

# PANTRY: DETAILED ECONOMIC INVESTMENT LEVERAGE POINTS LIST

## Upstream leverage points: Policies, laws, or regulations that improve community conditions, creating system-wide change

- 1.Brand locally produced or processed food from Flint to raise support for a local food economy and community empowerment
- 2.Create stronger policies for gardening and urban agriculture that avoid racial inequities and empower grassroots community leaders to engage the community in participating in production or sourcing local produce
- 3.Improve the economic conditions in Flint through employment, guaranteed basic income, increase disability or unemployment payments, etc. to systemically increase income which would improve nutrition (consider Flint level examples)
- 4.Raise household income and shift food consumption behavior, people do not have the means to justify buying expensive, nutritious food but increased income could make nutritious choices easier (consider Flint level examples)
- 5.Shift funding from the emergency sector to creating a sustainable localized production system that diminishes the need for emergency food
- 6.Create a mandate for local production/locally produced food, for example an institution must source a certain percentage locally to support and build and understanding of the importance of a local food economy
- 7.Double Up Food Bucks should return to only applying to locally produced food to better support the local food economy (consider Flint level examples)
- 8.Alleviating the economic and time burden which the Flint Water Crisis placed on Flint families (and disproportionately low income families) by providing clean and safe water for drinking and food preparation to all households
- 9.Economic investment and job programs in Flint that raise average household income, targeted specifically to low income families and the un/under-employed
- 10.Food produced in surrounding counties and processed in Flint
- 11.Employment and income levels boosted to match the national average (consider Flint level examples)

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## Midstream leverage points: Barriers that need to be addressed in order for the system to evolve; and/or support individual needs

1. Create communal greenhouses with volunteers or paid positions that would distribute produce to the community
2. Create educational and support systems to prepare people, school age to adult, for careers in the food system that will increase quality of life and community empowerment through meaningful employment
3. Increase the number of local food businesses through mechanisms like grants, lowering cost barriers, or support programs to help people start businesses, get licenses, scale up, etc.
4. Increase the number of smaller, high-quality, locally owned grocery stores in Flint to increase availability, community empowerment, and nutritious foods
5. Lower barriers for starting local food businesses, especially for immigrants which would also increase the availability of culturally relevant foods
6. Create zero interest loans for farmers to build infrastructure then pay off loans with produce that goes to families in need
7. Improve employment and livable wages to increase affordability and food access
8. Create an incentive for schools to bring in local farmers to increase food system education and nutritious food and overcome the challenges of maintaining partnerships
9. Develop partnerships to collaborate on getting grants and funding to create a sustainable local production system
10. Establish new or expand current wash and pack programs, where volunteers or paid employees minimally process excess produce from farmers that can be cooked into meals for schools or other institutions
11. Grow relationships between local restaurants/institutions and local producers so retailers would buy directly from growers
12. Have collaboration between or aggregation of smaller farms to reach certain markets
13. Increase partnerships to build sustainable businesses instead of needing to rely on grants
14. Increase retailers like local restaurants sourcing from local food producers and having stronger relationships between the sectors, to increase demands and supply of local produce
15. Increase the number of, potentially locally owned, grocery stores that offer a quality environment, and high-quality, affordable foods
16. Local restaurants could source more local ingredients to improve nutrition and support the local food economy
17. Retailers could source local produce and donate excess to the emergency sector, which would support local producers as well as increase access to nutritious options in the emergency sector and healthier diets
18. Increase the number of grocery stores, mobile markets, or streamlined neighborhood distributions to bring food into neighborhoods and improve food access. Vacant buildings could be used for food retailers.
19. Increase the number of local farmers by providing education and support, needed to catch up with the demand for local food

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## **Downstream leverage points: Addresses individual needs and crisis management**

1. Create a cooperative grocery store to increase community empowerment
2. Create a farmers market run by local farmers to strengthen a local food economy rather than middle and upper class businesspeople
3. Establish a food cooperative, increase food access to high quality, affordable food and increase community empowerment
4. Expand resources for local growers to hire and train others to become producers
5. Increase the number of local producers who are growing at a larger scale to reach certain markets and keep up with demand
6. Devote resources and better promote current resources available to help local producers to scale up and meet standards to sell into receivers like the food hub
7. Emergency sector could purchase locally produced food to support local farmers and increase access to nutritious foods
8. Increase food rescue and waste reduction through partnerships where producers or market sellers donating extra produce to the emergency sector or sell it to an organization like Flint Fresh to increase profit for farmers
9. Establish small farmers markets within neighborhoods