

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	August 19, 2024
Action Required:	N/A
Presenter:	Aleen Carey, Co-Executive Director, Cultivate Charlottesville, KJ Howard, Food Justice Network Associate, Cultivate Charlottesville, Trinity Hughes, Food Justice Network Associate, Cultivate Charlottesville
Staff Contacts:	Misty Graves, Director of Human Services Charlsie Stratton Deputy Director Department of Human Services
Title:	Food Equity Initiative FY 24 Report

Background

The Charlottesville Food Equity Initiative (FEI) brings together public, private, and non-profit partners working in unique and complementary ways to build a healthy and just community food system for all Charlottesville residents. The Initiative is cultivating community driven processes, resident leadership, and city partnerships to improve access to and quality of nutritious and affordable foods, addressing food equity barriers. Cultivate Charlottesville is the lead agency that facilitates the Food Equity Initiative.

City Council passed the Food Equity Initiative for the first time in 2018 beginning a course of systemic efforts to reshape community health, wealth, and belonging through our food system. The 2023-2024 Food Equity Initiative work centered around expanding the deep impact of community engagement, strategic network planning, and collaboration with key partners achieved in FY23. There was also a Food Justice Network wide focus on the key policy platforms: Power to Grow, Inspire Youth Choice, Build Community Wealth, and Restore Earth & Climate.

The following information includes three sections: a report on the FEI FY24 goals, the FY24 budget to current, and our FY25 initiatives and budget.

Discussion

Advancing systemic change requires close partnerships with city departments, community members and Food Justice Network partner organizations. With intention and sustainability, the Food Equity Initiative will continue to walk out City Council's Vision for this community.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

The Food Equity Initiative facilitated by Cultivate Charlottesville aligns with the Council's Strategic Plan to include an overarching commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as well as Climate Action and Partnerships.

Community Engagement

Cultivate Charlottesville excels at community engagement through multiple strategies that include social media posts, community tabling events, media interactions, online listening sessions. For example, The Food Justice Network includes 194 member organizations that meet quarterly to discuss and brainstorm solutions on the policy platform.

Budgetary Impact

N/A

Recommendation

Continue to support the work for Cultivate Charlottesville and the Food Equity Initiative.

Alternatives

N/A

Attachments

1. Food Equity Initiative – City Council FY24-compressed