



Montana Food Economy Initiative

December 2020 - May 2021

Create a community food system designed to feed your community with a Montana Food Economy Initiative (MFEI) project. Bring folks from across your community food system sectors into partnerships that have the power to create food systems that serve all Montanans better. Join the MFEI to experience the benefits of diversity, and lead Montana communities to more equitable and resilient food systems.

Community Food System Assessment

With support from an MFEI mentor, assess your community food system's assets and prioritize projects to bring sustainable, nutrient-dense food to your whole community.

- All sessions will be held on Zoom. We will rely on you to be present in the remote format.
- We anticipate a commitment of approximately 20 hours (in and out of meetings) from December 2020 - May 2021.
- Members of the community coalition attend meetings, contribute to the mission, vision, and values and definition of the project's success, participate in research and collection of local knowledge to complete the community food system snapshot assessment, and complete action steps between meetings.
- MFEI Mentors will facilitate meetings and the community food system assessment processes over five months. Mentors will be available to teams, responding to questions within 48 hours.

Timeline

Dec 2020: Community Launch

- MFEI Mentors introduce projects
- Communities express interest & build teams

Jan 2021: Begin Project

- Teams begin meeting with MFEI mentor
- Establish team mission, vision, values

Jan - May 2021: Teams Complete Projects

- Request support, technical assistance, mini-grants up to \$1000. Craft digital story

May 2021: Connection & Sharing

- Connect & share stories at the MFEI Network meeting
- Project materials & stories online for all communities

Purpose of each proposed session

Session 1: Coalition Building & Collective Vision Meeting

Introduction to coalition, MFEI, and Snapshot Assessment

Activities: Partner brainstorm to assess who is here and who needs to be invited.

Interim: Two team members attend digital storytelling workshop January 15.

2: Continue Coalition Building & Collective Vision

Activities: Asset-based food system assessment

3: Define Success & Start the Assessment

Activities: Continue mission, vision, core values discussion. Define success and outline research to inform the snapshot, begin compiling the Research manual.

4: Confirm mission, vision core values & Continue Assessment

Activities: Confirm mission, vision core values. Research manual progress. Outline next steps to create the Snapshot.

5: Snapshot Presentation & Project Prioritization

Activities: Present snapshot to coalition. Discuss project prioritization.

6: Community Feedback & Evaluation

Activities: Gather input on project priorities & snapshot from the public.

Interim: Complete digital story

7: Sharing & Connection

Activities: Attend the MFEI Network Meeting to share digital story / presentation and see all MFEI project presentations. Connect with MFEI teams from around Montana to share in one another's success.

Outcomes

- Community Food System Snapshot Assessment
- Project Priorities E.g. backyard gardens, community orchard, incubator farm, shared-use kitchen, awareness campaigns, farm to school procurement, food policy council, or a tactic that uniquely builds on your community assets
- Digital Story presentation at network meeting in late May
- Stories shared on MFEI online Library

Questions Reach out to Michal DeChellis, programs@aeromt.org

Learn More

[Montana Food Economy Initiative Projects - Dec 2020](#)

[Montana Food Economy Initiative – Summer 2020](#)

[MFEI Update - June 12, 2020](#)