

2023 IMPACT REPORT



NORTH CAROLINA LOCAL FOOD COUNCIL



IMPACT AREAS & OUTCOMES

In its pursuit of **equitable, accessible, and thriving** North Carolina **local food systems**, the NCLFC has identified 5 key impact areas to guide its actions and measure outcomes. These 5 impact areas are: Vibrant Farms & Fisheries, Healthy People, Strong Communities, Thriving Local Economies, and Resilient Ecosystems. Work towards these areas is executed by the council's 3 working groups: Community Health, Food Waste Recovery, and Local Food Marketing. In 2023, working groups achieved the following outcomes:



VIBRANT FARMS & FISHERIES

- Authored food guidance documents, including the incorporation of local food, for Human Service Organizations of the Healthy Opportunities Pilot
- Highlighted local businesses in success story series where we share marketing strategies and insights from food producers



HEALTHY PEOPLE

- Led conversations with diverse stakeholders related to implementation and funding support for statewide Double Up NC (DUNC) program
- Facilitated the inter-professional Food Guidance Working Group of the NC Healthy Opportunities Pilot supporting Medicaid Transformation



STRONG COMMUNITIES

- 16 community-based food organizations and 16 students collaborated on local food, community, and equity work statewide



THRIVING LOCAL ECONOMIES

- Supported local businesses through food systems tours and speaking engagements
- Created social media toolkit for local producers



RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

- Developed food recovery standard operating procedures for statewide implementation

NCLFC in Numbers

29	31	9.3K+
partner organizations	members engaged statewide	visits to NCLFC website

“Throughout the internship, I have made significant progress in **achieving my learning goals and objectives**. I have gained a **comprehensive understanding of food systems and health equity** through interdisciplinary work and collaboration with professionals...I have a deepened perspective on how community based non-profit work can make a positive change in public health nutrition.”

- 2023 F.I.R.E. intern

“The internship has increased public visibility of our work, improved existing relationships and built new partnerships, and increased the number of food access points. Our current local food system and its **ability to adapt to the changing needs of the community is stronger and more flexible.**”

- 2023 F.I.R.E. host site, Rutherford County Food Council

PARTNERS IN CHANGE

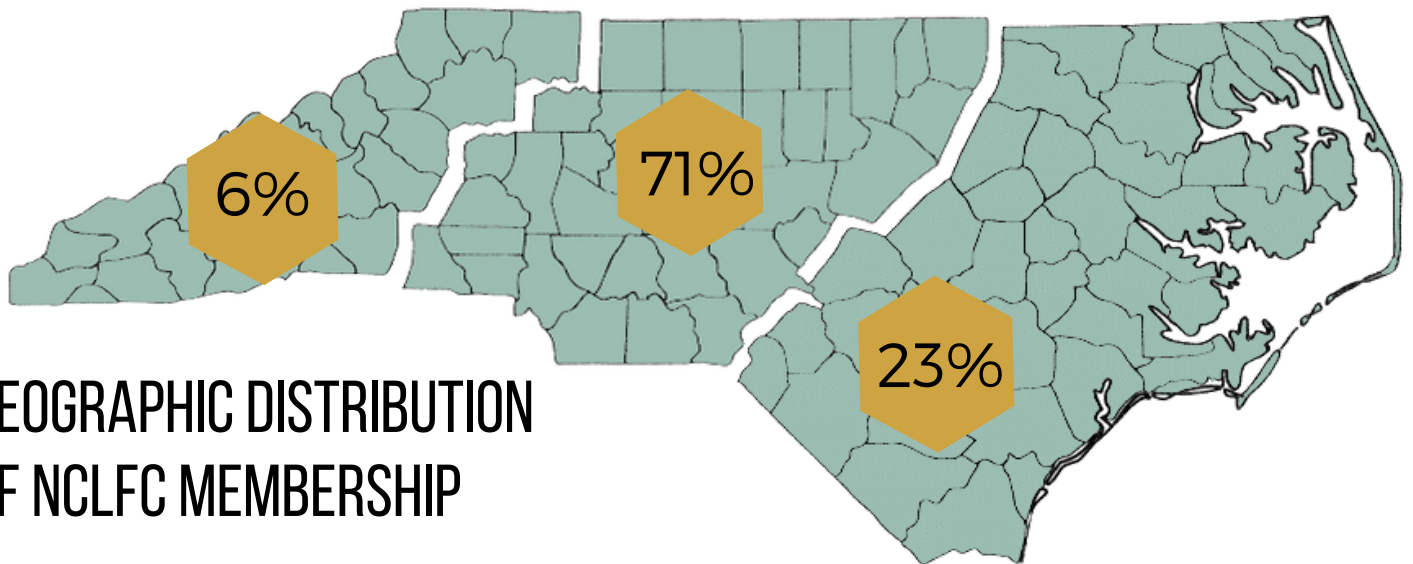
The NCLFC is composed of leaders from across the state representing all parts of the food system, with expertise in health, nutrition, agriculture production, race equity, local government, and many other fields. As such, **interpersonal and organizational connections are one of the council's most valuable forms of capital**, allowing for critical food work across multiple institutions and sectors.

FORGING CONNECTIONS

"Throughout 2023, the NCLFC Community Health Working Group has been **an invaluable partner** in the NC Farmers Market Network's (NCFMN) efforts to **engage potential stakeholders and lay a groundwork of research** for securing statewide Double SNAP/EBT funding. **Due to this vital connection**, NCFMN will enter 2024 ready to build upon this groundwork and continue engaging stakeholders and potential collaborators, as well as local and state leaders to build support for this opportunity. **We look forward to continue collaborating with NCLFC** as we strive to expand all North Carolinians' access to fresh fruits and vegetables."

- Nora Rodli, NCFMN Program Coordinator


COUNCIL REPRESENTATION



GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF NCLFC MEMBERSHIP

SPONSORED INTERNSHIPS

One of the NCLFC's biggest impacts has been **supporting equitable food systems through paid student internships**. In collaboration with Community Food Strategies and the Center for Environmental Farming Systems, the council launched the **Food-Inspired Resiliency & Equity (FIRE)** internship program, which enhances **local food work** by connecting college students across North Carolina with community-based food organizations across the state based on student skills and host needs.



Funding provided by the NC Department of Human & Health Services, Center for Disease Control & Prevention, and Z. Reynolds Smith Foundation

2023 OUTCOMES

These outcomes were taken from an open-ended question evaluation and all answers were self-identified by program participants.

100% OF HOST SITES REPORTED:



Interns provided resources to lead new projects & **increase capacity**



Increased public visibility through website development & social media



Interns helped to create and maintain **key organizational partnerships**

100% OF INTERNS REPORTED:



Increased skills in **web development & digital communication**

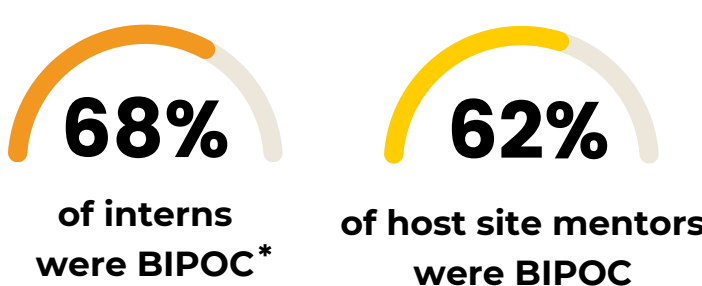
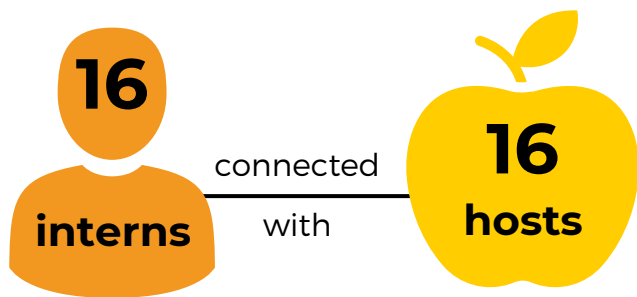


Increased skills in **data collection & analysis**



Deeper perspective of the **importance of community & health work**

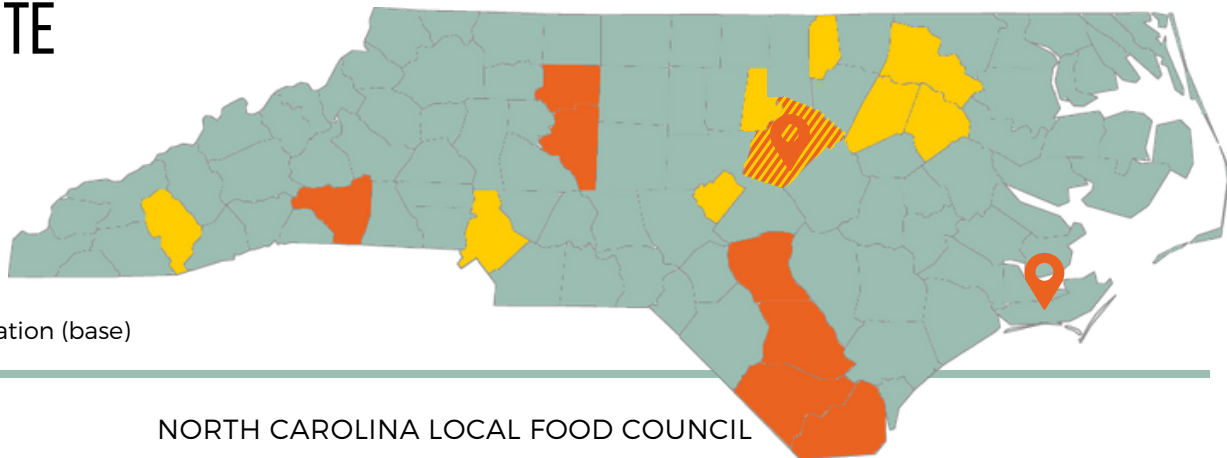
2023 COHORTS



*Black, Indigenous, People of Color

2023 HOST SITE LOCATIONS

- Spring 2023
- Fall 2023
- Spring & Fall 2023
- 📍 Statewide organization (base)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The NCLFC's work would be impossible without the work and energy of its members and the generous donations of its funders. We thank you all for making a more equitable, accessible, and thriving North Carolina food system possible!

ABOUT NCLFC

The North Carolina Local Food Council (NCLFC) serves as a collaborative network across various organizations, agencies, and groups whose statewide work supports vibrant farms and fisheries, healthy people, strong communities, thriving local economies, and resilient ecosystems through a common aim: NC's local food systems.

The NCLFC seeks to promote and support robust North Carolina local food systems by creating and sharing research-based resources that facilitate local food system development at the community level - in local food councils - and at the state and regional levels - within agencies and institutions.

FUNDERS



Z. Smith Reynolds
FOUNDATION



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Angel Cruz, NCLFC coordinator

Ali Stone, NCFLC Program and Business Associate

Jennifer Bedrosian, Piedmont Triad Regional Council

Amanda Hege, Appalachian State University

John Morck, American Planning Association

Juvencio Rocha-Peralta, Association of Mexicans in North Carolina

This report was compiled by Hannah Glen with support from Dr. Angel Cruz and Ali Stone.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

