



Nourishing Networks Workshop

Preliminary Schedule
May 19th and 20th, 2016



DAY 1: THURSDAY MAY 19TH

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Registration, Breakfast & Welcome - [Brooks Hall 324](#)

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM **“Nourishing Our Networks with Learning and Action”**
Speaker: Dr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Food Justice Lab
Location: [Brooks Hall 325](#)

Each year we witness a widening gap in the U.S. between those who can access high quality, affordable, nutritious foods and those who cannot. Across West Virginia, where disparities in food access are particularly acute, many intrepid advocates are working hard to close that gap. **How can we bring these diverse food access initiatives together around one table to advance community health and well-being for all West Virginians?** This opening session will focus on the value of shared learning and deepen our understanding of key ideas such as access, equity and community participation that we will use throughout the workshop. Dr. Wilson will conclude by discussing the goals of WV FOODLINK and our many partners who are working on the frontlines to transform our food system.

-----10:15 AM - 10:30 AM - BREAK-----

10:30 AM - 11:45PM **“The State of Food Access in West Virginia”**
Speaker: Joshua Lohnes, Director of WV FOODLINK
Location: [Brooks Hall 325](#)

In May 2016 WV FOODLINK published its first Nourishing Network Report on the State of Food Access in West Virginia. In this presentation, Associate Director Joshua Lohnes will discuss the findings from the Nourishing Network Report and provide an overview of the research process that led to its publication. First, he will discuss the problem of food deserts in WV. Then, Lohnes will discuss food access strategies to address the food desert problem in three key areas explored in the report including State Interventions, Charitable Assistance and Alternative Food Initiatives. He will conclude by discussing the various tools created by WV FOODLINK to foster local, county and regional scale planning and action initiatives.

----- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - LUNCH-----

1:15 - 1:45 PM **Food Access Planning Exercises - [Brooks Hall 305/309](#)**
Our workshop brings together people from different backgrounds, expertise, and experience to discuss food access barriers and the effectiveness of food access strategies in their respective sphere of influence. However, unlike many dialogues that only rely on our individual experiences, we will also learn together how to use shared tools such as maps and other information to deepen our understanding of the issue and to promote cooperative experiments and planning.

1:45 - 3:00 PM

County-Scale Food Access Assessment - Brooks Hall 305/309

In this exercise we form planning groups of 5 participants who are charged with conducting a rapid assessment of food access in their appointed county. Participants must work together to identify access barriers as well as community assets and food resources which can be assembled to improve access to healthy food for all. To ensure a complete assessment participants must consider the particular barriers faced by vulnerable populations and the existing state, charitable, and alternative food strategies that could support healthier food futures.

3:15 - 4:30 PM

County-Scale Food Access Strategy – Brooks Hall 305/309

In this exercise our planning groups are charged with creating a preliminary healthy food access strategy that they will present to local and regional allies, county-commissioners, and state officials. The strategic plan should include three elements: 1) A long list of healthy food access barriers (10-15) which the strategic plan identifies as areas of community concern. 2) A short list of priority areas (3-5) and specific plans on how to improve healthy food access in your county in the near and/or long term. (3) A dream team of collaborators (be specific) who will help contribute to executing this plan over the next two years.

4:45 - 5:30 PM

Food Access Planning Reflections – Brooks Hall 325

Our rapid assessment and planning is intended to be experimental and provisional, not a comprehensive process. In other words, this exercise was designed for learning. So what did we learn? What was useful? What was missing? Beyond time, what were the limits of the process? How could you imagine this playing out at the county, regional or even state-wide scale?

-----**5:45PM - 7:30PM - DINNER AND PRESENTATIONS**-----

DAY 2: FRIDAY MAY 20th

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM **Breakfast - Brooks Hall 324**

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM **“Let’s Map: Introduction to the Nourishing Networks Portal”**
Facilitator: Thomson Gross/Zach Summerfield – Portal Designers - Brooks Hall 325

In this presentation, Thomson Gross gives participants a first look at the new Nourishing Networks Portal, an online map making engine loaded with all the WV FOODLINK data from two years of research. Unlike the existing maps on the WV FOODLINK website, this one is interactive allowing users to turn on and off relevant layers and create their own maps. We will explain how data has been collected and how we envision it to be used and updated by our growing community of practice. We will also answer any questions about the future direction and potential of the Portal as a tool for organizing community food security coalitions.

-----10:00 AM - 10:15 AM - BREAK-----

10:15 AM - 11:45 PM **“Learning to Map Food Access” - 4th Floor Computer Labs**
Facilitator: WV FOODLINK Staff

In this session we will help participants log-in to the Portal and begin studying the WV FOODLINK data. Each participant will have a series of questions to explore and answer to gain familiarity with the different features of the Portal.

-----12:00 PM - 1:15 PM - LUNCH and Reflection-----

1:15 PM - 2:45 PM **“Making Our Own Maps” - 4th Floor Computer Labs**
Facilitator: WV FOODLINK Staff

In this session WV FOODLINK staff will help participants make and print off their own maps for their community or organization. Here participants will be able to explore their own particular interests and areas of concern while learning how to use the Community Food Access Portal.

3:00PM - 4:30 PM **“Reflections: From Mapping to Action for Healthy Food Futures”**
Facilitator: Dr. Bradley Wilson - Brooks Hall 325

WV FOODLINK was designed to be more than a map. It is a community resource. In this session we will discuss how to continue building a community driven research project through a participatory action research framework. In our view, anyone should be able to access and contribute information to WV FOODLINK. We will discuss the philosophy behind our research methods and how we hope those will translate into food related planning meetings across the state. What additional data should we begin to include? How do we collect the data that would be included? What can be done remotely and what should be done at yearly workshops such as this one? How do we build collective ownership over this community-based research enterprise?