

# Austin/Travis County Food Plan Draft Summary

MARCH 2024

The draft goals and strategies for our community's first comprehensive food system plan are ready for review!

The Austin/Travis County community has been deeply engaged in shaping the plan, demonstrated by community member participation in plan meetings and events, feedback collected, and the commitment of many individuals to working tirelessly on all aspects of the planning process:

**2,707** — individuals engaged in plan meetings and events.

**3,468** — pieces of feedback collected.

**2,524** — hours of committed community participation.\*

**39%** — of participants identified as having current or past experience of hunger, using public benefits/financial assistance, or struggling to meet basic needs.°

**21%** — of participants reside in Travis County areas outside City of Austin boundaries.°

**9%** — multilingual engagement in a language other than English.°

\* — committed community participation is defined as persons attending more than one plan meeting

° — of 879 participants who completed an engagement form

## AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY FOOD PLAN VISION

*We envision a just, accessible, and culturally diverse food system, built by undoing inequities, that supports and sustains inclusive thriving communities, healthy ecosystems, and solutions to climate change where everyone can reach their full potential now and for generations to come.*



# FOOD PLAN DRAFT GOALS



**LAND** | Expand community food production, preserve agricultural lands, and increase the amount of farmland dedicated to regenerative agriculture long-term in Austin/Travis County.



**OWNERSHIP** | Increase access to and stewardship of land for regenerative food production by decreasing barriers to farm ownership for people underrepresented in agriculture, including but not limited to Black, Indigenous, and other Persons of Color, women, and gender-non-conforming individuals, LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals, young adults, and justice system-impacted individuals.

**LIVELIHOODS** | Improve food worker and farm worker livelihoods by ensuring a safety net, defining career pathways, expanding training opportunities, and strengthening opportunities for advancement for workers across the local food system.



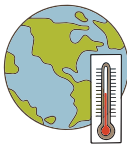
**PREPAREDNESS** | Establish and fund a resilient, inclusive, and accessible emergency food provision system that ensures all community members, regardless of cultural background or medical needs, have access to safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food during disasters and emergencies.



**INSTITUTIONS** | Create more resilient and sustainable local supply chains through the adoption of values-aligned distribution and purchasing frameworks and an increase in the number of institutions purchasing local food.



**ACCESS** | Expand access to nutritious and culturally relevant food in food distribution programs and food retail locations for residents of Austin/Travis County experiencing food insecurity or facing barriers to food access (proximity, mobility, income, and availability) with priority investment in areas experiencing high rates of food insecurity.



**FOOD RECOVERY** | Increase the amount of surplus food and non-edible food waste diverted from the landfill to support a circular food economy, healthy soils, and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the food supply chain.

**PRO-CLIMATE/PRO-HEALTH FOODS** | Educate and raise awareness among individuals and organizations about the value and benefits of choosing foods that both nourish our bodies and contribute to decreasing the carbon footprint of our food system.



**EMPOWER** | Develop community education, empowerment, and infrastructure to support effective implementation of the food plan as measured by increased funding, data collection, partnerships, and community participation in a local food system network.



## WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Review the draft plan goals and strategies.

Take our survey by **April 19** or join a Virtual Public Review Meeting:

- **April 3 at 5:00 pm:** English, Spanish, and ASL
- **April 17 at 6:00 pm:** English, Arabic, Vietnamese, and Chinese

