FRESH AND HEALTHY FOOD FOR ALL IN COLUMBIA COUNTY, NY

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS
October 2015
BACKGROUND

In spring 2015, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation initiated the Columbia County food distribution project with the generous support of anonymous donors. The project’s aim is to improve access to healthy food for all, and especially for the county’s low-income children and elderly residents. Upon Berkshire Taconic’s release of a Request for Proposals, and after a competitive application process, Karp Resources (now Karen Karp & Partners) was awarded the consulting contract to conduct a food distribution needs assessment in the county. During the summer, Karen Karp & Partners interviewed and convened numerous county stakeholders, from food banks to farmers to distributors to health and social service agency staff.

This document provides a summary of the key findings from this work to date, and is an abridged and adapted version of a document prepared for Berkshire Taconic by Karen Karp & Partners. It is being circulated to the stakeholders identified through the needs assessment process, with the intention of engaging key individuals and organizations involved in food distribution throughout the county. Berkshire Taconic intends this report as a launching pad for a food initiative that is shaped and led by community stakeholders in Columbia County and built over the next five years. Updates on this initiative will be provided at www.berkshiretaconic.org.

PROJECT TEAM

Karen Karp & Partners

Founded as Karp Resources in 1990, Karen Karp & Partners (KK&P) is a food business consultancy with two divisions: Our Good Food is Good Business division supports the healthy development, execution, and operations of food businesses and initiatives in the public and private sectors. Our services include strategic sourcing, feasibility analysis, market research, business planning, project management, and evaluation.

Our Good People are Good Business division builds leadership and organizational effectiveness in the food sector through talent and performance management, organizational assessment, capacity building, executive coaching, recruiting, and employee engagement services.

KK&P’s clients include corporations, government agencies, small businesses, non-profits, and educational organizations. For more than 20 years, KK&P has spearheaded and has been integral to the development and execution of food businesses, policies, and partnerships in the United States and in the United Kingdom.

The KK&P team engaged on this project included Karen Karp, President; Shayna Cohen, Senior Consultant; Ben Kerrick, Consultant; Eleni Fischer, Consulting Project Coordinator; and Lin Batten, Intern.

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Grape tomatoes and other produce are sold at a farm stand outside of Valatie.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In early 2015, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation issued an RFP for a consultant to begin work on a multiyear food distribution initiative with the objective of expanding access to fresh, nutritious food for low-income families, children, and elderly in Columbia County, NY. The first phase of the project was described as an environmental scan to inform the future implementation phases of the initiative. Karen Karp & Partners, a national food business consultancy based in New York City with over two decades of experience working across the food system, was selected to complete the work.

The goals of the first phase of the project were to:

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of the current conditions of food and hunger in Columbia County, including assets, gaps, and opportunities; and to
- Identify potentially effective strategies that BTCF may pursue in the implementation phase of this initiative.

This research uncovers and describes conditions in the county that contribute to a lack of healthy food access. In addition to interpreting secondary data, we looked beyond the statistics to qualitatively illustrate how the work of various organizations that interface with low-income residents in the county, and the farmers and food businesses that operate there, could be better connected to serve the growing need. We uncovered systemic issues that contribute to gaps in service, and that paint a picture of a county that, in spite of its challenges, has opportunities to improve healthy food access that can also transform the culture of food throughout the county. All quotes included are from stakeholder interviews and convenings.
THE LAY OF THE LAND

AN AGRICULTURAL COUNTY

Agriculture is a dominant force in Columbia County, both economically and culturally. The Columbia Economic Development Corporation describes agribusiness as “a priority in the regional economy”. In 2012, farmers in the county saw $66.5 million in revenue, a slight increase (1.1%) over 2007 revenue, despite an 11% loss of farmland acreage over the same time period. Even with that loss of farmland, almost one-fourth of the county’s land is dedicated to agriculture. The Hudson Valley region’s cachet and proximity to NYC are often cited as rationale for further developing and supporting the region’s agricultural economy.

Stakeholders in the county almost universally cite the region’s farms and agricultural heritage as major assets to the food system—but these assets are currently underleveraged to serve the residents of the county. Stakeholders noted in interviews and convenings that the greater purchasing power and market size of New York City (NYC) draws much locally grown food out of Columbia County, and that incongruent production and supply chain scales underlie a disconnect between local farmers and wholesale distributors. Stakeholders also pointed to insufficient transportation and storage infrastructure as exacerbating factors for this disconnect.

1 USDA 2012 Census of Agriculture
“The food needs of the local community need to be first priority if we’re looking to build the local food system.”

Nevertheless, direct markets (such as farmers’ markets and CSAs) and innovative partnerships have cropped up across the county, aiming to better connect Columbia County food to Columbia County eaters. St. Peter’s Gleaners, Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Neighbors Association, and Berkshire Grown’s Share the Bounty program are examples of programs bringing local food to residents that might not otherwise have access to such food. These programs hint at the untapped potential for Columbia County to feed its residents with more locally grown food.

THE EMERGING CULTURAL DIVIDE

Columbia County has seen major shifts over the past several decades as it has transitioned from an economy with a significant manufacturing sector to one driven more by service and tourism. The “weekender” dynamic, as interviewees often described it, refers to a significant influx of second homeowners and other visitors, especially from NYC. Data from the American Community Survey supports this observation: in 2009, there were less than 9 households occupied “for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use” for every 50 households occupied full-time in Columbia County; by 2013, that number had increased to 12 such households for every 50 occupied full-time. This increase equates to a dramatic 17% increase in part-time occupied housing units over a four-year period.
Columbia County has 62,445 residents

6,744 live in poverty

Of those in poverty,

1,913 are children under 18

and 675 are age 65 and older

In addition to those in poverty, about another 10,000 people live below 200% poverty

Between 2010 and 2013, the poverty rate in Columbia County grew by almost one-third from 8.5% to 11.2%

The median household income in the county is $60,029

But about 1,100 families in the county live in poverty

Poverty level for a family of four in the U.S. is $24,008
The demography of poverty in Columbia County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Hudson, there are about 1,500 people living in poverty</th>
<th>In the rest of the county (excluding Hudson), there are about 4,500</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>68% are white</td>
<td>88% are white</td>
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<tr>
<td>15% are African American</td>
<td>5% are African American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3% are Asian</td>
<td>2% are Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14% are two or more races</td>
<td>4% are two or more races</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21% are Latino or Hispanic</td>
<td>7% are Latino or Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9% of adults speak Spanish</td>
<td>6% of adults speak Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% of adults speak other non-English languages</td>
<td>5% of adults speak other non-English languages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2009-2013 5-year estimates

Asweekenders, wealthy full-time residents, and visitors increasingly drive the economy, the county’s food system has become more oriented to them at the expense of other full-time residents. Downtown Hudson, despite its concentration of high-end restaurants and specialty food retailers, lacks a supermarket and is classified by the USDA as a food desert. Stakeholders spoke of grocery store closures in the more rural areas of the county, and noted that low-income residents in these areas face major obstacles to accessing fresh and healthy foods due to the longer distances and travel times to reach supermarkets.

At the same time, the increase in tourism and well-to-do residents also represents an influx of new investment and development. Many stakeholders value the support of new residents and spoke of their willingness to engage with their communities. Approaching the county’s economic shift as an opportunity rather than a threat will be key to successful strategies for change. There appears to be great potential in building a bridge across this cultural divide and engaging with all of the county’s communities to achieve a food system that better serves all of its residents.

THE VARYING CHARACTER OF NEED

Although many people throughout Columbia County lack sufficient access to fresh and nutritious food, the characteristics of their needs vary according to geography and demography. Interviews with stakeholders that work with specific populations or in specific areas revealed some key dynamics of food access challenges across the county.

Life stage is one important consideration. Elderly residents are especially likely to face mobility challenges, limiting their ability to shop for themselves or access senior meal sites, and some are not able to prepare food at home without assistance. Stakeholders also reported that many elderly are resistant to services they view as “handouts,” such as SNAP, and the associated stigma.

*SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, informally known as food stamps.*
Some kids don’t want school to end [for summer break] because they won’t have a consistent meal everyday.”

During the 2013-14 school year, Columbia County had 7,300 kids enrolled in public school.

47% were categorized as economically disadvantaged
42% were eligible for free or reduced price lunch

<table>
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<tr>
<th>School District</th>
<th>2013-14 Enrollment</th>
<th>2013-14 Eligibility for Free/Reduced Price Lunch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Chatham</td>
<td>1,160</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germantown</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson City</td>
<td>1,817</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinderhook/Ichabod Crane</td>
<td>1,857</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Lebanon</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taconic Hills</td>
<td>1,403</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: New York State Education Department (ednys.ed.gov)
The role of stigma

Many stakeholders described the negative impact of stigma around resources and services such as SNAP, WIC, and food pantries. This stigma drives down participation rates among people that could benefit from—and are eligible for—such services. A recent Brookings Institute memo argued that increasing participation in social safety net programs would be a highly effective strategy in alleviating poverty. Stakeholders noted that increasing discretion, privacy, and consumer choice, while minimizing the separation between emergency food and the mainstream food system, would help reduce stigma.

“There shouldn’t be ‘emergency food,’ there should just be food.”
Feeding America estimates that Columbia County has 6,860 food insecure people and 2,538 are not eligible for SNAP benefits.

The USDA defines food insecurity as

limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.

Of the county’s 24,960 households, 2,310 received SNAP benefits within a 12-month period.

Average monthly SNAP benefits in New York State:

- $255.16 per household
- $138.87 per person

SNAP is not enough. Feeding America estimates an average meal cost of $2.79 in Columbia County, or about $250 per month. Average NY SNAP benefits therefore cover less than 60% of food costs for an individual.
THE POTENTIAL FOR BETTER NETWORKING, CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Most organizations and stakeholders working on food and food access issues in Columbia County are constrained by limited human resources and funding. This limited “bandwidth” prevents better networking and cross-sector collaboration between players. The county’s food pantries, for example, do not have a formal platform for communication among them, although informal partnerships have emerged. The Office for the Aging relies heavily on a waning volunteer force that could potentially be bolstered by partnerships with other organizations. Donations to the Regional Food Bank must travel all the way to the central facility in Latham (about 50 miles north of Hudson), even if that food will ultimately end up back in Columbia County. The work of supporting collaboration, coordination, and networking is not a small feat, but these examples illustrate its potential for better leveraging the county’s food system to more effectively serve all residents.

Insufficient infrastructure, especially vehicles and cold storage, is another significant barrier for food initiatives in the county. Hudson in particular was frequently described as having a significant need for cold storage, while better coordination of vehicles could streamline and maximize distribution of food into the more rural areas of the county. Some stakeholders also expressed desire for a shared community kitchen space to enable more processing and preservation of local foods for the county’s residents.

“In general is a huge issue in Hudson. It doesn’t have the capacity to serve its constituency.”

“The pantries’ vehicles aren’t large enough to take all of the fresh fruits and vegetables we have available from the Food Bank.”

An additional piece of the infrastructure challenge in Columbia County is the shortage of public transportation options. A shuttle runs between downtown Hudson and the Greenport shopping area only during business hours, making it difficult for individuals who work during those hours and do not own cars to utilize the service. There are also several other shuttle routes that run throughout the county, but they are infrequent (once or twice a week) and underutilized. Many stakeholders cited transportation as a major challenge to food access in the county. Many low-income individuals rely on family and friends for rides to the supermarket, or must commit several hours to a shopping trip, factoring in long shuttle rides to and from the store.

“Cold storage and transportation are huge points of synergy. New infrastructure could serve both the needs of farmers and those working in food access, and could also help jumpstart relationships and collaborations.”

EDUCATION AS A KEY TO BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Providing food, farm and nutrition education – with a focus on reaching children – is seen as fundamental to changing eating patterns. Increasing food access is crucial, but expanding Columbia County residents’ knowledge of cooking and healthy eating will be integral to meaningful cultural change around food. Efforts like Hawthorne Valley’s Place-Based Learning program, the Sylvia Center, and Kite’s Nest engage with youth to increase their food literacy. Some emergency food resources offer food and cooking education to their clients to help increase consumption of fresh foods. But considering the depth of
farming and culinary knowledge in Columbia County (much of which has coalesced to serve weekender and tourist populations), there is great potential to leverage this knowledge to provide the county’s residents, especially its youth, with new information, perspectives and skills.

“The more kids know, the more it will rub off on their parents.”

“People can handle new ingredients and the learning curve. We Xerox a recipe that takes 20 minutes and uses 5 ingredients and we give them all the ingredients and it works. Everyone comes back asking for more of those ingredients.”
SUMMARY OF KEY OPPORTUNITIES

Several stakeholders emphasized that food access issues are rooted in much deeper realities of poverty, inequity, and government policy. But despite the complexity and persistence of those realities, stakeholders remain optimistic that targeted interventions and strategic levers can turn the dial for better access to fresh, healthy food for all of Columbia County’s residents. Based on our research and findings summarized above, the following opportunities have emerged as key areas for potential programming:

- Improved communication, networking, and collaboration among stakeholder
- Bridging the summer meal gap for the county’s schoolchildren
- Targeted new infrastructure, especially cold storage in Hudson, and distribution vehicles/networks
- Better connections between consumers and healthy food, by bringing people to food (better transportation) or bringing food to people (better food distribution)
- Improved outreach to connect residents to available resources
- Expanded educational efforts to encourage behavior change around healthy eating

Areas highlighted in red are eligible to host a federally supported Summer Food Service Program feeding site. These are areas where at least 50% of children have been determined to be eligible for free or reduced price lunch.

For more information, visit:
http://www.fns.usda.gov/areaeligibility
APPENDICES

1. Mapping variations across the county

The maps on the following pages visualize poverty, food access, and other characteristics relevant to the food environment in Columbia County. An understanding of variations within the county will be key to effective new strategies.
Poverty Among Children & Elderly
WITH SELECTED FOOD RESOURCES

% of Population 65 and Older Living Below Poverty
- 0.0% - 1.2%
- 1.2% - 5.9%
- 5.9% - 12.9%
- 12.9% - 28.8%
- Senior Community Center

% of Population Under 18 Living Below Poverty
- 0.5% - 4.8%
- 4.8% - 13.3%
- 13.3% - 25.6%
- 25.6% - 37.9%
- Retailers accepting WIC

Hudson

Data:
Poverty Maps: American Community Survey 2013 5-year Estimates (Tract level).
Senior Community Centers: Columbia County Office for the Aging website (2015).
Retailers accepting WIC: Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties.
Households Using SNAP Benefits
WITH SNAP AND WIC RETAILERS

% of Households Using SNAP Benefits in Previous 12 Months
- 0.0 - 5.4
- 5.4 - 16.2
- 16.2 - 34.4
- 34.4 - 70.0

Retailers Accepting Benefits
- Green: Retailers accepting SNAP
- Blue: Retailers accepting SNAP and WIC

80 / SNAP-AUTHORIZED RETAILERS, 2015
97% / INCREASE IN NUMBER OF SNAP-AUTHORIZED RETAILERS, 2008-2012
$178,148 / AVERAGE SNAP REDEMPTION PER STORE, 2012
37% / ESTIMATED FOOD INSECURE POPULATION INELIGIBLE FOR SNAP BENEFITS, 2013

Data:
- SNAP Households Map: American Community Survey 2013 5-year Estimates (Block Group level).
- Retailers accepting SNAP: USDA SNAP Retailer Locator (2015)
- Retailers accepting WIC: Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties.
- SNAP and Food Insecurity: USDA Food Environment Atlas; Feeding America Map the Meal Gap.
Vehicle Access and Food Insecurity
WITH NEW YORK STATE LICENSED FOOD RETAILERS

% of Households With No Vehicle
- 0.0% - 5.1%
- 5.1% - 14.9%
- 14.9% - 44.8%
- 44.8% - 66.7%
- NYS Licensed Food Retailers

Bus Route Stops
- Hudson Shopping Shuttle
- Southern Country Route 4
- Southern Country Route 5
- Southern Country Route 6

1,616 / HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO VEHICLE AVAILABLE, 2013
183 / HOUSEHOLDS LACKING COMPLETE KITCHEN FACILITIES, 2013
6,860 / FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE, 2013
9,467 / PEOPLE WITH LOW ACCESS TO A GROCERY STORE, 2010

Data:
Vehicle Access Map: American Community Survey 2013 5-year Estimates (Block Group level).
NYS Licensed Food Retailers: NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, FOIL Request, 2015.
County household vehicle/kitchen access: American Community Survey 2013 3-year Estimates.
Food Insecurity: Feeding America Map the Meal Gap.
Store Access: USDA Food Environment Atlas. Low access defined as 1 mile (urban) and 10 miles (rural).
2. Methodology

This study incorporates extensive primary qualitative research (consisting of interviews and focus groups), analysis of secondary data, on-the-ground observations of time spent in Columbia County, and review of relevant literature. The KK&P team made three trips to Columbia County from May-August 2015 to complete the primary research.

Interviews

KK&P conducted 19 interviews with a total of 25 stakeholders from May-August 2015. The team created an interview guide prior to the May 2015 trip, which shaped the conversations the team had with stakeholders in the region. During the May 2015 trip, the KK&P team conducted 13 interviews. During the June 2015 trip, we conducted two interviews, and we conducted four interviews over the phone with individuals we could not connect with in person. A full list of interviewees can be found in Appendix 3.

Stakeholder convenings

During the June 2015 trip, KK&P facilitated a stakeholder meeting at the Hawthorne Valley School with eleven stakeholders from different organizations based in Columbia County. Participants came from education, hunger relief, and agriculture organizations in the county. During this stakeholder convening, we presented a synthesis of our findings from the May 2015 trip and the emerging themes we had identified, and received feedback from the meeting participants on these themes and potential additional areas of study.

In August 2015, the KK&P team again traveled to Hudson for a second stakeholder convening, this time held at the Hudson Opera House. Twelve stakeholders attended, again from a diverse group of organizations. The August convening also provided an update on findings, and sought feedback on potential programming directions. Both convenings included a small number of participants that Karp Resources had interviewed individually. The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation provided input on the guest list and conducted outreach for the second convening.

Interviewees and invitees to the stakeholder convenings were not chosen at random. BTCF provided initial suggestions, and the KK&P team expanded the list through online research and conversations with area stakeholders. As we conducted interviews, participants continued to offer additional suggestions and connections, many of whom we reached out to for additional information or interviews. A full list of stakeholder convening participants can be found in Appendix 3.

Literature review

We conducted a thorough literature review of publications related to hunger and emergency food issues at the national, state, and local level. We also reviewed any public town plans for towns in Columbia County and any literature written about food programs in Columbia County and the Hudson Valley more generally. Finally, we reviewed secondary data gathered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Census, along with other data sets. A full list of documents and data reviewed can be found in Appendix 2. Through this research and our first round of interviews, we began to identify the major barriers to food access in Columbia County.

Mapping

Maps were created with QGIS using numerous data sources including U.S. Census American Community Survey, the USDA Food Environment Atlas, Feeding America, and county programs, especially the Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program. Maps were presented at both stakeholder convenings as a basis for discussion.
### 3. Stakeholders interviewed and present at convenings

**Stakeholders interviewed**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Organization/Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Abram</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Behold! New Lebanon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Alexander</td>
<td>Pantry Coordinator</td>
<td>Chatham Food Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Anderson</td>
<td>Nutrition Services Director</td>
<td>Columbia County Office for the Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Brusie</td>
<td>Vice President, Operations</td>
<td>Ginsberg’s Foods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Cosgrove</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Agvisory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Daggett</td>
<td>Community Health Service Director</td>
<td>Columbia Memorial Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Flood</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Columbia Economic Development Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedrick Fulton</td>
<td>Chairman of Programming</td>
<td>Staley B. Keith Social Justice Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betsy Gramkow</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Columbia Memorial Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Hunt</td>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>Greater Hudson Promise Neighborhood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kary Jablonka</td>
<td>Social Services Commissioner</td>
<td>Columbia County Department of Social Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynn Kutski</td>
<td>Director of Income Maintenance</td>
<td>Columbia County Department of Social Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Lintner</td>
<td>Director of Agency &amp; Program Services</td>
<td>Regional Food Bank of Northeast New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dianne Lugo</td>
<td>Principal Social Welfare Examiner</td>
<td>Columbia County Department of Social Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theresa Lux</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Catholic Charities of Columbia &amp; Greene Counties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betsey McCall</td>
<td>Teen Program Director and Food and Farming Program Director</td>
<td>North East Community Center, Millerton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pat Palmatier</td>
<td>Co-Director</td>
<td>Ghent Food Pantry</td>
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<td>Martin Ping</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Hawthorne Valley Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Reed</td>
<td>Co-Director</td>
<td>Ghent Food Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debby Roth</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Chatham Food Pantry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raeph Sanderson</td>
<td>Founder</td>
<td>St. Peter’s Gleaners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Sterling</td>
<td>Food Service Director</td>
<td>Columbia Memorial Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pam Stompf</td>
<td>Food Services Director</td>
<td>Taconic Hills Central School District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jill Wishon</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Salvation Army, Hudson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Zheutlin</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Berkshire Grown</td>
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## Stakeholders present at Convening 1

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joe Angello</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Angello's Distributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Duhon</td>
<td>Cultural Research and Outreach Coordinator</td>
<td>Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tessa Edick</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Farm On Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Lindsey</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Neighbors Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Lintner</td>
<td>Director of Agency &amp; Program Services</td>
<td>Regional Food Bank of Northeast New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Lobue</td>
<td>Co-Director and Program Director</td>
<td>Kite's Nest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Murphy</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Neighbors Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steffen Schneider</td>
<td>Director of Farm Operations</td>
<td>Hawthorne Valley Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andreas Schneider</td>
<td>Director of Farm Production Enterprises</td>
<td>Hawthorne Valley Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett Sykes</td>
<td>Agricultural Program Intern</td>
<td>Columbia Land Conservancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaya Weidman</td>
<td>Co-Director and Director of Operations &amp; Community Engagement</td>
<td>Kite's Nest</td>
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## Stakeholders present at Convening 2

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<td>Vice President, Operations</td>
<td>Ginsberg’s Foods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Cerny</td>
<td>Farm Education Director</td>
<td>The Sylvia Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marissa Codye</td>
<td>Acting Director of Conservation Programs</td>
<td>Columbia Land Conservancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Lane</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Housing Resources of Columbia County</td>
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<td>Theresa Lux</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Catholic Charities of Columbia &amp; Greene Counties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betsey McCall</td>
<td>Teen Program Director and Food and Farming Program Director</td>
<td>North East Community Center – Millerton (and BTCF advisor)</td>
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<td>Claire Parde</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Columbia County Community Healthcare Consortium</td>
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<td>Iyla Shornstein</td>
<td>Program Associate</td>
<td>Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation</td>
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<td>Barbara Zheutlin</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Berkshire Grown (and BTCF advisor)</td>
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Additional conversations

Our team has also had informal conversations with Anna Duhon (Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program), Julie Clery (Sylvia Center at Katchkie Farm), Deborah Pulcher (Pulcher and Johnston, bus operators for Columbia County), and Jalal Sabur (farmer and social justice advocate).
4. Sources

Data

U.S. Census, American Community Survey (ACS)

Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Project Community Food System Studies

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Access Research Atlas

U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Environment Atlas

U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistics Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture SNAP retailers list

Data sources for maps are cited on each map.

Data sources for infographics (pp. 25 and 27 in report) are ACS 2011-2013 3-year estimates, Feeding America Map the Meal Gap, and the USDA Food and Nutrition Service.

Literature


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