COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS

Certification + Train the Trainer

Program Narrative

The Iowa State University Community Food Systems Program Certification is intended for intermediate levels of local food practitioners who are interested in the development of their community food system. The program teaches the various phases of the Community Food Systems process that Iowa State University has worked on since 2014. The training will be offered as a two-day workshop followed by online modules. The in-person portion includes an overview of the Community Food Systems (CFS) program, coalition development, creative methods for engagement, and creating a community food systems assessment through mapping and public input sessions. Day two of the training includes determining priority projects, project management, design thinking, program evaluation, best practices and resources.

Following the 2-day workshop, individuals will participate in four online modules to complete certification. The online modules dive deeper into design thinking, economic impact, project management and community food systems assessment (including Mapping 101 curriculum).

It is recommended that the Local Food Leader workshop is hosted prior to the two-day CFS workshop for beginning local food practitioners

Opportunities:

This training was developed to achieve two different levels of certification.

Certificate of Completion: Participants will be prepared to work in their communities and conduct the full Community Food Systems Program from start to finish. Individuals will receive document templates for public input sessions, interviews, posters, community food systems assessments, and general project meeting agendas upon completion of the in-person workshop and online modules, as well as observation requirements.

Train the Trainer: In 2019, individuals may apply to become a trainer for the ISU CFS program based on completion the CFS certification. It is anticipated that certification workshops will continue nationally following the pilot, and we are looking for additional collaborators in this effort.

Training Goals:

Train local food practitioners in the community food systems process including: Community Food Systems Program, coalition development, creating community food systems assessments through mapping and public input sessions, priority project management, design thinking, best practices for community food system projects, and evaluation methods for project and program success. Individuals will leave with new skills and confidence to work with various communities in the development of their place-based community food system, with resources to both engage and complete projects relating to systemic community food system change.

Participants will be able to:

- Understand community food systems and how they relate to larger community and economic development goals
- Engage and empower community partners to work collectively toward a community food system
- Discern the different sectors of the food system and their impact on community
- Utilize Collective Impact and Strategic Doing methods
- Develop coalitions working toward collective community goals
- Strategically partner with organizations for creative collaborations
- Execute community processes including facilitation, project management, partnership, and building successful teams
- Develop community food systems assessments through mapping, interviews, and public input sessions
- Identify primary and secondary data sources for community food systems assessment and priority projects
- Utilize community food system assessments to determine priority projects
- Understand evaluation methods for determining collective community projects
- Acknowledge the importance of design in community food systems and where it fits within project development
- Provide partners with tools and resources for various food systems sectors: production, transformation, distribution, consumption, and resource management (grants, best practices, research, etc.)
- Apply concepts and skills learned to develop a place-based Community Food Systems Program in your own University or organization.
- Create evaluation methods to understand if projects developed are successful

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In Person Day 1

Introductions and Overview

Community Food Systems Framework
Transferable Process: Systems Methodology
Collective Impact + Strategic Doing

Q1: Visioning
Strategic Planning: Mission + Vision
Engagement

Q2: Research
Secondary Data + Assessment
Surveys

Q3: Compilation
Primary Data Collection
Input Sessions + Interviews
Assessment

In Person Day 2

Transition to Strategic Doing

Q4: Priority Projects
Evaluation: Ranking

Project Meeting 1: Goals and Metrics
Evalutation: Goals and Metrics

Design Thinking
Importance of Design

Project Meeting 2: Design + Technical Assistance
Creating a Project Team

Online Modules

Module 1: Community Food Systems Framework
1.1 Community Food Systems Framework
1.2 Organization
1.3 Common Language and Practices

Module 2: Collective Thinking
2.1 Collective Thinking
2.2 Determining Goals
2.3 Strategic Doing Intensive
2.4 Group Decision Making

Module 3: Community Food Systems Assessment
3.2-3.5 will be basics for CFS facilitation
3.1 Research and Asset Identification
3.2 Maps and Input Sessions
3.3 Making the Documents

> ****Optional: Mapping 101:**
> *In depth review of developing maps for food systems decision making*
> Geographic Mapping Systems
> Design Software and Mapping
> Assessing Food Systems and Projects
> Creating an Analysis Report

Module 4: Project Development
4.1 Phase 2 Projects
4.2 Precedent Reports + Case Studies
4.3 Design Thinking
4.4 Pitch Packet + Presentations
4.5 Implementation

Module 5: Economic Impact Analysis
5.1 Introduction to Economic Impact Analysis
5.2 Conducting an Economic Impact Study

Module 6: Feasibility Studies
6.1 Feasibility Studies
6.2 Conducting a Feasibility Study
6.3 Creating Teams for Feasibility Studies