

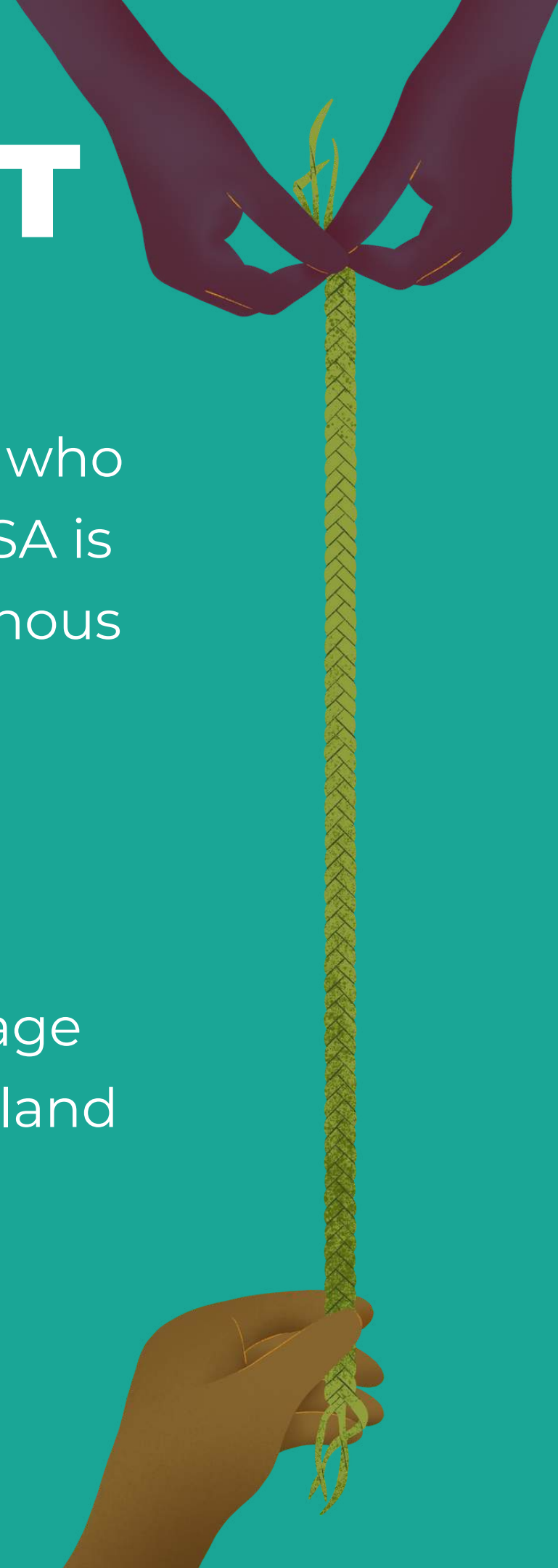
Syracuse-Onondaga Food Systems Alliance



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The lands we know as "Syracuse" and "Onondaga County" sit on ancestral Haudenosaunee territory. We honor our neighbors, the Onondaga Nation, who continue stewardship of this land. In efforts toward reparative justice, SOFSA is working toward building relations with the Haudenosaunee — and Indigenous people as a whole — in support of Indigenous land reclamation & food sovereignty efforts through advocacy, policy and raising awareness.

We recognize that land acknowledgments are just a first step and encourage everyone to support, honor, and educate themselves on the history of this land and its peoples.



A photograph of a man and a woman holding hands outdoors. The woman, on the left, is wearing a light blue t-shirt, jeans, and a colorful patterned headscarf. The man, on the right, is wearing a green t-shirt and has sunglasses on his head. They are standing in front of a green trash bin and a table with various items, including a roll of paper towels and some produce. The background shows trees and a building. A semi-transparent white banner with the text "WHO WE ARE" is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

WHO WE ARE

SOFSA IDENTITY STATEMENTS



Head: Mission Statement

What change do we aim to co-create?



Heart: Grounding Philosophy

Why are we engaging in this work together?



Hands: Action Orientation

How do we act collectively toward achieving our shared goals?



SOFSA IDENTITY STATEMENTS



Head: Mission Statement

What change do we aim to co-create?

The Syracuse-Onondaga Food Systems Alliance (SOFSA) is **a network of changemakers dedicated to reshaping our region's food system.** Grounded in principles of transformative justice and reciprocity, we **cultivate connection, collaboration, and coordination** across sectors to mobilize our collective resources towards a more just and sustainable food future in Syracuse, Onondaga County, and Onondaga Nation.

SOFSA IDENTITY STATEMENTS



Heart: Grounding Philosophy

Why are we engaging in this work together?

Rooted in interdependence, responsible stewardship, and ancestral wisdom, SOFSA serves **as a seed planted in the rich soil of our community**, nourished by values that question authority, value community, and cherish our connection to the Earth and all living beings. **Like each of the Three Sisters, we aim not only to grow and thrive ourselves but also to support the growth and wellbeing of all members of our community.**

SOFSA IDENTITY STATEMENTS



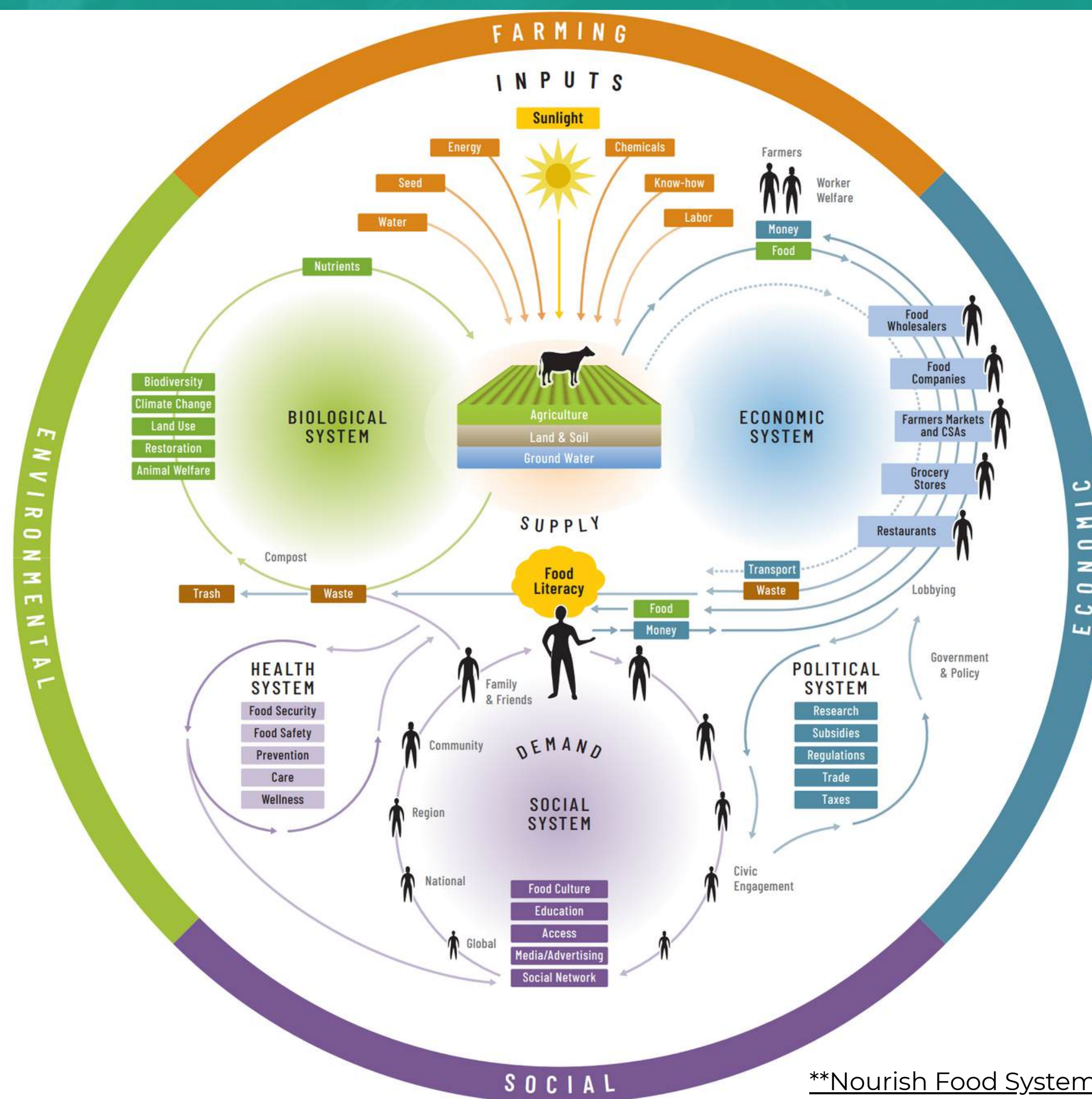
Hands: Action Orientation

How do we act collectively toward achieving our shared goals?





FOOD POLICY COUNCIL



**Nourish Food System Map

CROSS-SECTOR ENGAGEMENT





HOW WE WORK

NETWORK-BUILDING

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION, EDUCATION, AND CROSS-POLLINATION

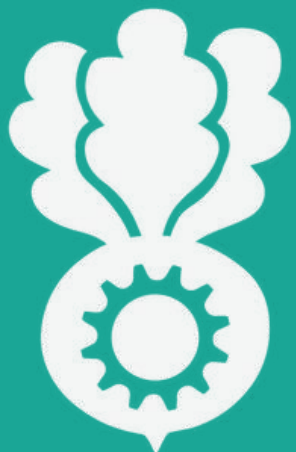
Affinity group spaces

Partnerships with local organizations

Highlighting Haudenosaunee foodways

Workshops and lectures

Urban Garden Tour | Memorial Tree Planting | Film Screenings
Witness to Injustice | Civic Engagement Workshops | Coffee Hours



LISTENING SESSIONS



Understand how organizations operate

What role do they play, who are they connected to?

What are assets and needs within organizations and for individuals?

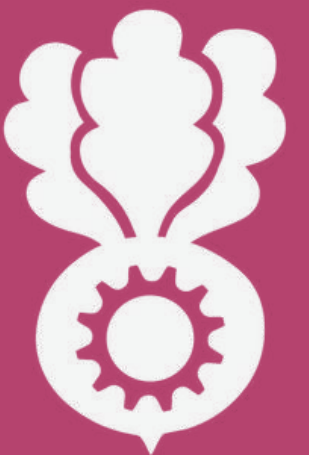
Capacity, organizing barriers or tools, volunteers, health, and many more

What are systemic issues that impact the work?

Defunding of DEI initiatives, inadequacy of state programs

What possible interventions exist in short to long term?

Connecting with funders, other orgs, elected officials



LISTENING SESSIONS



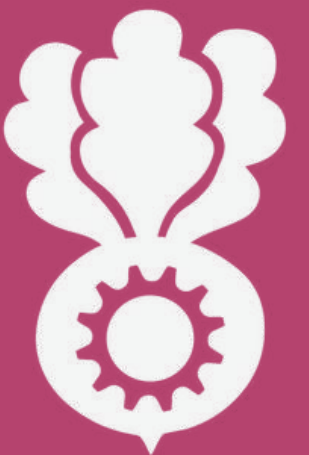
March: Syracuse Southside Neighborhood Association, including pantries

September: Tully/Southern county pantries

September: PEACE, Inc. Western Family Resource Center (Baldwinsville)

Themes:

- Increased demand after COVID
- Storage, especially cold storage
- Supply challenges, quality control issues, food safety



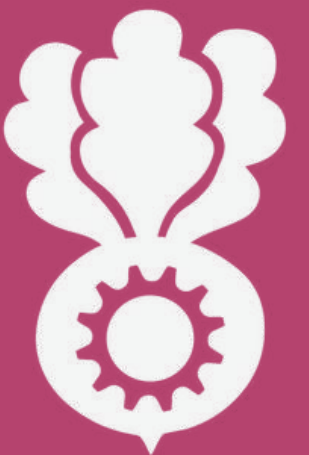
THE EMERGENCY FOOD SYSTEM



Concerns about funding

Concerns about the actual food

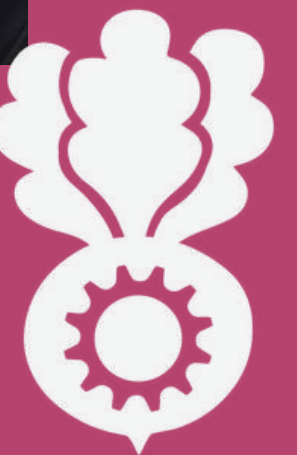
Concerns about other social determinants of health affecting food access



CROSS-SECTOR ELEVATION



"Since the SOFSA conversation, I've spoken with [various community leaders]. I'd never have been able to connect with them without your forum, and I learned so much from those conversations, so thank you."
- County Legislator Mo Brown





WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

ADVOCACY

EDUCATION

RESOURCING



ADVOCACY & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

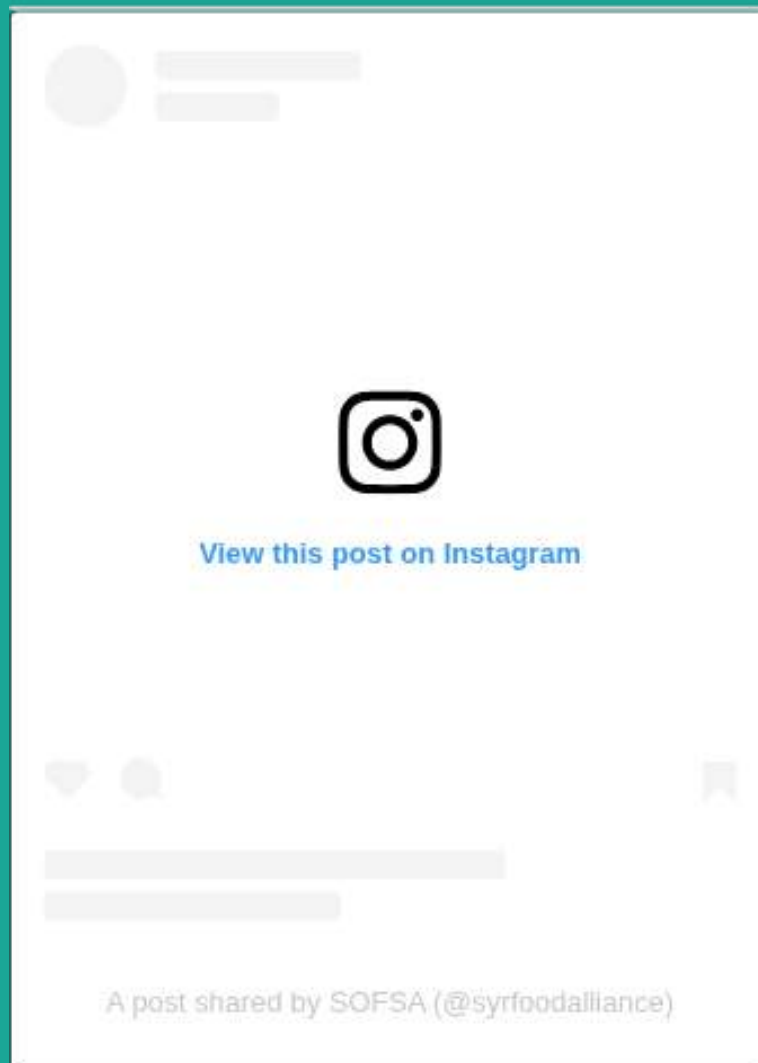
UNDERSTAND, ELEVATE, EMPOWER

✓ **Direct advocacy with aligned coalitions**
Collective strategizing and in-person advocacy

✓ **Voter education**
Candidate forums, voting guide, calls-to-action

✓ **Electeds education**
Leaderful forums, candidate questionnaire

✓ **Narrative shifting and story sharing**
Social media, listening sessions, listserv



WHERE DECISIONS ARE MADE



FOOD POLICY VOTER GUIDE

ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE 4TH DISTRICT

Colleen Gunnip
Republican, Conservative

Town of Salina
Town of Geddes
www.facebook.com/ColleenForLegislature/



SPECIFIC POLICY POSITIONS:

- Reinvest in CNY Regional Market
- Prioritize food in transportation plans
- Promote grocery stores in low-access areas
- Create anti-poverty solutions
- Expand purchasing of NY-grown food
- Protect and expand SNAP, WIC, Double Up
- Ensure adoption of Universal School Meals
- Protect food and farm workers
- Eliminate lead in soil and water
- Support land access for BIPOC farmers
- Protect agricultural land from development
- Enhance urban agriculture

PRIORITIES

None provided by candidate

HOW WOULD YOU INVEST IN COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FOOD ACCESS

Continue the same investment that is currently being made by the county.

Color key ● Key priority ● Oppose
● Support ● Request more info

• - Incumbent

ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE 4TH DISTRICT

Jeremiah Thompson
Democrat, Working Families

Town of Salina
Town of Geddes
www.votejeremiahthompson.com



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PRIORITIES

1. **Transportation**- helping get people to where they can purchase food
2. **Education**- focusing on healthy eating and locally grown food
3. **Unity**- Connecting urban and rural areas through food and civic engagement.

Color key ● Key priority ● Oppose
● Support ● Request more info

• - Incumbent

HOW WOULD YOU INVEST IN COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FOOD ACCESS

Advocate for initiatives to make the Regional Market more accessible to the public through investments in public transportation. Also explore if there are ways for the county to support smaller satellite markets throughout the area.

ADVOCACY PUSHES

CURRENTLY

- ✓ SMTC study- transportation and planning
- ✓ SNAP advocacy
- ✓ Urban agriculture and land access
- ✓ Aggregation
- ✓ Farm to institution and local procurement



ALIGNING RESOURCES AND CAPACITY



Gardening classes by AficaPure,
2024 FJF awardee

COMMUNITY-CENTRIC FUNDRAISING

- Grounded in equity, race, and social justice
- Movement-aligned

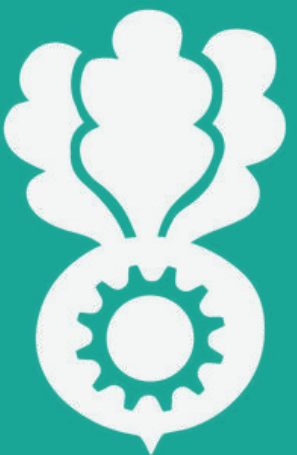
PLANT A SEED WITH SOFSA

- Annual individual giving campaign
- 75% of funds raised go directly to the Food Justice Fund with the remaining 25% supporting SOFSA's civic engagement work



FUND-SEEKING SUPPORT

- Leverages our relationships, experience, and reputation to support grassroots work beyond our organization alone.



2025 FOOD JUSTICE FUND

A COMMUNITY GRANTMAKING PROJECT

\$30k
REGRANTED

- ✓ Informed by our policy priorities
- ✓ Open to any Food Justice project
- ✓ Vetted by the FJF leadership council
- ✓ Voted on by the community

418
VOTED

COMMITMENT TO REGRANT 15% OF REVENUE

With \$22,000 regrant in 2024,
the **Food Justice Fund** has
grown by 36% in just one year!

7
GRANTEES





GET INVOLVED

TABLE

3rd
Annual

Food Justice Gathering



www.syrfoodalliance.org/FJG2025

October 25, 2025
At the Art & Home Center
at NYS Fairgrounds



Robin Wall Kimmerer / Keynote



Syracuse-Onondaga
Food Systems Alliance

Candidate Press Conference on Food & Hunger Issues

Food policy affects every voter, every family, every day.
Hear directly from candidates about their positions on
issues that matter to YOU!



Monday, September 29th at 1pm*

Haven Community Garden, 1812 Lodi Street, Syracuse

**In case of inclement weather, the event will take place on
Tuesday, September 30th at the same time and place.*



Questions? info@syrfoodalliance or 315-552-0470

View past voter guides and learn more at:
<https://bit.ly/SOFSA-voter-guides>



UPCOMING EVENTS

VIRTUAL ADVOCACY WORKSHOPS

FALL 2025



INTEGRATING STORYTELLING INTO ADVOCACY STRATEGIES

Tuesday, October 21, 1:30–2:45pm

Explore how storytelling can serve as a powerful tool for advocacy and legislative communication. Learn how to craft stories tailored to different audiences and integrated them into advocacy strategies and campaigns. Guided by Leah Eden of Equity Advocates. *Hosted by The Institute for Social and Economic Development Solutions.*



USING ADVOCACY TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM

Wednesday, November 12, 12–1pm

Advocacy is essential for creating lasting change in the food system. This session introduces nonprofit staff, community leaders, and practitioners to the power of policy engagement, breaking down key approaches and advocacy strategies. *Hosted and led by Equity Advocates.*



Register at nyequityadvocates.org/workshops



 equity advocates

Get Involved

- Co-host a Community Listening Session
- Apply (or nominate someone!) for a position on SOFSA's governing bodies
- Join a committee or working group
- Build relationships by attending an affinity group gathering or informal Coffee Hour
- Apply for funding through the Food Justice Fund community grantmaking initiative
- Attend an event or the annual Food Justice Gathering
- Partner with SOFSA on a project or get help with fund-seeking
- Collaborate to plan a session for the Food Justice Gathering
- And more!





Stay engaged!



www.syrfoodalliance.org/get-involved

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@syrfoodalliance

