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**SPEAKERS**

Participant 152, Interviewer, Interviewer 2

[INTRO]

**Interviewer** 14:19

And again, that my role here is to sort of facilitate this process. I've now done like, 50 of these maps, so we really just want to make sure that you feel very comfortable to be like, no, don't make it like that. I'm just, you know, I'm just like, my hands are making it but it's all your thoughts. So definitely, like, correct me, if I ever make some that you're like, I don't agree with that, or like, I wouldn't word it that way. Like, totally let me know, since this is your map. Awesome. Um, so the first thing we could potentially talk about is deciding some of these connection strengths. Of the relationships that currently have question marks, um, I will just say like again I- I want this to be a conversation focused on sort of your piece of the puzzle so if I ever asked a question where you're like I'm not really sure or like I don't think I can speak to that definitely let me know and like we could skip it because I really don't want to waste your time so like you know if you said like, Oh yeah, I don't have that much experience like I don't know that much about the supplemental sector. Like we don't have to talk about it we can just skip it. So it's really your preference. Yeah.

**Participant 152** 15:33

It- is it from like my experience? It's solely my viewpoint correct? I'm not looking at it from you know-

**Interviewer** 15:46

Yes. So it's-

**Participant 152** 15:47

All ideas I mean-

**Interviewer** 15:48

Yeah. [Inaudible]

**Participant 152** 15:50

Correct?

**Interviewer** 15:51

Yeah, so it's from your perspective, um, I would say that we are asking your perspective of what's like going on in Flint in general, so like I you know, if you're asking about like oh, what do you think about the difference between like strengths of how much people are using chain restaurants versus local restaurants? Like part of that could be informed by like your personal or like your social networks, like, you know, what you know about, but like the question is more focused on like, Flint in general, what is your perception of like, how much people-

**Participant 152** 16:24

Okay.

**Interviewer** 16:25

-go to local versus chain restaurants.

**Participant 152** 16:27

Right. Because I think you know, the bubble I live in could be very different from the Flint community in general. So I just didn't know which- which perspective, um, I'm very aware of things outside of my bubble. So I didn't know if you wanted me to kind of answer solely based on my day to day experience or if you wanted me to kind of think a little bit broader to my local community, so.

**Interviewer** 16:52

Yeah, so I mean as- as much as you're comfortable like also like both are super informative like even if it doesn't make on the map like this is still like- like this is getting recorded as part of our research so it's been really informative to be like this is like we've- we've talked to people who are like oh, like my perception is like XYZ things happening, but I- I know like me and my social network, like this is what influences us to like you know, it's like oh, well we- we know like the owner of our local restaurant so like we're super dedicated and we go there all the time. So I'm like cool let's add that as like a reason you would maybe make a different decision than like what you perceive as like the common, if that makes sense.

**Participant 152** 17:32

Right, right.

**Interviewer** 17:38

Yeah, so we might start out I guess, we can talk about sort of like the connection strengths between like local and chain if you have a perception, um, of how much people are using these, the same, differently, if it's a weak, if it's medium, or if it's strong. What is your- your perception?

**Participant 152** 18:01

That- that I'm gonna- I feel this tug already.

**Interviewer** 18:05

Yeah.

**Participant 152** 18:06

Um, people in general I would say use chain over local based on you know more consistency, they know what they are going to- to get, um, you know me myself I always go local over chain-

**Interviewer** 18:28

Yeah.

**Participant 152** 18:28

-so that's kind of the-

**Interviewer** 18:37

And so yeah, this is where we start, like,

**Participant 152** 18:43

-adding-

**Interviewer** 18:44

-you get to watch me be really bad at spelling in front of you.

**Participant 152** 18:49

No judgment. [Laughing]

**Interviewer** 18:50

[Laughing] Yeah, so like something that might drive this right? Is that we're like, I mean, I know I do this on like road trips, I'm like, I'm not gonna stop at some random place, I'm gonna stop somewhere that I know exactly that I could, I can eat something and enjoy right there.

**Participant 152** 19:04

Right.

**Interviewer** 19:08

Um, what about this, this other side to it? You know how much people are getting their food at grocery stores, at convenience stores, at farmer's markets?

**Participant 152** 19:22

Oh, you're killing me here. Um, not sure all of it. [Laughing]

**Participant 152** 19:29

Um, I think that people get food at all three. Um, myse- You know, I would say grocery store being primary. Um, but I know there are lots of people who do use convenience stores and gas stations to get their food. Um, and I would say that a farmers market I mean, I go to the farmers market at least once a week. I was just at a lovely one in Cleveland last weekend. Um, and I mean, I think we have the- one of the best of the best of the farmers markets. So it's not because our farmers market is not awesome that people aren't going there primarily for their food. Yeah, so I would say grocery store primary. In an ideal world, the farmers market would be the primary.

**Interviewer** 20:30

Yeah, um, do you want to maybe elaborate on that what would be a reason that people aren't going to farmers market as much and aren't using them?

**Participant 152** 20:41

Um, you know, on a- on a basic level, if I was saying, just generally, you have like transportation and parking at the farmers market, um, hours of operation at the farmers market, you know, you only can go Tuesday, Thursday, Satur- Saturday to- for looking at the farmers market. Um, it's not necessarily the most convenient place to purchase food. And I don't necessarily, although ironically, you know, it's the farmers market, you're- you think of it as being fruits and vegetables, you can't, there's not a whole lot of shopping beyond pieces, or ingredients. I don't think I'm going to make this for dinner, so I'm gonna go to the farmers market and pick up everything I need. Um, there's usually a supplemental, if I go to the farmers market, then I also need to stop by the grocery store, I need to stop somewhere else.

**Interviewer** 21:56

Okay, um so just to double check, so convenience, that it's not very convenient so that means that we'll use the farmers market less, limited hours of operation, um, so- oh, I'm gonna switch that actually. So if they had more hours of operations, we wouldn't go there more potentially. And so it's less, same for like transportation that like, if people have like super easy, super accessible transportation, and that's easier to go to the grocery store- ah, sorry to go to the farmers market and like less and less. And then they have pretty like limited ingredients so then it's not your like main source of- of like, my whole kit and caboodle that you need.

**Interviewer** 22:38

Awesome. Cool.

**Participant 152** 22:43

And that's interesting that the convenience store is where I'm at probably the most, and yet, I don't think of it as kind of like primary, even though I'm there, it's convenient.

**Interviewer** 22:56

Yeah.

**Participant 152** 22:56

But that is not, you know, a food source for me personally.

**Interviewer** 23:05

Um, and then would you like to give your perspective on how you think people are using supplemental nutrition programs in- in grocery stores, convenience stores, or farmers markets? Or would you like to skip that section?

**Participant 152** 23:19

I think of it from the- a perspective of the retail, um, I'm see- I see people using, uh, I would say 90% of people that I wait on, um, at the convenience store who are buying, you know, beyond a candy bar or a pop, um, that are buying food are using a supplemental source or- for that food. Um, and I would say, you know, easily nine out of 10, so whether that's WIC or you know, just SNAP, they're almost always using a supplemental source.

**Interviewer** 24:15

Before we move on to the other section, are there any other connections that you would potentially like to make with this, um, some of these concepts that we've brought in, um, already or do you want to move on? We're gonna have many opportunities to like add and like change the map so, you can let me know.

**Participant 152** 24:37

No, I'm- Yeah, I'm- I'm good.

**Interviewer** 24:44

Cool, um so, uh, [inaudible] I'll do is go through a couple of what we're calling food system value. So these are different things that have come up in conversations and some questions. With one community member so basically asking, like, what do you want from a food system, what is a food system that serves you well look like. And so I'm going to go through the definitions. So both the concept and the definitions are determined by looking at numbers. And as I go through the definitions, if you wouldn't mind thinking about which two or three you think are particularly important or relevant to to Flint, or you know if there are a couple that you think you in particular can speak to, and we'll we'll talk about more than two or three just starting with your theory is usually easier to start with a small number and go out so I'm for education's is that people want opportunity to learn food skills, like cooking, gardening, nutrition, health, and potentially apply those to career development. And we also have community empowerment through the food system. So things like a black economic development, fostering a sense of community prioritizing residents, cultural values, stuff like that. And quality of life is respected is sort of a combination of a lot of things we're hearing, it's basically that people want to be able to move through the food system with their dignity, choices, comfort and safety respected, sort of promote the common good and quality of life for all. We also have partnerships and sort of this step above the consumer. So the different groups and organizations and businesses involved in the food system that they wanted to promote creativity, problem solving creates trust, strong partnerships that provide leadership and support collaboration and communication. The last couple are nutritious foods that people want options that are high nutritional content, less additives and preservatives and come in appropriate portions. affordability that people want to be priced so that folks can access the type of quality and quantity they require. So not just considering the like the the net price of food, but also resident income, so they're really their ability to purchase the foods that they want. And the last is availability. So that that type of quality and amount of food required for people to compete and feed their families for themselves. Physically. Do you have any questions about these definitions?

**Participant 152** 27:17

Nope.

**Interviewer** 27:18

Awesome. Do you have a sense of which two or three you might want to add to your map?

**Participant 152** 27:24

Um, probably. Yeah, I guess kind of the last four. So any combination of those would be, um, you know, partnership. I think I have a perspective on maybe nutritious food and then, um, availability maybe.

**Interviewer** 27:52

Okay and we can talk about all of them it's usually just sometimes when I add them all that it becomes a little bit overwhelming to like pick one.

**Participant 152** 28:00

Yeah.

**Interviewer** 28:00

Uh, but we can definitely do that.

**Interviewer** 28:23

Yeah, um, which one would you potentially like to start with?

**Participant 152** 28:31

Pick one, it doesn't matter. [Laughing]

**Interviewer** 28:35

Um, well, we could start with maybe, um, availability just because like I see a crossover potentially with one of the concepts you've already added. Um, do you think it would be fair to connect limited ingredients to availability?

**Participant 152** 28:50

Absolutely.

**Interviewer** 28:52

Okay, cool. Um, so like, if there's more limited ingredients, that means that there's less availability, we're gonna put in a negative relationship. Are there other connections that you see to availability? So really this is sort of getting at like, we're focusing in on retail it's like, how do the different sources of retail impact availability, do some like increase do some decrease like sort of question.

**Participant 152** 29:17

Well, um, I mean, availability of product with the convenience store would definitely be a connect- a pretty strong connection. Uh, you know, you might be able to get a head of Iceberg lettuce you know, maybe at- you know, at, uh, someplace like my market would have something like a tomato, but if you wanted an avocado, which is far from, you know, exotic, you're not going to be able to find something like that. Um, so availability of product, even though there are multiple convenience stores, it just isn't there. Um, and then, the same thing in the city of Flint with grocery stores, I have a grocery store not far from my home. But you know, in the city in general, they're far and few between - a true grocery store versus, you know, a Save A Lot or, you know, something like that.

**Interviewer** 30:21

Um, so I've added in- again and if you don't like it is your map, change anything, um, sort of the difference between like availability of products and like accessibility of like the stores themselves of like, new, like convenience stores are convenient, right? They're super accessible, but you have less- less choices, whereas grocery stores are way less accessible, but if you manage to get there, way more choices, um-

**Participant 152** 30:47

Correct.

**Interviewer** 30:49

Awesome. Uh, cool. So yeah, if that makes sense to you, I will go with that. Well, any other connections you'd want to make, uh, to availability? Or- or from availability?

**Participant 152** 31:05

And- And I would maybe even put, uh, like that- can you connect like the hours of operation for somewhere? Is that- is that a connection, um, with availability? Because I'm not even looking at the location but if, you know, a convenience store that is open 24 hours is your only choice if you're a third shift worker, or if you are, you know, your transportation is only available for certain hours of the day, um. You know, convenience stores are typically open longer, broader hours than what, you know, obviously the farmers market, but even grocery stores lately are closing early. And in the city of Flint closing early.

**Interviewer** 31:53

Sure. Um, cool. I'm going to- just because I want to make sure that I'm, um. I want to like indicate the difference between those, um.

**Interviewer** 32:22

So like, sorry, I'm trying to think it through on the fly, like many hours of operations, grocery stores don't have that. Um, convenience stores do, grocery stores, um, also potentially like a little bit limited, but less so than like farmers markets.

**Participant 152** 32:42

Yeah.

**Interviewer** 32:43

Does that make sense to you as a way to sort of talk about it?

**Participant 152** 32:47

Yes.

**Interviewer** 32:49

Gotcha. And sometimes it's hard to be, to like represent, like, the difference between like, what could happen and what is happening is that like, oh well, if the grocery sto- if like farmers markets could do this, this would be [inaudible] -like no, no, no, we're looking at is what is happening right now.

**Participant 152** 33:05

Right. But I mean, I think people look at convenience stores, um, as a transportation thing, they're everywhere. So people tend to think they go there because of that. But there are, I see a large sector of, of professionals, of people who, you know, nurses, GM workers, not necessarily what people think of as the typical convenience store, grocery shopper, buying their food, buying their lunch, to take to the shop, buying their- their food to go to, you know, one of the hospitals and the reason why they're there is because of hours of operation. It's what's open at 6am when they're headed to work. Um, so that's not necessarily a typical convenience store, grocery shopper. But I definitely on my end, see that.

**Interviewer** 34:03

I know that when I was an undergrad working just wild hours, it's like yeah, it's 10pm and this is the time I have to go get food and-

**Participant 152** 34:13

Right.

**Interviewer** 34:14

-like the store is closed, I'm gonna go to 7-Eleven and it's gonna be wicked convenient.

**Participant 152** 34:19

Well- well with the you know, especially with COVID, you know, used to have a Meijer or Walmart opened, something like that. And now they close at eight or nine o'clock. And so you don't even have that option of a megastore. So I think especially in the last year, those workers have, you know- the essential workers who are going to work every day. And brick and mortar are turning to some of the local little stores and getting you know, the pizza rolls out of the freezer, because that's what they have access to.

**Interviewer** 34:51

Yeah. Awesome, yeah, maybe we can, um, sort of draw in then potentially nutritious foods? Might make sense to you to be sort of like the next value we talk about. Um, yeah, how would you, only if you're like content with how we've- we've sort of established-

**Participant 152** 35:15

Yes. Yeah.

**Interviewer** 35:16

-things are. Awesome. Um, how would you sort of like draw connections to- to nutritious foods? Where do you think that they like are or are not available, um, in sort of the retail sector?

**Participant 152** 35:31

Um, you know, obviously, there's a large amount of nutritious food at the farmers markets. In typical, you know, grocery stores do a very mediocre job of, of getting nutrious- it's there if you want to find it. Um, I think our local, Flint, grocery stores aren't necessarily, um, high quality, nutritious food. And therefore, I think a lot of people, what is the difference between buying, you know, your pizza role at a grocery store, buying it at a convenience store? Because if you're not really getting great quality produce great quality meat at the grocery store, what's the difference of where you get it?

**Participant 152** 36:25

I mean, I don't think that that's a national perspective. But I think locally here, I think people have kind of lost some confidence in the, in the nutrition of the food they're buying at the local grocery stores. I mean, I think you see that, like, when you look at a Save A Lot's parking lot, or you know, something like that, um, people are going there. I mean, yes, they're- they're possibly saving money or, you know, stretching a budget, but it's also what's the difference, uh, between their quality of food and the grocery stores?

**Interviewer** 37:11

Yeah, how would you maybe rate sort of the strength of connections from convenience stores to sort of nutritious foods and quality foods? And I know that is like hard because there's a huge range of like, like, what, like, operations of convenience stores in Flint, so we can talk about sort of, like, your perspective, or like, in general, or both.

**Participant 152** 37:35

Yeah, I am- I work for for a convenience store that is, it's closer to a market than it is a liquor store. So we have a- for convenience stores, a pretty large selection. We have a fresh food case, we have pre-packaged sandwiches that are- are fresh sandwiches, we have a frozen food section, um, but if you're comparing that to a grocery store, or a farmer's market, I mean, there's- there's no question you are getting kind of the bottom of the barrel of nutritious food and very limited selection. And he has tried to have other you know, fruits and vegetables and that's not necessarily what sells.

**Interviewer** 38:27

Yeah. Yeah. So that's something I also wanted to talk about is sort of, I know in talking to some people who work at like MSU Extension and stuff like that, there have been like, like collaborations between like people who like want to put like fresh fruit in convenience stores. And the problem is not the convenience store, it's that it just rots on the shelf because no one's buying it.

**Participant 152** 38:53

Absolutely.

**Interviewer** 38:54

So I would- yeah, if I, you know, maybe like demand for like fresh foods or like something else. Like I would want to talk about sort of this- this- this challenge of like, why, when it has been successful and it's not successful, like barriers to efforts like that, you know, that's a really open ended question.

**Participant 152** 39:14

I mean, I think that it is twofold. It's- it enhances your job not necessarily mine, but you know, is it the cultural norms that push the food that's in the the convenience stores or is it convenience stores' cultural norms, forcing people to eat? You know, I go back to the pizza rolls for dinner, um, I'm not- I'm not sure. But I know that he has had- he's tried to have you know, more of a selection and it's very basic foods that sell. Very basic. And by ba- and you know, basic being, you know, less nutritional.

**Participant 152** 40:09

Um, I do see, like with the nutritional food, food- the shelf stability is kind of a big deal. If you're looking at produce within the convenience store, someone may buy, like an orange, fresh, but wouldn't necessarily buy a banana or an avo- you know, like I said the avocado earlier, because they've you know, maybe because they don't know when they'll be back to the grocery store, they need something that will last a little bit longer. So produce, fresh produce and then obviously, the canned and frozen food have kind of a longer shelf stability. Um, where the fresh stuff doesn't necessarily, um, even- even in the fresh food case, the- the convenience of a salad might go to a professional but not necessarily a local neighborhood shopper where like a package sandwich or burger would.

**Interviewer** 41:15

Yeah, yeah.

**Interviewer** 41:28

Um, so yeah. Would it make sense to use our a- fool around with connecting, like, the importance of like shop stability, again, if you don't like that phrasing we can totally change it.

**Participant 152** 41:39

Yeah, no, I mean, I- that's lack of a better term, item.

**Interviewer** 41:44

All right, cool. Um, connecting to, sort of the lack of demand. So it's both like the preference for what people are purchasing? Do you-

**Participant 152** 41:51

Right.

**Interviewer** 41:51

also like to connect it to like, the, like, the sort of like nutritious offerings that convenience stores- like the, you know, like the, you know, it's also like the preference, would you tie it also to like, the preference of like this the store operator of like, if it's not so stable, I'm less inclined to like, provide-

**Participant 152** 42:09

Yea.

**Interviewer** 42:09

Okay.

**Participant 152** 42:10

Yeah.

**Interviewer** 42:11

Gotcha. Awesome. Um, any other connections that you would want to, um, make sort of, within this sort of nutritious foods area? The answer can be no.

**Participant 152** 42:36

No not right now, I think I'm good. Right?

**Interviewer** 42:38

Awesome. Cool. Um, awesome. Would you like to pull in affordability or partnerships?

**Participant 152** 42:48

Why don't we stick with affordability that's kind of in the same neighborhood.

**Interviewer** 42:52

Definitely. Yeah, so um, how would you sort of connect affordability to farmers markets, convenience stores, grocery stores, other parts of retail.

**Participant 152** 43:08

Um, well I would say, you know, the strong positive connection in the grocery store, I'm going to the grocery store because- I- I will even drive farther, um, because that is the place that I will get the biggest bang for my buck. Um, and I think that's why people typically, besides the amount of food are the, um, you know, you can get everything there. The affordability is one of the main reasons people shop in grocery stores. Um, I would say the farmers market. Although you can get great deals, it's probably more expensive. But I don't think that that has much to do with my personal choice to shop at the- at the farmers market, um, and then convenience store, definitely the affordability. You know, I don't even think that, I think it's out of necessity that you have to shop there, you don't want to be spending the extra money. You know it's going to be more expensive and not the best option, but you were just kind of forced into that corner to purchase at a convenience store.

**Participant 152** 44:44

And whether that's because of the hours of operation or because of the location, convenience, you know, whatever the- the reasoning is.

**Interviewer** 44:59

Awesome. Um, any other connections to affordability or from affordability that you would like to add or we good at that one?

**Participant 152** 45:11

Well, from- you, you know, I, I said I didn't know much about, you know, the supplemental programs. Um, I mean, I think there are a large portion of the population that are forced to shop at the places that take the supplemental, you know, whether it's SNAP whether it's WIC, you know, we have lots of people who walk in the door at the convenience store. And the first question they ask is, do you take food stamps, do you take WIC, do you take, um, and that is what they are planning to buy- purchase their food with. So if you- if we didn't take it, or our system was down, they were not purchasing the food that day.

**Interviewer** 46:03

So, just real quick [inaudible].

**Participant 152** 46:15

And the system, the system being down the- the actual- especially, um, kind of the, the, coming from the retail side of the supplemental, the system is terrible. There's lots of barriers on the retail side of things. Um, the paperwork, the- the system itself that you run the cards, it's always crashing, um, it's always going down for maintenance, along with kind of the paper trail of things. Both WIC and food stamps, from a retailer perspective, can be a nightmare to navigate. But it's one of those things that, you know, that is what is being asked by your customer to, to have that service. But it really is kind of a terrible system.

**Interviewer** 47:15

Cool so the- yea, so the, um, two things I heard was that like, both, like the availability of the stores, you know, of the supplemental programs in stores is really desired by customers. So sort of added both connections, like, convenience stores make it available but that is because of the demand. So it's sort of like a two way beneficial relationship, right? And then also sort of a negative impact on the availability will be the difficulty of navigating supplemental systems and stuff like that. Or another phrase or like ease of use, like whatever your preference.

**Participant 152** 48:02

Yeah. Well, just the, um, the- the time and kind of inconvenience of the system, the, uh, the system crashing and I don't know if that would be the infrastructure of the supplemental?

**Interviewer** 48:37

Would it be fair, again I don't want to put words in your mouth, so you tell me if you're like, no, that's not true. Um, to like, sort of connect like ability of supplemental sector to that, that's like, there'll be an opportunity for that to be better, or, or not really? That-

**Participant 152** 48:53

Oh, I defin-, yeah, I definitely think that, um. I mean, understanding that there are budgets involved, and there are, you know, there's something, you know, much larger than what we see on the convenience store level. But, um, I mean, just the system crashing on a weekly basis, I think is kind of a, you know, a major thing. It's not something that happens once in a while, you know, the whole, the whole system goes down, you know, whether it's for 10 minutes or for hours, often, and often enough that people walk in the door, and they say, is the food stamp machine working. And that's not on the owner of the convenience store that's not on the workers of the convenience store. That's the system. So they can't go anywhere, so maybe they got a ride to the convenience store. But it doesn't even matter that they can go down the road to the grocery store because it's down there as well. The- the whole system is down, so they're always working around these kind of barriers of if it's down, it's down, you know? It's- there's nothing anyone can do about it, um, other than, you know, the people on the infrastructure side.

**Interviewer** 50:27

Cool. Um, great, well if you like we can move on to partnerships.

**Participant 152** 50:38

Okay.

**Interviewer** 50:39

If there aren't any other- you know, it's getting very busy, that's- I promise that's a good thing, that means that we're building a very cool map. I can also [inaudible] so it's a little bit easier to read and I have some tricks up my sleeve, um, to make things a little bit more clear. Cool.

**Interviewer** 51:12

I'm gonna save this real quick just because there's one time that I accidentally deleted something in a map and it was gone forever so, we'll go through and save it. Awesome um, yeah, so how would you, um, start connecting partnerships, um, to the system?

**Participant 152** 51:33

Well partnership- I think- I mean I think I'm coming from my other hat with that and I think people want to feel involved in their choices. Um, so partnerships although you can have these really great, grand, wonderful partnerships on a entity level or on a community-based level, um, you know, whether it's a food giveaway whether it's partnerships with you know, local food sources, but if kind of the consumer or the person receiving isn't kind of in that partnership somehow, um, all the rest is kind of thrown out the window. They can receive the food but it's still not giving them kind of control or access any more than if they were going to a convenience store and buying their food. Um, I feel like there's a- there's a whole demographic of people who are- are not in the sub- and I mean I would even put myself in this category, you're not in the supplemental, um, side of things, you're not receiving food baskets from anywhere, food boxes, but then you know the local partnerships don't- you don't feel like you're in any sort of control of that. So you're kind of stuck going to Kroger and buying you know your avocado there and being okay with that.

**Interviewer** 53:22

Um, I want to make sure that I'm capturing stuff because this is like a big concept and I want to make sure that I'm reflecting it accurately. So something that I'm hearing is that like -like you know, partnerships want to like, change the wording if you don't like it, like you know, like want to like partnerships are doing all these programs and sort of like engage with like community members and like distribute food and stuff like that but where they're failing is that like people don't feel like involved in like that they have any sort of like ownership with these- with these partnerships. So, um-

**Participant 152** 54:04

Right,

**Interviewer** 54:05

[Inaudible] -active as it. Was there more- more to that that I- that I haven't captured?

**Participant 152** 54:13

Well, I just I mean I think that it's kind of you know, if you're looking, I mean even on the largest of scales, you know, Food Bank of Eastern Michigan so that- you know their work is or even like the Flint Fresh or, um, their work is so amazing. But if they're still just kind of giving food to people like what you get in your box is what you get in your box, and you know, show up at 10am on a Saturday morning and line up and get you know your- your food, it kind of leaves out a huge piece of the puzzle of you know, and I'm sure you've had conversations what's going on with that box of food after it leaves, you know, is it stuff that people are actually consuming? You know, you're just kind of like, you get what you get and you better be happy with it because we did a wonderful project, or this partnership or this giveaway or, um so you should be happy with your box. And that's not necessarily the case. I mean, there are people who are very thankful and happy that they're receiving food. But I think there could be a larger piece to that beyond here's your box of food. Even though they may feed, you know, 10,000 people that day, and that is wonderful work, but, you know, I think they- there's more to it for a partnership or a giveaway or any of those projects.

**Interviewer 2** 55:58

One thing I heard you say earlier, a particular word was choice, and decisions, you know, that maybe as you're, I'm hearing as you're describing, what being involved is, you said involved in their choice. So is that whole decision-making participation? So you talked about in control, but you also talk about choice. So does that kind of- does that hone in a little bit more in terms of that's where the sense of not feeling involved because you don't have choice?

**Participant 152** 56:34

Yeah. Well, I mean, and taking it even a step further with choice, how do we expect someone to walk into a convenience store and you know, demand an avocado, when that's not what they're doing? They're receiving, they're getting what they get at say a food giveaway. Well, then they're getting what they get at a convenience store. I mean, I think that the people, especially in this community, are- have kind of surrendered to we will get what we get, um.

**Interviewer 2** 57:10

Okay.

**Participant 152** 57:11

You know-

**Interviewer 2** 57:12

So what I hear you saying is the opportunity to give input is missing. Not just-

**Participant 152** 57:20

Yeah. Yeah, yes. Oh, yes.

**Interviewer 2** 57:24

Okay. Okay. I'm sorry. I was just trying to find that word. It was that input opportunity.

**Participant 152** 57:29

Yeah.

**Interviewer 2** 57:30

Okay. Okay.

**Participant 152** 57:31

And not necessarily- I mean something like you know, back to a food giveaway I mean there- it's not reasonable to say everyone gets to pick whatever they want and you know, life is good, um, there is a, you know, budget constraints and you know, restraints on the partnership giveaway part of it as well. But like I said, when you're just given a box of food, that's kind of the expectation for when you're looking at choices outside of that giveaway you're still just getting your box of food there's- there's no kind of second step to that.

**Interviewer** 58:17

I want to check in with this to make sure you- this is sort of following your line because I think this is like, alright, I'm just a little in awe, this is like an awesome way to sum it up like that I don't believe we've heard anywhere else is that like- I'm- hopefully this is capturing it, that it's not just like the short term, um, I sort of changed it to like quality of life is respected because part of that is like that people want to have choice, that- [inaudible].

**Participant 152** 58:41

Right.

**Interviewer** 58:42

-respect them.

**Participant 152** 58:43

Right.

**Interviewer** 58:43

And another one is like community empowerment that like, like it's not only the short term of like, this isn't bigger but it's a long term of now like, instead of like people resign themselves to like, this is the way it is, that like that also has sort of that long term impact of like, this is what is given to me that like I don't feel like I can, you know, demand better.

**Participant 152** 59:02

Right.

**Interviewer** 59:03

Or something like that. So sort of the long term community empowerment too.

**Participant 152** 59:08

I mean, I'm kind of a- a side note, when I referenced like, our grocery stores not being the highest quality of grocery stores, you know, you go 10 minutes down, I mean I live 10 minutes from the Davison Kroger. Um, the Kroger on Richfield and Center is a Flint grocery store and it has very mediocre meat and produce. I'm going 10 minutes down the road, they would you know, never have kind of the same quality as we have, you know, in the city of Flint. But like, why is there not a demand like hey, it's the same population. I'm 10 minutes away from the Davidson Kroger. Um, why isn't there kind of a demand and I mean, I, like I said, I think that this- the city of Flint, the community members have kind of surrendered to, well, it's Flint, you know, we should be happy that we have a grocery store it could be a food desert on this side of town, so let's not push, you know, anything too far because at least we have a grocery store.

**Interviewer** 1:00:13

Yeah

**Participant 152** 1:00:15

And I mean I think that that does come out a little bit of some of the food giveaway, some of the- the social programs that we have where people just kind of get what they get.

**Interviewer** 1:00:29

Would it be fair to, um, you kind of mention it like, connect this even back to like the lack of demand for fresh food that like, it- because that's something I've heard of like, not push back, but I only want to do that if that is something that is accurate to what you just said, that like- is that-

**Participant 152** 1:00:48

Yeah, yeah. No, yeah, that's a connection.

**Interviewer** 1:01:00

Cool, um, well, I want to be conscious of our time because there's a few more things we want to talk about, but um, with this incredible map, you know, we started with sectors that we defined and values that we defined but we also, uh, want to open it up so is there- is there any other things that you would like to add to your map, things that you think are influential in Flint, or you know, other sort of outcomes or- or values that aren't reflected in the list that we already have? And the answer can be no. [Laughing]

**Participant 152** 1:01:39

Yeah, um, probably in an hour I will come up with 10 different things, but right now I think I'm good.

**Interviewer** 1:01:48

Gotcha. Awesome. Cool. Um, yeah, and there's gonna be like, at any time in the rest of this conversation something like pings for you we can definitely add it.

**Participant 152** 1:01:59

Okay.

**Interviewer** 1:02:00

And if anything occurs to you afterwards, you can send me an email. Awesome, um, so the- the next thing we're gonna talk about is one of you know, the sort of the secondary goal of this project like first is to sort of collect this knowledge and perspectives and combine them, um, but the second is also to, to sort of like consider and like analyze leverage points so like opportunities for new things, for change to the system that will have like really positive outcomes. So is there anything that you would consider to be like a leverage point like an opportunity for change to the Flint food system? And that's a really nice open ended question. Is there anything- if you ran the world, what would you change?

**Participant 152** 1:02:54

Oh, it's funny I- the first thing that popped in my head was the thing that I have no- no perspective on, but the- like said the, the infrastructure of you know, the social programs for WIC and the- and the SNAP program. I think that there are both for people that I know have used this- less on WIC and more on SNAP, but um, the- the process of renewing or whatever, whatever the term is for, for getting access to those things, um, the inconsistency I see of people who have those programs, they don't know if they're getting $16 next month, or if they're getting, you know, $116, um, I see that often of people, like, I don't know what my budgets gonna be next month. Um, so I see that as being a huge hurdle. Um, and then probably the next biggest hurdle is just kind of quality of food in the city of Flint.

**Interviewer** 1:04:15

Um, do you have any thoughts of like, how that might be addressed? And things that you think would be like useful or beneficial or like, you know, mechanisms to getting to higher quality food? And the answer can be no.

**Participant 152** 1:04:37

Um, well, I mean, I think- this is a kind of a very broad answer, um, trust between community members, and, you know, even, we go back to those partnerships, being told, you know, this is nutritious, well, we were told, you know, our water was safe also. Um, so I think the lack of trust in the community by being told something is not great. And I think that what we tend to do is, you know, throw out more pamphlets, put up a billboard, but the message could go out, but if it's not being consumed, if it's not being trusted, just about either where to buy food or what food to buy, um, it's hard to get that message out. So again, I'm not giving you an answer to how to fix that. But I mean, I would say that that is a barrier. Um, I'm, I'm in- I'm in nutrition part of things. That- that did not answer your question at all. [Laughing]

**Interviewer** 1:05:57

No, but it was, uh, great information and I wanted to sort of, like, add it in here that like, things have impacted like that. I think it's a really fundamental thing that like, these leverage points should all consider like, trust as an inherent point that if you're not considering, like, how it's going to be received, who's sending it, like stuff like that, it could be- fall completely flat, if like, people don't trust what you're doing.

**Participant 152** 1:06:29

Right. And that kind of goes back to my message about partnerships, they could have, you know, I know that there are wonderful, amazing organizations in the city of Flint, who're doing amazing things. But when it's all said and done if, if they're doing it without the community, it doesn't ever change anything, there's never really a true partnership. It's still just a give and take.

**Interviewer** 1:07:01

[COVID SECTION]

**Interviewer** 1:07:02

And yeah, any other ideas or thoughts or leverage points? You know, this is a great set No, I think I'm good. I will say that um, and the last thing we're going to talk about is in the ad add one more thing to the map. And that's gonna be COVID-19 Okay, so the other The last thing we wanted to talk about is sort of the impacts that you've seen observed heard about of COVID-19 system? And I know that's sort of a complicated question because like it's the whole year right? How many differences in time? Um, yeah, so like one thing that I heard was that like COVID-19 has like decreased hours of operation in some places are there other impacts of of COVID that you would like to meet?

**Participant 152** 1:08:08

Well we can link it- I'm not sure which little box it would go to, but link it back to kind of the "you get what you get." I mean, I think COVID-19 is that defined. Like well, things are just different now and this is- this is how life is. And people feel that lack of control or lack of input. We are being kind of- and not that that's the wrong decision by entities. But like we are told "these are going to be the hour-hours of operation; these are going to be the places that are open; this is what's going to be available to you." So I mean, I think the city of Flint has kind of lived with that for a while now. So we kind of had not less of an impact, but we have been told for a long time kind of what to do, where to get our food, what to- you know without a voice, or without the perception that we have a voice. So COVID-19 was kind of just another one of those things. That now this is the way life is and you know, like it or leave. So-

**Interviewer** 1:09:33

yeah, so for those connected it to limited choices, and not feeling right. Any other connections, I will say be like because of the network like those effects sort of, you know, go out. So yeah. It is like touching other pieces, like through the speeds. Yeah, I mean, I mean there's mentions coming up

**Interviewer** 1:10:19

Oh, hello. be frozen for Is it just me? pants my internet fat no okay for news.

**Interviewer 2** 1:10:39

Okay, so we have to wait for her to unfreeze. Oh, we lost. So maybe she'll pop back.

**Interviewer** 1:12:55

I'm so sorry. Oh my gosh. All right. It's technology.

**Interviewer** 1:13:05

Yeah. Any final things for COVID? Are you feeling good about it? No,

**Participant 152** 1:13:10

I I'm okay. But awesome. I will

**Interviewer** 1:13:13

[COVID SECTION ENDS]

**Interviewer** 1:13:13

I will save that, uh, we are very close to the end, I just sent you an email being like [inaudible]. Um, awesome. Uh, yeah, so the the last real question is sort of another open ended one. You know, we talked a lot about retail sector and mental, like these values and COVID-19. But is there anything sort of important, um, about this conversation around food in Flint that we, we haven't talked about today, um, and that you'd like to add and make sure we carry forward in this research? And the answer can be no.

**Participant 152** 1:13:52

Um, I know that there have been lots of conversations, again, putting my planning commission hat on about the idea of, you know, urban growing, um, farming, dare I say farming in the city of Flint. Um, you know, the idea of being able to have chickens within the city, um. You know, those kind of back to I don't trust my grocery store or any entity, I want my own local food, literally local as a nearby house. Um, and I know that is a huge discussion often for me professionally. People ask me all the time, you know, why can't I have chickens in my, you know, my backyard? So I mean, I think that, again, has nothing really to do with chickens, but having to do with not necessarily trusting food sources beyond themselves. And a budget thing people people want chickens, they want eggs for free every day, you know? So, um, you know, I think there are some sources in the city of Flint, um, conversations with local growers, people who- who want to reside in the city of Flint, but they also, you know, want to have some kind of urban farm of some sort. Um, and I think conversations happen a lot in a city. And their choice to either stay or move here are kind of based on those barriers to- to have those things.

**Participant 152** 1:15:40

I'm not advocating chickens. I'm just talking about the conversation.

**Interviewer** 1:15:46

Yeah.

**Participant 152** 1:15:48

I'm neutral.

**Interviewer 2** 1:15:53

That's helpful to hear that, um, you know, in part of my introduction, I talked about FoodPLUS|Detroit. So there's sister cities in those things, you know about growing your own, having the chickens and- Yeah, so we're still working through the ordinate side of livestock just-

**Participant 152** 1:16:13

Right. Right, we turn to you often, I have heard. [Laughing]

**Interviewer 2** 1:16:20

Just as a sidebar, so you'll know if you ever want to chat about that. I'm definitely involved on both sides of that story, both the growing and the chickens part of it.

**Participant 152** 1:16:33

[Laughing] And when I say chickens, you know exactly what I mean. The whole conversation about chickens is more complicated than chickens could ever be.

**Interviewer 2** 1:16:45

Exactly. It's the whatabouts and stuff.

**Participant 152** 1:16:48

Yes.

**Interviewer 2** 1:16:49

Right. Okay.

[OUTRO]