



Food Security and Food Justice Background Information

Food security and food justice are big topics, and the resources listed on the *Learning to Give* website are representative but not comprehensive. Here are some background notes and sources that we hope will help as you work with your students.

How Is Food Security Defined in Detroit?

Led by the [Detroit Food Policy Council](#), the City of Detroit has a [food security policy](#) definition for Detroit. It addresses: • Current access to quality food in Detroit • Hunger and Malnutrition • Impacts/Effects of an Inadequate Diet • Citizen Education • Economic Injustice in the Food System • Urban Agriculture • The Role of Schools and other Public Institutions • Emergency Response.

In 2017, the policy was [reviewed and updated](#).

Is Detroit a Food Desert?

Opinions are mixed.

This 2015 [academic paper](#) takes a comprehensive look at food accessibility and justice in Detroit and concludes:

Detroit's food system is complex, and the work described here illustrates the necessity of examining many more facets of the food environment than the supermarkets and large grocery stores that researchers and policy analysts have traditionally considered.

A recent [overview article](#) examines many aspects of Detroit's food system, notes progress but concludes that **"Total food sovereignty is still a long way off"** and that there are continuing socioeconomic/racial inequities in the food system.

[Data Driven Detroit](#) has constructed a **food insecurity index** broken down to census tract level

[Detroit Food Map](#) is building a Detroit **food database**.

What Is Food Justice?

Malik Yakini, Executive Director of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network and James Beard Foundation Leadership Award winner, provides an overview in his 15 minute [TED Talk "Food Race and Justice."](#)

Can food be a driver of development? The Kresge Foundation posits that [food-oriented development](#) (FOD) is an alternative community development paradigm that has the **potential to build both health and local community wealth**. It has launched a nationwide initiative and grantees include Detroit's Focus Hope.

Black health matters. How [Black millennials are taking action](#) to achieve food justice.

Background about the Restaurant “Sub-Minimum Wage”

[Research](#) finds that eliminating the sub-minimum wage **does not decrease employment** in the seven states that have done so. Wait staff and bartenders are [heavily dependent](#) on tips.

Food Justice Curricula

The Seeds of Solidarity Education Center has developed a detailed curriculum guide: [Food for the SOL: A Food, Justice, and Community Building Curriculum for Youth](#)

Cornell University has a curriculum that is an interdisciplinary exploration of the people and processes that shape the food system: [Discovering Our Food System: Experiential Learning & Action for Youth and Their Communities](#)