Healthy Food For All Work Group 2014 Assessment of   
Opportunities for Access to Healthy Food for Low-Income Families

The LiveWell Healthy Food For All work group assessed the implementation of the Access to Healthy Food for Low-Income Families strategy, part of the Access to Healthy Foods goal of the 2013 Douglas County Community Health Plan. The assessment was an effort by the University of Kansas Work Group for Community Health and Development and the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department to assist in action prioritization for the upcoming year. To this end, an online survey was administered to the Healthy Food For All work group to gather ratings on each member’s satisfaction with the implementation of the strategy over the past year, the importance of implementation of the strategy in the upcoming year, the feasibility of implementation in the upcoming year, and the member’s likelihood of contributing to implementation during the upcoming year. The survey was designed as a starting point for discussion on the current and future implementation of the eight opportunities for community action specified in the 2013 Douglas County Community Health Plan for the Access to Healthy Food for Low-Income Families strategy (Access to Healthy Foods, Strategy 4).

The open survey received responses from October 6, 2014 until October 21, 2014, during which time 12 of the 28 members (42.9%) of the LiveWell Healthy Food For All work group answered the survey. Of these, 11 respondents listed how long they had been involved with the work group and 12 answered how many meetings they attended.

* 9 respondents had been part of the work group for *more than one year*
* 2 respondents had been part of the work group for *less than one year*
* 50% of respondents attended most of the meetings
* 25% of respondents attended all of the meetings
* 25% of respondents attended a few of the meetings

The Healthy Food For All work group responded to a 5-point rating scale rating their satisfaction with the implementation of each of the opportunities for community action, which are listed in the stacked bar chart below in order of satisfaction indicated.

The Healthy Food For All work group members were asked think about the year ahead and rate the following dimensions on a 5-point scale for each of the opportunities for community change: importance of the implementation of the strategy, the feasibility of implementation of the strategy, and the likelihood that the respondent would contribute to the implementation of the strategy. The following table of stacked bar charts summarizes the results for each of the eight opportunities, which are listed in order of indicated importance.

Legend

Very important, Very feasible, or Very likely   
Important, Feasible, or Likely

Somewhat important, Somewhat feasible, or Somewhat likely   
 A little important, A little feasible, or A little likely



Not important, Not feasible, or Not likely

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| --- | --- |
| **Opportunity for community change** | **Percent rating on a 5-point scale, n = 11** |
| Establish new places to purchase fresh produce in areas with limited options |  |
| Implement a choice-based system with whole foods in local food banks/ pantries |  |
| Establish satellite food pantry locations to provide access to whole foods |  |
| Establish new sites for enrollment in SNAP & food stamp programs |  |
| Establish waste minimizing practices & policies by supplying excess to food banks |  |
| Enhance the capacity of the food system to handle large-scale donations |  |
| Make access to local food banks/pantries & farmers markets easier |  |
| Engage low-income families as food growers & small business operators |  |