

## Action Plan Worksheet

**Purpose:** This worksheet is designed to help you create your action plan.

Use the Action Plan worksheet to pull together the food security issues identified through your assessment and to generate ideas and actions to address them. Discuss the issues as a group and consult with others to select those that you feel are the most urgent, timely, and manageable for you to consider. Then brainstorm on possible initiatives before selecting one or two preferred actions best suited to the current situation and your capacity. Identify possible challenges and champions for your preferred actions. **Chapter 5** contains many resources to help you generate and research your ideas.

When creating your **Action Plan** it will be helpful to follow the steps below:

1. List all **Key Issues** that have been identified as you have worked through this toolkit.
2. Consider these **Key Issues** and choose those that your group and community partners feel are the most significant and that have the greatest potential to take action on. Be honest about the magnitude of possible challenges and available resources. When discussing priorities, keep in mind what is happening in your community that may increase the urgency and opportunities for action, such as the start of a planning review, municipal election, proposed facility, new business, etc.
3. Use your **Action Plan** as a starting point to develop detailed work plans for your highest ranked **Issues** and preferred actions.
4. Create a food action team or group to carry the food assessment forward and implement your **Action Plan**. This group will work out details like leaders and partners, timeframe and process, resource requirements, etc.

### Planning Considerations

When tackling your key issues, remember that how your community is structured can impact the ability to access food. Some of the following planning actions may improve access to food in your community. Discuss the following with your planner, consider other ideas from the resources in Chapter 5 and research other food planning policies & initiatives:

1. Identify accessible and suitable sites in your community for food retail (farm markets/stands, grocery, etc.), agriculture, processing facilities and distribution centres and zone accordingly.
2. Develop plans that recognize community gardens, urban agriculture, farm stands and markets as desirable uses and ensure that there is space, infrastructure and access to support these uses.

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3. Consider supports for larger scale food production and processing in rural communities and supports for smaller scale food enterprises in urban communities.
4. Plan for mixed-use neighbourhoods that include and encourage small and mid-scale food outlets, seasonal markets and open space for gardens and urban agriculture.
5. Design infrastructure (particularly active transportation and transit) to support safe and convenient access to food sources and services.
6. Maximize publically owned lands and buildings to support urban agriculture, food production and food skills/awareness.
7. Integrate local agriculture such as community gardens, urban agriculture and small farms into existing settlements and new areas of development.
8. Include zoning that promotes facilities such as community kitchens and spaces such as community gardens which support food entrepreneurship and awareness.
9. Update home based business provisions to enable small scale food enterprises.