

HER NOPREN

Resilient Food Systems & Nutrition Work Group

25 January 2024

A solid orange horizontal bar spanning the width of the slide at the bottom.

Meeting Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Key takeaways from kickoff meeting**
- **Speaker 1: Annelise Straw**
- **Speaker 2: Elisa Muñoz**
- **Closing logistics**

A few quick introductions ...



The Local and Regional Food Systems Resilience Playbook

Annelise Straw, USDA

The Local and Regional Food System Recovery and Resilience Project 2.0

A project led by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service along with cooperating researchers and community partners.

<https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/>



Our Work Together By The Numbers 2020-2022

1 USDA Agency	1 Data Warehouse	1 Resilience Playbook	3 Land Grant Universities
3 Action Teams	8 Consumer Food Insights	17 National Webinars	8 Communities of Practice
18 Network Members	125 Average Webinar Participants	> 180 Unique Resources	>50,000 Resource Hub Visits

The Local and Regional Food Systems Resilience Playbook

A Primer for Food System Leaders on
Local and Regional Food Systems
Strengths and Vulnerabilities in Times of
Disruption

Colorado State University | USDA Agricultural Marketing Service |
University of Kentucky



Why A Resilience Playbook?

The Rationale:

Can we synthesize what we've learned and "stay ready" for the next go-round?

Resilience as a fraught term among partners – necessary to define.

Our stakeholders were clear they work best when conceptual frameworks are paired with concrete examples.

The Product:

Web-based & interactive

Pairs high level analysis and insights of LRFS disruption response with concrete examples of resilience in action.

Is integrated into the broader project website, resource hub, and local food system data tools.

Useful For:

Community leaders in a position to mobilize and coordinate disruption response.

Disaster response professional looking to learn how to support and leverage LRFS in emergency response and feeding.

LRFS leaders looking for opportunities for self assessment and understanding of full systems perspectives.

What We Did

1

Analysis of 1.0 outputs and findings: Resilience in action

2

Conducted additional research with climate-impacted LRFS stakeholders and emergency response experts

3

Developed a framework for equitable resilience for LRFS

4

Developed the playbook and associated tools based on observed challenges and opportunities for engaging LRFS during disruption

Who Uses This and How?

If you are a....


Food Systems Leader who is interested in building cross sectoral connections and relationships...

Disaster Response Professional who works outside of local and regional food systems...

Individual Stakeholder thinking about the challenges and opportunities your business might face during a disruption...

Local Government or Policy Professional who coordinates community planning and disaster response...

Food Studies Educator developing curriculum on local and regional food systems and looking to foster systems-thinking...



Local and Regional Food Systems Response to Covid
Resilience and Resilience

Resource Hub Consumer Food Insights Innovation Briefs Sector Snapshots Webinar Series Partners About

The Local And Regional Food Systems Resilience Playbook

A Primer for Food System Leaders on Local and Regional Food Systems Strengths and Vulnerabilities in Times of Disruption

EXPLORE THE PLAYBOOK

About the Playbook

The **Local and Regional Food Systems (LRFS) Resilience Playbook** is a collaborative effort between university-based researchers, LRFS leaders, and USDA representatives. The Playbook is designed to support food systems leaders seeking to broaden and deepen their understanding of the distinct strengths and vulnerabilities of LRFS in times of disruption. It is meant to be part primer, part inspirational guide that aims to provide sufficient examples and context to help readers consider and envision what resilience looks like in their own food systems following a disaster.

Our efforts on the playbook began with the question: "How many times do we have to re-learn the lessons of disaster in local and regional food systems?" Grounded in examples of real-time adaptation and resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic, our playbook grew into a web-based resource providing frameworks, strategies, and real-life examples to support and inspire LRFS leaders to create short, mid, and long-term approaches to equitable resilience. Created based on input and oversight from LRFS project partners, and an explicit desire for a practical, approachable, and actionable product, the Resilience Playbook highlights the diverse knowledge, resources, strategies and network connections leveraged by LRFS as they navigated their responses to COVID-19 and climate-related disruptions.

As we learned through the development of this playbook, communities with existing relationships, partnerships and regular channels of communication are best positioned to adapt when disaster or disruption strikes. While the playbook offers insights and distinct considerations from specific sectors of LRFS and types of disruptions, the primary purpose is to support leaders positioned to coordinate and mobilize disruption response.


The Resilience Playbook is intended as a first step for community leaders who recognize the need to better understand how to both support and leverage LRFS in emergency response and recovery across sectors and scales. That includes policy makers and governmental leaders coordinating community planning and response, LRFS sector leaders working to integrate and coordinate their stakeholders into those planning and response efforts, and partners from other key disaster response sectors and agencies looking to broaden engagement and deepen partnerships.

Using the many examples included throughout the Playbook, you can think through LRFS sector-specific responses to disruption, find guidance on how to convene a network of stakeholders to coordinate short and mid-term LRFS activities, and explore the different types of financial resources LRFS might leverage to support not only immediate disaster response, but also short- to long-term equitable resilience.

Centering Equity in Resilience

Throughout the Playbook, we seek to center considerations of equity, diversity and inclusion. The Playbook includes our framework for equitable resilience, and why we think the resilience is best conceived as an ongoing process, rather than a definitive outcome. We offer principles that can serve as key points of reflection for any LRFS community seeking to build systems of relationship, resource allocation and response initiatives that build towards greater equity and resilience for all members of the local system. However, the work of creating equity, diversity and inclusion does not end there, and we have done our best throughout the Playbook to integrate examples and insights that reflect the diversity of communities, expertise, and experience that make LRFS the resilient, invaluable, and vibrant systems for our communities.





Explore The Local and Regional Food Systems Resilience Playbook

A Primer for Food System Leaders on Local and Regional Food Systems Strengths and Vulnerabilities in Times of Disruption

EXPLORE THE PLAYBOOK

Contact Us

We welcome any comments and feedback from local and regional food system stakeholders after using this resource. We also encourage you to use this space to share stories and ask questions.

© 2021 National Food Systems Resilience Center

Observed Challenge/Need	Playbook Resources
Lots of ad hoc coordinating efforts, webinars, and google docs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to organize and run a LRFS network response call worksheet • Links to example agendas, note taking documents
Lack of general understanding and engagement with formal federal and state emergency response efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar and write up with federal, state, Extension and community leaders explaining roles and functions • Overview of how emergency feeding efforts can effectively engage LRFS
Simultaneous social, climate, and public health crises confound response efforts and can create inequitable and unjust cycles of 'resilience'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies and findings from wildfire, storm, and island community LRFS efforts. • Framework developed by BIPOC leaders to showcase practices & equity-centered LRFS efforts. • Development of equitable resilience framework and principles.
Confusion and lack of clear guidance for how to find and secure financial resources for response and recovery efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chart explaining different types, sources, uses and timelines of funding (rather than infinite list of federal grants). • Map of federally funded Recovery and LRFS projects showing where investments are made. • State government study on funding innovations.

Key Pillars of Resilience supporting LRFS in times of disruption:

Equitable Response and Recovery

Supporting Local and Regional Supply Chains

Maintaining Markets





Local and Regional Food Systems Response to COVID: Recovery and Resilience

A Framework for Equitable Resilience

Resilience Playbook Project Team 2022

Elizabeth Atwell (Wallace Center)
Ellie Bomstein (Wallace Center)
Lilian Brislen (Colorado State University)
Tomas Delgado (National Farm to School Network)
Liv Froehlich (FairShare CSA Coalition)
Courtney Long (Iowa State University)
Traci Mouw (USDA)
Jasmine Ratliff (Black Food Justice Alliance)
Jairus Rossi (University of Kentucky)
Samantha Schaffstall Dopp (USDA)
Susan Schempf (Wallace Center)
Sommer Sibilly-Brown (Good Food Virgin Islands)
Annelise Straw (USDA)
Deb Trocha (IN Cooperative Development Centers)

The COVID-19 pandemic illuminated the many ways people working in communities and governments are developing comprehensive approaches to preparing, responding, and recovering from disaster and disruption. The playbook captures some, but certainly not all, of these approaches to provide guidance to future food systems leaders for when similar disruptions inevitably occur. The COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing climate crises show us that disruptions are inherently unpredictable and affect each community differently. Therefore, we know a top down, prescriptive approach to disaster preparedness won't work. It's also critical to understand how systemic injustice impacts people's ability to prepare, respond, and manage disruptions in the food system. Addressing inequity is a key aspect of disaster preparedness and response, but also a core component of building vibrant, robust, and equitable food systems.

Throughout the Local and Regional Food Systems playbook, we use the term resilience because it communicates that the strengths and vulnerabilities of communities change across time and place. The term resilience is often associated with examples of individuals and communities persisting through adversity. We recognize that the term can also normalize and perpetuate the conditions that create inequality and adversity in the first place.

Below is an outline of the playbook's approach to and understanding of resilience as a concept, emphasizing the *process* of achieving and maintaining resilience of any system (food system, educational system, ecosystem, etc.). Understanding resilience as a dynamic, relational, and evolving process, and not something to "achieve" allows us to focus on a learning process, rather than a destination.

The processes necessary for fostering resilience look different for every community and change over time. No single program, policy or model will work everywhere all the time. However, systems are strongest when their resources, connections, and information are readily accessible by everyone impacted by them, and all needs of all people are met. Therefore, connecting with stakeholders across multiple sectors, organizations, and places to amplify expertise and resources is fundamental to quick problem solving, adaptation, and other resilience processes.

It is important to acknowledge that within disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts, it is nearly impossible to ensure everyone is included.

KEY PRACTICES & PRINCIPLES FOR ESTABLISHING EQUITABLE AND RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

Local and Regional Food Systems Resilience Playbook

Click on the arrow to the right to look through the key practices and principles.



Resources and relationships must **incorporate different scales** of operations and diverse stakeholder groups to make sure that response efforts are aligned and efficient.



LRFS leaders must **identify systemic barriers** to ensure that those most impacted by a disruption can access resources and information.



Impacted communities must have **access to resources, markets, and expertise** to ensure flexible, redundant, and innovative adaptations in times of disruption.



Share with and learn from related food system networks across market channels, regions, or other factors to introduce new expertise, examples, and resources in times of disruption and growth.



Ongoing and regular community dialogue is necessary to develop shared visions for vibrant, equitable food systems and identify and evaluate areas of change, growth, and needed adaptation.

Guiding Questions for Discussion

- Considering the current state of knowledge, resources, strategies, and relationships within our local or regional food system:
 - Which of these principles are strong or well realized?
 - Which of the principles are we in the process of enacting?
 - Are there any principles that are not at all present, and what can be done to address that absence?
- What are examples of what these principles look like in action for our community?
- Can we identify examples of a clear absence of one or more of these principles in our local or regional food system? Whose perspective or experience should we learn from to understand and address the issue?

Visit our website for more details about the project and resources for LRFS.

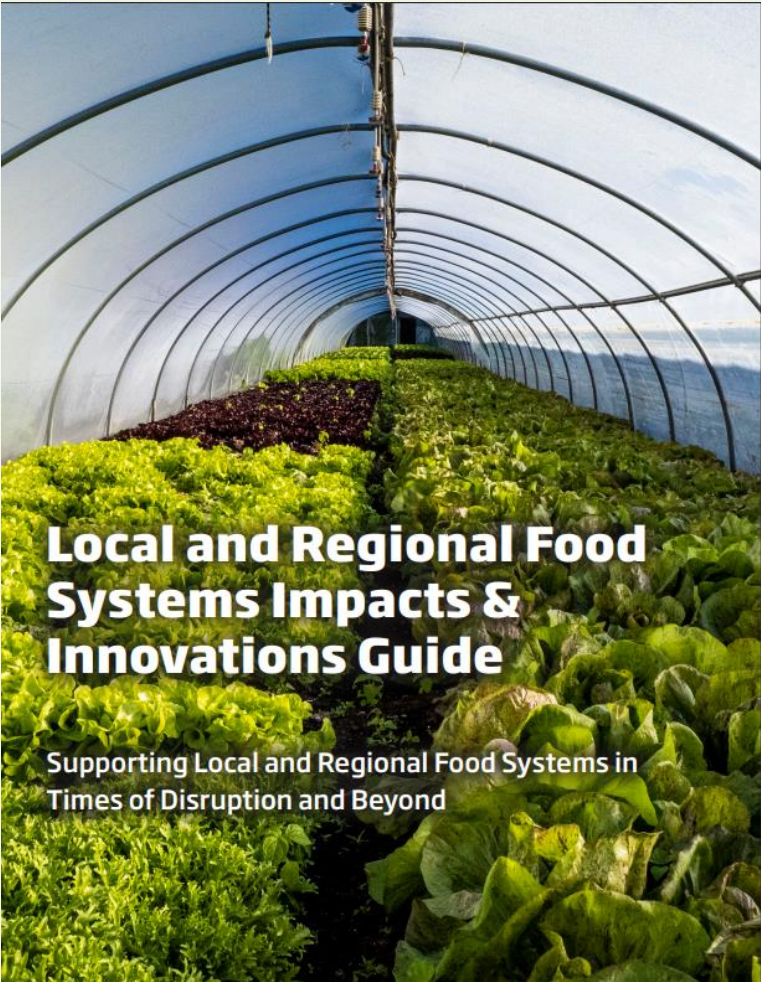
<https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com/>

Impacts & Innovations

The Local and Regional Food Systems Resilience Playbook



Executive Summary Playbook Overview Equitable Resilience Impacts & Innovations Equitable Response & Recovery Supporting Supply Chains Maintaining Markets Engaging Beyond the



Local and Regional Food Systems Impacts & Innovations Guide

Supporting Local and Regional Food Systems in Times of Disruption and Beyond

Direct to Consumer

Equitable Response & Recovery

Impacts and Response in LRFS

- Diversified direct to consumer operations with undesignated produce and/or livestock growing in the fields face distinct challenges in pivoting their business to ensure their product finds a market when their normal markets are shut down or unreachable.
- Geographically remote (e.g., rural, island, and other remote communities) LRFS producers are especially vulnerable to market disruption due to limited access to alternative markets.

Resilience in Action

Thinking Inside the Box Innovation Brief: Farmers markets and CSAs pivoted to food box programs and curbside and drive-thru models to continue market access while also continuing SNAP/EBT payment and nutrition incentive program access.

What is a Sliding Scale You Ask?, developed by Underground Alchemy: This resource explains how sliding-scale CSAs are tools for building economic justice while simultaneously ensuring fair compensation to producers.

Supporting Local & Regional Supply Chains

Impacts and Response in LRFS

- Long standing and well-known market infrastructure and locations (e.g., farmers market pavilions, roadside stands) are displaced or shut down due to evacuations and/or public health restrictions.

Resilience in Action

Alternative Farmers Market Models Innovation Brief: By leveraging social media as a key communication platform and partnering with municipal and NGO partners, farmers markets and other direct to consumer outlets rapidly established alternative market locations and drive-through models.



Institutions and Wholesale

Supporting Local & Regional Supply Chains

Impacts and Response in LRFS

- Institutional and wholesale markets experience both supply chain shortages and dramatic financial loss in times of crisis.
- Consumers reliant on cafeterias, restaurants, and other wholesale outlets are significantly impacted by reduced food access points when these outlets close.
- Food producers who have invested significant time and money into growing mid-tier markets may be left with abundant product and no clear way to get it into the marketplace because of inflexibility and lack of diversity within consolidated food supply chains.

Resilience in Action

Access Point Innovation Brief: Schools can become central distribution points for various types of food share programs ranging from Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares, local food boxes, or grocery bags by partnering with philanthropic organizations, city governments, and non-profit community organizations.

From Food Hubs to CSAs Innovation Brief: Because of their investments in mid-sized infrastructure and value chains, food hubs and wholesale value chains provide essential built and soft infrastructure for farmers and communities in times of disruption. This infrastructure helps to create and grow market channels for farmers and establishes avenues to get food to people in need.

Food Hub Infrastructure in Hawaii: On islands and in other geographically remote communities, mid-sized value chain infrastructure can adapt to the unique geography and context of the communities.



Stories of Resilience

Navigating COVID-19 Relief for Farmers

Farmer-focused resource to navigate the challenging financial circumstances sparked by COVID-19.

<https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com>



Investing in the Future of School Food

Highlights how investment in farm to institution infrastructure is a wise for LRFS supply chains and markets.

<https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com>



Wildfire Relief Fund for Oregon Farmers

Community-based organizations are often the first to respond to natural disasters as they have a deep understanding of the needs ...

<https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com>



State Investments and Innovations in Meat

This case study provides examples of state-led meat processing investments and capacity building from IA, KY, and CO.


<https://lfscovid.localfoodeconomics.com>




What Role Does Local Food Play in Emergency Feeding Operations?

While this playbook focuses primarily on local and community-based responses to disaster and disruption, these grassroots efforts can also coordinate and engage with formal emergency response efforts for even greater impact. This video explains emergency response systems at different scales and describes how local and regional food systems interface with federally coordinated disaster response, strategies, and innovations for emergency feeding. Panelists described how different organizations and locations respond to and coordinate around disasters at the federal, state, and local levels. The conversation serves as an introduction to how


- emergency management systems intersect
- with local and regional food systems.

 **Understanding Emergency Response Systems**
Resilience Playbook


Understanding Emergency Response Systems




Moderated By
Courtney Long
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach




Christine Heyser
PA Department of Human Services




Julia Van Soelen Kim
UC Cooperative Extension



Sommer Sibilly Brown
Good Food Virgin Islands



Traci Mouw
USDA Food and Nutrition Service



Local and Regional Food Systems Response to COVID

Recovery and Resilience

Network Response Calls Planning Tool

The planning tool at right and linked below was created to help users prepare for future disruptions. It can also be used early in the emergency recovery process to determine how to connect, what to cover, and with whom. It is designed to help food systems leaders craft, promote, host, and manage calls connecting stakeholder networks during an emergency. This could either be individuals or organizations who are currently convening networks of food systems stakeholders, or in contexts where a new network could help with information sharing and coordination in the wake of a disruption.

By responding to the prompts and questions in the worksheet, users will be able to design valuable and organized network calls to ensure that their response to an emergency is coordinated and consistent. Users will receive a copy of their responses via email to use as a guide and reference for next steps. Responses to this form will not be tracked or followed up on, as the data collected is intended only for community use as a planning tool.

Click at right to use the network call planning tool or use the link below.

1

First Major Considerations

2

Network Response Call Logistics

3

Evaluating and Learning

**Email** *(Required)***First Major Considerations:**

What information is trying to be shared in this group?

Where is this information?

How do we use this call to address this goal?

Step 1: Where are you as a network? What should you be thinking about around network response and coordinating convenings?

Write a few sentences explaining the current or potential situation to which this network will respond.

Which of the following topics will be addressed in your calls? (Select all that apply, reference 

LRFS Data Visualization

FAME Home

Indicator Map

Local Foods Markets Map

Key Food Metrics

Nutrition Security & Food Access

Labor

Infrastructure

Community Resources

FAME

Food & Agriculture Mapper & Explorer



The **Food & Agriculture Mapper & Explorer (FAME)** brings together data from dozens of publicly available datasets to make it easy for food systems practitioners to search and visualize up-to-date information on Local and Regional Food Systems in the US.

FAME can be used for program design, grant writing, advocacy, or simply learning about the state of local food systems in your area. Most of the data in the explorer is at the County level, but it also contains some National and State-level data for comparison.

Data will be updated periodically, with the latest update noted at the bottom of this page.

Using the Maps: For either map, follow steps on the right side of their respective pages. When selecting states, a US option is available for certain indicators.

Using Key Food Metrics and Topic Area dashboards: Change displayed regions by selecting states (and US option, when data available), followed by counties.

FAME was created by Data Elevates for the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service and Colorado State University Cooperative Agreement 21-TMMSD-CO-0005.





Data updated: 10/23/2022

A Quick Guide to FAME

Looking for a full set of food system indicators by county or region, go to:



Looking for point level data for various food markets, go to:




Looking for a data snapshot by key topic areas, go to any of the below:



Looking for a high-level snapshot of a region's food system, go to:



LRFS Data Warehouse



Product ▾ Solutions ▾ Open Source ▾ Pricing

Search or jump to...

Sign in

CSU-Local-and-Regional-Food-Systems / USDA-AMS-Data-and-Metrics Public

Notifications

Fork 10

Star

<> Code

Issues

Pull requests 2

Actions

Projects

Security

Insights

main ▾


1 Branch

0 Tags

Go to file

<> Code ▾

About

 alliebauman update readme 0bcbcc2 · 9 months ago 12 Commits

Business Development and Infrastructure

updated files

2 years ago

Food Access

updated files

2 years ago

Grants

updated files

2 years ago

Indicators of Community Wealth

updated files

2 years ago

Labor

updated files

2 years ago

Local Food Sales

update readme

9 months ago

No description, website, or topic

Readme

CC-BY-4.0 license

Code of conduct

Activity

Custom properties

9 stars

1 watching

10 forks

Report repository

Next Steps

- 1 Share the Playbook with your stakeholders and networks.
- 2 Connect with potential user groups, assess their willingness and interest in using the Playbook, provide support in doing so.
- 3 Reach out to us with any questions, comments, or suggestions!
Annelise.straw@usda.gov



Thank you!

How can DSNAP meet people
where they are when disaster
strikes?

**Elisa Muñoz, New Orleans Food
Policy Action Council**

HOW CAN DSNAP MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE WHEN DISASTER STRIKES?

NEW ORLEANS FOOD POLICY
ACTION COUNCIL

IMPORTANCE OF STUDY

In Louisiana, food access and security cannot be separated from disaster relief. We are seeing an increase in the frequency and intensity of storms, and while emergency food is essential, it often does not meet all of the needs of those impacted and can be difficult long-term. This project has the potential to model how a community driven plan for DSNAP can help alleviate the impacts of disaster.

In order to get an idea of how people experience DSNAP in Louisiana, **FPAC sought to hear directly from communities who have been impacted.**

METHODOLOGY

Survey Creation

FPAC collaborated with partners and organizations across the state to create a 27 question survey that would allow us to understand DSNAP user experiences. Questions would provide insight to the application process, utilization of benefits, challenges and barriers faced, and demographic information.

Eligibility Criteria

Individuals who have applied for DSNAP following a major disaster in the last five years. This excluded any individuals who already received SNAP as they do not endure the same DSNAP application process.

Survey Compensation

We offered an incentive of \$10 for participation.

Collection Sites

- Survey Monkey
- Alexandria Farmers Market operated by Louisiana Central
- Red Sticks Farmers Market in Baton Rouge, operated by Big River Economic and Agricultural Development Alliance (BREDA)
- Main Street Farmers Market in Baton Rouge, operated by the Big River Economic and Agricultural Development Alliance (BREDA)
- The Crescent City Farmers Market, operated by Market Umbrella in New Orleans (Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday markets)
- Lake Charles Ward 3 Martin Luther King Center

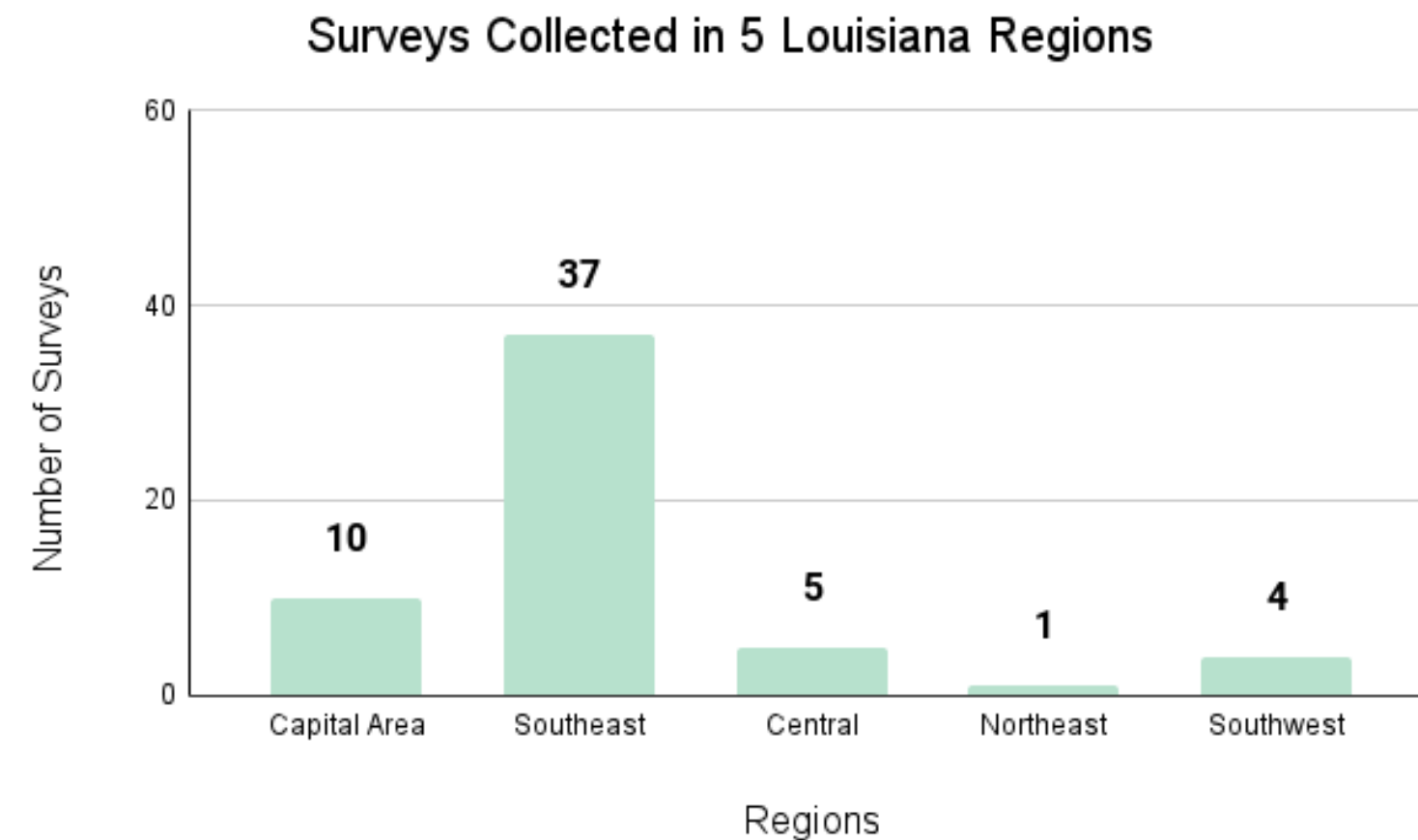
METHODOLOGY CONTINUED

Collection Method

Surveys were initially collected online via Survey Monkey. The survey was advertised at local businesses, farmers markets, social media, and sent to our partner organizations. This method was very successful until a boost in social media sharing lead to clear spam responses. We cut out the spam data, and reformatted our survey to an in-person format.

Adjusted Method

We condensed our questions from 27 to 13 by cutting out demographic and compensation questions. We then tabled at farmers markets and community centers around the state. The only difference with this format was the ability for individuals to speak more openly and provide more commentary that they could on the online survey. A \$10 incentive was offered in the form of cash or market tokens as an appreciation for their time.



METHODOLOGY CONTINUED

We asked a variety of questions about the process of applying for, receiving and using D-SNAP in order to understand the challenges and impacts at all stages of a disaster and relief/recovery. Some were multiple choice, others open-ended.

Questions included:

- How did you hear about DSNAP?
- Were you given enough time to apply between finding out about DSNAP and the application deadline?
- Thinking back and looking forward, what would have made or could make the DSNAP application easier for you?
- Did you have difficulty receiving your card? (due to displacement/change of address, P.O box unavailable, etc.)
- Did you have difficulties using DSNAP?
- Was there a store that accepted your card within 5 miles of your home?
- Thinking back, what would have made it easier for you to access food using your DSNAP after the disaster?

CHALLENGES

As we developed this study, FPAC felt it very important to gather feedback and insight from a region that is often hit the hardest by disaster and climate related weather events- the area South of New Orleans that we are calling the “Bayou Region.”

However, many challenges arose when obtaining DSNAP data from disaster-impacted communities in Southern Louisiana.

- Many residents are not aware of DSNAP, or are not aware that it is separate from SNAP
- After Ida, channels of communication that could be used to inform residents of potential DSNAP eligibility were damaged or out of operation
 - Many residents in these communities rely on physical media such as newspapers or bulletin boards
 - Power outages spanned two months in Southern parts of the parish, leaving no wi-fi access or a means to easily use a cellphone

While it is clear information regarding DSNAP is not reaching the majority of residents in this region, we faced more barriers based on the current state of these communities.

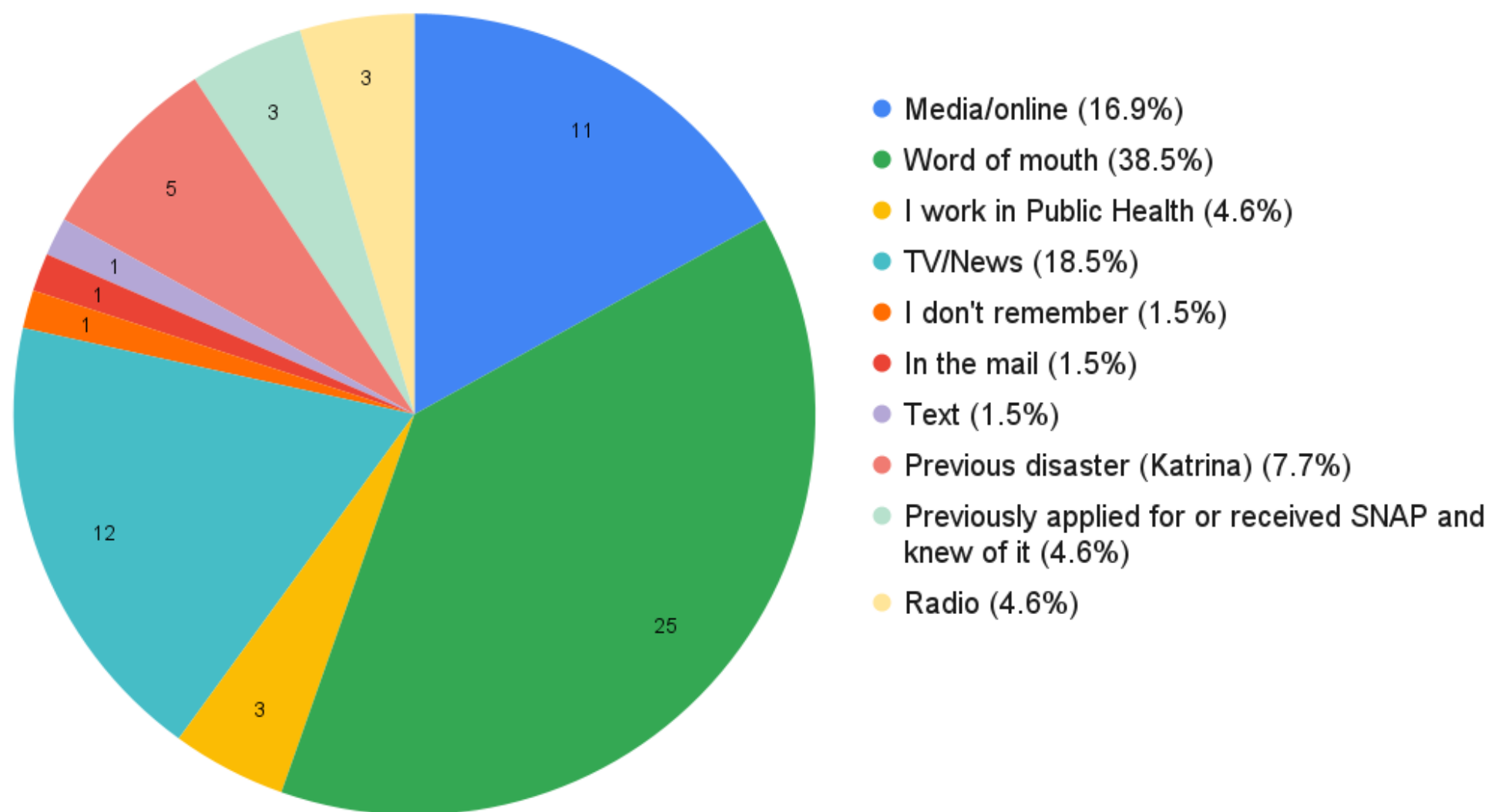
It has been two years since Ida, and most community centers and libraries have not been prioritized in recovery efforts. Southern Lafourche Parish has been without access to a public library since August of 2021. Libraries serve as a center in the community that aids with internet access and providing information to the community.

Due to the lack of information and thus participation in DSNAP in this region, and the lack of community structures to advertise the opportunity to participate in this survey, data was limited and difficult to obtain.

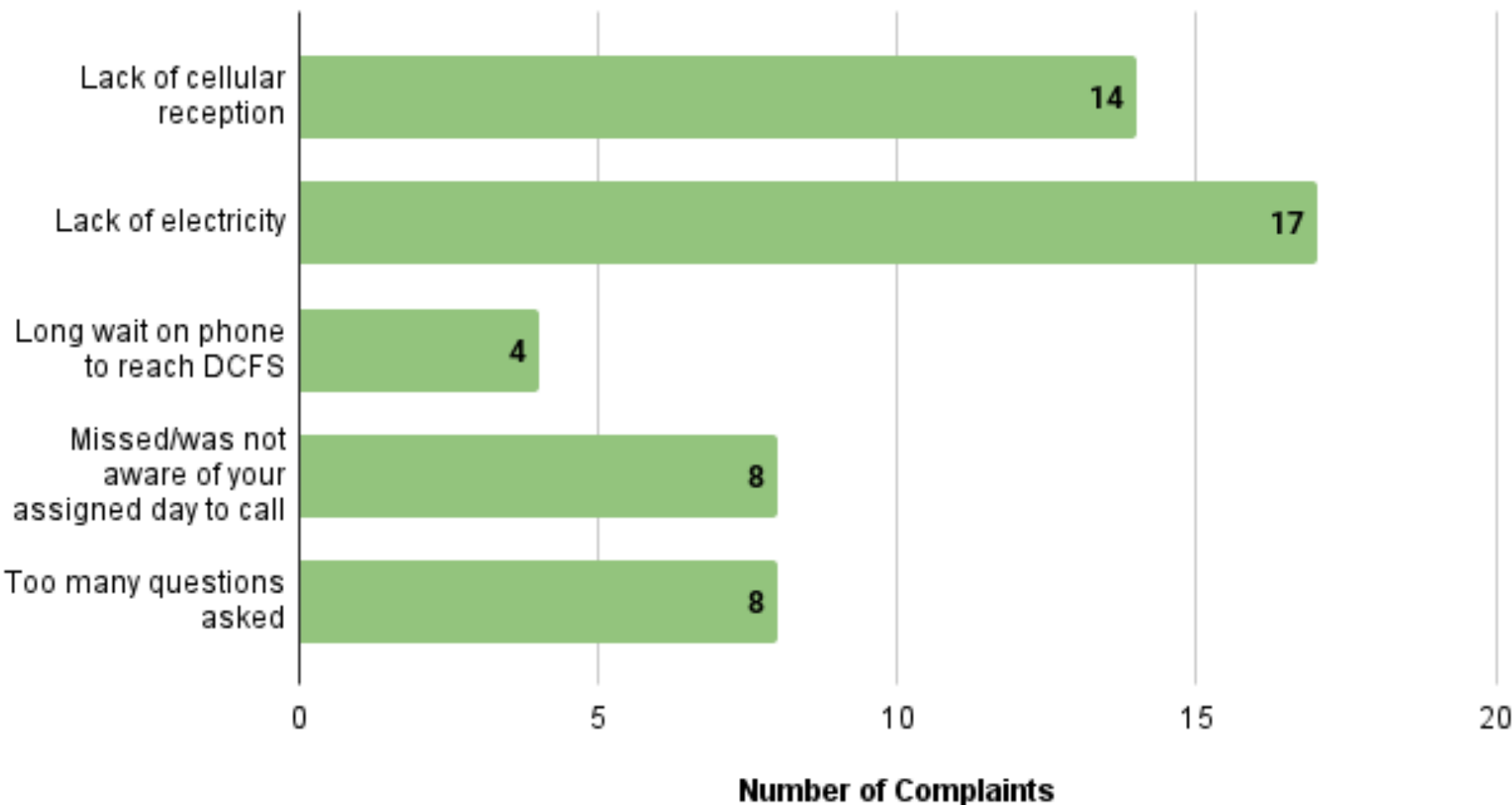
RESULTS

87.7% of applicants felt they had enough time to apply for DSNAP between finding out about it and the application deadline. The majority of participants (38.5%) heard about DSNAP through word of mouth.

How Participants Heard About DSNAP



Top 5 Challenges When Applying For DSNAP



57.9% of applicants had at least one difficulty when applying for DSNAP, with 29.8% facing two or more difficulties.

RESULTS

When asked the question **“Thinking back and looking forward, what would have made or could make the DSNAP application easier for you? Would pre-registering make it easier?”**, we found that

- About 50% of applicants agree pre-registering information into the system before a disaster would make the application easier.
- Another common suggestion was more clarification around the entire application process, including adding clear information about application due-dates, and eligibility guidelines so that ineligible applicants do not have to waste their time trying to reach DCFS for an interview, only to be denied DSNAP.
- Many applicants suggest making the option to apply in-person widely accessible and to increase the number of on the ground staff.

When asked the question **“Thinking back and to the future, what would have or could make it easier for you to access food using your DSNAP benefits after a disaster? Would expanding online food services/delivery options be helpful,”** we found that

- 47.4% of applicants expressed a desire to expand online and food delivery options. Many expressed the wish for their local store to be able to deliver via an online platform.
- Many applicants want to see an increase in the number of stores that accept DSNAP, especially smaller, local stores.
- Many applicants voiced the desire to make the hot food waiver the norm, as well as expanding the hot foods allowable such as grab and go meals, as many do not have electricity following a storm, making it nearly impossible to cook.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- **The ability to use DSNAP with online retailers** in order to better accommodate those who have a lack of access to reliable transportation in the aftermath of a disaster.
- **Clear process** and delineation between pre-registration and registration for benefits. There is conflicting information about the need to pre-register within states and around the country. The newly produced USDA report on D-SNAP shows that pre-registration is helpful, but currently, pre-registration is not used in Louisiana.
- **Clear eligibility guidelines** prior to the application process to avoid confusion and unnecessary applications.
- **Multiple modes of applying for DSNAP.** On the ground, in-person application sites as well as call centers and an online option is crucial. Individuals without cellular service or internet, both of which are often not accessible following a disaster, are unable to apply. Our elderly population is always at higher risk for this.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- **A national standard** and clear process for timeline and process for DSNAP approval during and after a disaster. Currently, timelines and processes are unclear and not standardized which causes confusion and uncertainty.
- A system to allow for **non-SNAP authorized mobile retailers to become temporarily authorized** in order to provide food and meals to people in disaster stricken regions who may not have access to kitchens, power, and the ability to prepare meals for their families.
- **Robust and transparent data collection** including applications received, benefits issued and benefits redeemed. This data should be disaggregated from regular SNAP usage in order to have a better understanding of who, how and where DSNAP benefits are needed and utilized. This data should be mandatory and publicly available.
- **Increased funding for state agencies** that process SNAP and DSNAP in order to increase capacity for responsiveness, communication, and efficiency. Most offices are trying their best but are not adequately funded or resourced to provide comprehensive services.

NEXT STEPS

- We will be releasing a report in early March, including recommendations
- Advocacy, Advocacy, Advocacy!
 - Farm Bill priorities, Louisiana State Legislature
 - Appropriations

**THANK YOU TO CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST
FOR SUPPORTING THIS IMPORTANT WORK**

LOUISIANA FARMER CLIMATE CONVENING

January 21-22 Louisiana Small Scale Agriculture Coalition (LSSAC), of which FPAC is a founding member, hosted over 150 farmers at Chicot State Park in Ville Platte, Louisiana. It was a rousing success of farmers coming together to connect, share and learn.



A solid orange vertical bar on the left side of the slide.

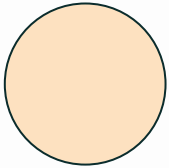
Kickoff Meeting Takeaways (Nov. 2024)

Topics of Interest

1. **Federal benefits during and after disasters: challenges & opportunities (WIC, SNAP, etc.)**
2. **Building resilience within food production and sourcing**
3. **Landscape of food system resilience work**
4. **Rural networks**
5. **Small and mid-scale farm resilience**
6. **Developing & operationalizing research-practice partnerships**
7. **Environmental justice**
8. **Global resilience initiatives**
9. **Supply chain interdependencies**
10. **Commercial determinants of health & resilience**
11. **Hidden groups, groups with vulnerabilities**

Please put other topics of interest in the chat!

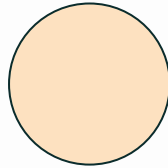
Other Ideas



Project

Where do federal food dollars go?

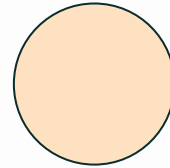
- Gap analysis
- Online tool



Networking

Mixer event

- Smaller groups/breakout rooms
- Key topics



Resource Sharing

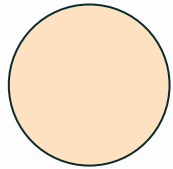
Create a platform for members to share resources

- Google document
- Slack

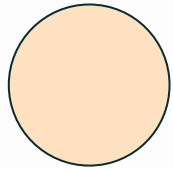
Please put other ideas in the chat!

***No July or December meeting

Next Meetings



What is the best day of the week for you to attend WG meetings?



What is the best time of day for you to attend WG meetings?

State of the Science

Monday, February 12
9am PST/12pm EST

Topic: Resilience

NOPREN hosts monthly expert-led webinars the 2nd Monday of each month at 9am PST/12pm EST for its members as a way to share the latest research and evidence in the field of nutrition and obesity policy.

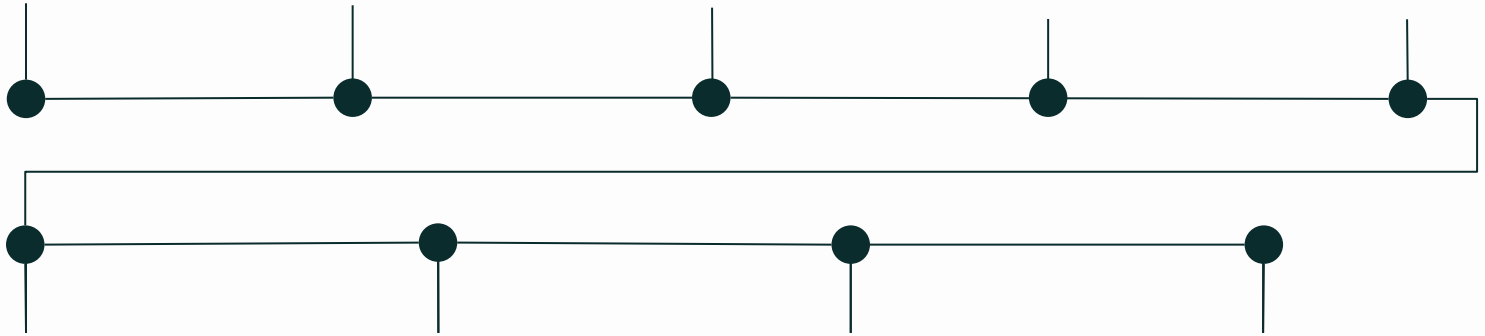
Thank you!

**Please reach out with any ideas,
suggestions or feedback**

Next Meetings

***No July or December meeting

Feb. 15th Mar. 21th Apr. 18th May 16th June 20th



Aug 15th

Sep. 19th

Oct. 17th

Nov. 21st