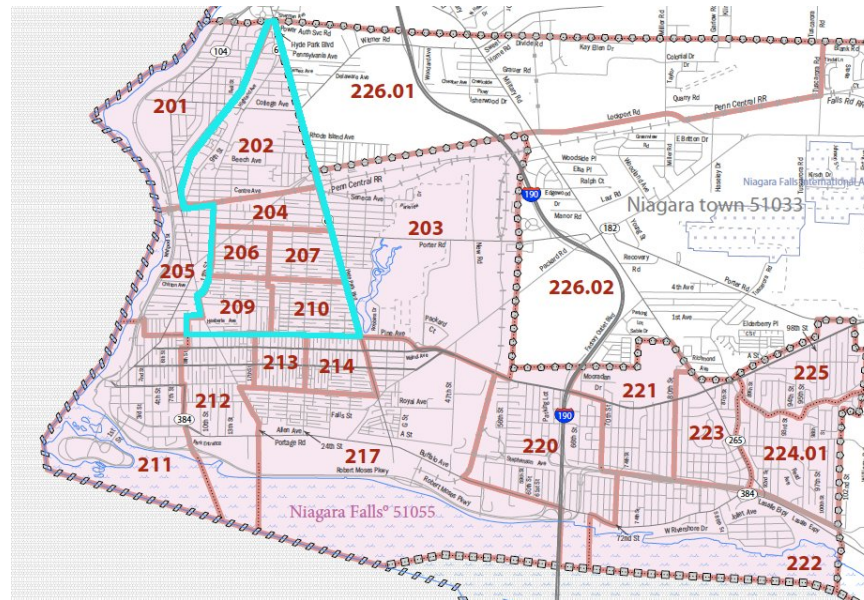


# Healthy Neighborhoods Fund Learning Collaborative Meeting



Creating a Healthier Niagara Falls  
Collaborative  
June 16, 2015

Lisa Tucker, Presenter

## Cross Sector Partners and Collaborators

- ReNU and Niagara University
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County
- Field & Fork Network
- Healthy Foods, Healthy People Coalition – group includes non-profits, government agencies, etc. focused on food access.
- Creating a Healthier Niagara Falls Collaborative - group includes city and county government, healthcare agencies, education institutions, non-profits from a variety of sectors.

## Long-term Goal

The goals & objectives of the Healthy Neighborhoods Grant for Niagara Falls address the lack of access to healthy food, improvements to the built environment, and identified desires for lifestyle change indicated by residents in the most challenged and vulnerable neighborhoods in the city of Niagara Falls: Hyde Park and Highland Avenue

## 100-day Goal

Our 100-day goal was the completion of the strategic plan for the Healthy Foods, Healthy People Coalition and the development of a business plan for a pop-up fresh foods mobile market.

## Top Accomplishments

- Accomplishment #1 – HFHP coalition lead the development of a more cohesive organizational structure across the entire collaborative which allowed for more effective engagement with stakeholders.
- Accomplishment #2 – Farm to School – Quickly established a partnership with new food service director for the school district and submitted a USDA farm to school grant.
- Accomplishment #3 – The program inventory done by the facilitators of the healthy food healthy people coalition which helped identify opportunities and overlaps in food access programming.
- Accomplishment #4 – Development of a Business plan for pop up market and workforce development training program.
- Accomplishment #5 – Developed a Food System & Advocacy Training curriculum for local residents.

## Lessons Learned

- Lesson #1 – We should have clearly established our priorities before engaging in the strategic planning process.
- Lesson #2 – Engagement of stakeholders. Reactive vs. proactive agencies addressing food access. Who was at the table informed the plan but also prevented the plan from being completed.
- Lesson #3 – Keeping stakeholders engaged and continuing to inform the process was challenging. We believe this was due to priorities not being established early on which would have helped define each agency's role.

## Key Challenge

Clearly defining partner roles and responsibilities so as to effectively capitalize on individuals and organizations contribution of resources and expertise without exhausting them.

## Question

Keeping stakeholders engaged in the process without losing momentum - how do we effectively do this over a long period of time?