PIVOTING IN AN ERA OF CHANGE

BUILDING A CROSS-SECTOR FOOD ACCESS SYSTEM THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS, YOUTH ENGAGEMENT, AND FARMING OF THE FUTURE



OCTOBER 2026

POLL: WHAT IS CREATING THE MOST PRESSURE ON YOUR WORK RIGHT NOW?

- Funding loss/change
- Staffing capacity
- Increasing community need
- Changing priorities
- Partnership coordination
- Something else

THE NEED DIDN'T CHANGE. THE ENVIRONMENT DID.

FOR YEARS

PHC used nutrition education to help young people understand and make healthier choices.

THEN OUR FUNDING CHANGED

The end of SNAP-Ed meant losing more than funding. We were at risk of losing a consistent platform for student voice and engagement.

SO WE ASKED A DIFFERENT QUESTION:

What if students didn't just learn how to make healthy choices—but helped shape the environments where those choices are made?

INFRASTRUCTURE TO BUILD ON

Food Sources

Local • Purchased • Donated • Rescued



Veggie Van

Food Distribution + Nutrition Education

Connecting people, food and places

COMMUNITY ACCESS POINTS

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Students

DETROIT

Familes



Seniors

FOOD ACCESS: MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ALREADY ARE















WHAT IF STUDENTS WEREN'T JUST RECIPIENTS?

Learn → Grow → Harvest → Eat → Share







PARTNERSHIPS PROVIDE THE RESOURCES. STUDENTS DRIVE THE WORK.



PANEL QUESTIONS

AUDIENCE ACTIVITY: BUILD FROM WHAT YOU HAVE

Your funding changed tomorrow. What do you already have?

Identify:

- **An asset you already have**
  - **Staff expertise, vehicle, facility, curriculum, equipment, data, relationships, etc.**
- **A trusted place/community partner**
  - **School, library, recreation center, faith organization, senior center, neighborhood group, etc.**
- **A partner with something you don't have**
  - **Food, expertise, technology, transportation, workforce connections, healthcare, space, etc.**

What could those three things become if you stopped thinking of them as separate programs?