**World Café Notes – North State Convening – March 29, 2017**

**Topic: Housing**

- **What are the needs/challenges?**
  - Not enough low income housing (Tehama) – Rentals, Deposit Assistance
  - Housing assistance, home sharing
  - Housing for the homeless (some communities don’t want this)
  - Homelessness an issue across counties
  - Design of housing related to transportation (more walkable)
  - Transportation available not matched well with community need
  - More innovative partnerships to connect with services
  - NotInMyBackyard resistance
  - Housing first, but for whom?

- **Where is the momentum in the region?**
  - Tehama – trying to develop a landlord coalition
  - Tehama – renting hotel with long-term lease set up for transitional housing for formally incarcerated
  - Housing #1 unmet need in the County (211 data)
  - Gov’ts having to allocate money because of need

- **What are some local actions that can be taken to address this issue?**
  - Better education about who needs homes
  - Board of supervisors – need to get them on-board
  - City sponsored land tracts for collaboration on tiny houses, transportation, food, etc.
  - Programs for homeless youth
  - Priority for hiring of homeless or prior arrests (incentivize employers)

- **What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?**
  - N/A

**Topic: Food Recovery**

- **What are the needs/challenges?**
  - Policy and rules regarding food waste
  - Safe to eat without being wasted
  - How to get info out about where food is/ready to be shared
  - Knowing where to give recovered food – nice to have a community list
  - Needs for cold storage / flash freezer needs
- Teach canning, preserving and dehydrating
- Nowhere for farmers to leave produce
- Health code issues
- Parent understanding about to use and how to prepare
- Pervasive perceptions that doing this invites more homeless
- Food safety issues at schools

**Where is the momentum in the region?**
- Gleaning – end of season at orchards donated to food banks – volunteers
- Food bank distributions (schedule gleaning activities to align w/distributions)
- Tehama Co. Community food alliance
- Food for All Mendocino
- UC Merced has food recover campus (may use for bio fuel)
- Cold Creek compost (Mendocino to community Gardens)
- Fresno state has app to tell you when there is food left over – Fresno State Waste Reduction
- Tehama Together gather and distribute food from Walmart
- Gleaners programs
- Database to sign up to ID that you have fruit to share (Grub) Butte Co.
- Could mini pantries be established?
- Community run all the way to systems / programs
- Existing farm stands could be used

**What are some local actions that can be taken to address this issue?**
- What happens to food thrown out with waste management (food scraps/waste0?
- Feeding America program automatically donate (Walmart, FoodMaxx)
- Incentives for grocery stores to participate in recover options
- Governmental buy in for regs and safety issues

**What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?**
- School regs for garden food – DOED – make it easier to eat what is grown
- Can school kitchen cold storage be used for drop off and storage
- Every school will cook food

**Topic: Employment**

**What are the needs/challenges?**
- If no computer, barred from employment access (applications, etc.)
  - Disconnected from opportunities
  - Rely on internet/ broadband
- Numbers – lack of employment opportunities even with those willing / employers in need; especially if disenfranchised (gaps in employment, references etc.)
- More organizations can consider employing more community people in need for new projects, can be simple and pull people into employment market.
- “work for food” at local gardens etc. – move up, part time work, etc.
- When disenfranchised, can be distant, worn down, depressed, etc. Hard to find jobs
- Lack of hard and soft skills (need to be taught – education an issue too)- Employers and employees need support here.
- A lot of generational poverty – normalized for younger generations (being in/out of homeless shelters).
- Health -lost time from jobs when sick / unhealthy – unsustainable.
- Application process – revisit – long timelines, so many hoops. If can streamline can make less daunting. (again computers can help here).
- Parents unaware of after schools opportunities at schools (ea. Public school) – inexpensive $35/month per child
- Would be great for employers to cover 50% of costs as an incentive and to support employee quality of life
- Challenge w/ space for childcare (must be accepted by a program)
- Runs each day from when school lets out – 6pm for parents
- Minimum days can be a challenge for employees with kids (w/o bus service home)

- **Where is the momentum in the region?**
  - N/A

- **What are some local actions that can be taken to address this issue?**
  - It takes someone to believe in you / give you a chance - Mentorship, leadership
  - Diversity in discussions like this – young men lack male role models in “helping” fields/ service work (same way women encourage into STEM) – for men seen as weakness
  - Incentivize local biz to connect to placement programs / training programs - $ incentives could go a long way – like tax deduction
  - In smaller communities stigma for not getting a job breeds insecurity in trying to apply – worse for unemployed homeless, marginalized, etc.
  - Job training centers – need to learn obligations / for community (Fed) to inform our hiring/approaches
  - How many in work pool go to these centers vs. employer directly -what is their role and how can they expand training series for guaranteed employment
  - Soft skills vs. hard skills – training centers can tend to focus here or sometimes include resume development etc. (employers seeking hard skills struggle)
  - Local farm bureau meetings can provide 411 to streamline access/ connections to local farm industries

- **What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?**
Topic: Economic Development

- **What are the needs/challenges?**
  - Industry – interested in technology training jobs bringing in addition to factory jobs
  - Getting a job – lose housing etc.
  - Childcare is big piece of employment
  - Good old boy network / do not want government / resistance
  - Racism – where does that fit in this? - majority white, older
  - Alternative economics
  - Real estate

- **Where is the momentum in the region?**
  - Unemployed – underemployed
  - More community colleges looking at different education offerings
  - 22 day work days – 30 days total being paid
  - Local food system poised to grow – intersect with economic development
  - School gardens / incarcerated population / veterans
  - Have veterans work on farms
  - Regional- deputy sector navigators, bringing industry together
  - Pathways to career / guided pathways
  - Immigrants—chancellor’s office / bachelors program
  - Value - ROI? / Impact on farms – show an impact to bring in more money
  - Food access – interest in eating healthy
  - Stimulating local economy
  - Don’t realize what you are doing it is democracy – most important thing you can do

- **What are some local actions that can be taken to address this issue?**
  - Incubator
  - Change culture / shift with employers
  - Customize the economy
  - Robust entrepreneur center at Chico State
  - Tie the priorities to the hiring wage calculator

- **What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?**
  - CA losing industries – highly regulated, need to be more friendly for small businesses
  - Small farms – see more of them

- **What are some local actions that can be taken to address this issue?**
What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?
- N/A

**Topic: Labor / Land & Resources**

What are the needs/challenges?
- Immigration (Tehama / Glen Counties – many Mexican immigrants) - Need system services
- Labor and demographics shift – youth interested in manual labor
- Uncertainty how immigrant populations will fare and impact on food labor
- Farmers tend to be conservative – support with anti-immigration policy but face issues with loss of low cost labor – catastrophic with food industry/systems
- Immigrant populations disenrolling from CalFresh – ripple effect likely – becomes real
- Access to land for farmers markets – hard where weather / conditions difficult
- Cannot purchase land with grant money - looking to social impact bonds
- Need: new partnerships with orgs with land, school gardens, daycare, etc. - challenge water access
- North Coast opportunities: community gardens (Lake County) aiming to high density areas (apartments) – due to fire / rebuilding challenges to finding land to develop and ensuring community buy in / collaboration (Sac county some policy examples to look to) – can help eliminate barriers and risk aversion re: responsibilities, etc.
- “Easy Gap” – perhaps can develop 411 for community gardens.

Where is the momentum in the region?
- Community gardens; $ an issue – when funding stops, gardens can fall into disuse (need maintenance) and can stall momentum

What are some local actions that can be taken to address this issue?
- Butte County committee on racial / social justice
- Community engagement (sustained efforts) / community education/ buy-in
- Utilize existing groups – ex. Schools /districts all have school wellness policy groups – join them; do robust outreach
- Hospitals - dieticians, others can be engage around our work

What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?
- Immigrations – fight for sanctuary states to help farmers / rural residents
- Need to make regulationss easier to promote and follow
- Making legislation easier to follow/ understand – cottage, food industry, etc. (resources to make succinct and able to implement etc.)
Land access – liability challenges, vacant lots access / ownership etc.
County can ID land for procurement

**Topic: Education**

- **What are the needs and challenges?**
  - Residents have to leave to get an education and many don’t come back to the region
  - Natural disasters (Oroville Dam Spillway)
  - Lack of nutrition education/life skills in schools
  - Need more outreach to students and potential for higher education
  - Language barriers
  - Access to internet
  - Face-to-face meetings are challenging in rural communities
  - 99.5% of schools qualify for school meals (didn’t indicate which county)
  - Social media not as effective in rural communities
  - Everyone experiences poverty differently

- **Where is the momentum in the region?**
  - CSUs, UC’s and community colleges moving to support housing and hunger
  - School gardens for education
  - Many free workshops
  - Creative planning to leverage resources
  - Place making activities

- **What are some local actions that can be taken to address the issue?**
  - Expect More Tehama
  - Emphasize civic engagement
  - Teach students how to be advocates
  - Teach constituents to have a voice
  - Storytelling
  - Self-advocacy training
  - Provide authentic spaces for discussion
  - Invite representatives to events

- **What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?**
  - Regulations of types of foods sold
  - Vote no on HB610- Voucher Bill- Choices in Education (vouchers are bad for local schools)
  - No on Hungry Kids Act
• Nutrition should be core curriculum
• Engage constituents

**Topic: Food Security**

• What are the needs and challenges:
  • Need to expand gardens in small counties
  • Cost of food
  • On campuses, there are efforts to increase access to food, but students need to be taught basic cooking skills
  • Subsidies are going to the wrong crops
  • Difficult to keep school gardens functioning over summer months
  • Lack of cold storage for healthy food in pantries
  • CalFresh is marketed as a Nutrition program, however there is little focus on education
  • Food banks do not have cold storage
  • Transportation is an issue for rural communities. How do remote residents get to food banks
  • Often times we do not look at cultural aspects of food prep and diet
  • Elimination of basic life skills in schools
  • Lack of grocery stores

• Where is the momentum in the region?
  • Push for farmers markets
  • Market match
  • Retail venues improving messaging
  • Toolkit being created for eligibility workers (PHI/CDSS)
  • Lake County- community garden in every school
  • Americorps focusing on food access
  • Arboretum promoting campus gardens
  • Asset focused projects
  • Momentum on college campuses
  • Civic engagement
  • Improving awareness

• What are some local actions that can be taken to address the issue?
  • Promote growing own food
  • Provide opportunities to work in community gardens for food
  • Extend school food program to community colleges
• Continue discussions and provide platform for communication
• Invite legislators, school boards, county boards of supervisors to attend events

• What are some state/federal actions that could be valuable for this issue?
  • Farm Bill advocacy
  • Vote no on HB610- Voucher Bill- Choices in Education (vouchers are bad for local schools)
  • No on Hungry Kids Act
  • Participate in National Sustainability Ag Coalition
  • Public thank you to sponsors
  • Represent constituents