

An Opportunity: OSUE Community Development Partnership with the Ohio Regional Convergence Partnership (ORCP)

The issue is: Given a current reality of accelerating rates of chronic disease and the broad, negative impact of chronic disease, supporting the health and well-being of all Ohio citizens is a shared priority. This includes access to healthy foods through cross-sector collaboration that impacts people in places where they live, work, learn, play and worship in both urban and rural environments.

It is significant because it has the potential to show how OSUE (highlighting CD) can contribute to a statewide need that covers and impacts all four OSUE program areas. It is also significant because additional funding is being obtained by ORCP to address potential issues identified by this process and summative report. (And it is anticipated that OSUE will remain 'at the table' to lead and support implementation strategies.)

Relevant background information:

- ORCP formed in 2011, aligned to the National Convergence, to support efforts that accelerate collaboration among funders, advocates, practitioners, and community leaders to promote and support equity-focused environmental and policy change specifically around increased access to healthy foods.
- ORCP's inaugural steering committee consists of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland, Saint Luke's Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, and the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations.
- Three Ohio Departments have committed to ORCP's efforts: Health, Education and Agriculture. These Departments are considered to be the lead State conveners.
- ORCP launched a strategic plan in 2012 that provides a framework to create more traction for equitable food access in Ohio. (PDF of this plan is available from Marie.); OSUE was noted in the strategic plan as a potential lead partner agency.

What has been done up to this point:

- Scope of services and budget (\$17,000) have been drafted and approved by ORCP conveners; Draft contract is under review.
- Two (2) World Café's were held at the recent Ohio Farm to School Conference.
- ORCP created a two-page informational document with plans to do statewide dissemination and public relations on their efforts.
- Some initial dialogue with OSUE colleagues has occurred on how this scope might be addressed; Marie participates on regular ORCP conference calls.

The help I would like for our CD team is: (Timeline: Current to Oct. 31, 2013)

- Convene a broad array of experts and stakeholders to engage in information sharing, discussion and actions to inform the planning and implementation of the ORCP statewide plan. This convening will encompass the following:
 - 1) Schools: 3 regional and 6 community-based
 - 2) Farmers/Growers/Producers (Supply Chain): 6 regional*/community-based
 - 3) Food Policy Groups: 6 regional*/county-based
- What does "convene" mean? This can be any method (i.e. surveys, focus groups, etc.) that is engaging and results in: 1) an assessment of current challenges; 2) identification of promising practices/approaches; and 3) listing of prioritized, next steps (action-based).
- Utilize, with modification, available agenda/format for each convening.
- Draft a summative report of the findings of each convening; Template available.
- Assist in writing and/or reviewing final blue print report to ORCP (due Oct. 31, 2013).
- Enjoy cost recovery funds for your time and efforts; Convening funds available too.

(*Region = Current OSUE regions; 2 convenings in each of the 3 OSUE regions)