

COMMUNITY FOOD NAVIGATOR



GROWERS, PRODUCERS, AND ORGANIZERS ARE THE HEART OF OUR FOOD SYSTEM

There is a vast network in Chicago, from backyard plots to school and community gardens to urban farms, of people who grow food to provide for their neighbors and to support the collective care of their communities. Despite disinvestment; lack of access to land, resources, and capital; and systemic racism, these food growers, producers, and organizers make sure their neighbors have access to healthy, locally grown food.

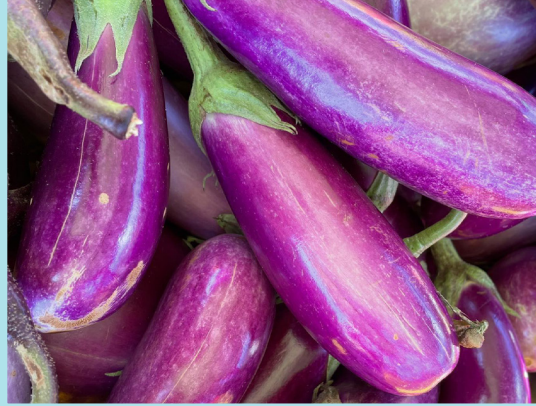
Too often decisions about how our communities access food—or don't—are made far from our neighborhoods. Community Food Navigator is a place to talk about the opportunities and challenges we face and how we can work together to build a new way to feed Chicago.

In developing the Community Food Navigator, we the growers and food producers set our project's goals and priorities. As we grow, we welcome all sorts of people who are part of the food system to join us in this new approach. **Community Food Navigator will build a collective voice, foster new ways of connecting and exchanging, and amplify the work of community organizers, residents, and eaters in Chicago.**

WHY A NAVIGATOR?

Community Food Navigator is community-powered and addresses challenges we face in the food system, such as accessing land, water, infrastructure, and funding. It is also a safe space for growers, producers, and organizers to share information, create community, and expand their work alongside others within the food system.

Chicagoans growing and producing food in Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities are the heart of our local food system. We need better access to knowledge, resources, support, and connections. These are necessary for creating and making use of opportunities for sustainable funding, tools, and operations.



COMMUNITY FOOD NAVIGATOR INFO & FAQs

PRINCIPLES AND VISION

People want to eat well, and that is why there is such an abundant network of growers and food producers in Chicago. The Community Food Navigator builds more resilient systems that prioritizes food sovereignty for all residents; collective care and attention to need; equitable opportunities for Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities; circular and sustainably focused design; and education on the roles we all play in production and consumption of food.

PURPOSE

The Community Food Navigator is at the beginning of a multi-year journey to make certain that community-led food is the foundation of an equitable regional food system. Stewarded by leaders and organizers in the local food movement, the Navigator supports these networks in order to lift up the abundance and solutions that exist and the value they generate. We connect and grow the power of community-led food producers to the funding and resources that fuel and sustain their resilience. Anyone invested in or participating in the Chicago food system may be involved and access the Community Food Navigator.

NEXT STEPS FOR COMMUNITY FOOD NAVIGATOR

Guided by our **Community Stewardship Ring** of leaders and organizers from local food movements, we are creating space to collaborate; define our project's shared priorities; and amplify solutions.

Develop **organizing tools** to connect organizers in our food systems, and to share stories from food growers and producers that demonstrate the power and potential of community-led food.

Collect, analyze, and **visualize data** to shape a better understanding of the non-financial value of these food systems for the institutional decision-makers and sources of land, wealth, and power.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT [COMMUNITYFOODNAVIGATOR.ORG](https://communityfoodnavigator.org)