to better capture how you think about the food system in Flint?**

**Participant 121** 42:33

We're working toward one of the things we see a need for is an opportunity for people to come to the farm, because we have the space and just borrow a piece of space, you know, at no cost. Because some people just don't have the resources or the means or, you know, our land is already going to be plowed and prepared to grow on. And that's a big piece of preparing the land. But if that'll make it easier for people to grow a little food, that they have a piece of land, it's not theirs, but they can grow something on it and get some help education wise, while they're there. I think that's a big need. If people don't want to have their own farm and feel like they're out there by themselves and not sure if they're going to get help, then are there some places they can go and get a plot of land where they can get some help.

**Participant 121** 43:38

And I see that as one of our roles. But you know I can say where we're not located- we're located in a neighborhood where there's mostly abandoned houses, we have very few immediate neighbors in houses. That farm would- would be so much more beneficial on the north end, where the food desert is where people could walk over there and work on their little plot of land, you know, and like I said, we get folks. And we get people that need food and we get people that are low income. But if you want to, if you want to know where the biggest clusters of that population that really needs this, it will be on the north end of Flint. We were donated this land, you know, Edible Flint, and we're very grateful.

**Participant 121** 44:41

You know, we're going to get to a point where we can bring people in, you know, and people are welcome to come from the north end, but everybody just doesn't have transportation. You know, they can't get to the farmers market. They can't get all the way to the south side to this farm to get some vegetables. So we're trying to figure out other ways to get the vegetables to them, but if there was a place on the north end that had the resources and the education and some plots of land where people could do their own farming, they could walk there if they needed to. That would be the idea. And who knows, you know, we might expand and have two farms, you know, it's at some point, one on North End and one on the south end.

**Interviewer** 45:33

I didn't make that many connections, but I wrote that all down, because it is something we're going to talk about a little bit later is sort of identifying leverage points of things that aren't currently happening, but couldn't be happening in Flint would have positive outcomes.

**Participant 121** 45:49

That would fit in there.

**Interviewer** 45:57

Anything else you would like to add or change about your map?

**Participant 121** 46:03

No, not at this point.

**Interviewer** 46:07

So I guess we can move on to the sort of leverage points conversation. You know, so that is, the goal, one of the goals of our project is to not only sort of gather this understanding of what's going on with food in Flint, but also kind of collect people's ideas of what what these potential leverage points would be big or small things that can be changed about the food system in Flint, to improve outcomes for folks. So yeah, I've already written down that one leverage point that you talked about, besides this idea of people getting a plot of land in their community farm or garden, particularly on the north side, if they had the resources and education available, that would be really beneficial. I also had the idea of, you know, if people were trying to engage residents with these various programs, that it would be useful to hire people from the community to sort of do that work. Are there other sort of leverage points or other, you know, if you ran the world, are there changes you would make, other programs you would start that you think would improve the Flint food system?

**Participant 121** 47:37

I still think there's more opportunities to partner. I mean, we operate on a bare bones budget, you know, which is okay. But and, and, but we're having conversations with some other partners that, you know, they don't necessarily want to farm but they have resources to help the farm grow and, and get out there more. And they would also provide experiences for their clients on the farm. You know, so I'm excited about that. Because there are people who have resources, but may not have what I want to say, well, you know, we've got the farm without the resources, and they're the opposite. You know, they have the resources, they want to partner with the farm.

**Participant 121** 48:50

And then, you know, to their benefit and ours, but I think there's a lot of opportunities out there like that. That would be very helpful to community gardens, you know, and they're stuff like, last year, the Neighborhood Engagement Hub hired a coach, and she was only part time, but she was going to community gardens, and she was really good. And just offering technical advice to farmers, and I don't know how much reach she had being part time, that product could be a full time position, they probably could have several of those positions. And, and like I said, some of them need to be from within the community. Some of those people need to be people in the community, with the expertise to go help people where they are.

**Participant 121** 49:50

Because, you know, you're talking about bringing people to us and taking them here and they're expecting them to go there to get their information it's just not going to work that well, we need to meet people where they are, help them on their own land wherever they wherever they're gardening, you know, but the organizations that have the financial resources to help, could help with something like that, you know, and they could consider themselves a partner that way, you know, but mostly, most of these organizations helping community, gardeners and gardens don't have a lot, you know, bare bones. And I know, for a fact Edible Flint is bare bones, because I'm on the board, you know, and we're doing a whole lot with very little. So that's just the way it is.

**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?**

**Participant 121** 1:01:00

I can't think of anything right now.