

Defining Food Justice

Food Justice Work Group, Portland /
Multnomah Food Policy Council

Objectives for Presentation

- Understand role of Food Policy Council & Food Justice Work Group
- History of Food Justice Work Group
- Outcomes of Food Justice Work Group
- Next steps

Who We Are:

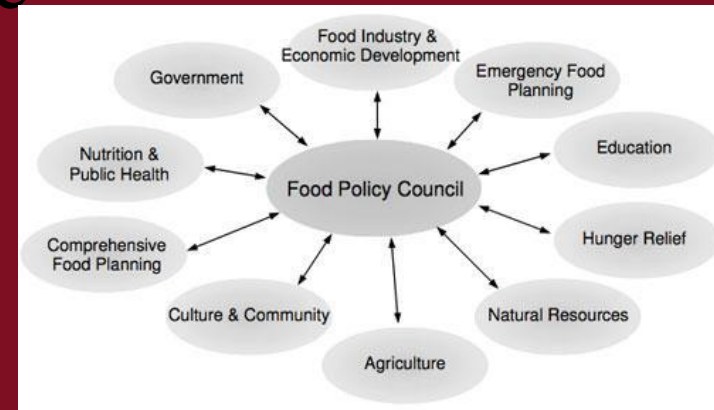


Portland / Multnomah Food Policy

Council (FPC): a citizen-based advisory council to the City of Portland and Multnomah County

Food Justice Work Group (FJWG):

Bringing the issue of Food Justice to the forefront of the conversation on the Portland / Multnomah Food Policy Council



Why is Food Justice Relevant?

- Health disparities between communities of color and white communities
- Inadequate access to healthy foods in low income neighborhoods
- School lunch program - access to healthful foods among Oregon's youth
- Oregon employs over 123,000 farm workers annually (95,000 seasonal) ¹

History: Original Food Justice Workgroup Proposal

Goals

- **Define Food Justice for the Portland Metropolitan area**
- Develop policies and criteria for FPC to evaluate project requests for support
- Develop and recommend policies for City/County to evaluate all projects, programs and policies, including public investments.

Work Program

- Define Food Justice for the Portland Metropolitan area
- Develop policies and criteria, using a Food Justice lens for FPC to evaluate project/program requests for support from outside organizations

Resources and guiding documents

- FPC Guiding Principles
- Portland Plan Equity section
- **Multnomah Action Plan: equity pillar**
- City of Portland Office of Equity

History: Determining a Definition

Determined community-informed Food

Justice definition the starting point - why?

- Determine areas of emphasis for future work
- Begin process of generating policy recommendations from the community
- Connect policy makers to community needs
- Connect FPC to community



History: Definition Process

Group researched and drafted definitions in order to refine a definition to share

Definition used at Listening Sessions

Food justice recognizes the structural inequalities within our food system. A vision for a just food system works to empower all community members to participate with equitable access to healthful, nutritious food, land to grow, and resources without the exploitation of people and land.

History: Listening Sessions

4 Locations: NE, SW, SE & N

3 Questions:

- What do you think of when you hear food justice?
- What does it mean to your community?
- What policies would support food justice?

Over 100 participants

Theme	3/15/2012	3/21/2012	3/23/2012	3/26/2012	TOTAL:
Community Resources (skills in growing, cooking)	xxxxx	xxxxxxxxx	xxx	xxxxxxxxxxx	26
Nutrition - as a theme	xx	x xxxxx	xxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxxx	24
\$ / Class as a barrier to food access	xxxxxx	x x x x	xxx	xxx	16
Land to grow food as a barrier to healthy food access		x x x x x x	x	xxxxxxxxx	15
Consumer Geography and transportation as a barrier to food access	xx	x x x	xxx	xxxxx	13
Institutional Racism and structural inequalities	x	xx	xxxxxx	xxxx	13
Food as a basic right - a request for healthy food access	xxx	x x x x x x		xxx	12
Food Labeling, ingredients, GMO's	x	xxx	xxx	xxxxx	12
Healthy food options (via grocery stores, farmers markets etc.) that are culturally appropriate	x	x x x x		xxxxx	11

Definition

The Food Justice movement envisions a food system that is inclusive, community-led and participatory, without the exploitation of people, land, or the environment. It identifies and acts to remove the significant structural inequities that exist within our food and economic systems. Food Justice activists seek to establish healthy, resilient communities with equitable access to nourishing and culturally appropriate food.

Narrative:

Defines and further explains:

- a food system
- inclusive, community-led and participatory
- exploitation of people, land, or the environment
- significant structural inequities
- healthy, resilient communities
- equitable access
- nourishing and culturally appropriate food

Future Work and Next Steps

- Endorse definition with the FPC
- Collaborate with PSU and organizations to continue listening sessions as a training model
- Continue listening sessions to connect, deepen, and collaborate
- Apply definition and data collected to inform MFAP pillar
- Apply to other health and equity lenses used in county

Fit with Equity Pillar

Stick around to find out!

Questions and Comments?

Join us for a FJWG meeting:
email mkcuneo@gmail.com

Join us for an FPC meeting:
2nd Wednesday of each month, location at:
<http://www.portlandonline.com/bps>