

# 13th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth

## Building Safe, Healthy, Equitable and Prosperous Communities

February 13-15, 2014 ■ Denver, Colorado ■ Register at [NewPartners.org](http://NewPartners.org)

PRE-CONFERENCE **WORKSHOP** ■ WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12, 2014 • 1:00-5:30 PM

## Advancing Healthy, Equitable Food Systems: Building Capacity, Partnerships and Resources



**A**cross the country, how and where food is produced, processed, distributed and accessed has implications for the health and livelihood of residents, regardless of where they live. Accordingly, food systems have become increasingly important to the smart growth movement, as rural to urban communities and regions reflect on development and plan for their future.

This half-day workshop will explore local and regional food systems through the lens of smart

growth. Learn more about building the capacity of local governments to engage in food system development, including strategies for environmental and policy change at the local and regional level. Community organizations, planners, local elected officials and businesses will share how they're forging partnerships and identifying resources to increase access to healthy, affordable food for all while also creating economic opportunities and promoting responsible land use.

Take away inspiration from innovative models and practical guidance about the process, tools, funding, resources and, ultimately, implementation that can support work in your own communities.

**Pre-registration and a \$35 fee are required. Afternoon coffee and a reception are included.**

*This workshop is made possible by the Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems, through funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Food & Community program, and additional support by LiveWell Colorado and the Local Government Commission.*

■ For more information and the complete workshop agenda: [newpartners.org/program/healthy-food-systems](http://newpartners.org/program/healthy-food-systems)

### Workshop Welcome and Setting the Stage

The workshop will kick off with remarks about the connections between smart growth and food systems. What does this mean for urban and rural communities? In working toward more healthy, equitable food systems, what have we done well and what can we do better?

### Breakout Sessions: Changing Food Systems, A Behind-the-Scenes Look

Join us for conversations about successes and challenges in developing more equitable food systems. Speakers will offer perspectives on their experiences fostering economic opportunities and community development through "good food"



production, processing, distribution and access. Hear how relationships, resources and roadblocks have impacted these efforts, and apply lessons learned in your community.



photo: Denver Urban Gardens

### Breakout Sessions: Promising Practices

Planners, policymakers and practitioners will highlight strategies that enhance success. Choose from sessions that emphasize food system planning and assessment, institutionalization and policy change, and evaluation and metrics.

### Closing Plenary: Making It Happen

Following a series of conversations about smart growth opportunities through healthy, equitable food systems, the closing plenary will connect participants with financial tools and resources available to support their ideas. Learn about the availability and impacts of public, private and philanthropic investments.

**More about the 2014 conference →**

## Related Sessions on Food Access and Healthy Communities

### Morning Plenary – Smart Growth: A Prescription for Healthy Communities and Vibrant Economies

Saturday, Feb. 15, 8:30-9:45 a.m.

Explore the complementary benefits that come from strategies that improve public health, create green, family-wage jobs, and assure inclusive environments and opportunity for all. Given that the demand for health care will likely increase with current chronic disease and demographic trends, the most effective long-term way to manage costs and assure affordable access for everybody is to improve the health of our population in the first place. We can reduce chronic disease by helping people become more active and eat better.

By investing in a 21st-century active mobility infrastructure that makes it easier to walk and ride transit, connected regional food systems, and lifelong education and health improvement, we can also grow new economic opportunities while we invest in making our people and our communities healthier. When we develop better access to regional healthy and locally grown food, we also reduce environmental impacts and improve the prosperity and social well-being of residents and their communities.

#### When Food Deserts Become Just Desserts

Friday, Feb. 14, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Millions of Americans live in food deserts where fresh foods are not readily available on a daily basis. This session will explore three initiatives that have addressed food deserts head-on and demonstrate that we can provide a more sustainable way of providing fresh foods to the entire population. Gain a better appreciation for how community activists, local governments and the private sector perceive the nuances of this issue and how their diverse perspectives bring forth unique, yet complementary solutions.

#### Smart Recipes for Smart Growth: Increasing Healthy Access and Local Food Systems

Friday, Feb. 14, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Healthy and accessible food is key to creating livable and sustainable communities. Without access to good food, places and people can face a bleak future. But it doesn't have to be that way. Urban agriculture, food hubs and local food districts are helping to improve the diets and overall health of local residents thanks to a series of successful ventures. This session's case studies will

focus on local food plans and strategies have connected residents to producers by using food trucks, developing incubators and regional hubs, and planting urban gardens.

#### Growing Food Connections for Sustainable Communities

Saturday, Feb. 15, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Urban and rural communities across the country are creating networks and connections to strengthen their food systems to sustain local farms, improve access to healthy food and increase community prosperity. In this session, four practitioners will share promising examples of approaches and strategies, as well as specific planning and policy tools to cultivate food system transformation, focusing on the best illustrations of partnerships, programs and public investments.



## Optional Tours

You may also be interested in taking one of the conference's optional tours on Thursday and Sunday, including these two that have healthy food and active-living implications. Visit the conference web site for tour details and fees.

#### From the Roots to the Rooftop: Bringing Healthy Food to Denver's Communities

Thursday, Feb. 13, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Learn about a variety of innovative approaches to growing, processing, distributing and selling local food in an urban community. Some are in food deserts and increase access to affordable healthy food in underserved neighborhoods, while others ensure that fresh local food can be enjoyed year-round. They also contribute to community prosperity and sustainability.

#### Healthy Living by Design: Creating a Culturally Vibrant and Distinctive Westwood

Sunday, Feb. 16, 8:00-11:30 a.m.

A largely Latino and working-class neighborhood, Westwood faced a shortage of grocery stores and parks, vacant storefronts and a dangerous traffic corridor to walk or bike. But great things are happening to make Westwood a healthier and more vibrant place – through planning and design strategies focused on healthy and active living that capitalize on its cultural heritage and promote health equity.