

World Café Notes – North State Convening – March 29, 2017

Topic: Housing

- What are the needs/challenges?
 - Not enough low income housing (Tehama) – Rentals, Deposit Assistance
 - Housing assistance, home sharing
 - Housing for the homeless (some communities don't want this)
 - Homelessness an issue across counties
 - Design of housing related to transportation (more walkable)
 - Transportation available not matched well with community need
 - More innovative partnerships to connect with services
 - NotInMyBackyard resistance
 - Housing first, but for whom?

- Where is the momentum in the region?
 - Tehama – trying to develop a landlord coalition
 - Tehama – renting hotel with long-term lease set up for transitional housing for formally incarcerated
 - Housing #1 unmet need in the County (211 data)
 - Gov'ts having to allocate money because of need

- What are some local actions that can be taken to address this issue?
 - Better education about who needs homes
 - Board of supervisors – need to get them on-board
 - City sponsored land tracts for collaboration on tiny houses, transportation, food, etc.
 - Programs for homeless youth
 - Priority for hiring of homeless or prior arrests (incentivize employers)

- What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?
N/A

Topic: Food Recovery

- What are the needs/challenges?
 - Policy and rules regarding food waste
 - Safe to eat without being wasted
 - How to get info out about where food is/ready to be shared
 - Knowing where to give recovered food – nice to have a community list
 - Needs for cold storage / flash freezer needs

- Teach canning, preserving and dehydrating
 - Nowhere for farmers to leave produce
 - Health code issues
 - Parent understanding about to use and how to prepare
 - Pervasive perceptions that doing this invites more homeless
 - Food safety issues at schools
- Where is the momentum in the region?
 - Gleaning – end of season at orchards donated to food banks – volunteers
 - Food bank distributions (schedule gleaning activities to align w/distributions)
 - Tehama Co. Community food alliance
 - Food for All Mendocino
 - UC Merced has food recover campus (may use for bio fuel)
 - Cold Creek compost (Mendocino to community Gardens)
 - Fresno state has app to tell you when there is food left over – Fresno State Waste Reduction
 - Tehama Together gather and distribute food from Walmart
 - Gleaners programs
 - Database to sign up to ID that you have fruit to share (Grub) Butte Co.
 - Could mini pantries be established?
 - Community run all the way to systems / programs
 - Existing farm stands could be used
- What are some local actions that can be taken to address this issue?
 - What happens to food thrown out with waste management (food scraps/waste0?)
 - Feeding America program automatically donate (Walmart, FoodMaxx)
 - Incentives for grocery stores to participate in recover options
 - Governmental buy in for regs and safety issues
- What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?
 - School regs for garden food – DOED – make it easier to eat what is grown
 - Can school kitchen cold storage be used for drop off and storage
 - Every school will cook food

Topic: Employment

- What are the needs/challenges?
 - If no computer, barred from employment access (applications, etc.)
 - Disconnected from opportunities
 - Rely on internet/ broadband

- Numbers – lack of employment opportunities even with those willing / employers in need; especially if disenfranchised (gaps in employment, references etc.)
 - More organizations can consider employing more community people in need for new projects, can be simple and pull people into employment market.
 - “work for food” at local gardens etc. – move up, part time work, etc.
 - When disenfranchised, can be distant, worn down, depressed, etc. Hard to find jobs
 - Lack of hard and soft skills (need to be taught – education an issue too)- Employers and employees need support here.
 - A lot of generational poverty – normalized for younger generations (being in/out of homeless shelters).
 - Health -lost time from jobs when sick / unhealthy – unsustainable.
 - Application process – revisit – long timelines, so many hoops. If can streamline can make less daunting. (again computers can help here).
 - Parents unaware of after schools opportunities at schools (ea. Public school) – inexpensive \$35/month per child
 - Would be great for employers to cover 50% of costs as an incentive and to support employee quality of life
 - Challenge w/space for childcare (must be accepted by a program)
 - Runs each day from when school lets out – 6pm for parents
 - Minimum days can be a challenge for employees with kids (w/o bus service home)
- Where is the momentum in the region?
 - N/A
 - What are some local actions that can be taken to address this issue?
 - It takes someone to believe in you / give you a chance - Mentorship, leadership
 - Diversity in discussions like this – young men lack male role models in “helping” fields/ service work (same way women encourage into STEM) – for men seen as weakness
 - Incentivize local biz to connect to placement programs / training programs - \$ incentives could go a long way – like tax deduction
 - In smaller communities stigma for not getting a job breeds insecurity in trying to apply – worse for unemployed homeless, marginalized, etc.
 - Job training centers – need to learn obligations / for community (Fed) to inform our hiring/approaches
 - How many in work pool go to these centers vs. employer directly -what is their role and how can they expand training series for guaranteed employment
 - Soft skills vs. hard skills – training centers can tend to focus here or sometimes include resume development etc. (employers seeking hard skills struggle)
 - Local farm bureau meetings can provide 411 to streamline access/ connections to local farm industries
 - What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?

N/A

Topic: Economic Development

- What are the needs/challenges?
 - Industry – interested in technology training jobs bringing in addition to factory jobs
 - Getting a job – lose housing etc.
 - Childcare is big piece of employment
 - Good old boy network / do not want government / resistance
 - Racism – where does that fit in this? - majority white, older
 - Alternative economics
 - Real estate
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- Where is the momentum in the region?
 - Unemployed – underemployed
 - More community colleges looking at different education offerings
 - 22 day work days – 30 days total being paid
 - Local food system poised to grow – intersect with economic development
 - School gardens/ incarcerated population / veterans
 - Have veterans work on farms
 - Regional- deputy sector navigators, bringing industry together
 - Pathways to career / guided pathways
 - Immigrants—chancellor’s office / bachelors program
 - Value - ROI? / Impact on farms – show an impact to bring in more money
 - Food access – interest in eating healthy
 - Stimulating local economy
 - Don’t realize what you are doing it is democracy – most important thing you can do

- What are some local actions that can be taken to address this issue?
 - Incubator
 - Change culture / shift with employers
 - Customize the economy
 - Robust entrepreneur center at Chico State
 - Tie the priorities to the hiring wage calculator

- What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?
 - CA losing industries – highly regulated, need to be more friendly for small businesses
 - Small farms – see more of them

- What are some local actions that can be taken to address this issue?

- N/A
- What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?
 - N/A

Topic: Labor / Land & Resources

- What are the needs/challenges?
 - Immigration (Tehama / Glen Counties – many Mexican immigrants) -Need system services
 - Labor and demographics shift – youth interested in manual labor
 - Uncertainty how immigrant populations will fare and impact on food labor
 - Farmers tend to be conservative – support with anti-immigration policy but face issues with loss of low cost labor – catastrophic with food industry/systems
 - Immigrant populations disenrolling from CalFresh – ripple effect likely – becomes real
 - Access to land for farmers markets – hard where weather / conditions difficult
 - Cannot purchase land with grant money - looking to social impact bonds
 - Need: new partnerships with orgs with land, school gardens, daycare, etc. -challenge water access
 - North Coast opportunities: community gardens (Lake County) aiming to high density areas (apartments) – due to fire / rebuilding challenges to finding land to develop and ensuring community buy in / collaboration (Sac county some policy examples to look to) – can help eliminate barriers and risk aversion re: responsibilities, etc.
 - “Easy Gap” – perhaps can develop 411 for community gardens.
- Where is the momentum in the region?
 - Community gardens; \$ an issue – when funding stops, gardens can fall into disuse (need maintenance) and can stall momentum
- What are some local actions that can be taken to address this issue?
 - Butte County committee on racial / social justice
 - Community engagement (sustained efforts) / community education/ buy-in
 - Utilize existing groups – ex. Schools /districts all have school wellness policy groups – join them; do robust outreach
 - Hospitals -dietitians, others can be engage around our work
- What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?
 - Immigrations – fight for sanctuary states to help farmers / rural residents
 - Need to make regulations easier to promote and follow
 - Making legislation easier to follow/ understand – cottage, food industry, etc. (resources to make succinct and able to implement etc.)

- Land access – liability challenges, vacant lots access / ownership etc.
- County can ID land for procurement

Topic: Education

- What are the needs and challenges?
 - Residents have to leave to get an education and many don't come back to the region
 - Natural disasters (Oroville Dam Spillway)
 - Lack of nutrition education/life skills in schools
 - Need more outreach to students and potential for higher education
 - Language barriers
 - Access to internet
 - Face-to-face meetings are challenging in rural communities
 - 99.5% of schools qualify for school meals (didn't indicate which county)
 - Social media not as effective in rural communities
 - Everyone experiences poverty differently
- Where is the momentum in the region?
 - CSUs, UC's and community colleges moving to support housing and hunger
 - School gardens for education
 - Many free workshops
 - Creative planning to leverage resources
 - Place making activities
- What are some local actions that can be taken to address the issue?
 - Expect More Tehama
 - Emphasize civic engagement
 - Teach students how to be advocates
 - Teach constituents to have a voice
 - Storytelling
 - Self-advocacy training
 - Provide authentic spaces for discussion
 - Invite representatives to events
- What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?
 - Regulations of types of foods sold
 - Vote no on HB610- Voucher Bill- Choices in Education (vouchers are bad for local schools)
 - No on Hungry Kids Act

- Nutrition should be core curriculum
- Engage constituents

Topic: Food Security

- What are the needs and challenges:
 - Need to expand gardens in small counties
 - Cost of food
 - On campuses, there are efforts to increase access to food, but students need to be taught basic cooking skills
 - Subsidies are going to the wrong crops
 - Difficult to keep school gardens functioning over summer months
 - Lack of cold storage for healthy food in pantries
 - CalFresh is marketed as a Nutrition program, however there is little focus on education
 - Food banks do not have cold storage
 - Transportation is an issue for rural communities. How do remote residents get to food banks
 - Often times we do not look at cultural aspects of food prep and diet
 - Elimination of basic life skills in schools
 - Lack of grocery stores
- Where is the momentum in the region?
 - Push for farmers markets
 - Market match
 - Retail venues improving messaging
 - Toolkit being created for eligibility workers (PHI/CDSS)
 - Lake County- community garden in every school
 - Americorps focusing on food access
 - Arboretum promoting campus gardens
 - Asset focused projects
 - Momentum on college campuses
 - Civic engagement
 - Improving awareness
- What are some local actions that can be taken to address the issue?
 - Promote growing own food
 - Provide opportunities to work in community gardens for food
 - Extend school food program to community colleges

- Continue discussions and provide platform for communication
- Invite legislators, school boards, county boards of supervisors to attend events

- What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?
 - Farm Bill advocacy
 - Vote no on HB610- Voucher Bill- Choices in Education (vouchers are bad for local schools)
 - No on Hungry Kids Act
 - Participate in National Sustainability Ag Coalition
 - Public thank you to sponsors
 - Represent constituents