**FLPP: Interview Template**

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

**Participant 148 14:18**

And so let me ask a clarifying question, also, is this now? Because everything shifted because of COVID.

**Interviewer 14:26**

Great question. We are going to explicitly talk about COVID later, so think back to like pre COVID food system.

**Participant 148 14:33**

Okay.

**Interviewer 14:33**

What was going on?

**Participant 148 14:35**

Okay. I would say grocery stores, even though they were scarce in Flint, I would say that the quote, The connection is a positive and strong one.

**Interviewer 14:51**

Yeah.

**Participant 148 14:54**

Then I think most retailers value that relationship. And their- and their status in the community. I would also say chain restaurants, your McDonald's, your Taco Bell. Quick and convenient. Due to everyone being over- this busy. I would say that's negative just because of the quality of food is not always nutritious.

**Interviewer 15:39**

So is it that people don't go there very often? Or that like there's not- we can add in a connection that like, the food there is not very nutritious. Um, do people go there very often?

**Participant 148 15:53**

Yes, I'd say they were second next to the grocery store.

**Interviewer 15:59**

Awesome. So nutritious foods. And then as you're saying maybe like the time and convenience might be- oh wow sorry I'm so bad at spelling. Maybe that's a driver of people, like using chain restaurants is that it's very convenient to save a lot of time.

**Interviewer 16:31**

What about some of these- these other connections? How much do people use like, local restaurants in Flint?

**Participant 148 16:43**

Um, I would say it's a strong connection because they're still thriving, even in this um — economic downshift.

**Interviewer 16:55**

Yeah.

**Participant 148 16:55**

And then market, I think is a great tool that's underutilized.

**Interviewer 17:11**

And then this last one, convenience stores.

**Participant 148 17:13**

Um, I think they're utilized. I just don't- again, it is kind of similar to chain restaurants as far as they're utilized just because of time and convenience, but they lack nutritious food options.

**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 17:47**

The other three connections we could attempt to talk about is these from the use of the supplemental sector to grocery stores, convenience stores, and farmers markets. What are your thoughts on, you know, what the connection strengths here might be? Do you think that people are using programs like, like WIC and SNAP and Double Up Blue Bucks, more in grocery stores, in convenience stores, farmers markets?

**Participant 148 18:16**

I think they use them wherever they can. So yeah, all three.

**Interviewer 18:27**

Can you? Do you want to essentially speak more to that, that people use them wherever they can?

**Participant 148 18:39**

People get- generally people who need governmental assistance, if literally, that they need it. And so they don't really- they actually probably don't budget and take advantage of it as much as possible. For instance, if you go to a convenience store, for instance, one loaf of bread, may be $4 or- not $4 that's crazy, $3, right? $2.99?

**Participant 148 19:14**

If you go to a grocery store, you may get two loaves of bread for that same amount of money. Again, if you have governmental assistance, you really don't- some people don't care. And don't budget that money to get the most out of it. So if you went to a grocery store, again, you could get two loaves of bread for $5. Whereas you go to a convenience store you may pay $4 for one loaf of bread. Does that make sense?

**Interviewer 19:51**

Yeah, definitely.

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

**Participant 148 22:57**

So, I already added affordable- you added affordability and nutritious food I think- so shall we just keep those two?

**Interviewer 23:09**

Mhm.

**Participant 148 23:10**

Okay.

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

**Interviewer 23:13**

Yeah, and we can go back to these at any point if there's more that you'd want to add. I believe I also sent you a document of those definitions/presentation. Awesome. So yeah, we have affordability and nutritious foods already on the map. Are there other connections that you would like to make to these concepts or- or from these concepts?

**Participant 148 23:43**

For the local restaurants, or local restaurant owner, I think it's a challenge for them to compete with chain restaurants to offer their nutritious food at an affordable rate in comparison to a chain restaurant that buys- they buy in bulk or mass quanti- quality quantity. So I think that I don't want to use the word handicap but that gives them a disadvantage as a local food retailer.

**Interviewer 24:28**

And so this is a way that I might potentially make connections- and absolutely this is your map, so step in - so that measuring sort of like the- the affordability so that essentially like the [inaudible] is that local restaurants at a higher food price and chain restaurants are able to do a lower food price.

**Interviewer 25:01**

And that relates to both the financial success of the restaurants and to affordability. And that can feed back into both of these. Is that sort of connections that make sense to you? Is there other ways that you would like to represent that in your map?

**Participant 148 25:19**

That makes sense. I think the other thing that we could add is education. And that will go over by the supplemental sector is- and I know it exists. So now, we're right over the use of supplemental sector [referring to the map]. Is the education of budgeting for optimum- taking optimal advantage of the benefit? And also nutritious food. So education not only on budgeting, but also what food choices would bring optimal health.

**Interviewer 26:30**

So that- actually, maybe we can go and sort of add nutritious food choices and nutritional facts.

**Participant 148 26:53**

Can you add another bubble under a [inaudible], like you did for nutritious food choice, under education or for education for budgeting?

**Interviewer 27:14**

Sorry, I- [referring to the map].

**Participant 148 27:16**

No, b-u-g-g. Yes, there you go.

**Interviewer 27:22**

Brain is not- it flips letters all sorts of around. Typing is not my strong suit.

**Participant 148 27:31**

Totally get it.

**Interviewer 27:31**

Awesome. Cool. And some of the benefits you're talking about there it's sort of- do you think that it would be impacts to affordability? Other impacts of sort of like having this- this knowledge and this education around budgeting?

**Participant 148 27:50**

Say that one more time.

**Interviewer 27:51**

Yeah. So one connection that you're sort of talking about is the affordability. Are there other sort of impacts of having this education or around budgeting?

**Participant 148 28:01**

I don't know they will fall under affordability.

**Interviewer 28:08**

Okay.

**Participant 148 28:10**

Um, I think on the list, you have quality of life, maybe it will fall under there. Both of those could fall under quality of life. Nutritious food choices, also education on budgeting would be a quality of life resource.

**Interviewer 28:39**

Awesome. Any other connections that you would like to make? Two things that already exists on the map, or other concepts?

**Participant 148 29:15**

You could possibly either link community empowerment, either in the education box or in the quality of life. But it's that complete circle with education, you're empowered to improve the quality of your life.

**Interviewer 29:58**

Other connections? I can ask more directed questions also, if that would be useful.

**Participant 148 30:08**

I think that's all I have.

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

**Participant 148 30:48**

Not at this time, I think it's pretty comprehensive.

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

**Interviewer 30:51**

So considering sort of your understanding of what's going on in Flint, how would you potentially make changes to improve it? And that's a big open ended question. They could be big things, they could be small things. But just if you ran the world, what would you change about the food system?

**Participant 148 31:36**

Well, let's- it's kind of funny, because what I'm actually doing is developing an app to hold retailers accountable. And so that would be the grocery stores, the convenience stores, and the farmers market. And also sharing, creating a network for residents to share tips, deals, and recipes.

**Participant 148 32:06**

So kind of the- the village concept of if you go to Mr. B's, you know, they have- I'll just use bread for whatever reason, because I'm not eating bread right now. You know, they have this great special, you know, three loaves of bread for $5, right?

**Participant 148 32:30**

And so a person can put that in the app, and everyone in the community who's connected to the app will be aware of it. At the same time, knowing that there's some challenges with different retailers. Do you feel safe at your store at the store?

**Participant 32:51**

Do you feel respected by having a three inch piece of glass between you and the cashier? And do they have supplies of fresh fruits and vegetables? The quality of meat. Is it overpriced? Is it outdated, it is spoiled? And so without those markers, I want to make sure that residents feel empowered to be able to make choices.

**Participant 148 33:26**

And if we only have convenience stores who are selling bananas for $1.51, one banana for a dollar 50 and that has been your experience going up in the neighborhood and not having access to a grocery store where you know, you can get a bundle of bananas for 49 cents. So again, it's the education, the exposure and then the advocacy to call out convenience stores that you cannot continue to sell bananas and half fresh or even fresh fruit for outrageous prices.

**Interviewer 34:14**

So we're going to do one final modeling piece. And definitely if there's anything else that springs to mind, let me know we can add it or talk about it.

**Participant 148 34:25**

Can I add something, Carrissa too? So in comparison if you have say a kid or a young mother or parent, whether be mother or father, you have the choice of feeding your child a bag of Hot Cheetos for 35 cents, or buying a banana or fresh fruit for $1.50.

**Participant 148 34:46**

So when you talk about nutritious choices, and you also talk about — time and convenience you know, all of those different things that come into play, where there has to be some accountability to retailers to help bring the community to a higher quality of life.

**Interviewer 35:20**

Yeah. So maybe- yeah, [inaudible]. Yeah. Anything else you'd like to add?

**Participant 148 35:47**

I think that's it.

**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 148 41:35**

Um, I would just specifically call out, you know, the race, this system that hinder black and brown individuals from access to healthy foods. The challenge, again, is the general lack of, also lack of access to healthy food choices. And then most importantly, having the economic capital to be able to invest in your health through food is a challenge. And that's generational. And purposefully, systematically put in place.