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**SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

connection, funding, funder, local food system, system, food, impacts, concepts, sectors, access, healthy food, question, racial inequity, producers, add, connected, carissa, mm, people, inequity

**SPEAKERS**

Participant 200, Interviewer, Interviewer 2

**Interviewer 2** 00:00

It'll ask you to

**Interviewer** 00:02

wait. And so the few things that I want to talk about is sort of voluntary participation, which means that you can choose to not answer any question or any part of question or withdraw from the research at any time. And for any reason we really want people to feel, you know, the option. You know, if we ask a follow up question and you're like, like, it's a little personal, I don't want to talk about it that you feel really free to do that. The second is confidentiality. So we won't be, you know, sharing this, as I said, anywhere outside of the research team, we also won't use or share your name or any identifying information and any of the research results. We do have one thing, though, for confidentiality on your side. Just be mindful if there's anyone who might be in the room with you or able to hear you, we don't care if there's somewhere there. But just, you know, think about what you might, you know, if there is someone, you know what you might be comfortable having them here, so who are like at work, or like, think about, you know, what you might be comfortable having your boss, or something like that? Yeah, I think that's about it. If there's anything else, if you have any questions, you can definitely follow up by email me or Rene, you have our email addresses. So your consent is demonstrated by your continued participation in this interview? Do you have any questions about this before we move forward? No,

**Participant 200** 01:26

I get it. Awesome. Good, good. Good.

**Interviewer 2** 01:31

So we again, we thank you for making the time. And so we'll start in a place that's familiar. We went through this interview before, but because it's a second interview, we're still going to ask this question of you. In terms of yourself, how would you describe your role or your experience with the local food system?

**Participant 200** 01:53

Well, a couple of I experienced the local food system in a couple of different ways one, as a resident and consumer, and my experience as a resident and consumer because I'm, I live in the city, most almost Center City, sort of at the beginning of North. I find that and this might be something you get to further down the line, but I find that I have very few options for healthy food here. In my experience, I'm also connected to the food system as as a funder, and yeah, as a funder.

**Participant 200** 02:40

So we find a lot of organizations are particularly my work is focused on or has been up to date focus more so on funding, grassroots groups that are that have urban gardens, and and who piles us in. I've seen a growth in that over the years. So those are the main, main ways I see myself connecting with the full system.

**Interviewer 2** 03:11

Okay. Okay, awesome. Great. And we know that you make reference to a funder, so we know that that you're referring to the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, right? As an umbrella. What is your what's your role? What's your title there? And then

**Participant 200** 03:27

by title is community engagement officer, community engagement

**Interviewer 2** 03:31

officer. Okay, that's helpful. All right, great. Um, so at this point, we'll go ahead and start to get into some elements for the interview, Chris is going to share with you some of the system's definitions in terms of what we've defined, and make sure that you don't have any questions about the things that are going to be the concepts that we're going to focus on. So we'll start we'll start there.

**Interviewer** 04:02

Yeah, so just as I mentioned, with this round of interviews, we really want to focus in on some, you know, sectors of localized food system and talk about participation them so the five sectors that we'll be talking about today is production. So anyone who is you know, growing crops growing livestock, and this can be you know, from a small garden to a large farm processing and packaging. So people who wash pack or process produce or stuff like that into value added products, wholesale and resale. So anyone who maybe doesn't grow themselves but they gather produce your goods, and then sell them retail, so different stores, you know, grocery stores, convenience stores, markets or restaurants and then waste so collection and management of waste such as composting. These are sort of the the five sectors that we're

**Interviewer 2** 04:57

going to work on any questions about those Did we? Does that seem representative? As you understand the sectors? Yes. Okay, wonderful. Awesome. So based upon these, you know, sectors and your expertise. Let's talk about your expertise within or across these different sectors. Where would you say in the sectors you have the most expertise?

**Participant 200** 05:27

Oh, I'm expertise, expertise. This is kind of interesting word here. I would say, retail. And, yeah, retail.

**Interviewer 2** 05:47

Yeah,

**Interviewer** 05:50

we like expertise solid, like experience, knowledge.

**Interviewer 2** 05:54

That's where I was. In. So it doesn't necessarily mean that you do these things yourself, because we are not, you're not a localized sector actor, but you are a person who has expertise in the food system. So in these sectors, where do you feel you have, you know, expertise because of the work that you do? You know, people,

**Participant 200** 06:20

so, so I would say production, processing and packaging. Wholesale them really? Well. A little bit of a wholesale, yeah, wholesale and reselling them retail.

**Interviewer 2** 06:39

Okay. All right. So of the five, the only one that you don't have expertise in right now is waste. So ready to talk about those four? Okay, that's excellent, wonderful, wonderful. And, as you know, we're using you know, fuzzy cognitive mapping, you know, mental modeling. And you've been through this process before, I'm going to give it back to Teresa to just refresh some things with you around that process.

**Interviewer** 07:10

Yeah, so I do want to make the best use of your time. Would it be useful to go through an example again, of sort of the process of fuzzy cognitive mapping? Or like, how do you feel since your last? Yeah. Okay, great. Um, I will share my screen again, into the software that we'll be using. So what we really want to do is get out sort of like your perspective on this food system. So on the flip food system, and there's like, no right or wrong answers, it's just like your perception and your understanding. If you remember from our last interview, we basically have these concepts that we'll end up connecting, and that's sort of how we build the model out. So for this example, I might be, you know, concerned with like, how much traffic there is somewhere. So I might, you know, say like, Okay, well, I think a big influence on the amount of traffic is the number of cars on the road. So I'll draw connections, one to the other. And the second thing, I need to decide if it's positive or negative, and that just means if one goes up, does the other one also go up, they move in the same direction or opposite. So positive versus negative, so more cars is more traffic. So that's going to be a positive relationship. Whereas like, public transportation might be negative, you know, if there's more public transportation, or a better system, and there's gonna be less traffic, because you know, more people fit in a bus. So that's sort of a positive, it's a blue connection, or negative, which is orange. The last thing I have to decide is connection strengths. So we'll think about like, weak medium, or strong relationships, sort of like how influential one thing is on the other. So number of cars, maybe it's like a strong relationship, because it's pretty, like one of the biggest things but influences how much traffic there is. Whereas like, public transportation might be more of a medium connection, you know, because a bus is maybe still on the road, or, you know, there's some people who, even if they have the best, like public transportation system in the world, they love their car, so they're always going to drive. So it's like a syllable control, but maybe not the end all be all. Something like, you know, the number of cyclists might be a weak connection, just because it has some influence on traffic, but maybe, you know, people aren't biking in the winter, or like, there's things that are kind of far away, so they're not gonna it's not going to be anyone's main, like, a lot of people's main mode of transportation is biking. So some influence but not very much. Um, so those are sort of the three things what direction is a connection? Is it positive or negative? And is it a weak medium or strong connection? Any questions? Got that process? No. Awesome. And yeah, and then just my final reminder is that there's really no right or wrong answer, we're probably going to be asking, like clarifying questions, but it's always just to make sure that we're interpreting what you're saying, you know, we're coming to you as the expert. So we don't, you know, we're not like, oh, I don't agree with that, or like, I don't think that's true. It's Oh, it's just to make sure we, we understand.

**Participant 200** 10:23

Okay,

**Interviewer 2** 10:24

yeah. And one thing and this process with interviewing, and so Chris is gonna go ahead and switch to the, to the other map now. So make sure you can see the screen is that in this interview process, um, I'm also helping facilitate, you know, this interview. So Chris, and I will both be talking with you along the way. The last one, I was pretty much observing and you know, paying attention and learning. So now that we talked about this, and you share it with us, you've given us the concepts, the areas in the system that you feel you have the most experience and connection work, we want to talk about how you see yourself involved. So when those four sectors that you talked about, how would you draw connections between those different, you know, sectors in the system, in terms of placing yourself in, in your work, you know, in that system? How would you see the connections there?

**Participant 200** 11:35

Okay, so my work in the food system, and connection producers... Let me see.

**Interviewer 2** 11:41

Or maybe if there's a better way to ask that, than I asked it, [Interviewer].

**Interviewer 2** 11:48

Yeah. So one thing we could do is add funding/funders, as sort of like, that have a role in the system. So maybe how your work intersects with these different sectors

**Interviewer** 11:51

As your role as funder, thank you for that. We need that.

**Participant 200** 11:53

Okay. So, as a funder, I would say because we're helping producers, you know, do urban gardens obviously it would be a positive impact there - which in and of itself, I think then that could produce - well, no, not necessarily, that doesn't necessarily follow. So I would say as a funder, production is where I have probably the strongest connection or strongest impact. Maybe even as value add processes, as I've worked on some funding, for instance, for the food hub, so there I could see - those are probably the strongest direct connections that I see between what I do and... Sometimes though, with retail and that we have provided funding that's helped the farmers market, and then I've worked with other partners that are supporting the businesses, more as a volunteer there, but...

**Participant 200** 12:55

Mm, mhmm. Okay, so with the retailers funding to the farmers market in particular, okay.

**Participant 200** 12:58

Yeah. The funding is for innovations at the farmers market so we gave them the dollars to get the EBT capabilities and then we supported some of the federal-the Double Up Food Bucks.

**Interviewer 2** 13:12

Okay. Mhmm okay, which actually the Double Up Food Bucks are the SNAP benefits, right?

**Participant 200** 14:35

They are a companion to the SNAP benefits, so they allow folks with SNAP to get double...

**Participant 200** 14:44

Double. Yes. Right. Exactly. Okay. All right. So that's connected to the markets' capacity there. Okay. All right. So we're seeing the production in terms of funding to people to do urban gardens. You mentioned-when you talked about-when you first mentioned the connection with production, you mentioned gardens and hoop houses. So you do the gardens, from a production standpoint?

**Interviewer** 15:08

Yeah, so I guess our next question is-you know, we see your work-do you have any sense, through your experience, through just living in Flint, how these sectors may connect to each other? Do producers or gardens that you've worked with, do they do value added processing? Do they usually sell to a wholesaler? Do they go direct to retailers? Sort of, starting to build the connection?

**Participant 200** 16:11

I think, yeah, I think some of the gardens and some of the farmers and gardens connect to the food hub, so the processors and the markets. Some have their own hoop houses, and they sell from there.

**Interviewer 2** 16:45

Some of the producers have their own hoop houses?

**Participant 200** 16:48

At some of the farms-some of the farmes-so for instance, [Organization], which is connected to [Church], and in the summers, they have a hoophouse program over on the east side. Then from that program, they both sell directly to people that live in the area, as well. They may go to market too; I can't recall for sure.

**Interviewer 2** 17:24

Hmm. So those producers are functioning-their retail aspect is through their hoop house, direct. So they may go to market, but they also from a retail standpoint, may be marketing directly out of their hoop house.

**Participant 200** 17:44

Yes.

**Participant 200** 17:44

Okay. Okay. Okay. All right, we see that connection. Okay. Do you see any connections from the retailers back to either the producers coming back that way or to the value added processes themselves with the retailers?

**Participant 200** 18:13

Um... I suppose, so I suppose if the resellers are selling the product of the producers, that means they're purchasing it. So then yes, in that sense.

**Interviewer 2** 18:33

Mm hmm. Mm hmm. On purchase, mhmm. By any chance, are they also purchasing any value added processes? Like it was a tomato, and now it's sauce? Are they buying anything like that, is there any connections between those folks and the value added?

**Participant 200** 19:01

I see that in the local restaurants. A lot of the local restaurants, particularly the downtown restaurants, there's a lot of purchasing from the local producers and farms.

**Interviewer 2** 19:16

Mm hmm. Okay. Okay, all right. Great. That's good to know. And that's downtown restaurants. Okay. Awesome. Awesome. Great. Great, anything else?

**Interviewer** 19:35

Any other connections? You know, we added the funding and funder concept-any other concepts of the local food system in Flint that you want to add?

**Participant 200** 19:51

Oh, wait so what was your question, [Interviewer]?

**Interviewer** 19:56

If there's any other connections that you see or any other concepts that aren't on the map already, but are important or influential to the local food system in Flint?

**Participant 200** 20:11

So, yes, I would say advocacy, which isn't so much my role, but I would say that, as funders, we've entered into that advocacy space, somewhat, you know, meeting with legislators on things like the Farm Bill. Sure, definitely there.

**Interviewer 2** 20:38

Mm hmm. Okay, great.

**Participant 200** 20:42

The other thing, convening or educating our donors who may be interested about access to healthy food and raising dollars-raising funds.

**Interviewer 2** 20:53

Fundraising, excellent. Donor education and fundraising. Yeah. They're mportant things right from your perspective.

**Participant 200** 21:02

They are, they are.

**Interviewer 2** 21:04

Absolutely. Okay. Great. That looks good. Anything else we should add before we move on because we've got a couple other elements we're going to ask you about?

**Participant 200** 21:23

Sure how we got here in the first place, convening the food system partners. So kind of supporting innovation and new partnerships that come out of convening partners.

**Interviewer 2** 21:53

Mm hmm. New innovations. Okay. That's good.

**Interviewer** 21:58

So how would you connect-so we have these food system partnerships that lead to innovations-how do you these innovations feed back in this system? How have they helped producers or retailers or you know, how it impacts...?

**Interviewer 2** 22:16

That's a good question.

**Participant 200** 22:22

So, while I don't have specific examples that I can think of, I would imagine that the innovations would help producers expand or enhance their ability to grow food, which then would give them more food to sell, more food to process and then to sell.

**Interviewer 2** 22:53

You mentioned innovation when you talked about the farmers market, what was the thought there when you made that connection earlier?

**Participant 200** 23:04

That was early on in the new movement to the farmers market. The connection was giving them funding that allowed them to convert and to bring in technology that allowed them to be able to increase access to healthy food for low income people so that they could use their EBT cards at the market.

**Interviewer 2** 23:33

Okay. Got it. Okay. Okay. When you think about partnerships, are other connections that you see, to the sectors where, having been the convener of food system partnerships, how that might have impacted these local sectors? Outside the innovation that it produces, are there other types of things that result from those partnerships.

**Participant 200** 24:03

Yeah, expanded access is one of the main things, so from the original conveners to the mobile food trucks-in particular, there's the pantries-the mobile food pantries that developed-but then there's also-there was the Fliny Fresh?

**Interviewer 2** 24:39

Ah, yeah, Flint Fresh. Uh huh.

**Participant 200** 24:42

Yeah. Food access has been, really that's been the biggest area that we have been focused on as a funder so far in this whole arena.

**Interviewer 2** 25:01

Okay. All right, that's excellent. Okay, thank you for that. And as we move into these next things, as things come up, if you make other connections, [Interviewer] is really good at picking those up and drawing the lines, just making sure that we're hearing you accurately. So [Participant 200], one of the things we wanted to explore, in this particular, looking at the localized aspect of the food system, how we connect racial equity. So when you look at your map and your understanding, how would you connect racial equity or racial inequity to the food system itself? When you think about racial inequity, and you know what that is and your own definition of it, how would you see that? What are ways that racial equity or inequity impacts participation in these sectors?

**Participant 200** 26:00

Well, so the inequity of income would make it difficult for consumers to, to access to purchase decent food. And also, of course, lack of transportation to areas that have better food, so then you're stuck with the convenience store, which doesn't always have the best options. Producers don't necessarily have-so those that are black and of color, don't necessarily have as many connections that will provide them with capital to-and there are more barriers, more hurdles to getting capital, less likely to be able to get loans, of course. So getting their product to market would be hard to do. Ah, let's see.

**Interviewer 2** 27:37

Okay, so I'm seeing those here, and that was the connection to the producers. First, let me play these back. So with the producers of color, in particular, not having access to capital. So we know that we saw the access to capital as an issue, and we saw that not only the access, but there were barriers. So there's access and barriers to capital. And so when you said capital, you would include loans in that...?

**Participant 200** 28:12

Yeah, yes, definitely. Finances.

**Interviewer 2** 28:17

Okay, access and barriers to capital, which includes loans and other types of financing. And then you said it impacts their ability to get the products to the market, so that access to capital affects their ability to get products to market.

**Participant 200** 28:35

Okay. Right. And then, okay. In areas that are black in the city-which is most of the city-in terms of retailers, there's very few places where retailers actually have decent, fresh food.

**Interviewer 2** 29:07

Mm hmm. Okay. So the quality of the food, the freshness of the food, right. Fresh Foods. Okay.

**Participant 200** 29:17

And healthy options. Healthy options are difficult when you live in the inner city.

**Interviewer 2** 29:23

Mm hmm. And that's tied to the retailers. Okay. All right. Great. Right. Okay. That's good. All right. Excellent. Thank you got that. Okay. So we're seeing that connection.

**Interviewer 2** 29:52

Yeah, what I heard you say was fresh, healthy foods, is what I heard, so we have access but healthy foods.

**Participant 200** 30:04

Right. Right. Okay. It is expensive-health is expensive.

**Interviewer 2** 30:18

Mm hmm. Okay. Got it. Okay. So would you say, you know, you talked about capital in terms of it being one of the racialized barriers of participation. Are there other racialized barriers to participation in the local food system besides the access to capital side of it? And transportation, which you mentioned as well?

**Participant 200** 30:50

Yeah. major transportation. Well, I think racism in and of itself, segregated poverty, you know, having concentrated poverty...

**Interviewer 2** 31:23

Yeah. Okay. So racism that creates concentrated poverty. Okay. Okay. All right. All right. Okay. All right. So [Interviewer] is making the connections there. Mm hmm. All right. So we got health, and so when we talk about income, is that where we make the reference to poverty, or is that a different reference, you think?

**Participant 200** 32:03

Income is definitely part of the-

**Interviewer 2** 32:07

Or concentrated power is a separate concept?

**Participant 200** 32:12

It's inclusive, for sure. But it's income and lack of access to wealth, to property, to... Actually, I mean, you could bring everything into it: school, education, all of it. It's connected in some way.

**Participant 200** 32:46

Sorry about that. Sorry about that. There we go. Gotcha. Okay. Mm hmm. Yeah, those are important connections. Okay. Great. Thank you Okay. All right. All right. Thanks, Interviewer]. Are there ways-so this is another way to think about this-are there ways that the food system actually contributes to racial inequity? So coming back the other way, are there things about the way the local food system is that contributed to racial inequity?

**Participant 200** 33:45

Are there ways of which the food system creates racial equity... Well, I guess-I suppose that if retailers don't bring or maintain the lack of access to healthy options in neighborhoods that others with better incomes will not move into those neighborhoods which further exacerbates that hole. If they can't get access to healthy food within their neighborhood, they're not gonna be as likely to move into that neighborhood. And thus, the separation segregation and concentration of poverty continues.

**Participant 200** 35:08

Okay. Mm hmm. Okay. Okay.

**Interviewer** 35:30

Yeah, so I've tried to add that in. If stores are currently not supplying nutritious foods that sort of feeds back into this concept called geographic differences or disparities, which again, this is very much to your map, so have ownership if there's something that I word that you don't like how it's worded, or any connection that I make that you're like, I don't think that's quite it, please bring it up and correct me. I want it to be really accurate. But the lack of nutritious foods sort of re-enforces geographic differences or disparities which contributes to concentrated poverty. Is that map accurate, are there things that you'd like to change there?

**Participant 200** 36:17

No, I think it's accurate.

**Interviewer** 36:20

I know there's a lot of lines going on. I'm going to try to spread them out a bit so it's a little easier to read.

**Interviewer 2** 36:31

Okay. All right. Great. Okay.

**Interviewer** 36:45

I'd love to talk a little bit, because you have this funding perspective, is there any way that you've seen racial inequity present in the funding system or ways that you're trying to combat it?

**Participant 200** 37:01

Yeah, yeah. And the way the funding system is set up in and of itself, there's a certain structure that an organization has to have, to be able to access the funding, and if they don't have that structure, in general, it's harder to access and if they don't have certain relationships, it's harder to access.I know that in this community, our funders are kind of focused on that and trying to remedy some of the inequity by convening and creating partnerships, where grassroots can partner with more established entities that can help them as intermediaries.

**Interviewer 2** 38:15

Okay. Alright, so we hear it on the funder side. Okay. So a couple things I heard you say was with the funding system itself, the structure of it is one aspect because it affects the access to funding to grants, not necessarily other capital, like loans and finances but access to grant funding, right. So the structure impacts the access to grant funding, I heard that. You've mentioned relationships, so clarify what you mean by that particular connection as it relates from funding?

**Participant 200** 39:07

Yeah, okay. So if somewhere in my circle, I have staff, from the funders in my personal circle, I've got easier access and know the process. I know who to talk to, if I have... Just being able to know who to talk to know and what the process is, is heavily connected to the relationships that people have.

**Interviewer 2** 39:47

Right. Okay. So I want to see how we actually visualize that here.

**Interviewer** 39:53

I put a connection between food system partnerships and opportunities and accessabilities, this idea that your network, the people that you know, can share that information with you. If someone was like, "Oh, I know about this grant opportunity" or "Oh, I've gone through it before, let me give you some tips to writing an application for this grant" or something as a way to sort of increase opportunities and accessibility.

**Interviewer 2** 40:27

Something I'm not necessarily seeing, because we're drawing that connection from racial equity, is the concept that the actual structure of grant funding is one of the barriers to access to grant funding, because I heard that, but I'm not sure that I'm clear about seeing where the connection is. Where's that connection, [Interviewer]?

**Interviewer** 41:00

Yeah, I think I'm gonna add it in as a barrier. So it's something that is-contributes here, like the structure makes it a little bit-can be potentially more difficult to access capital...

**Interviewer 2** 41:23

As a barrier, thank you. That's what I was looking for. I wasn't seeing that. Okay. Okay. All right. Does that capture that, [Participant 200]? Because that's what I was trying-

**Participant 200** 41:34

Yes. Yeah, that does.

**Interviewer 2** 41:36

that there is this funding structure, so there's the connection to the structure itself, funding structure here, the upper left, and that structure in and of itself, the way it is designed, impacts access to capital, but it also is a racialized barrier. Okay. So, [Interviewer], is there a connection between funding and structure of funding requirements, is there a link between those two concepts right there? Okay, thank you. Okay. That's what I was looking for, trying to see that that connection, so the structure itself impacts access to capital, and it is a racialized barrier. Okay, got it. Does that get it now?

**Participant 200** 42:25

Yeah.

**Interviewer 2** 42:26

Okay. All right. Great. Got that. Wonderful. Anything else on that side before we go to one other concept for you?

**Participant 200** 42:38

Not that I can think of at the moment.

**Interviewer 2** 42:42

Okay. All right, this is beautiful already. And so as you know, one of the things in Flint we've talked about and connected to are some of the shocks that have occurred. So what do you think are some of the major influences or impacts on the food system? What kinds of shocks do you think are driving and influencing and impacting the local food system?

**Participant 200** 43:15

Well, I would say really, particularly, resulting from the lead and water crisis, what really happened was an influx of a lot of new resources around food and getting healthy food into areas of high risk. So that I see as one of the major-I mean, things just expanded, you know, again the Farm Bill-we started getting opportunities in this community that we had not seen in my experience of over 30 years. So, that's on. Even as a result of the pandemic, again new dollars, particularly focused on black and brown neighborhoods and businesses, many of whom are food businesses. So those shocks... While the two crises in and of themselves really highlighted the structural inequity in our community, it also presented opportunities.

**Interviewer 2** 45:03

Mm hmm. Mm hmm. Okay. So they, okay. Mm hmm. So they were connected, you saw connection between those crises and racial inequities?

**Interviewer 2** 45:19

Yes and addressing-yes. Resources have come.-the resources have come to play in acknowledgement of the racial inequity, the structural inequity that exists. Man I had a thought on the opposite side, and I can't recall what it is. It left my brain. It'll come back. Oh, so another shock was the the exodus of grocery stores.

**Interviewer 2** 46:23

Want to say how they're connected to the system-the local food system?

**Participant 200** 46:30

Yes, it decreased the accessibility of healthy food.

**Interviewer 2** 46:43

Okay. Okay.

**Interviewer** 46:58

I just want to say, this is an amazing map. Thank you for all your thoughts so far.

**Interviewer 2** 47:04

I was thinking the same thing, [Interviewer], it's beautiful, mhm.

**Participant 200** 47:10

you guys think that's beautiful. It's overwhelming.

**Interviewer 2** 47:13

In the beginning, they're always overwhelming. They're overwhelming to me too. But they're still beautiful because it really depicts your understanding of the system and everything, so in looking at this, the model we've created thus far, at a glance, is there anything that you think is missing at this point, or you want to change to better capture what you shared with us today so far? If you just take a moment and glance at it if there's anything that we might need to tweak or add?

**Participant 200** 47:52

... No.

**Interviewer** 48:10

I have two things that I feel like you talked about, but maybe I didn't capture full. I'll just propose them and you could tell me, yes, include that in my map or not. One would be this feeding back in of the structure of funding or requirements, feeding back into racial inequity as well as differences in health feeding back into racial inequity. I feel like those are things you briefly talked about that should be added, but if you don't want them to be added, if you're happy with it, I can not add them, it's up to you.

**Participant 200** 48:44

No, no, I think you're right especially the health connection feeding into racial inequity. And somehow I feel like the grocery store closures feed into that.

**Interviewer** 49:10

Yeah, yeah, definitely.

**Interviewer 2** 49:21

Good eye, [Interviewer].

**Interviewer** 49:29

Okay, awesome. And I know some of these seem to be negative connections that [inaudible], it's just double negatives, if that makes sense. Like, something increasing a negative thing, and having an impact on a positive thing ends up with a negative connection. It's just the logic [laughter]. Awesome.

**Interviewer 2** 49:58

Was there anything else you saw, [Interviewer]. Because I'm glancing at it too.

**Interviewer** 50:02

So I think those are the two things in the back of my mind. I guess the other one would be if there's any connection out from political advocacy that you see of how you see that impacting the system, or racial inequity or anything else. We can also leave it out...

**Participant 200** 50:19

I can see political advocacy resulting in more funding, and more resources and community. Yeah. Again, there were plenty of meetings that some of the foundation executives were having with [Name], for instance, on the Farm Bill, so.

**Interviewer 2** 50:46

That's good. Positive impact. Excellent. I guess the other place I'm wondering too, thank you, [Interviewer], for that, is you talked about-and I see this as two separate concepts, but what we have here is one, that you do donor education and you also do fundraising. Do you see connections between those two actions that you do, to the system, in particular places, any connections you would make from there?

**Participant 200** 51:16

Well, just that the donor education, the fund development, creates more-expands the availability for funding for things related to the food system and accessing healthy food in the community.

**Interviewer 2** 51:37

Okay, so from there to access unhealthy food, okay. Okay. All right. So we got that connection there. But then the action connects, okay, to heathy foods. So would that connection go from funding or from the education and fundraising, [Interviewer]?

**Interviewer** 51:57

I think these both feed back into each other. The funding that is available ends up impacting the nutritious food. Lots of circles.

**Interviewer 2** 52:10

Okay, so I'm just saying that the connection would come from funder as opposed to fund-okay, I got it. I'm just trying to follow-okay. Yeah. Got it. All right. I check in along the way too, [Participant 200], to make sure, oh, is that where that connection would go? With education affects, it goes both ways and then it affects the actual access to nutritious foods. All right. All right. Okay. Are we all good? We have anything else we need to explore? I know, I've got the next question. But [Interviewer]...

**Interviewer** 52:49

I think it's a perfect time to move on to talking about leverage points.

**Interviewer 2** 52:53

Alright, so here we go [name]. So next thing we want to do is to really, like consider leverage points. And that's really we're talking about changes that might improve the system. Like, if you went back to the example when Carissa was doing the whole traffic thing, you know, city, investing in circles to reduce traffic might have been an example might have added something that didn't exist that would help motivate people, you know, to not drive their cars as much and maybe walk or ride bikes and things like that. So those are examples. So you know, changing or even a strength of a relationship, like, maybe I would ride to work with you, instead of driving on my own. So those are kind of examples when we start to get the leverage points. So now as you're considering this beautiful map that looks at the current, you know, local food system, how would you make change to improve it? From your perspective, you know, you're a funder, how would you how would you see make the changes to improve the system? Um,

**Participant 200** 54:06

I guess I should probably follow some of these blue, some of these blue arrows. Well as a funder... and so the [organization] is a different kind of funder than others because we have to, we basically have to find the dollars to then fund them whereas you know, like [other organization] just have their own, so we have to- so if- that donor education piece is critical because we have to cultivate donors that are interested in this subject, so I would say, expanding funding from as many sources as we can, but expanding funding for, for producers. For expanding funding around economic development that also allows consumers to be able to afford. So, you know, expanding funding that creates jobs will create more income, which will lessen the gap between that and their ability to afford healthy food.

**Participant 200** 56:03

Advocacy, doing advocacy that can result in more benefits to retailers, more community benefits. So retailers and like the dollars that they received a few times around here to change the footprint of their stores, so that healthy food was right up front, and then they got new facades, that kind of thing. And that was all. I really feel like all of that resulted in the work and advocacy of folks who were in the food system even before we as the [organization] were. Continuing to convene and support partnerships.

**Interviewer 2** 57:13

Mm. Hmm.

**Participant 200** 57:23

Yeah. I mean, you can just put up every, you can put an arrow from funders to every every piece on this map, I would say.

**Interviewer 2** 57:38

Actions that you could take. So I kind of what I'm hearing you say is you're kind of, you know, the things that you're doing, just do more. Get more funds to do more of those things.

**Participant 200** 57:50

Or encourage even funding partnerships. So bring other- encourage us funders to get into this area.

**Interviewer 2** 58:00

Okay. Funding partnerships. A new concept that I did hear you say in that so you you emphasize the donor education and funding to producers. You talked about economic development funding. So that sounds or feels different than the other concepts you had on there, or, or would that be an add on to the access to capital? Or there you said grants?

**Interviewer** 58:37

Like, program for local business food businesses, which yes, yeah, related to.

**Interviewer 2** 58:46

Um, okay. Oh, so that's how you captured that versus what you're saying. You put it there. And I didn't see that program.

**Interviewer** 58:54

The COVID-19.

**Interviewer 2** 58:57

Okay. Okay. Yeah.

**Participant 200** 59:03

And the other thing I was thinking is- was more general, actually, that job creation, if there were more job creation, whether it's inside or outside of the food system, it would provide more income.

**Interviewer 2** 59:21

Okay,

**Participant 200** 59:22

For those, you know, to be able to spend in the [food system].

**Interviewer 2** 59:28

okay. So a connection from there to equitable income, that programs for jobs, programs for local business development, that would go tied to equitable income. Okay.

**Participant 200** 59:43

Yeah.

**Interviewer 2** 59:43

That went to jobs and from that one to equitable income. Got it? Okay, excellent. Excellent, excellent, excellent. Okay. rate. Now to make that even more fun when you think about these leverage points, is there anything else [Participant 200] that you're this coming to mind? They- I'm sorry, I don't want to disrupt your thoughts?

**Participant 200** 1:00:16

No.

**Interviewer 2** 1:00:21

Okay. So as we're thinking leverage points, what- did you want to add something before I asked this question [Interviewer]?

**Interviewer** 1:00:31

Yeah, we might be asking the same question. I just like, I'm wondering, like, if you're taking like a really big lens, like a really high level perspective on the system, what do you think would be needed to achieve racial equity?

**Interviewer 2** 1:00:46

That was my next question. Thank you. Before I ask the next question, yeah. Yeah. So yeah, what would be needed? And then when you're thinking about a racially, a system that's, you know, has racial equity, what kind of changes would you see being needed?

**Participant 200** 1:01:06

Policy changes. And, and I would say maybe even changes in the way policies are administered, because a lot of times it's not the policy itself that's causing the inequity, but the way is administered like, for instance, with the VA bill back in, you know, ward two, it was the way that was administered. And so it would take transforming systems, but looking to see what parts of policies or policy, or the implementation of policies, impacts populations differently.

**Interviewer 2** 1:02:02

Mm hmm.

**Participant 200** 1:02:10

Oh, and the other thing is, um, in this community, we have declared, we have gotten our county government, our city government and health department and all to declare racism as a public health issue. So what it would take is to- it would take the political will to then be able to address exactly where the disconnects are. Around- and with this example. I mean, taking a good look at where are the disconnects in the system? Who has access? Who doesn't? What forces, you know, are mandating that.

**Interviewer 2** 1:03:15

Mm hmm. Okay, so let me play it back. So from racial inequity, or equity, policy change are two things on policy, policy change and policy administration. So links from racial inequity, to policy change and policy implementation. So I'm trying to see where we're going to clip those through. So um, and then the third reference you made was to public health. Ah, in terms of racial inequity, or equity, public health was the was the third element that you talked about? And there it is, from a public health standpoint. The disparities, you talked about the disparities between access that people have so those were the four things that I heard the policy changes, policy administration, racism, you know, as public health, and then disparities of where the disparities are actually happening as a result of, you know, this being a public health issue, where are those disparities happening? So, [Interviewer], I'm not sure you can show us how you're capturing those. That would be great.

**Interviewer** 1:04:42

So I think, because we're like thinking about, like, what we would want to have happen in the system. I think we're not like adding them to the model because we want to have the model be sort of like an understanding of what's going on right now. And so these are ideas of like, if we were to change the model Oh, how

**Interviewer 2** 1:05:00

You got it. Thank you for that. Thank you for that clarification. Because I'm fixed on the model here now. All right, wonderful. Um, [Participant 200] anything else? As far as changes, levers of change that you see?

**Participant 200** 1:05:20

I guess I see the biggest lever of change is advocacy.

**Interviewer 2** 1:05:26

Hmm, okay. Mm. Hmm. Okay, great. I will. So Oh, okay. So we talked a lot, we want to make sure we haven't forgotten anything. So is there anything else that's important about this conversation that we might have forgotten to ask you? Or now you're having Hey, I thought about and I want to, you know, at this point, that would be our last, you know, kind of question for you.

**Participant 200** 1:06:05

Not really, I mean, I think that was a brain dump.

**Interviewer 2** 1:06:11

Excellent. Right. That was excellent. Thank you so much, we really appreciate that. And so, again, our thanks to you [Participant 200], for participating with us on this. So again, this entire interview, everything we've talked about confidential we use it, obviously, to inform you know, the research work we're doing there, if you do happen to have any questions or concerns, you have both Carissa and my email, please just, you know, feel free to reach out to us and do that. And we're going to drop a link here in the chat for you to the evaluation, we would invite you to click on that. And if you could, you know, if you have a few minutes to fill it out, you know, now that would be great. That way, because we know how that goes, we all get busy. That's awesome. It takes a couple minutes, you've done it before, it takes a couple minutes. And in this one, one thing you would possibly see differences, just some reference to some connections around localized food as well. Don't put your name on it. Again, we want to keep it generic and coffee show. And so thank you. Thank you. Thank you so much. And, Lynn, if you think of anyone else that would benefit from being part of this particular interview set, please, by all means, let us know. We're trying to do most of those here in February and early March. So if there's folks that you think we should reach out to just send us a quick email, you know

**Interviewer** 1:07:50

what, there will be a place on the survey to write a thing. I also I'll email the survey link to you as well, just in case that's all yours and

**Interviewer 2** 1:08:04

Okay, okay.

**Interviewer** 1:08:06

Getting anything.

**Interviewer 2** 1:08:10

Okay, all right. Thank you, Lynn.

1:08:12

All right. Have a great day. Okay, you too. All right.

**Interviewer 2** 1:08:17

Bye. Bye bye.