

Pittsburgh Food Justice Fund



PITTSBURGH
FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

- Kathryn Vargas, Director, CitiParks
- Jodi McLaughlin, Food Justice Fund Liaison, PFPC

Introductions & Agenda



- U.S. Food Intervention
- Poverty & Food Insecurity
- Origins of Food Justice & Food Justice Funds
- Pittsburgh FJF

U.S. Food Intervention

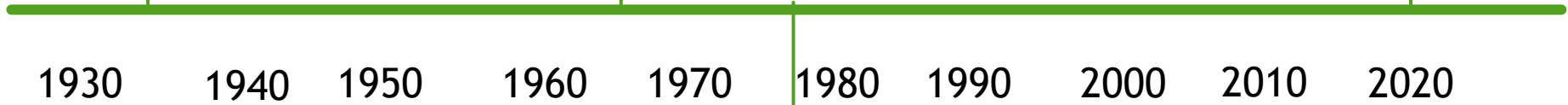
{ Philanthropic Anti-Hunger Movement
Late 1960s - Present }

1939 - First formalized Food Stamp Plan

1967 - First food bank established in Phoenix, AZ

2020 - Covid-19 Pandemic

1979 - Feeding America Founded



U.S. Food Interventions continued

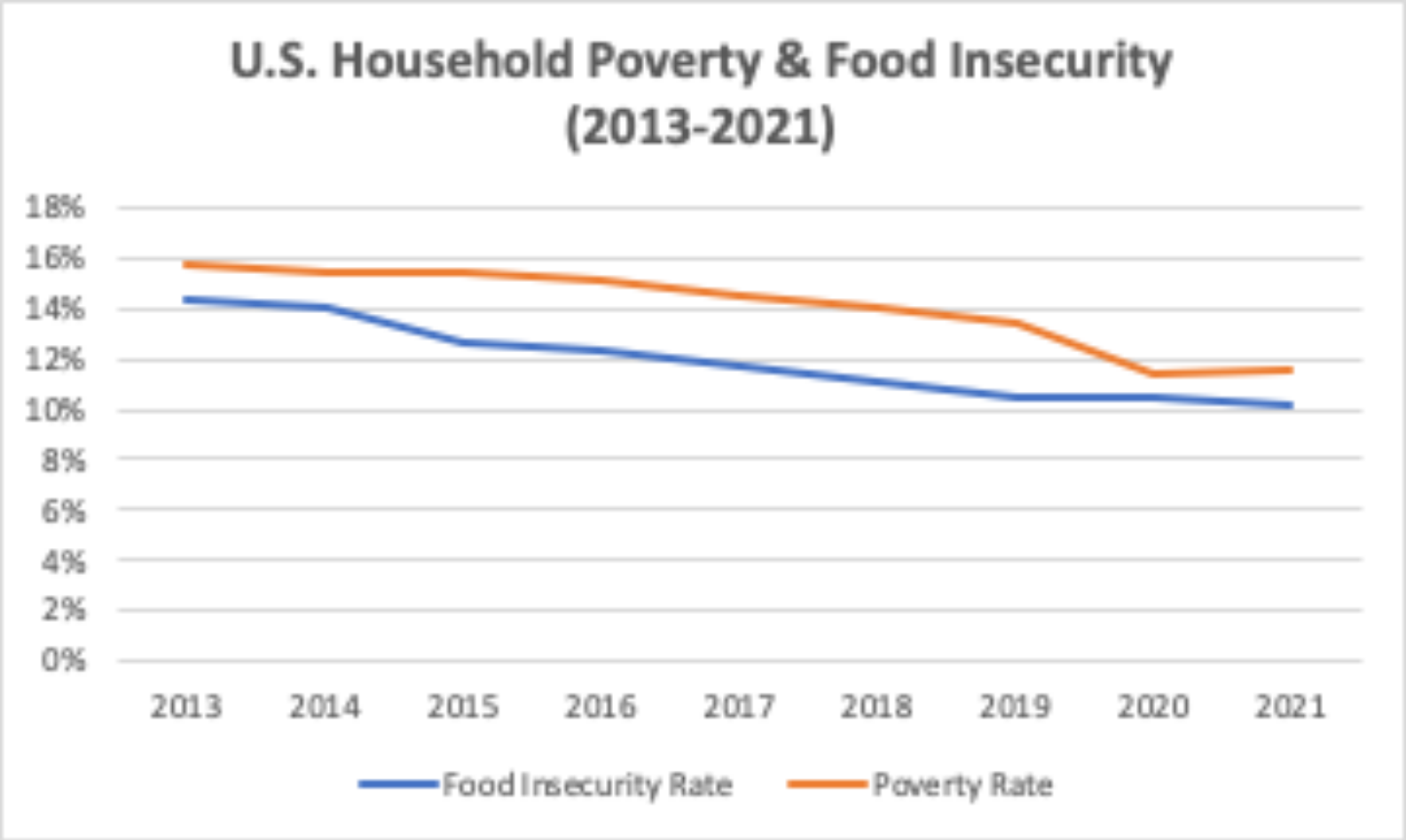
- **Federal Government Interventions**

- Currently there are 15 Federal Supplemental Nutrition Programs
- Supplemental Nutrition Programs are included in the “Farm Bill”
- \$108 billion paid out in SNAP benefits in 2021

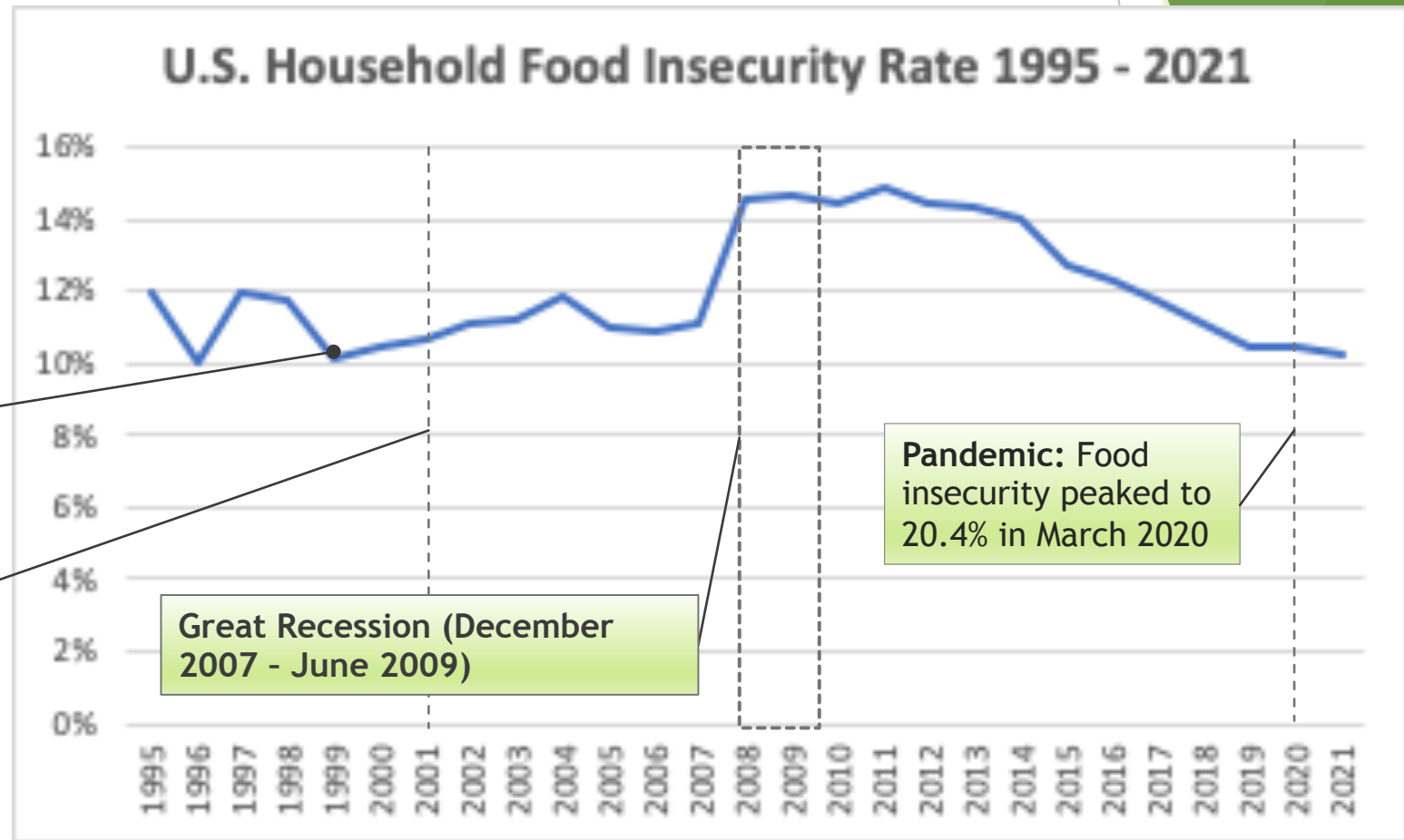
- **Charitable Food Interventions**

- Charitable giving to the top 300 food banks in the U.S. increased by \$4.6 billion (or 37%) to \$18.9 billion in 2021
- 4.9 billion meals were distributed to 49 million people in 2021 per Feeding America

Poverty & Food Insecurity in the U.S. (2013 -2021)



U.S. Food Insecurity Since 1995

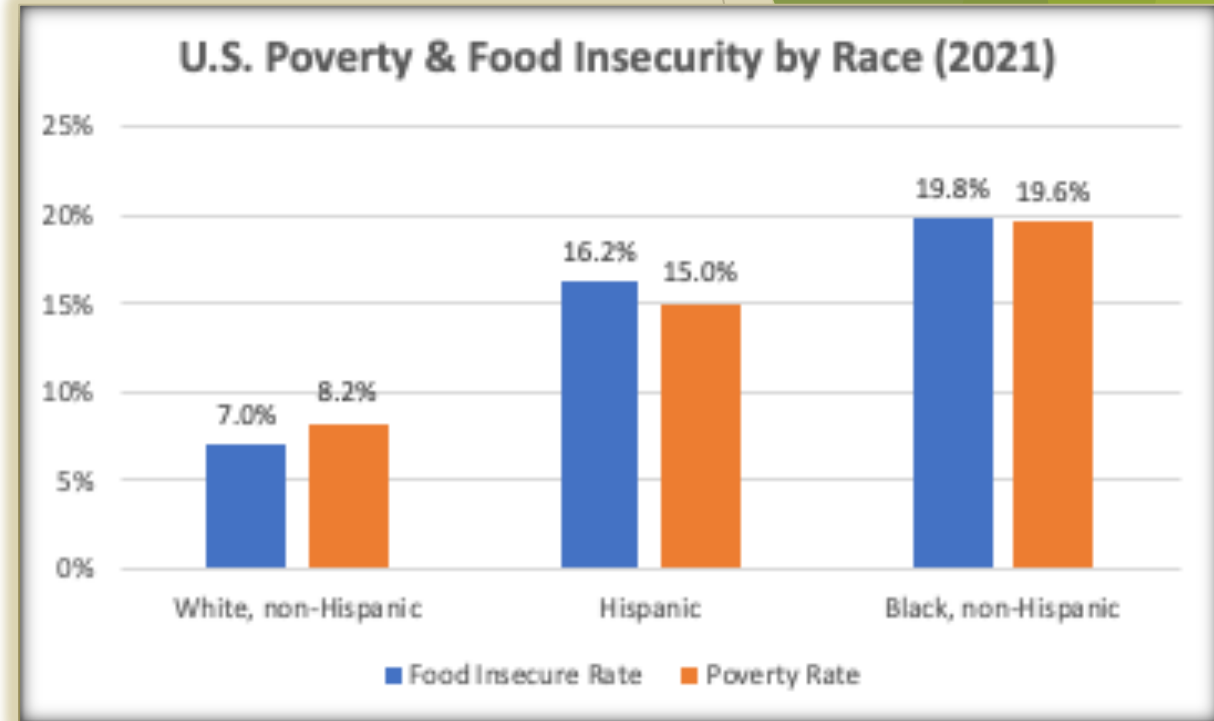
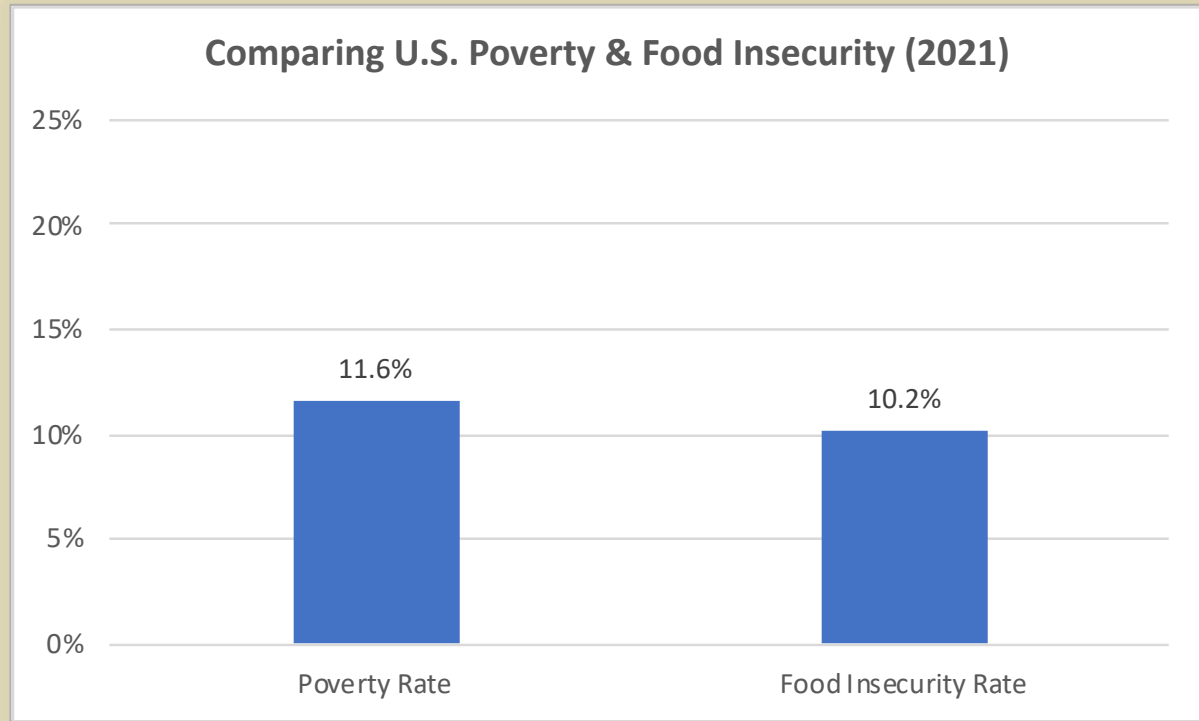


1999: Lowest Food Insecurity 10.1%

2001 Recession (March - November 2001)

Great Recession (December 2007 - June 2009)

Pandemic: Food insecurity peaked to 20.4% in March 2020



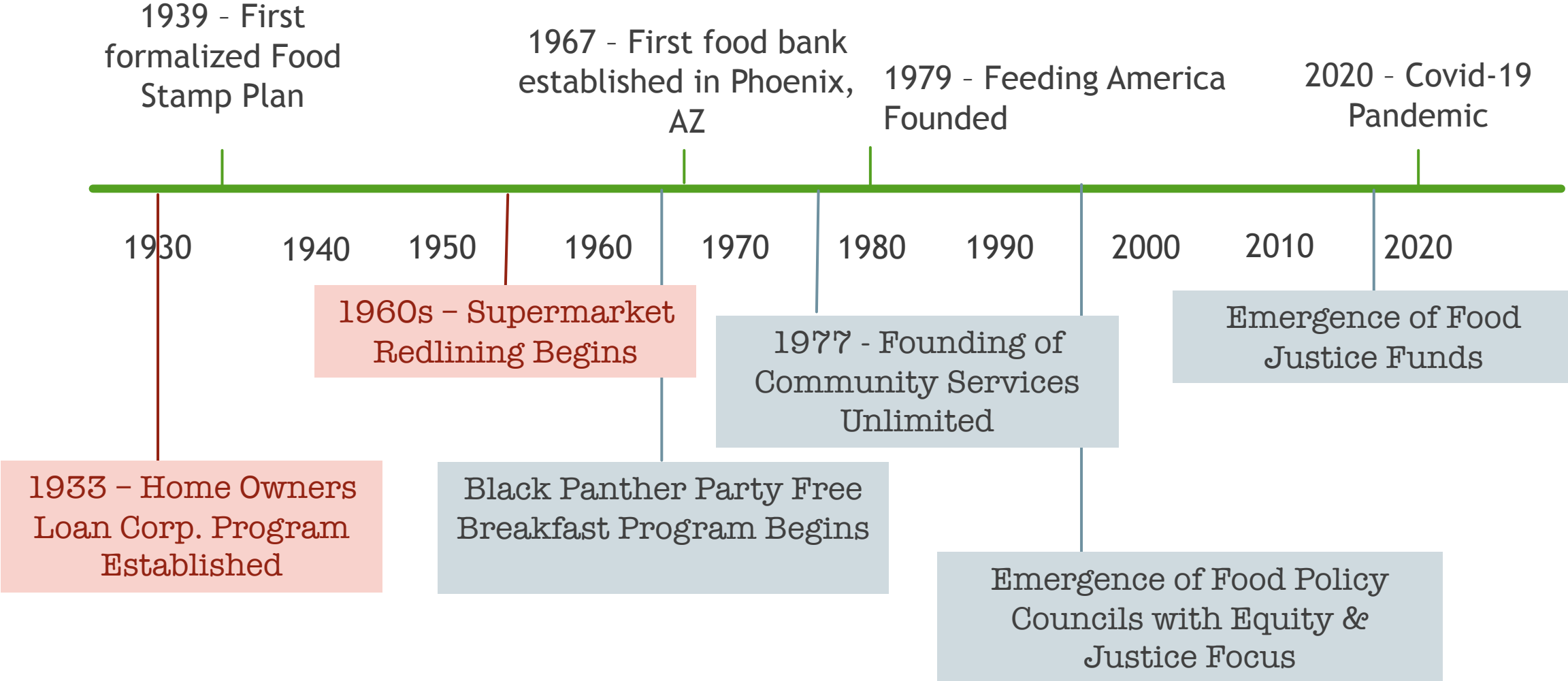
Poverty & Food Insecurity in the U.S. (2021)

Food Justice Definitions

Food Apartheid: “Systemic destruction of black self-determination to control one’s food, hyper-saturation of destructive foods and predatory marketing, and blatantly discriminatory corporate controlled food system that results in [communities of color] suffering from some of the highest rates of heart disease and diabetes all the time.” - *Dara Cooper, Founder and former Executive Director, National Black Food & Justice Alliance (NBFJA)*

Food Justice: “The struggle against racism, exploitation, and oppression taking place within the food system that addresses inequality’s root causes both within and beyond the food chain.” - *A Survey of Food Justice Organizations in the U.S.A. R.S. Hislop (2014)*

Food Justice Intervention



Argument for Food Justice Funds

New Panther Vanguard Movement:

“...that solutions to historical inequities must emerge from within the very communities that have been historically oppressed.”

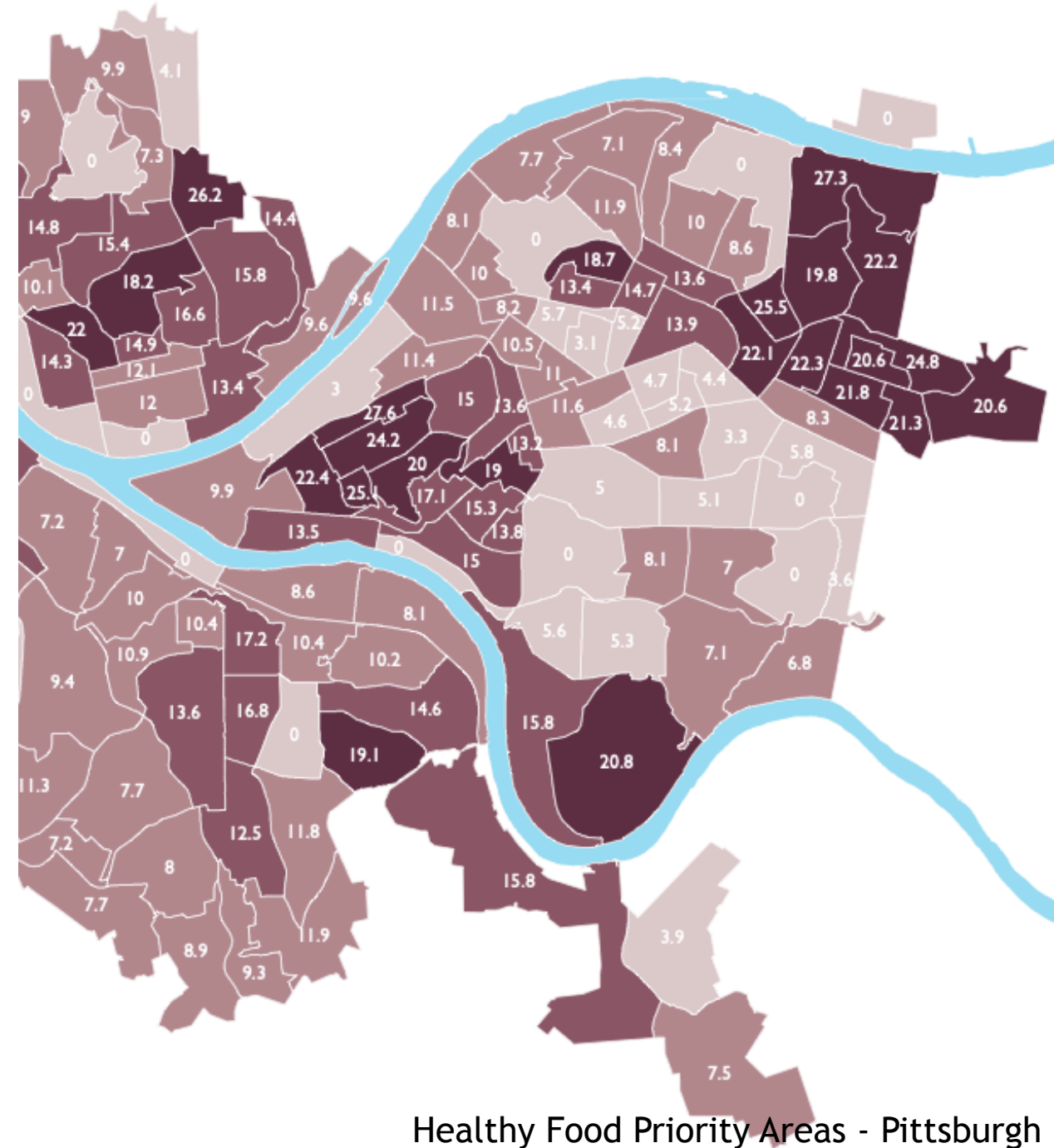
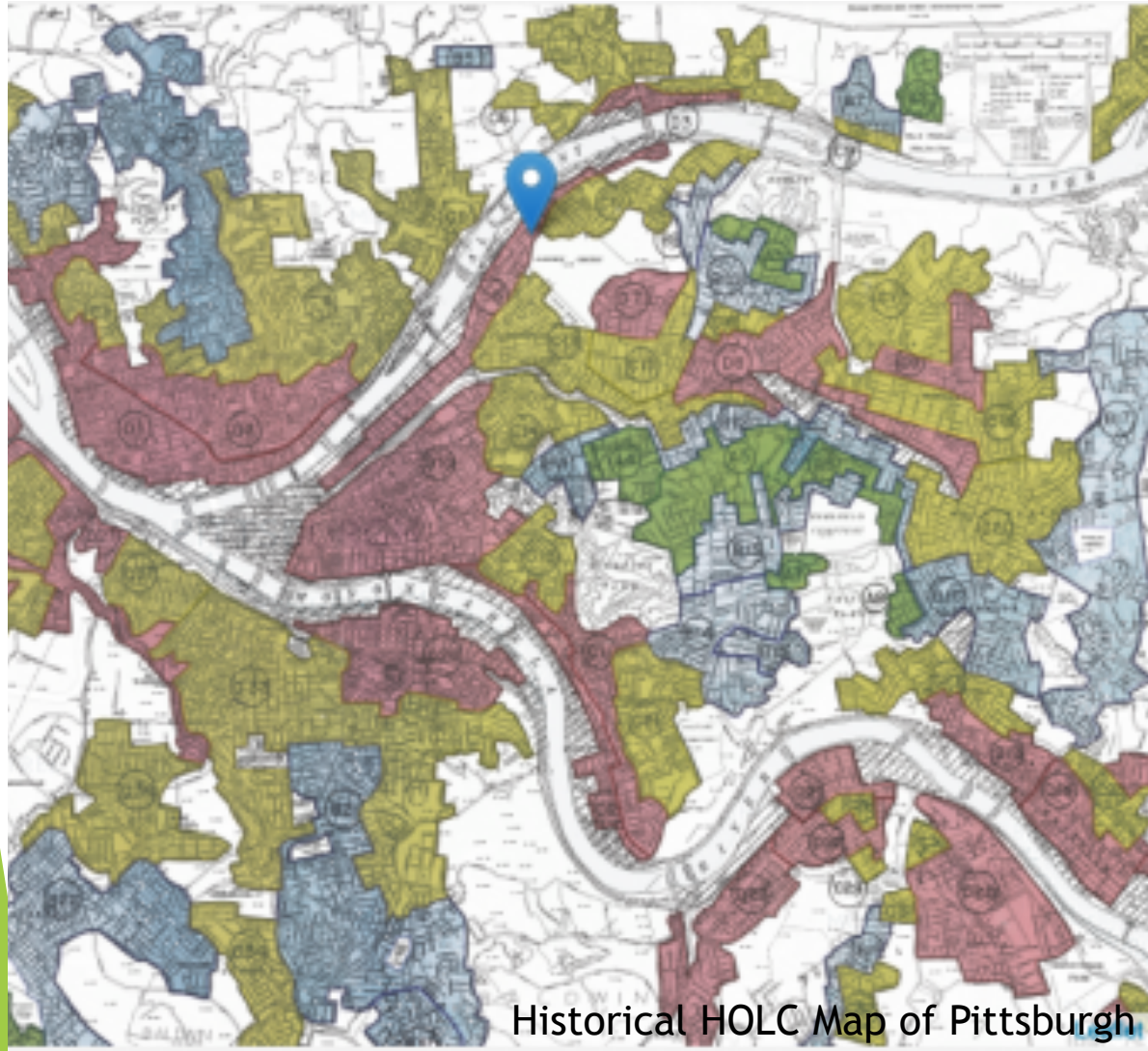
“...significant investment in those traditionally marginalized communities of color was necessary if the cause of social transformation was to be successfully advanced “

- From *More than Food Justice: Food Justice & Community Change* by Garrett Broad (2016)



Background image by Meredith Stern

Impact of Redlining



Two Organized Approaches to Food Justice

Food Justice Funds: “A method of investment in grassroots, community-led projects to address food apartheid.” - *Pittsburgh Food Justice Fund*

Equitable Food Oriented Development (EFOD): “A community-anchored development strategy centering Black, Indigenous, and People of Color food & agriculture projects and enterprises as vehicles for shared power, cultural expression, and community asset building.”
- *Equitable Food Oriented Development Coalition*

Existing Food Justice Funds

Existing Fund	Managed By	Funded By
Food Access Community Grants (Boston)	Mayor's Office of Food Justice	City Budget & American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
Chicago Regional Food System Fund	Fresh Taste	Private Foundations
Jefferson County Food Systems Grant (Denver Region)	JeffCo Department of Public Health	ARPA
Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative	Reinvestment Fund	Department of Public Health, Reinvestment Fund, Government Grants, Wells Fargo
Food Justice Task Force (Sacramento)	City of Sacramento	ARPA
Food Equity Fund (Seattle)	Department of Neighborhoods	Sweeten Beverage Tax
Nourish DC Collaborative (Washington, D.C.)	Capital Impact Partners, Washington Area Community Investment Fund, Latino Economic Development Center, CDC Small Business Finance, EatsPlace, and Dreaming Out Loud	Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development, DC Local Equity, Access, Preservation Funds, and Private Foundations

The logo features a dark green rectangular background with a faint, stylized cityscape of Pittsburgh, including the iconic Roberto Clement Bridge, visible in the background. The word "Pittsburgh" is written in a white, elegant cursive script. Below it, the words "Food Justice Fund" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Pittsburgh
Food Justice Fund



Purpose: to increase investments in grassroots efforts to address food apartheid in the City of Pittsburgh



Timeline of Events

- **March 2020** - Covid-19 Pandemic begins
- **Summer 2020** - Published Greater Pittsburgh Food Action Plan
- **March 2021** - \$335 million allocated to City of Pittsburgh (ARPA)
- **July 2021** - \$10 million FJF proposal
- **September 2021** - City Council declined to include in the budget
- **December 2021** - Councilwoman Deb Gross proposes \$1.8 million for FJF
- **March 2022** - FJF Committee established to refine proposal and strategize adoption
- **October 2022** - Press conference requesting inclusion of FJF in 2023 City budget
- **November 2022** - Mayor Ed Gainey announced inclusion of \$3 million for FJF
- **March - June 2023** - Prepared FJF plan to present to City Council
- **July 2023** - Presentation of FJF plan, committee hearing, and approval

Support Community Projects & Initiatives



- **Improve food access through:**
 - Expanding urban agriculture & food forestry
 - Creating or expanding community & mobile markets
 - Improving access to prepared healthy meals
 - Providing transportation
- **Improve the environment through:**
 - Reducing food waste
 - Compost program expansion
 - Soil remediation
 - Carbon footprint reduction
- **Improve community through:**
 - Supporting business development & expansion
 - Creating jobs
 - Creating community eating spaces & events
 - Reducing blight
- **Improve public health through:**
 - Cooking classes & demonstrations
 - Nutrition education
 - Youth farming programs
 - Improving access to culturally relevant foods

Council-Approved Grant Program



- **Tiered Distribution*:**
 - **Tier 1:** \$1.5 million to be awarded to organizations with operating budgets less than \$500,000 (Grants: \$2,000 - \$75,000); managed by a TBD third party
 - **Tier 2:** \$1.1 million to be awarded to transformational, capital projects (Grants: \$75,000 - \$500,000); managed by the City of Pittsburgh

** As of July 18, 2023, the amounts awarded to one or both tiers will change because of an amendment to how the FJF Coordinator position will be funded*



FJF Next Steps

Goal: Begin awarding grants by spring 2024

- Hire Third Party Entity to Manage Tier 1 of FJF Program (Now - September 2023)
- Hire FJF Coordinator (by September 2023)
- Identify & Appoint Governing Board (Now - Fall 2023)
- Release RFP (Fall 2023)
- Provide Technical Assistance for Applicants (Fall 2023)

Questions?

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<https://www.pittsburghfoodpolicy.org/food-justice-fund>