

# Food Organizational Landscape in Charlotte

## Overview

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### Background

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council in partnership with Leadership Charlotte conducted a survey/interview to gather information from organizations whose mission or programs address food access and behaviors to understand the organizational landscape in our community. With this understanding, we are in better position to develop a collaborative action plan to address the opportunities in the 2015 State of the Plate food assessment.

There were 28 respondents to the survey (74% Non-Profits, 15% Government, 7% University, 4% For Profit).

### Summary - What We Learned

- Top focus areas are Access to Healthy Food and Nutrition Education
- Overwhelming majority of organizations are seeking more structured collaboration
- The greatest opportunity for collaboration is sharing resources and improving, expanding communications
- Key challenge is a lack of a centralized communication hub



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## Focus Areas in Our Community

### Access to Healthy Foods

81% of responders

Friendship Trays  
 Urban Ministry Center  
 Charlotte Regional Farmers Market  
 Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina  
 Carolina Farm Stewardship Association  
 Meck Co. Health Dept  
 Friendship Gardens  
 UNC Charlotte Dining Services  
 Community Culinary School of Charlotte  
 Carolina Farm Trust  
 Centralina Council of Governments  
 Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte  
 Youth Empower Solutions  
 UNC Charlotte Urban Institute  
 Harvest Center  
 100 Gardens  
 NC Community Gardens Partner  
 Davidson Farmers Market  
 Carolinas Healthcare  
 West Boulevard Coalition  
 Camino Community Center  
 Charlotte-Meck Food Policy Council

### Nutrition Education

77% of responders

Plants for Human Health Institute  
 Friendship Trays  
 Green Teacher Network  
 Stratford Richardson YMCA  
 Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina  
 Carolina Farm Stewardship Association  
 Meck Co. Health Dept  
 Friendship Gardens  
 UNC Charlotte Dining Services  
 Community Culinary School of Charlotte  
 Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte  
 Youth Empower Solutions  
 Harvest Center  
 100 Gardens  
 NC Community Gardens Partner  
 Davidson Farmers Market  
 Carolinas Healthcare  
 West Boulevard Coalition  
 Camino Community Center  
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### Health Promotion

65% of responders

Plants for Human Health Institute  
 Friendship Trays  
 Green Teacher Network  
 Stratford Richardson YMCA  
 Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina  
 Carolina Farm Stewardship Association  
 Meck Co. Health Dept  
 Friendship Gardens  
 UNC CLT Dining Services  
 Community Culinary School of Charlotte  
 Centralina Council of Governments  
 Harvest Center  
 100 Gardens  
 NC Community Gardens Partner  
 Carolinas Healthcare  
 West Boulevard Coalition  
 Camino Community Center  
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### Hunger/Food Insecurity

54% of responders

Friendship Trays  
 Urban Ministry Center  
 Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina  
 Carolina Farm Stewardship Association  
 Meck Co. Health Dept  
 Friendship Gardens  
 Community Culinary School of Charlotte  
 Jewish Family Svc of Greater Charlotte  
 Youth Empower Solutions  
 UNC Charlotte Urban Institute  
 Harvest Center  
 NC Community Gardens Partner  
 Carolinas Healthcare  
 Camino Community Center  
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### Gardening

54% of responders

Plants for Human Health Institute  
 Friendship Trays  
 Urban Ministry Center  
 Green Teacher Network  
 Charlotte Regional Farmers Market  
 Stratford Richardson YMCA  
 Carolina Farm Stewardship Assoc.  
 Meck Co. Health Dept  
 Friendship Gardens  
 Community Culinary School of CLT  
 100 Gardens  
 NC Community Gardens Partner  
 Carolinas Healthcare  
 West Boulevard Coalition  
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### Local Food Economy

46% of responders

Friendship Trays  
 Charlotte Regional Farmers Market  
 Carolina Farm Stewardship Assoc.  
 Meck Co. Health Dept  
 Piedmont Culinary Guild  
 Friendship Gardens  
 Community Culinary School of CLT  
 Youth Empower Solutions  
 UNC Charlotte Urban Institute  
 Harvest Center  
 Davidson Farmers Market  
 West Boulevard Coalition  
 Charlotte-Meck Food Policy Council

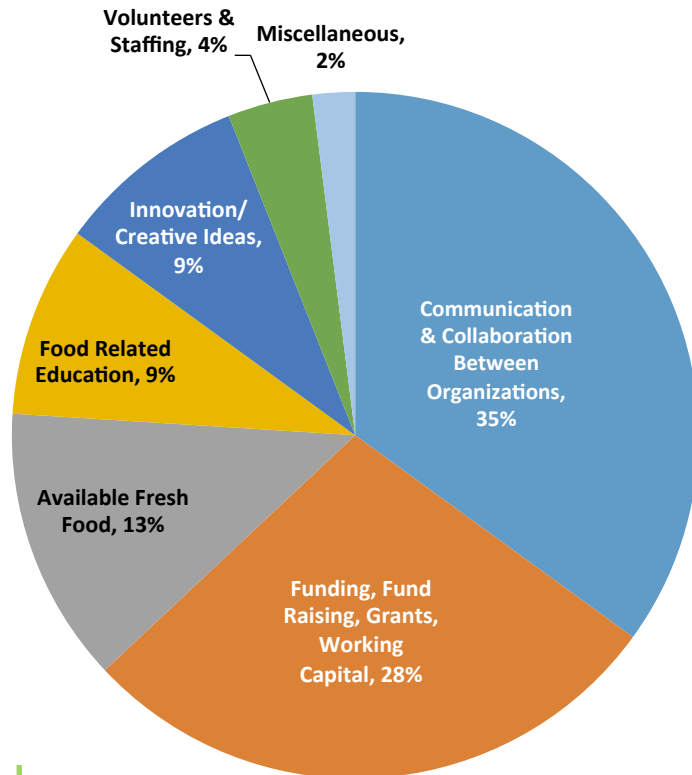
### Top responses to how you're addressing these needs:

- **Education** – nutrition, food, healthy cooking
- **Gardening** programs
- **Farmers Market/Mobile Markets** - “Double Bucks for EBT”
- **Food Pantry**
- **Free Meals**
- **Healthy Corner Stores**
- **Healthy food policy**

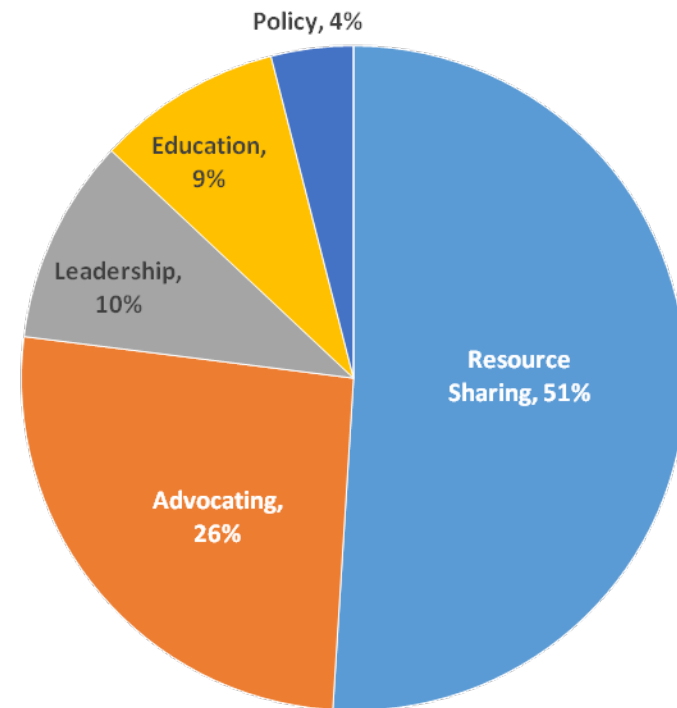
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## Challenges and Opportunities for Collaboration

### Organizational Challenges



### Collaboration Opportunities



Greatest challenge among organizations is correlated to collaboration opportunities – the sum is greater than all its parts

- ✓ Focus on resource sharing, improving communication and start or broaden collaboration
- ✓ Challenges associated with funding may be addressed with increased advocacy, leadership, and resource sharing

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## Quotes – Role Food Policy Council Should Play

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*"If the Food Policy Council could serve as a regular convener of organizations around this work, that would be extraordinary. Additionally, identifying some common indicators for measuring this work across the community would also be wonderful."*

*"Drive for policy change in city and county government to support food and nutrition initiatives / funding in Mecklenburg and surrounding areas. Drive awareness on the issue."*

*"Continue to be an educator in our community on behalf of those in our community with food insecurities."*

*"Advocate--take charge on the policy issues."*

*"The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council could act as a connector for our organization--connecting us to other similar organizations, funding, support, grants, etc."*

*"I'm pleased you ask, that's a good first step. Helpful services might include providing accurate "big picture" perspective so we don't get lost in our individual approaches but giving people a chance to explain why the part of the problem they address is significant. Provide a big table we can all gather around for creative collaboration."*

*"Releasing data and keeping the community informed. Being an advocate."*

*"The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council should play the role of an encourager. Sometimes we can feel limited as far as our reach to those in need of food but at the same time, our reach goes farther than we know...it would be beneficial to have encouragement occasionally."*

*"CONVENE organizations to share and/or aggregate research and benchmarking that may help others."*

