

Urban Agriculture in Baltimore City

An update for LHIC: SDOH group
11/18/2022



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- Summary of Prior LHIC SDoH Meetings
- Literature Review Consensus:
 - What insights do research and data provide about Urban Agriculture?
- Future Directions:
 - What recommendations are offered by experts?



Summary of Meetings

01

FINANCES

Lack of adequate funding and revenues

02

EDUCATION

Lack of community education about UA

03

YOUTH

Desire to educate youth and work with schools

04

POLICY

Lack of policies that support UA and farmers

05

COMMUNITY

Lack of community support & concerns of safety

06

ENVIRONMENT

Soil testing, soil remediation, and environmental sustainability

Data Collection

We are currently gathering information about farms in the Baltimore city to better understand the state of Urban Agriculture (UA) and priorities of farmers.

Preliminary findings indicate that farmers feel are interested in community building but are underfunded and under supported.





Literature Review Summary

- Urban agriculture (UA) has the potential to strengthen local food systems but evidence that it has reduced food insecurity in communities in need is scarce.
- A food system solely reliant on UA will not meet community dietary needs, but UA may bridge gaps between communities and individuals that lack adequate access to healthy foods.
- Increases in produce supply must be met with intentional health communication and education through marketing and promotion.
- UA may also provide less tangible but still important benefits like increased community cohesion, environmental benefits, and much more.

What's Missing?

Strong Distribution Networks

Build partnerships with community kitchens, address transportation barriers, get food to community members

Health Education

Educating individuals on where to find and how to prepare healthy food (e.g. Urban Ag. Map, recipes, cooking classes)

Innovative Marketing

Explore ad channels and effective promotional efforts

Financial + Policy Support

Increased grant funding, government support, subsidies through coalition building and advocacy

