



# Growing an Equitable & Sustainable Food System

A Plan for Collaborative Action in Regional KC



# Coordinating Team



**Ami  
Freeberg**  
Cultivate KC



**Andrea  
Clark**  
KC Healthy  
Kids



**Daniel  
Robinson**  
Groundwork  
NRG



**Katie  
Nixon**  
New Growth



**Marlene  
Nagel**  
Mid-  
America  
Regional  
Council



**Rachael  
McGinnis  
Millsap**  
KC Healthy  
Kids

# Advisory Board

**Elizabeth Reynoso**

El Centro, Inc.

**Karen Siebert**

Harvesters

**Jamie Placht**

Kanbe's Markets

**Ed Smith**

Kansas City Indian Center

**Tom Buller**

Kansas Rural Center

**Anita Muniz-GrandPre**

K-State Research and Extension

**Semra Fetahovic**

K-State Urban Food Initiative

**Susan Jaster**

Lincoln University Cooperative Extension

**Robert Hicks**

Nanasoohannena Farm

**Shanita McAfee-Bryant**

The Prospect KC

**Jose Leon**

United Food and Commercial Workers  
Local 2



# Community Supporters

Allen County GROW  
Cass County Coalition  
Douglas County Food Policy Council  
Greater KC Food Policy Coalition  
Heart-N-Hand Ministries  
KC Farm School on Gibbs Road  
KC Young Farmers Coalition  
MU Extension  
The Kansas City Food Hub  
West Central Community Action Agency





# Project Funders

Blue KC

Hall Family Foundation

Health Forward Foundation

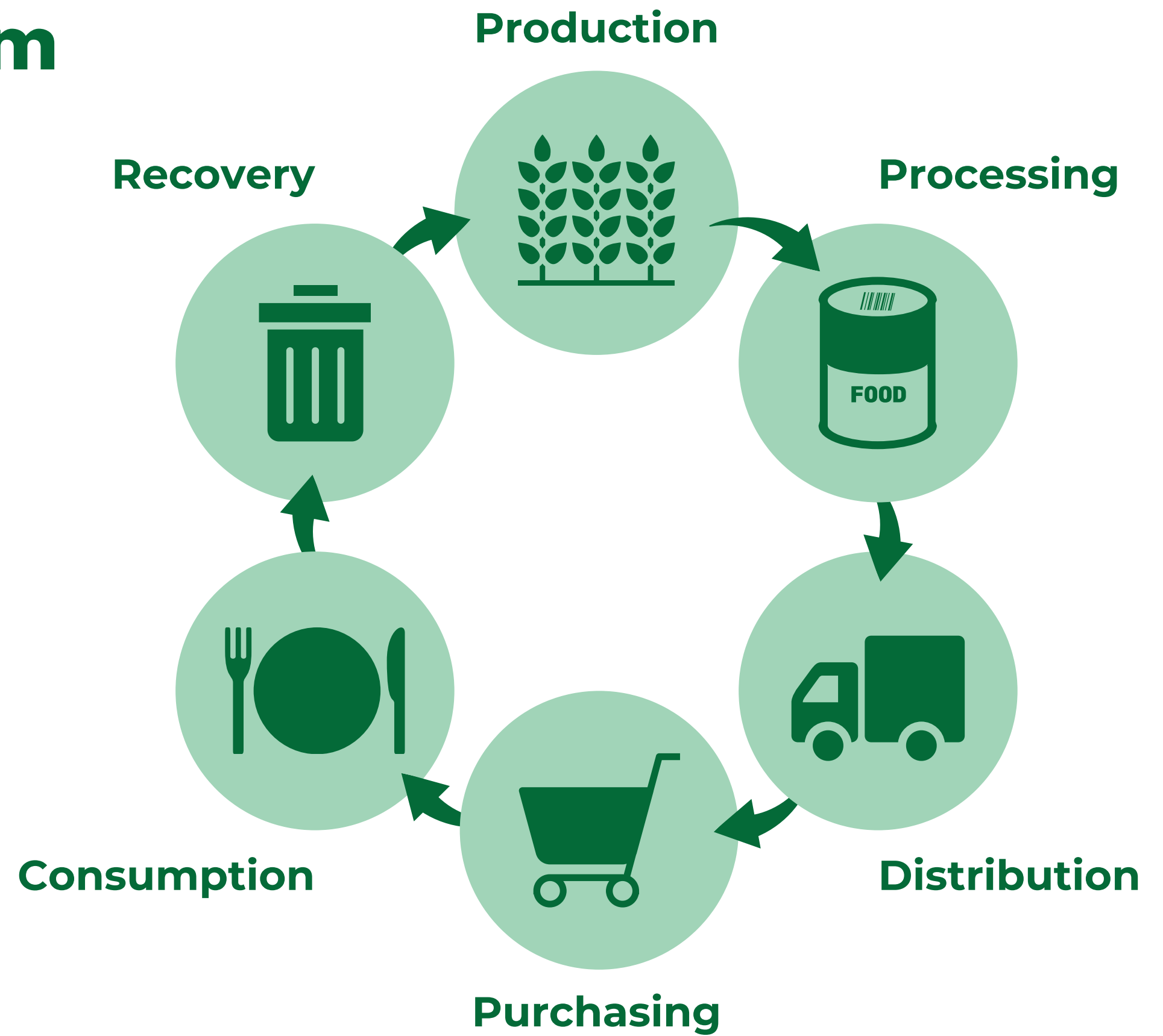
Henry E. Wurst Family Foundation

USDA Regional Food System Partnerships





# Regional Food System





# Project Goal

To identify equitable and sustainable strategies to connect local food producers and consumers, expand new and existing markets, and improve community food security.





# Project Activities

## **Advisory Board**

Form an advisory board with impacted stakeholders and leaders to help guide the project.

## **Assessment Report**

Conduct assessment by gathering data and engaging stakeholders in asset mapping and visioning activities.

## **Action Plan**

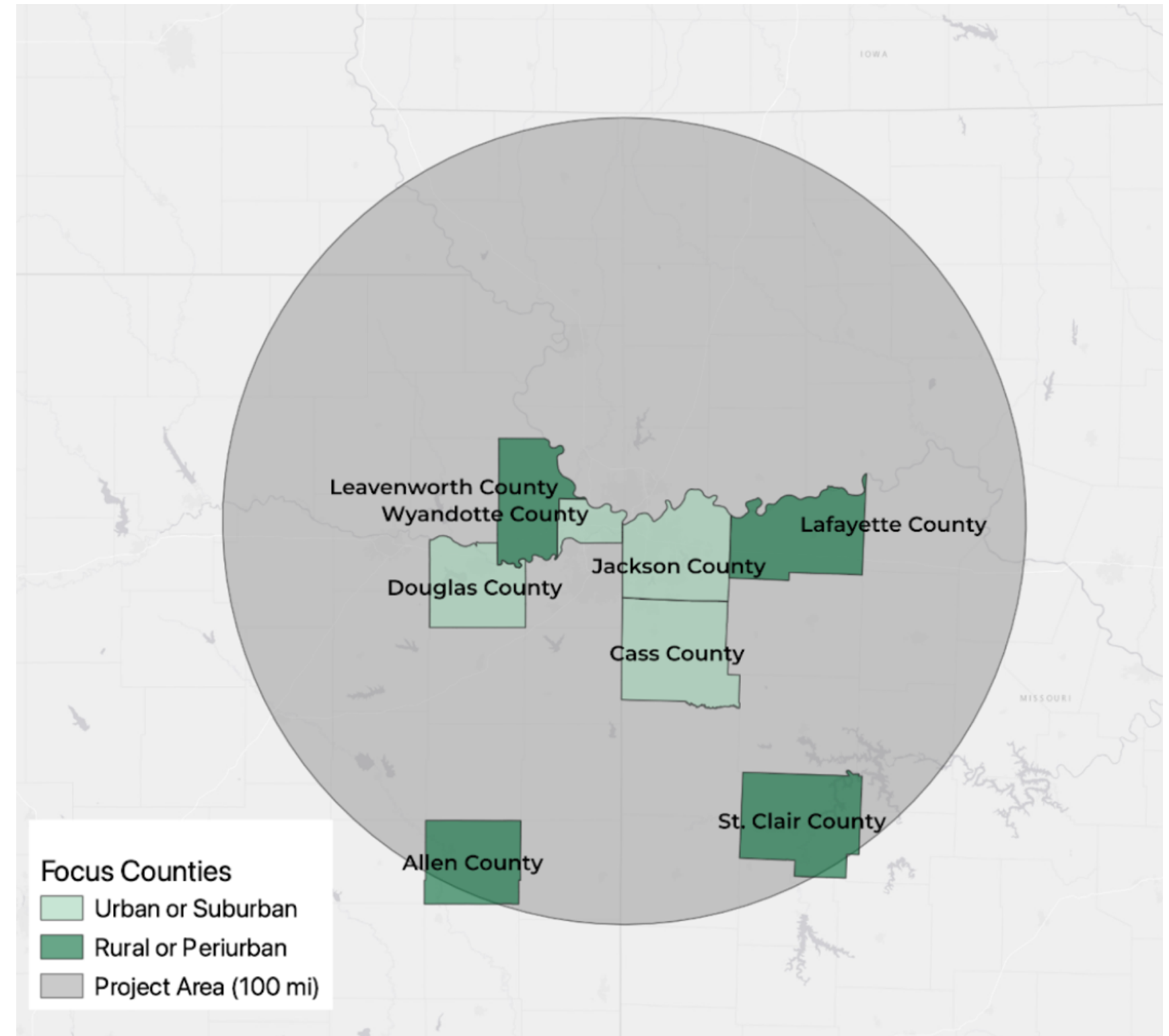
Solicit stakeholder feedback on assessment and identify steps for achieving collective vision, including models and strategies.



# Community Engagement

Over two years, we engaged 218 people at 22 focus groups in 8 priority counties.

About 87% of participants said they were likely to collaborate





# Navigating the Plan



## Growing an Equitable & Sustainable Food System

A Plan for Collaborative Action in Regional KC



# Action Plan

## Goals

Milestones  
towards our  
shared vision

## Strategies

Methods to  
achieve the  
goals

## Models

Demonstrate  
the strategies  
in action

## Partners

Groups to  
collaborate  
with



# Food Security

People experiencing food insecurity have consistent access to food, including culturally preferred or medically necessary food.

Image: Thelma's Kitchen





# Support Food Workers

Food system workers and local producers have a sustainable livelihood, including a living wage, economic viability, and access to affordable physical and mental healthcare.

Image: Heimsoth Farm





# Consumers Buy Local

Consumers know the benefits of and buy local food.

Image: Ophelia's Blue Vine Farm





# Food System Careers

People of all ages have an entry point into local food system careers, including youth and beginning farmers.

Image: KC Farm School at Gibbs Road





# Land Access

Local producers have access to affordable land in urban and rural areas.

Image: Pearl Family Farm





# Local Food Infrastructure

Local producers have infrastructure to aggregate, store, process, package, and distribute their products.

Image: The Kansas City Food Hub





# Farm to Market

Local producers have access to new and existing markets.

Image: Ophelia's Blue Vine Farm





# Food System Resources

Information and resources that support collaborative regional food system work are easily accessible.



Image: Ivanhoe Farmers Market



# From Plan to Action



Scan the QR code or visit our webpage to find out how you can get involved.

Find other regional food systems plans, current projects, and funding resources in the full action plan.

## Contact Us

Project Manager: Andrea Clark

Email: [aclark@kchealthykids.org](mailto:aclark@kchealthykids.org)

Phone: 816-523-5353

Web: [kchealthykids.org/food-system-planning](http://kchealthykids.org/food-system-planning)

**CULTIVATE** <sup>KC</sup> 

 **GROUNDWORK**  
CHANGING PLACES  
CHANGING LIVES **NRG**

**kchealthykids**™

**MARC**  
MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL

  
**NEW GROWTH**  
FROM DEEP ROOTS