



August 6, 2024

Chair: Harrison

Notes: Kiara

Time: Audrey

Present: Sierra, Anna, Lashawnda (Back to the Middle; community resource connection), Community Appointee through Commission, Marissa Circle City Mutual Aid, Audrey: Americorp Food Policy, Rubi- Representative for the local community on the East side, Jasper-local urban agriculture, Harrison- interim VP for the CFAC, Fane- (they/them/herself) -Flanner House/Americorp, Charles- Classroom education, Bike repair, and writing
Online Attendees: Joshua Brainered (he/him)- Mental health therapist, Katherine Boyles- Works for city of Indy (representing herself)

1. Non-profit registration

- a.) The goal of non-profit registration is to ensure the CFAC becomes a recognized fiscal entity.

Volunteers to fill out form (2 min)

Check in with Sierra if you're interested in being part of the non-profit registration process.

2. Budget Brainstorming

- a.) Discussion Topics: What are our priorities? - pending further discussion (?) To pay or not to pay officers and members? - pending further discussion
- b.) Commercial kitchens can be rented as "food hubs" for mutual aid groups to partner with and secure the institutional protections. CFAC can use it's funding and manpower to increase mutual aid/grassroots capacity through increased volunteers, providing training, and offering funds.
- c.) One way to ensure funding is well distributed. Vetting process through conversation. The potential issue is if CFAC receives a great deal of funding then the vetting process goes slower and we will need to find ways to expedite. Round table format for remainder of discussion.

3. Outreach brainstorming

- a. How can CFAC expand accessibility to farmers markets for EBT users by connecting to farmers markets and the agricultural system. How can we leverage our databases and apply for funding to support farmers? Ideas that go beyond fund distribution: Retail food hubs for farmers to sell produce, food hubs to meet expressed community need, and using outreach to influence food policy to benefit mutual aid and improve food distribution & recycling food back into the system without threat of litigation.
- b. Discussion: Suggested that LFPA is engaged by a larger cooperative rather than Kephrew by themselves, LFPA: Local Food Procurement Assistance: Multi-Million-dollar grant cycle currently in the 2nd of 3 years in 2024; Commission was once considered a governing body for LFPA. LFPA Federal grant assistance used to support BIPOC farmer capacity by purchasing agricultural produce and distributing yields to food pantries.) [Link](#) to learn more about LFPAs

- c. The CFAC would need to apply for funding since the City of Indianapolis has backed out of renewing their hold on this funding. The challenge is to navigate the federal grant application process is lengthy.
 - d. LFPA funding was not distributed beyond the city because an independent organization is needed to help with distribution.
 - e. Federal funding is often linked to organizations fulfilling a need/objective aligned with the federal funding source. Understanding the priorities and reasons for funding can help strengthen our strategy. Creating a partner-based funding list can help groups find funding that is aligned with their needs and function.
 - f. There are two different aspects/sides of data to capture: API(client information) & KPI (funding sources). We can start collecting API and KPI upfront and assess how organizations align with the mission and needs of different funders.
 - g. CFAC would need to set up a more formalized relationship as an independent entity from the city to better streamline the process of gaining more information. For now, the lists (including the 1,200-person list) would require formal requests for permission to access their information.
4. Last Meeting (7/23):
- a. Coalition discussed making a Technical/Data committee that would be able to help with data collection.
 - b. Committees need to meet and connect on action items to present their progress and share where they are to the wider Coalition.
 - c. Website transfer volunteers (2 minutes)- Further Discussion pending
 - d. Next Steps: Working Session for committees to begin actions specific to their group responsibilities.