

LOCAL FOOD LEADER

Training + Certification

Program Narrative

The Iowa State University Local Food Leader training program is intended for beginning local food practitioners, although it is open for anyone who is interested in food systems development and collaboration. The program teaches several foundational competencies critical to a successful involvement in community food systems development. This certification is divided into two parts, the first is an in-person, day-long workshop including: working in food systems, facilitation and capacity building, equity as a foundation to food systems, evaluation, and professional development. The second portion of the certification is conducted through online modules. The online modules offer intensive curriculum including: community food systems overview, methods of engagement and leadership, equity and inclusion, creating teams and tools for success, and evaluation.

Individuals will receive a certification in Local Food Leadership upon completion of the online modules. It is recommended participants find additional professional development programs like the Iowa State University Community Food Systems Certification or similar state-based programs. These opportunities may include peer-to-peer learning communities.

Training Goals:

Train local food practitioners in foundational practices for food systems programming including basics of food systems, facilitation, reflection on their personal values as it relates to food systems, skills in coalition development, and evaluation tools. Individuals will leave this program with awareness, understanding, and confidence to work with various different individuals, organizations, and institutions to develop their community food system.

Participants will be able to:

- Understand global, local, and community food systems
- Organize coalitions that work towards collective community goals and assist in the development of mission, vision, and core values
- Manage and facilitate conversations effectively between dynamic groups of people
- Utilize an equity lens to food systems development
- Understand community processes that include facilitation, project management, partnership, and building successful teams
- Provide partners with tools and resources in developing various food systems sectors: production, transformation, distribution, consumption, and resource management (grants, best practices, research, etc.)
- Engage and empower community partners to work collectively towards a vibrant, healthy community food system that meets the needs of the participants and community members
- Know about tools that exist to create food systems reports
- Develop successful teams for success project implementation
- Construct plans of work, project scope, and budgets
- Create evaluation tools that showcase project outcomes



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In-Person Agenda:

Online Modules:

Equity: A Foundation to Our Work

Equity lens in food systems work
Self-work
Layers of diversity

Working in Food Systems

Logic models
Developing a work plan

Evaluation

Creating an evaluation plan for your work
Resources and tools for systems evaluation

Facilitation + Capacity Building

Community inclusion and leadership
Power dynamics

Professional Development + Leadership

Creating a professional development plan

Introduction:

Review of intent and objectives
Equity Lens in Food Systems

Module 1: Community Food Systems

- 1.1 Understanding Local, Global and Community Food Systems
- 1.2 Community Food Systems Program
- 1.3 Who Coordinates Community Food Systems
- 1.4 Job Skills and Professionalism
- 1.5 Policy

Module 2: Methods of Engagement + Leadership

- 2.1 Community Food Systems Capacity + Coalition Development
- 2.2 Collective Impact
- 2.3 Strategic Doing

Module 3: Creating Teams + Tools for Success

- 3.1 Creating Effective Teams
- 3.2 Creating a Plan of Work
- 3.3 Finding Funding and Creating a Budget for Your Work
- 3.4 Tools and Resources
- 3.5 Food Systems Assessment

Module 4: Evaluation

- 4.1 Evaluation 101
- 4.2 Feasibility Study
- 4.3 Program Development and Evaluation:
What are the impacts of the program?
- 4.4 Systems Evaluation:
What does it mean to be successful?

