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## 2020 - 2022 Report

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## Orange County Food Council

**Who we are:** Coordinator, elected liaisons, council members, community partners

**Mission:** Grow a sustainable and equitable local food system

**How we work:** Invest in relationships, work with community experts to identify issues and opportunities, research and develop solutions, and build bridges between community wisdom and decision-makers

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## Accomplishments & Projects

### Our work in 2019 & 2020 included...

- Worked with One Orange (GARE) to develop a proposal for an Open Data Racial Equity Index
- Created a food access report and infographic for the County Commissioner Retreat
- Developed a Racial Equity Scorecard for the county food system
- Completed an equity assessment of 2 agricultural programs
- Supported the development of the Orange County Black Farmer Group
- Hosted weekly then monthly covid food system coordination calls
- Facilitated community feedback to emergency food assistance programs

### Projects 2021 to now...

- Community Food Access Assessment
- Growing Local Food Markets pilot program
- 'Community-Rooted' Development Training with Communities in Partnership
- Farmworker Advocacy Network

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## Equity Framework (how we work part 2)

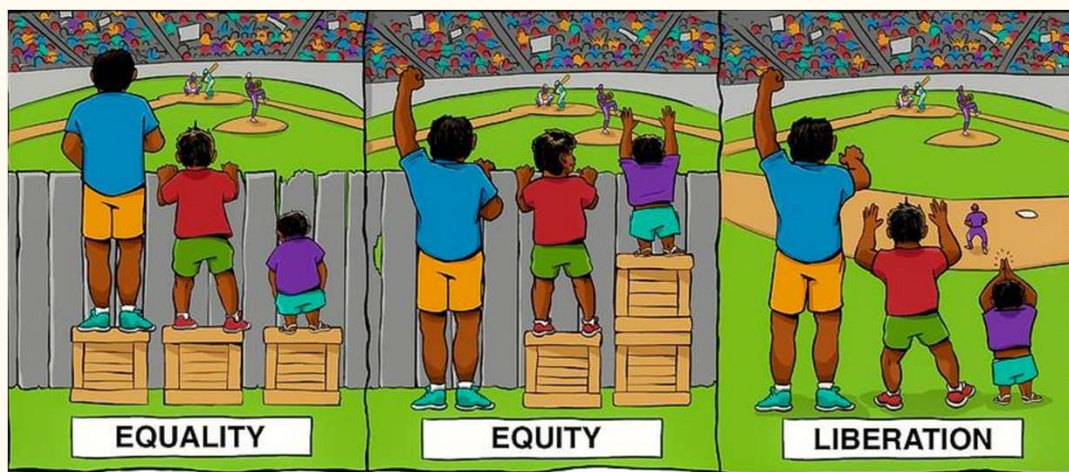
### Lessons learned

- It's not just what you do, but how you do it

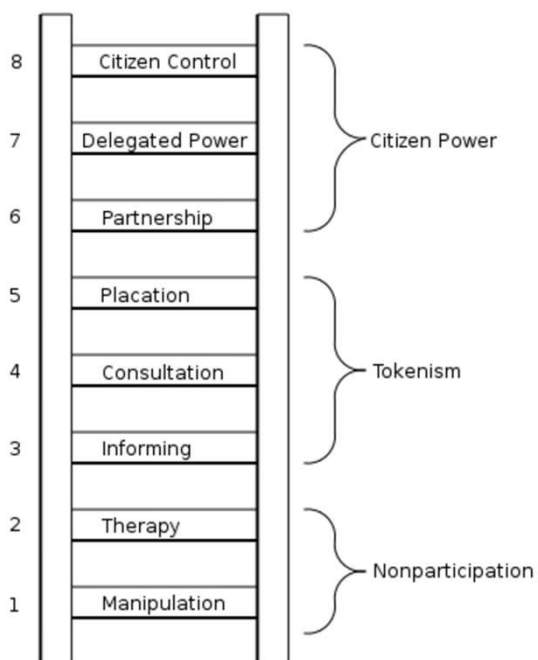
### Operationalizing equity

- Moving at the speed of trust / relationships
- Ask: Who makes decisions for whom, and how?
- Shifting power and resources to those most impacted
- Lived experience = subject matter expertise

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“citizen participation is a categorical term for citizen power. It is the redistribution of power that enables the have-not citizens, presently excluded from the political and economic processes, to be deliberately included in the future. It is the strategy by which the have-nots join in determining how information is shared, goals and policies are set, tax resources are allocated, programs are operated... There is a critical difference between going through the empty ritual of participation and having the real power needed to affect the outcome of the process.”

Source: lithgow-schmidt.dk/sherry-arnstein/ladder-of-citizen-participation\_en.pdf

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# Community Food Access Assessment

## The what & the how:

- Design process
- Timeline
- Methods
  - Shifting power
  - Centering community experts

## Final Report will include:

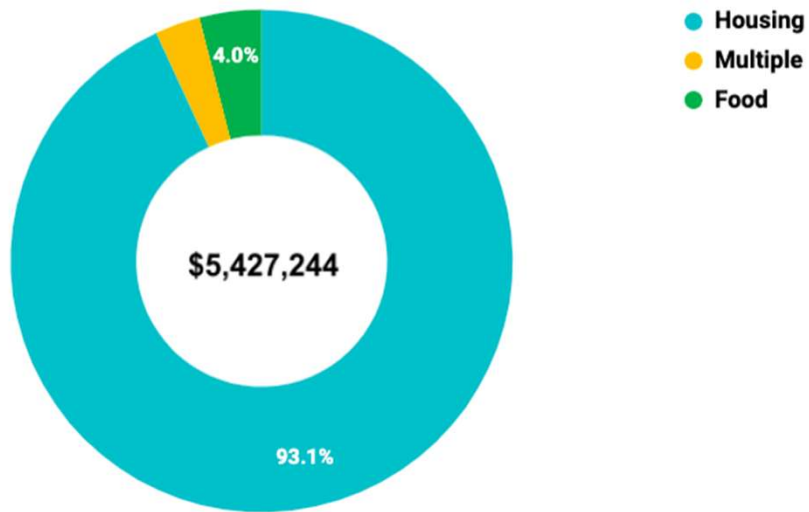
- Community-led analysis of budget data
- Community experts gaps analysis
- Recommendations for decision makers
- Stories and wisdom from lived experience that can guide future decisions

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### ARPA Funding for Food Access By Category



Multiple category represents wrap-around services. For example, organizations that provide both housing, utility assistance and/or food assistance.

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## Expanding Local Food Markets Pilot Project

At the recommendation of the chair of the Orange County Board of County Commissioners, the Food Council and Cooperative Extension have been exploring options for a pilot program to expand markets for Orange County growers and increase access to local foods for regional buyers.

- Stakeholder interviews
- 18 month pilot program
- Support 6-8 growers in an online selling/marketing platform to connect to regional buyers
- Pilot participants will help advise program implementation and evaluation
- Data collection and 2-4 staff reports annually
- Intended timeline: July 2022 to December 2023

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# MOU Renewal

Original MOU was signed in 2019

Executive Committee Recommendations for an updated MOU

- Remain in effect for 5 years
- Update funding percentages with 2020 census data
- Remove the number of council seats from the MOU
- Include reference to racial equity work

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## Questions & Discussion

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