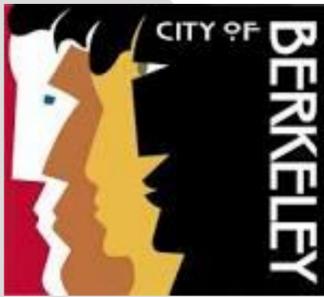# Berkeley Food Utility and Access Resilience Measure (FARM)

**Ben Bartlett
Vice Mayor, City of Berkeley**
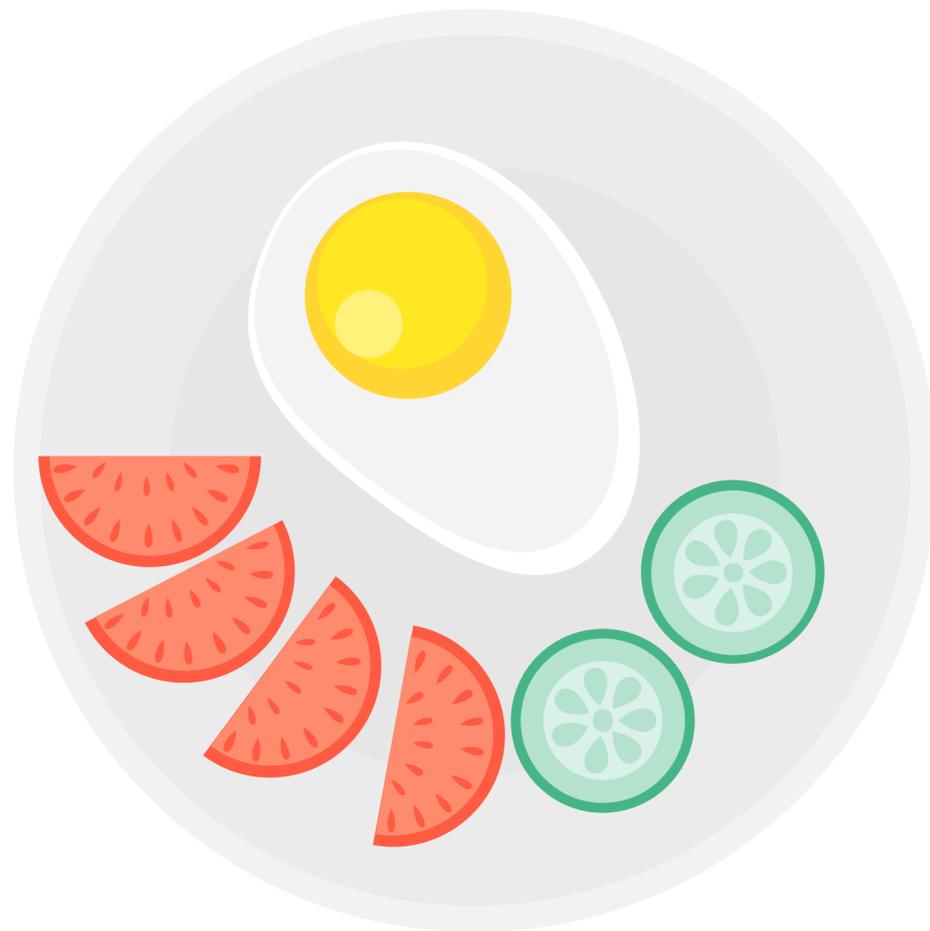
"There are only nine
meals between
mankind and anarchy."

- Vladimir Lenin

Recommendation

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

Protecting the City's food supply from natural disasters and economic disruptions by creating a community-based non-profit organization to implement an integrated local food production and distribution system
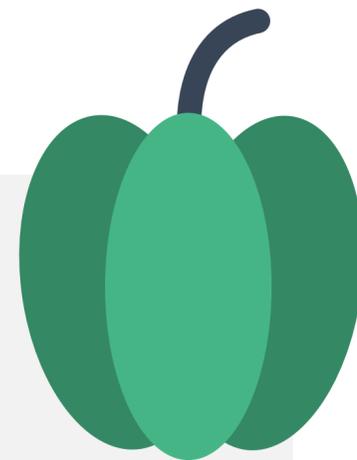
To design and offer economic incentives for non-profits, agricultural producers, and small businesses to partner with the City

CITY OF BERKELEY

Achieving Food Resiliency

Local Production

Develop local food production sources

Connect

Connect these sources to each other and local community hubs

Power

Power local food production sources using renewable energy with battery backup storage

Community Resilience

What is community resilience?

Ability of a community to withstand and recover from disruptions

Threats to the Community:

- **Governments faced with existential threats to populations and infrastructure**
- **Rapid advancement of climate change**
- **Extreme weather events**
- **Disaster preparedness**
- **Soaring Food Prices**

Need a systems—level approach to address possible points of failure in urban food supply chain

Food Resilience

What is food resilience?

The ways in which a community can ensure its members have access to health and nutritious food, even during times of crisis

- **Berkeley's Climate Action Plan set a target of majority of food consumed to be form local food production**
- **A local food system empowers Berkeley to achieve a key Climate Action Plan goal → producing local food for consumption**
- **California allocated $477 million toward agricultural resilience measures**
- **California's Strategic Growth Council called for local-level resilience through Community Resilience Centers program**
- **U.S. government is incorporating food resilience in disaster planning**
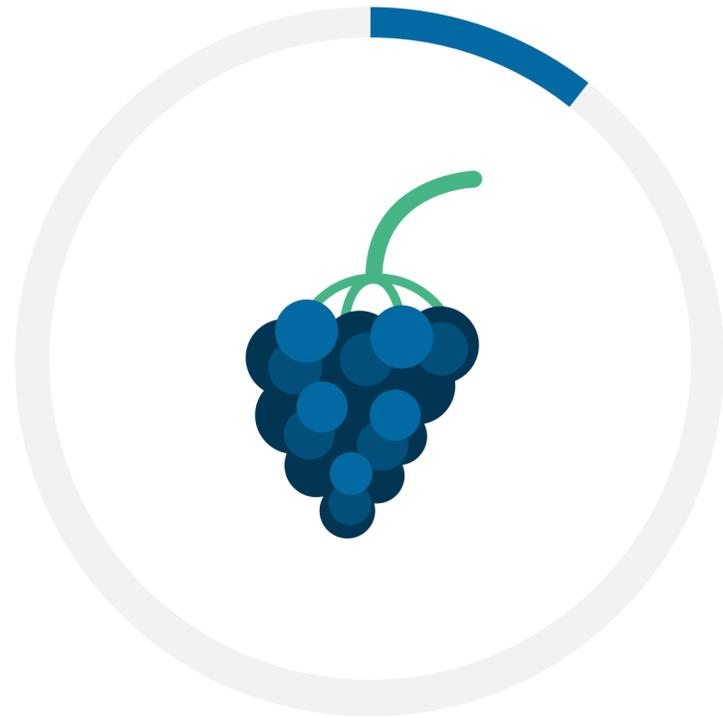
Food is a Fundamental Human Right

Like air and water...

Food is essential for survival and the only commodity that cannot be postponed.

- **Food insecure individuals have higher rates of mental health issues**
  - **Hungry children attain lower academic achievement**

- **United Nations recognizes that the right to all nutritional elements is necessary to live a healthy and active life**

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Food Insecurity Data

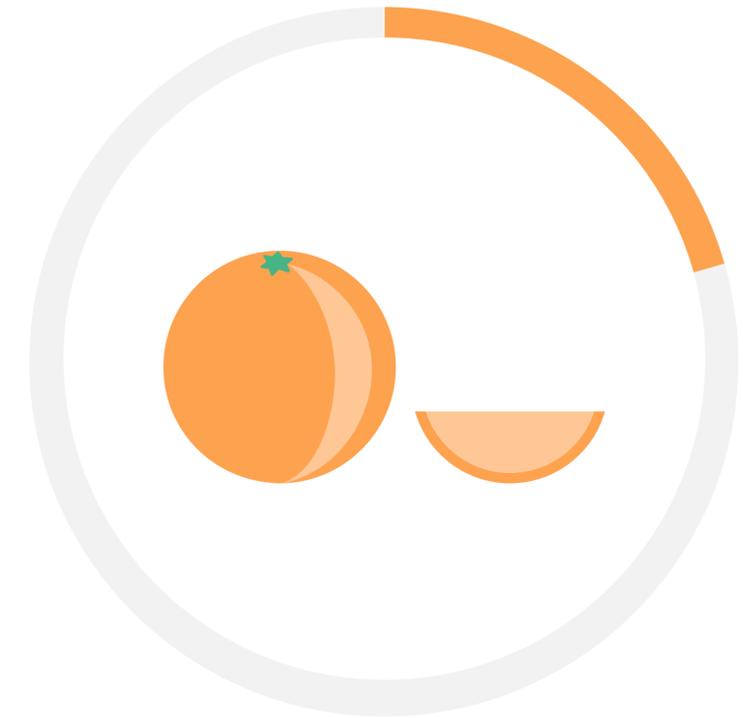## Food insecurity is a growing crisis throughout the United States

11.5%

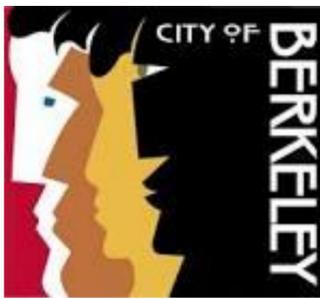870,000 people

Of people in the Bay Area are food insecure in 2018

10.5%

14 million households

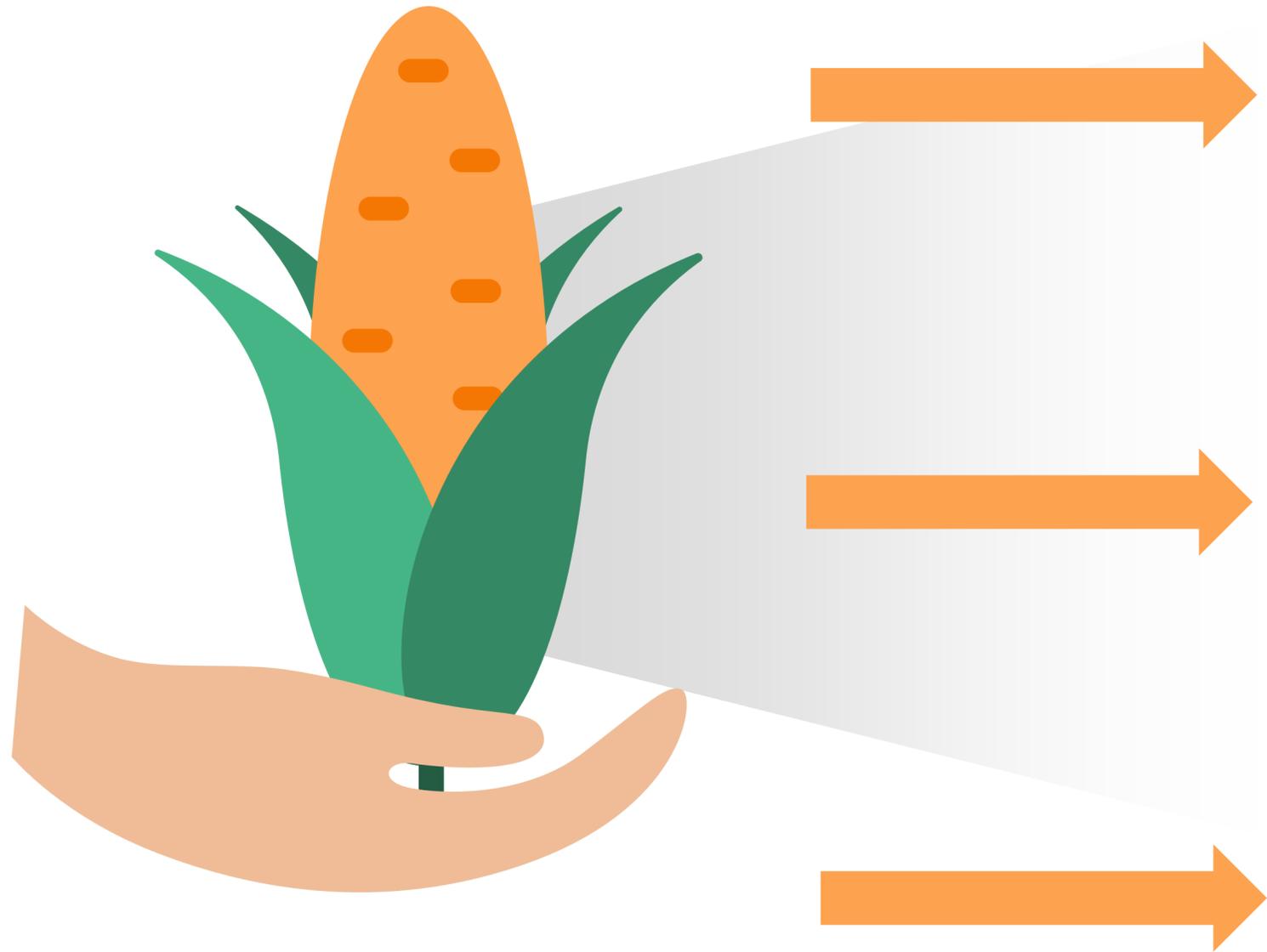**Of the US population did not have enough food to meet their needs**

20%

20-33%, specifically

Spike in food insecurity in the Bay Area from the beginning of COVID-19 Pandemic

Threats to Food Access

Climate Change

If the land lacks the nutrients that crops need to grow, the food chain will be stopped from the beginning

Natural Disasters

All segments of food supply chains can be affected by a natural disaster such as droughts, wildfires, and more

Foreign Conflict

A disruption in one region can send ripple effects to the rest of the world

CITY OF BERKELEY

FARM as a Community Food Utility

Community Layer

- **Community Gardens and Backyard Gardens**

- **Synchronizing Local food production with food banks, restaurants, schools and grocery stores**

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP**

Production Layer

- **Controlled Environmental Agriculture (CEA)**

- **Repurposing Empty Commercial Space**
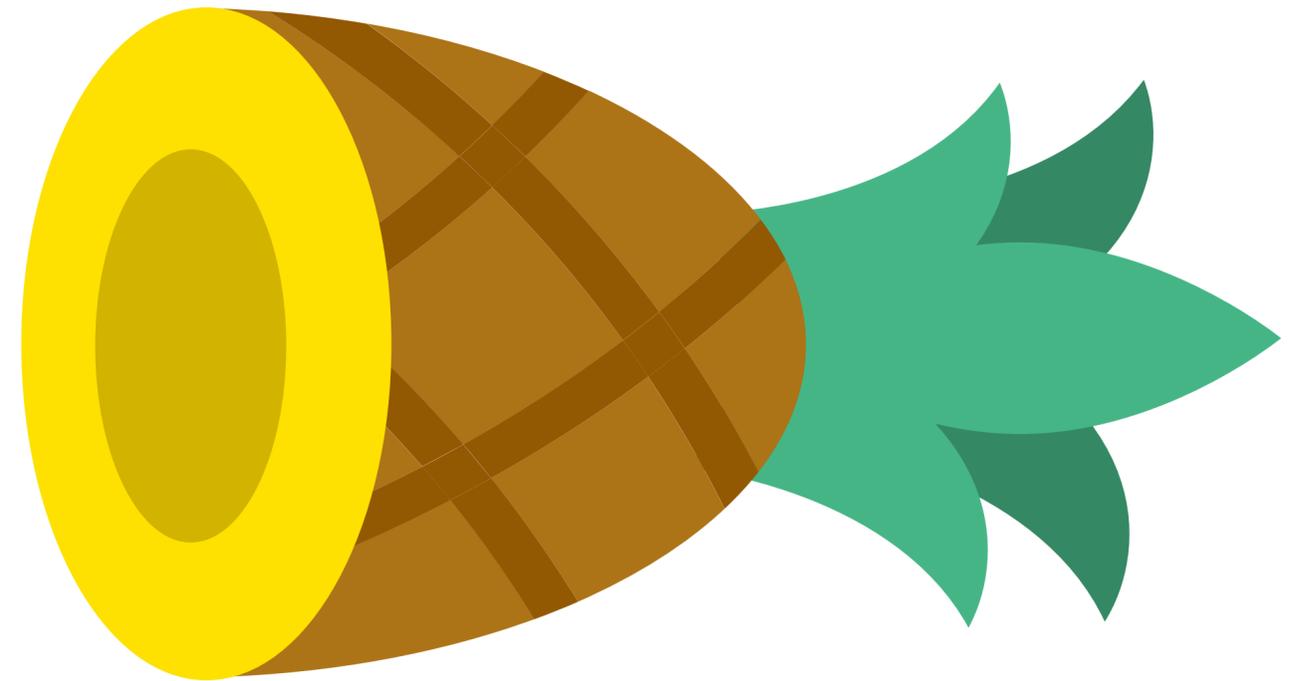
Energy Resilience

- **Integrating renewable energy systems that remain resilient**

FARM: Organization

The FARM will be a self-funded non-profit chartered by the City of Berkeley, with a self-appointed Board of Directors, approved by the City Council, with duties and administrative powers also approved by the City Council.

Vertical Cooperative

- **User-owned and controlled entity from which benefits are distributed equitably**
- **FARM would operate on all levels of vertical food system – linking producers, processors, distributors, retailers and consumers**
- **System must be sustainable, all recipients and participants would be members of FARM**

FARM Governance:
Food Security Council

- FARM will begin with a volunteer, skills-based governing board: Food Security Council
- Once the FARM has achieved grant funding, the Food Security Council members will be compensated
- The Food Security Council should consist of community members, grant writers, SNAP recipients, food producers, an organized labor representative
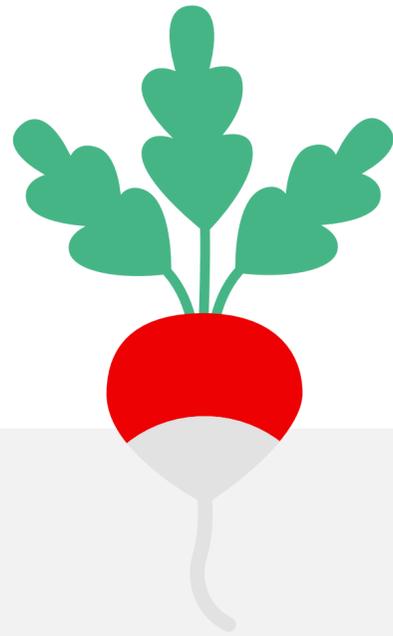 - Experts in resilience, logistics, renewable energy, and public health.

Food Security Council Responsibilities:

1. Form FARM as a non-profit
2. Apply for funding
3. Seek external partnerships
4. Develop and maintain food production and distribution processes;
5. Determine the caloric needs of residents
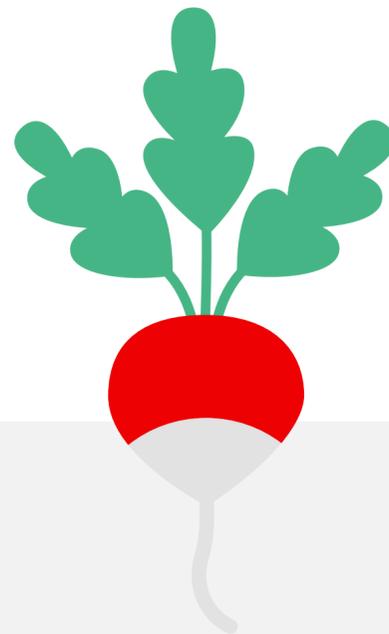6. Define food shock

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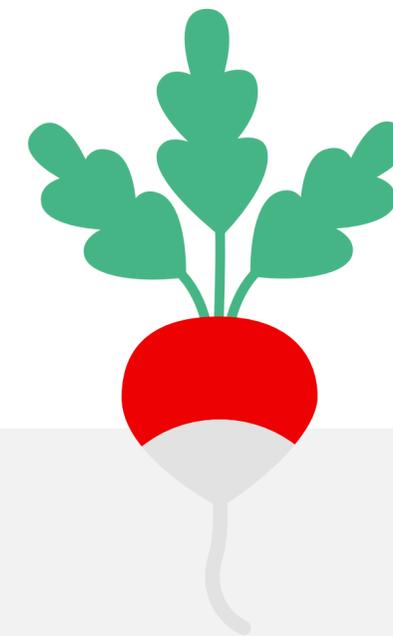
Potential Funding Sources

Funding sources include fees for administering government food assistance programs and grants from California, the USDA, and the Department of Energy (DOE) are available.

Food Insecurity Related Grants and Programs

Federal and State Resilience Grants and Programs

Federal and State Renewable Energy Grants and Programs

FARM: Conclusion

Food shortages, natural disasters, and global conflicts further threaten the availability and economic accessibility of healthy food. The increasingly intense impacts of climate change create heightened cause for concern. Therefore, to create a food safety net in the City of Berkeley, it is necessary to implement FARM.

Food Safety Net

Supplement during distress

Thank you!

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