Many Thanks to our Community Sponsors
The Virginia Cooperative Extension Community, Local, and Regional Food Systems (CLRFS) Steering Committee

The **VCE CLRFS Steering Committee** as initially formed includes: Kim Niewolny (VT) and Joyce Latimer (VT) as co-chairs, Kelli Scott (VCE), Sarah Morton (VCE), Caitlin Miller (VCE), Eric Bendfeldt (VCE), Theresa Nartea (VSU), Leonard Githinji (VSU), Karen Gehrt (VT), Crystal Tyler-Mackey (VCE), and Bobby Grisso (VT).

Several other individuals have joined the effort in **various working groups** established to address different aspects of our objectives: Virginia Tech students, Adam Anderson, Bradley Turner, Robert Bass, and Lorien MacAuley; Chris Mullins (VSU), Charley Maxwell (VCE), Meredith Ledlie Johnson (VCE), Leanne DuBois Harrow (VDACS), Joell Eifert (VT), Lori Greiner (VT), and Karen Vines (VT).
Community-based food system

Key
- Inner dial: Food System Value Chain
- Outer dial: Values-based Impacts
- Arrows: Support Process and Function

Adapted from C3 Mott Group at MSU
Whole Measures for Community Food Systems: Value-Based Planning and Evaluation
Collective Impact

• “the commitment of a group of actors from different sectors to a common agenda for solving specific social problems”

• “large-scale social change comes from better cross-sector coordination rather than from the isolated intervention of individual organizations”

Moving Toward Collective Impact...

- Disorder & Confusion
- Individual Impact in isolation
- Coordinated Impact with alignment
- Collective Impact with collaborative action

Source: Santa Fe Community Foundation’s Birth to Career Success Program
Where are we and where do we hope to go?
VCE CLRFS Vision Statement

We facilitate innovative and interdisciplinary approaches and collaborations that span the agricultural and food systems landscape in Virginia and beyond to attain a more holistic understanding of food system complexity to collectively bring about social, economic, and ecological change that benefits all Virginia residents.
VCE CLRFS Purpose Statement

Develop an action plan based on the collective impact framework to enhance and promote community, local, and regional food systems resources, information, and partnerships to Virginia Cooperative Extension specialists, agents, and community partners supporting “systems-level “farm to table” work.”
Primary Goals

Facilitate VCE’s CLRFS programming at the community, local, and/or regional level by:

♦ Providing guidance and instruments of program planning, development, evaluation, and reporting

♦ Compile and make CLRFS resources available through an online platform

♦ Expand existing knowledge and create opportunities to enhance community, local and regional food systems while building capacity with a diversity of community stakeholders.
VCE CLRFS Working Groups

♦ Outreach, Growth, & Inventory
♦ Structure & Organizational Process
♦ Data Collection, Research, & Evaluation
♦ Communication & Engagement
Outreach, Growth, & Inventory

Key Tasks:

♦ Host a public CLRFS forum. *A convening opportunity to expand existing knowledge that enhances and promotes community, local, and regional food systems resources, information, and partnerships to Virginia Cooperative Extension specialists, agents, and community partners supporting “farm to table” work.*

♦ Identify mechanisms of “buy-in” from all VCE faculty and volunteers, and community partners working in CLRFS *(Forum, Forum evaluation, listening sessions?, ....” )* 

♦ Create an online, “living” resource of CLRFS projects, resources, and people that is easy to use, accessible to, and inclusive of, all CLRFS efforts in Virginia

♦ Use this collected resource to enhance and expand work in CRLFS across the Commonwealth.

Members: Joyce Latimer, Kelli Scott, Sarah Morton, Caitlin Miller, Karen Gehrt, Chris Mullins, Leanne DuBois, Meredith Ledlie Johnson, Charley Maxwell, and ...
Structure & Organizational Process

Key Tasks:

- Build relationships and trust with stakeholders to create shared space, knowledge, and activity for CLRFS work and impacts.
- Explore new ways to work together across Virginia & regionally e.g., MSU Center for Regional Food Systems e.g., eXtension CoP for CLRFS
- Address core areas, processes, and emergent needs
  - Food Desert Initiative
  - Beginning Farmer Start-up
  - Capacity building, community assessment, evaluation,

Members: Theresa Nartea, Caitlin Miller, Bobby Grisso, Kim Niewolny, &...
Data Collection, Research & Evaluation

Key Tasks:

❖ Gather what existing data is available (i.e., knowledge, skills, behaviors, conditions changed)

❖ Create a data resource matrix to assist in gathering and aggregating data,

❖ Develop a template for key common measures to help shape strategies and programs at local and state level.

Members: Eric Bendfeldt, Leonard Githinji, Sarah Morton, Crystal Tyler-Mackey, & ...
Communication and Engagement

Key tasks:

- Engage with stakeholders to identify and align appropriate communication tools/vehicles/processes for CLRFS work and impacts
- Interface evaluation and communication processes
- Develop action plan for mobilizing community assets and partners in order to bring people and resources together (“Rainmaking”)

Members: Karen Gehrt, Lori Greiner, Eric Bendfeldt, Joyce Latimer, Kim Niewolny, & ...
Creating a Culture for Community, Local, & Regional Food Systems Work in Virginia

- Collaboration
- Recognizing and mobilizing community assets
- Diversity and inclusion
- Continuous learning and evaluation
- Integrity
- Transparency

Source: Schmitz, P. 2015. The Culture of Collective Impact
Community-based food system
“Open Space” Discussions

The Basic "Rules" of Open Space sessions are:

— Whoever shows up is the right group
— Whatever happens is the only thing that could have
— Whenever it starts is the right time
— When it's over, it's over

There is only one "Law" of Open Space sessions:

— The “Law of two feet.” That’s your two feet!
CLRFS Themes of Interest

Community Gardens
Food Security
Urban Agriculture
Supporting Producers/Growers with Start-up & Sustainability
Nutrition & Health
Innovation in Educational Approaches, Processes, & Evaluation
Conservation Agriculture

Institutional Food Procurement & Preparation (e.g. Farm-to-School)
Food Processing & Safety
Marketing & Markets
Consumer Food Preparation & Preservation
Distribution & Aggregation
Food Justice & Food Sovereignty
Food & Agriculture Policy
Resource & Waste Recovery
Insights and Next Steps: World Café Conversations

Round 1: What insights did you learn today?

Round 2: What do you want to see happen to move this work forward?

http://www.theworldcafe.com/