Neighborhood Food Access Plan

A practical framework for building healthy food and commerce ecosystems in underserved communities.



THE PURPOSE

Identify communities where economic marginalization and limited access to fresh, affordable, healthy food overlap - then help local people build the connected infrastructure to change both conditions.

THE PRINCIPLE

Grow locally.
Make locally.
Sell locally.
Reinvest locally.

THE SIX PART PLAN

01
Identify the right communities

Map marginalized and underserved neighborhoods that are also healthy food deserts, then confirm needs and assets with residents and local leaders.

02
Build the local network

Connect growers, small businesses, product makers, community leaders, and key residents through refreshed technical assistance focused on each role and the infrastructure that links them.

03
Secure growing capacity

Identify neighborhood land for farming or partner with nearby growers to create a supply chain shaped around what local food businesses actually need.

04
Establish the community hub

Choose the best site for a farm stand and central hub that supports food, commerce, gathering, events, education, and relevant neighborhood programming.

05
Create local ownership

Invite residents and leaders into planning and stewardship while creating paid roles, volunteer opportunities, and practical pathways to participate.

06
Close the neighborhood loop

Connect growers, makers, businesses, leaders, and residents into a working wheel where food and natural goods are produced, purchased, consumed, recovered, and reinvested close to home.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD SYSTEM

A connected wheel - not a standalone farm stand.

GROW	MAKE	GATHER	BUY	RETURN
Land + growers	Businesses + product makers	Farm stand + community hub	Residents + institutions	Recovery + reinvestment

Ingredients, products, knowledge, income, and responsibility move through the same community - repeatedly.

THE HUB IS MORE THAN RETAIL

A place to eat, learn, work, meet, and build.

+ Fresh food aggregation, pickup, and neighborhood sales
+ Shelf space for locally made food and natural goods
+ Community events, tastings, classes, and relevant programming
+ Technical assistance and shared business infrastructure
+ Paid work, volunteer opportunities, and resident stewardship
+ A visible meeting point for growers, makers, leaders, and residents

THE WORK BEGINS WITH LISTENING

Community members help define what gets grown, made, taught, sold, and sustained.

The Neighborhood Pantry framework does not arrive with a prepackaged answer. It begins by identifying existing skills, businesses, relationships, land, and unmet needs. Technical assistance then helps connect those assets into one practical system.

The result is a small commerce center that strengthens access to healthy food while helping more of each neighborhood dollar circulate among people who live and work there.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

ACCESS

More dependable access to fresh and locally relevant food.

CAPACITY

Stronger growers, makers, and small businesses connected by shared infrastructure.

CIRCULATION

More food, opportunity, and spending retained within the neighborhood.

Meet The Neighborhood Pantry at the National Microloan Conference in Detroit, October 13-14. Hello and thank you to conference attendees and NGA visitors.

CONTACT
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