What are the chronic gaps or roadblocks in the local food system that have become apparent for you during the pandemic?

Laura's Group

access to markets	seed production and acces to land	food shortage in fall?	cool and cold storage for small biz	USDA meat processing
access to funding for small projects	help with accessing capital for processing/cold storage	food insecure, justice and access when campus closed	institutional will, concerns of risk and liability. limiting ability to pivot	decentralizing the food system model
reaching people with surplus food	predatory food industry big ag limiting decentralization	lack of understanding and communication	gaps in urban and rural understanding about farmer issues and food access limitations, distribution gaps	

What are the chronic gaps or roadblocks
in the local food system that have become
apparent for you during the pandemic?

David's group

Comm about Needs	Small biz struggle how to reinvent	small biz - need resources	Grower reliance on restaurant & hospitality	difficulty going to the store
schools - creating meals - and long term	kids/youth - lower food access- fresh food	food insecurity amplified even more	shopping in large quantities not possible for all	Food access income divide
meat production - CAFO not sustainable	farm labor shortages	lack of safe housing	lack of access to internet/tech	lack of access to food stamp eligibility - for indiv that have tech limits
lack of farm laborer safety	packing and aggregation capacity problem (food bank)	lack of ability for food insecure people to gather for meals	isolation	inequality Highlighted

What are the chronic gaps or roadblocks
in the local food system that have become
apparent for you during the pandemic?

access to food security for folks in need	addressing the needs for folks not used to asking for help	streamlining ways for farmers to get food to people	supporting distributors that now have gap in market with no restaurants	connecting food to the hungry
finding food donations for agencies who can distribute/food servers	preventing food waste	less fishery representation on natl level (relief)	connecting local food systems with food access supports (staples)	crisis management plans
wider food need/access issues in crisis	protecting workers & processors	"essential" label and what that means for support (or not)		

Elma's Group

GAPS / ROADBLOCKS - 8min

What are the chronic gaps or roadblocks
in the local food system that have become
apparent for you during the pandemic?

Mardi's Group

Distribution has been disrupted	Centralization doesn't work - - Need to decentralize	Challenge to get produce and bread to people receiving emergency food boxes	Lack of community gardens in some neighborhoods	Can't meet dietary restriction needs in food boxes
Technology gap -- hard to let people know about resources if they don't have access to online tech	Seed supply -- hard for gardeners/small farmers to get seeds. Need more local seed production.	Limited food education after grade 8 to teach kids how to grow food	Hard for farms to get certifications	Lack of affordable commercial kitchen space
Lack of food for animals				

What are the chronic gaps or roadblocks
in the local food system that have become
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Rhys' Group

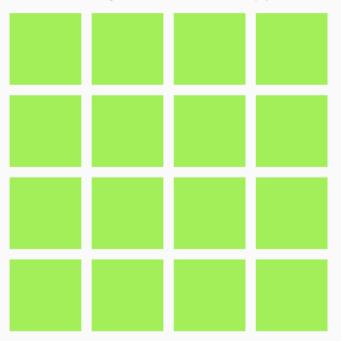|				
Lack of financial resources	transportation	Reliance on volunteer groups	Information on where to volunteer	Identifying who needs support
Need to create a picture of the supply and demand of food in this county (so the public can access, and understand changes)	Inequities in the systems	Information lagging behind realities on the ground	Inequities in communications (language barriers)	Local food distribution networks interrupted
Need to dedicate more land to filling food demand gaps/reallocation of land for local food consumption	connecting beginning farmers with land	Food desert in eastern WA County	Need to redirect existing chains to meet emerging needs	Centralization/decentralization of food distribution networks
Need for food vouchers modeled off Seattle's democracy vouchers				

Mardi's Group

What patterns did you discover that made these opportunities possible?

Strong local food system needs to include more diverse orgs at the table (ex. Tribal groups)	Increased communication -- Using more communication tools (barrier is lack of internet access)	Flexibility, resiliency, responsiveness, innovation	Ability to make quick shifts	Mutual aid -- decentralization
Online sales platforms have helped farms (with webinars, technical support available)	Leveraging technology - to set up a call center and routing software for food distribution (OC, Food Bank, WUC)	Dedication to supporting growers, reducing food waste, getting food to people who need it		

What can we do to invest in these patterns that are likely to foster more opportunities?

Laura's Group

What patterns did you discover that made these opportunities possible?

new behaviors are being forced on us, new ways of doing things seem possible	we have a good local system set up that we can rely on	eating fresh produce is healthy and people always want more	events are more accessible and in new platforms, creative ways to share information	existing vision for new ways to access food and growing food
because people have time, there are more unlikely heros	generosity from producers who dont want to see their food wasted	local food buying clubs popping up, producers are wanted	platforms already in existence are working well for connecting to producers - Facebook, Local Harvest.org, CropMobster	Networks are critical, and that they are built before the crisis
people want to do good- not waste, eat healthy, help each other	willingness to all pull together			

What can we do to invest in these patterns that are likely to foster more opportunities?

More support for online - reach people who are not able to attend online	make sure people know about existing networks and platforms - no recreating the wheel	show how it is working	

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Whatcom Food Network
for a healthy, just & thriving food system

David's group

What patterns did you discover that made these opportunities possible?

local seed resilience	adopting and supporting projects	capacity to still support staff (PPP)	people have time	people seeking opportunites to support
support for localized food system - how can we more?	socially appropriate structuring	look at basic rules of COVID - work within limits	collaboration and looking at problems differently	fine art of not taking no for answer
connect w farmers more	creative ways to connect			

What can we do to invest in these patterns that are likely to foster more opportunities?

understand there are ways to join a group that is safe	elders who have skills and time. 'leverage this'		

Whatcom Food Network
for a healthy, just & thriving food system

Rhys' Group

What patterns did you discover that made these opportunities possible?

The power of relationships and collaboration	willingness to adapt and change	empowering people on the front line who are close to needs	decentralization	Not waiting for an outside org to tell you what to do
Bottom up decision making	investment in systems developed previously	not having to navigate as much red tape	trust built through working together	attitude of kindness, helpfulness and support
support for local businesses and good communication	effective use of digital tools	proactively reaching out to communities of color, ESL, homeless, not digitally connected	Not making assumptions about resources/information that is available to everyone	past problems are exasterbated by current conditions

What can we do to invest in these patterns that are likely to foster more opportunities?

affirm and acknowledge other ways of doing things	invest in permanent wifi hotspots to increase access	increase access to tech tools (laptops, tablets etc)	Computers for people in need
language resources-communication to underserved populations			

Whatcom Food Network
for a healthy, just & thriving food system

Elma's Group

What patterns did you discover that made these opportunities possible?

-early action, going for it!	-flexibility & adaptability	-local collaboration & system has been in place to support now	-communicating & centralized system (still gaps)	-supply chain critiques were ready to react to change (prepared to make big efforts) 1/3
-understanding of what was needed bc gaps have existed; 2/3	shift in collective conscious has been underway 2/3	-tapping resources	-greater resource of time (volunteers)	-food remains to be a tool for safety & security

What can we do to invest in these patterns that are likely to foster more opportunities?

redirect financial resources	-pattern remains of giving food rather than empowerment to access so need to direct support appropriately	-reality check, work left to do (opportunity for change)	-less reliant on grocery stores, for ex

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