

LEVERAGE POINTS  

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FLINT

# Flint Leverage Points Project

Flint, Michigan  
Michigan State University

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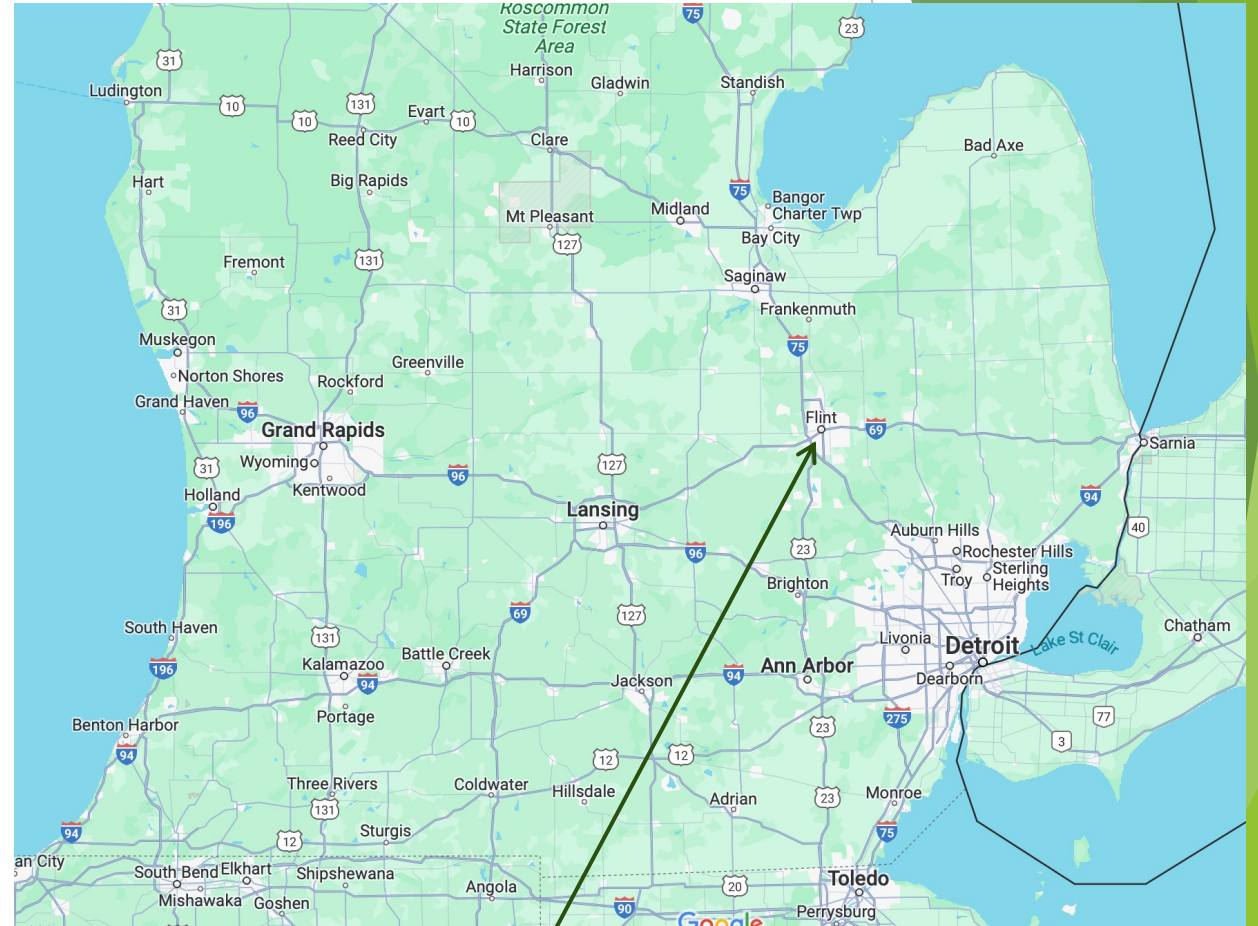
Dr. Steven Gray, Department of  
Community Sustainability, MSU

Partners:

Community Foundation of Greater Flint  
Community Consultative Panel



For **good.** For **ever.**<sup>SM</sup>

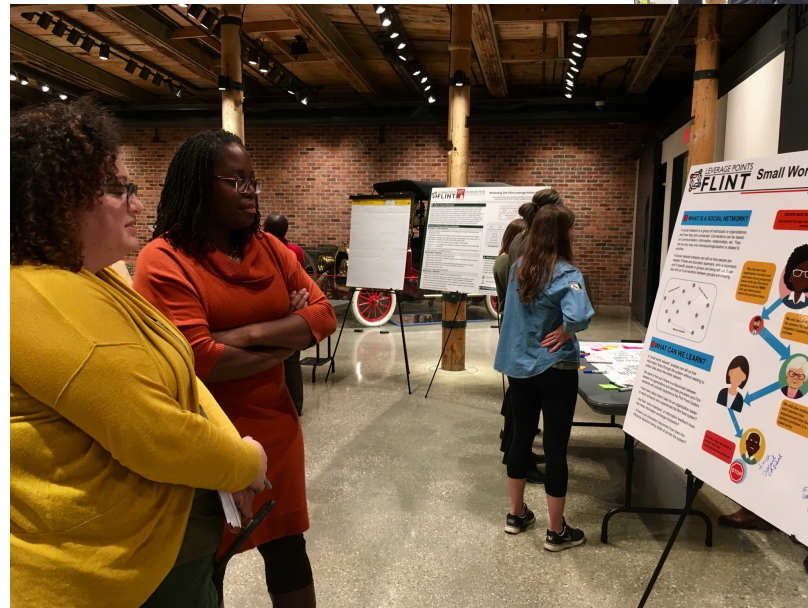
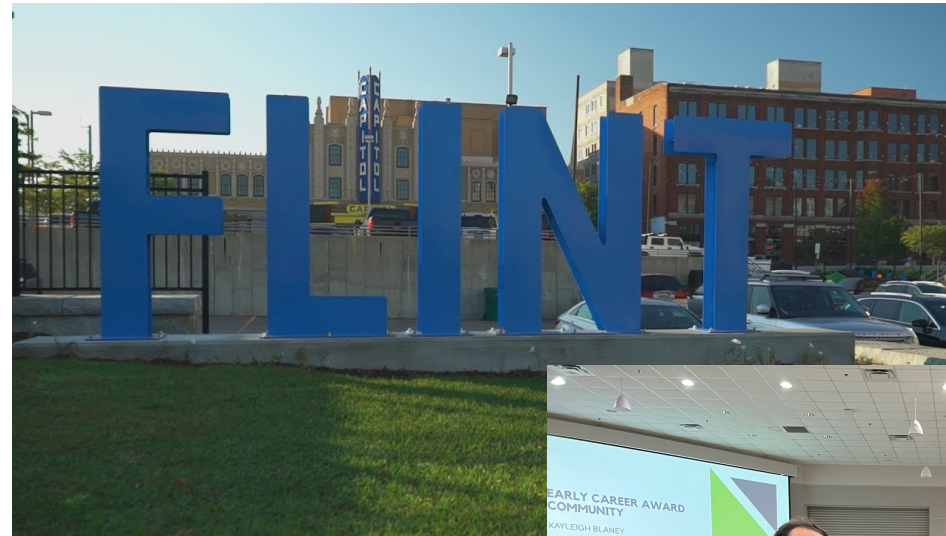


Flint, Michigan

## Project Results

### Four Pillars of Action

- Defining the current food system
- Outlining the future that residents desire
- Each pillar included community-defined leverage points to help launch action



# Pillar 1: “Emergency Response” Loop

**Desirable Future:** Food system changes reduce the need to access emergency food services like food banks and soup kitchens for greater food independence, and resident food equity.

Example leverage points defined by community members are listed below. Join the conversation--detailed lists of more leverage points can be found at: [www.canr.msu.edu/FlintFood](http://www.canr.msu.edu/FlintFood)



**Currently:** The food system is focused on supplying emergency food, rather than preventing need, due to current high demand and needs of community.

# Pillar 2: Economic Investment

**Desirable Future:** Drawing on the many assets within our community, future economic investment results in Flint-based ownership within the food system. Economic development fosters cultural growth, is culturally appropriate and improves quality of life for all residents.

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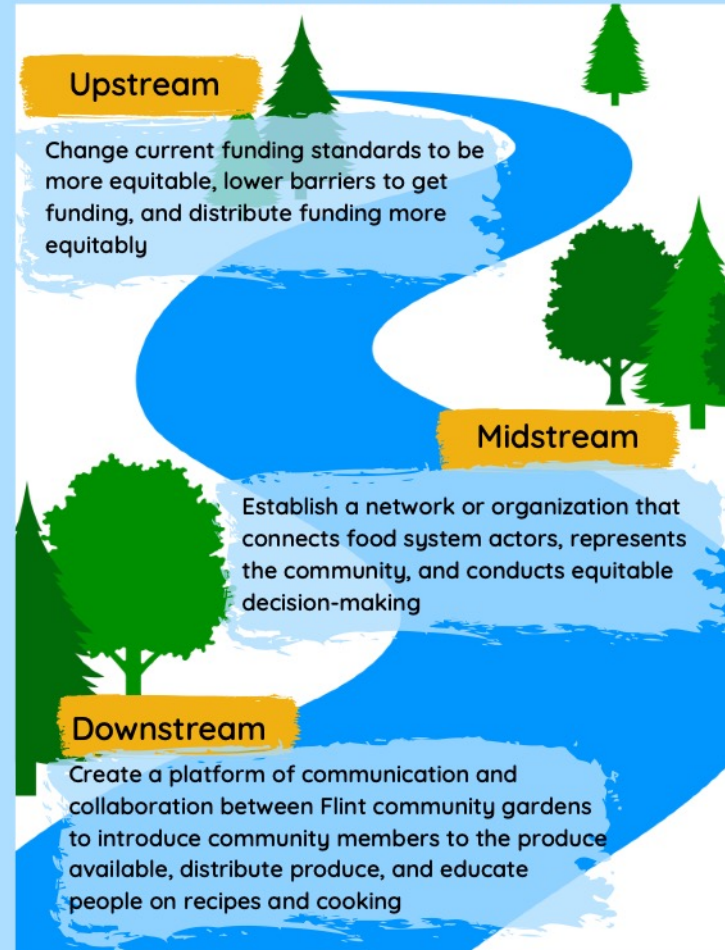


**Currently:** Economic investment heavily focuses on emergency food distribution rather than preventing need. Jobs are low-paying and ownership of the food system lies with people outside of Flint.

# Pillar 3: Community Collaborative Action

**Desirable Future:** Community service providers collaborate with resource providers, government, non-profits, residents, faith-based organizations and retail for mutual benefit, achieving authentic community-based collaboration across all sectors.

Example leverage points defined by community members are listed below. Join the conversation--detailed lists of more leverage points can be found at: [www.canr.msu.edu/FlintFood](http://www.canr.msu.edu/FlintFood)



**Currently:** Limited resources and silos put organizations in competition for funding, promoting self-interested collaboration and limiting system-level innovations.

# Pillar 4: Resident Food Empowerment

**Desirable Future:** With increased resident direction, control, and ownership, the food system improves food access to achieve equity, social, and economic justice for residents.

Example leverage points defined by community members are listed below. Join the conversation--detailed lists of more leverage points can be found at: [www.canr.msu.edu/FlintFood](http://www.canr.msu.edu/FlintFood)



**Currently:** Focus on emergency food and meeting immediate needs limits work that will transform the food system and achieve equity and food sovereignty.

## Lessons:

Balance supporting emergency food systems with innovation that breaks people out of poverty



### From our Partners:

“I have found that research that is done *with* communities, rather than “*on*” communities, is the most helpful in my work.”

“Research gives us leverage and context when making a case to support certain projects [with local grant funding].”

“No single organization—much less a single individual—can play the superhero role to bring about a happy ending. The scale of the issue is such that communities must find ways to effectively work together in order to address the challenge.”



## Urban Food Systems in Flint, Michigan: Identifying Leverage Points

Participate In Research


Project Updates

Resources In Flint

Resources And Publications

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Resources and Publications



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<https://www.canr.msu.edu/flintfood/>

### Resources and Publications

Briefing Notes

Tools

Timeline

Values for the Flint Food System

Photo Project

Grocery & Transportation Maps

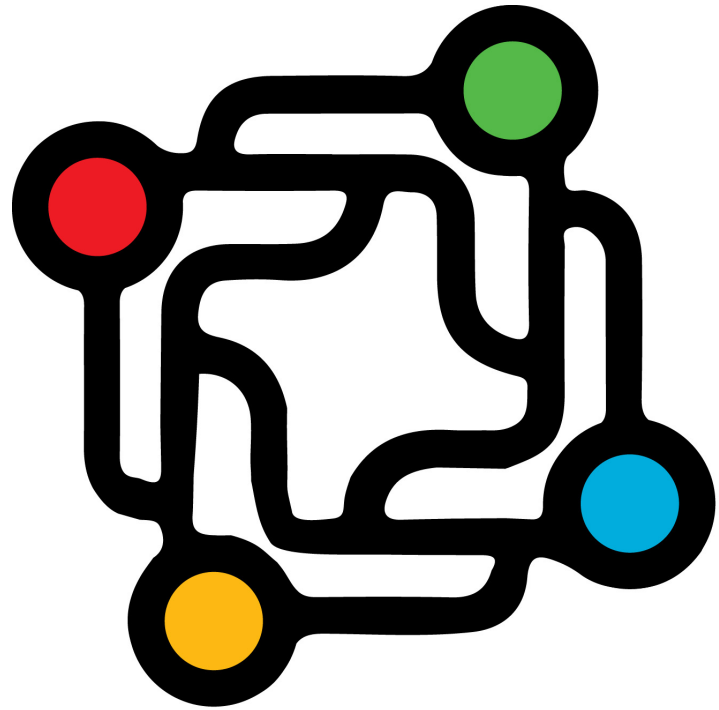
Key Lessons: Synthesizing Research Results

Scenarios for the Future of the Flint Food System: Visions for 2042

Flint Food System Video

Project Publications

Research Presentations



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