

LOCAL FOODS, LOCAL PLACES: REVITALIZING COMMUNITIES BY GROWING LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

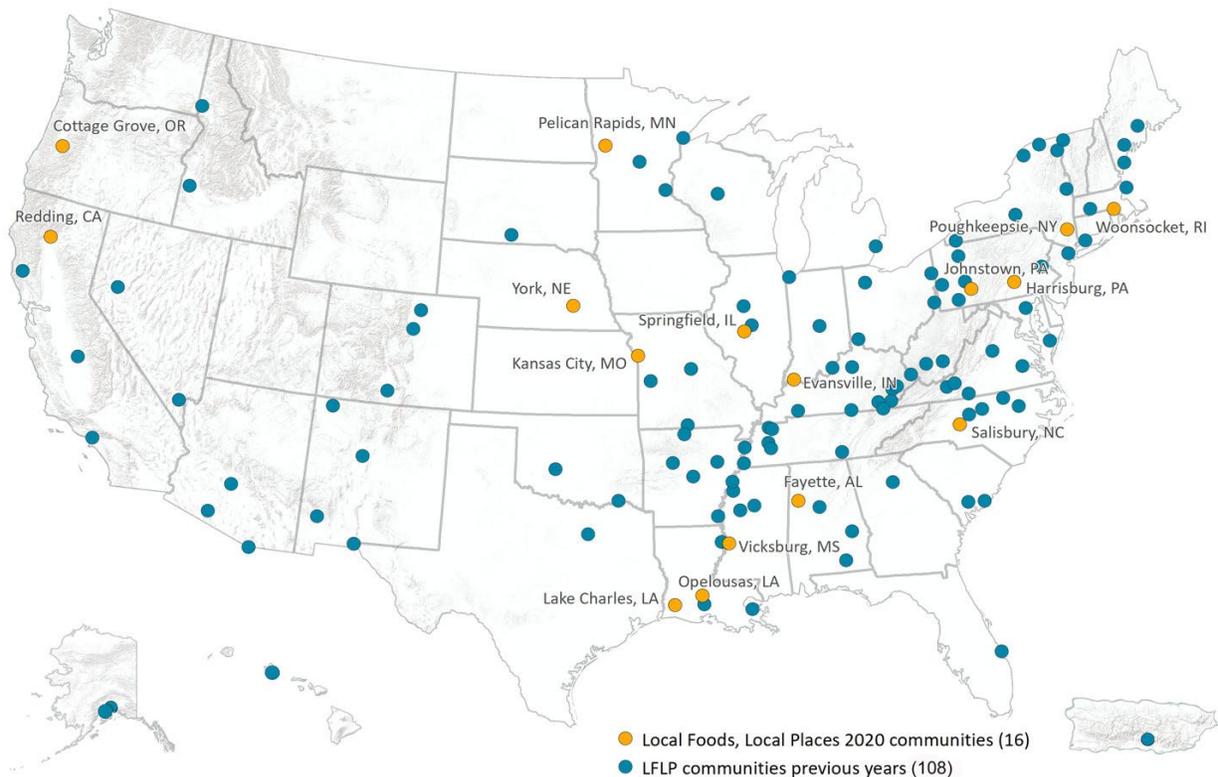
2020 PARTNER COMMUNITIES

MAY 2020

LocalFoods, LocalPlaces, established in 2014, helps cities and towns across the country protect the environment and human health by engaging with local partners to reinvest in existing neighborhoods using local food enterprise. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture selected 16 communities to participate in **LocalFoods, LocalPlaces** in 2020. In each partner community, a team of experts will help community members set goals and plan projects that can boost local economies and drive downtown and neighborhood revitalization. Projects might include farmers markets, local food cooperatives, community gardens, and other food-related enterprises. By promoting better health, a cleaner environment, and stronger economies, **Local Foods, Local Places** also supports efforts to alleviate poverty and boost wellness among children. In 2020, federal partners invested more than \$350,000 in **Local Foods, Local Places**.



Local Foods, Local Places 2020



Local Foods, Local Places helps communities create walkable, healthy, economically vibrant neighborhoods through the development of local food systems.

*Sources: Local Foods, Local Places
U.S. Census Bureau*



Alabama

Working alongside residents, a community team led by the **Fayette** County Extension Office wants to strategically relocate its local farmers market to an underused space downtown to enhance the sense of place and increase local food options.

California

In **Redding**, Healthy Shasta plans to strengthen the local food system to support a more vibrant, walkable downtown and ensure downtown residents can get affordable, fresh, and healthy food.

Illinois

The city of **Springfield** is seeking assistance to explore options that will support local food entrepreneurs who need a commercial kitchen and training center as part of broader city efforts to revitalize the historic downtown.

Indiana

The city of **Evansville** is planning to transition an abandoned food back facility, located on a Superfund site, into a multi-use food center to address food insecurity and provide resources for local food entrepreneurs.

Louisiana

Building upon a recent brownfields assessment of downtown, the **Opelousas** General Health System Foundation is exploring how a cultural tourism hub can bridge gaps between revitalization and healthier cultural eating alternatives.

The SWLA Center for Health Services in **Lake Charles** is launching a community food policy workgroup to build out a vision for the local food system to include community gardens, outreach to schools, pocket gardens, and education on the value of planting fruit trees, especially on unused land in blighted neighborhoods.

Minnesota

In **Pelican Rapids**, West Central Initiative is exploring options to support downtown revitalization by growing food-related assets to create an international marketplace destination reflecting and supporting the town's ethnically diverse population.



Locating a farmers market on a main street attracts more people and businesses to the area.



High tunnel gardens allow more types of food to grow in a community, extending the growing season and increasing local food sources.



Mississippi

Shape Up Mississippi in **Vicksburg** wants to create an educational and economical food hub combining a farmers market, community garden, demonstration kitchen, educational center, and the Catfish Row Museum that explains the local culture and its relationship to the Mississippi River.

Missouri

The Mattie Rhodes Center in **Kansas City** wishes to create a viable food hub and community gardens on a cleaned-up brownfields site located in an urban food desert that is home to a large immigrant population.

Nebraska

In **York**, the County Development Corporation wants to engage the community in re-envisioning a revitalization plan for green space surrounding the downtown farmers market and create community gardens as part of its plan to improve soil conditions and water quality on city land with wells that are the source of city drinking water.

New York

Hudson River Housing, Inc., in **Poughkeepsie** aims to support downtown food entrepreneurs in a former factory by adding food production and processing capacity to existing affordable housing and a commercial kitchen.

North Carolina

In **Salisbury**, the city seeks to strengthen small retail business activity and downtown revitalization by exploring co-operative opportunities beyond a seasonal, outdoor farmers market model.

Oregon

The city of **Cottage Grove**, a historic timber and mining town, wants to better connect and coalesce several food and placemaking efforts including downtown revitalization, complete streets, food hub support to the local immigrant community, and restoration of a former armory into a community center and commercial kitchen.

Pennsylvania

The Redevelopment Authority of the city of **Harrisburg** is pursuing a recommendation from its EPA brownfields area-wide plan to introduce a food accelerator on a former brownfield site to education the community about urban food solutions, provide culinary job training, and better connect stores and restaurants to local growers.



Community gardens improve access to healthy local foods and provide places for children to learn and play.



Trails and walking bridges connect people to different parts of a community, improving accessibility while encouraging healthy activities.



As part of the development of both local food and green infrastructure strategies in **Johnstown**, Vision Together 2025 seeks to improve the post-steel manufacturing economy of the city by repurposing the historic downtown train station into a healthy food and transit hub that includes a farmers market and culinary institute, initiating an urban agriculture pilot on a vacant downtown lot, and proceeding with an “Iron-to-Arts” corridor trail system and complete streets plan to better connect downtown assets.

Rhode Island

NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley in **Woonsocket** wants to leverage improvements initiated through a Main Street Livability Plan by redeveloping defunct mill sites undergoing brownfields cleanup to establish downtown as a vibrant food hub and center for food entrepreneurs.

For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-place>