



Community Action Plan

TURNER STATION, MARYLAND

APRIL 2025



Turner Station
Conservation Teams

For more information about *Local Foods*, *Local Places*, visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places>

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Cover photo credits, clockwise from top:

- *Top, Ethan Weston/Chesapeake Bay Program. Aerial view of Turner Station*
- *Middle right, Danielle Gomez. Girl Scouts helping out at the Community Garden*
- *Bottom right, Ron Batcher, USDA. Food Bank of Maryland distribution at Sollers Center*
- *Bottom left, Jason Espie, Revive Strategies. Participants on day two dot voting to prioritize actions for the plan.*
- *Middle left, Ron Batcher, USDA. Food Bank of Maryland distribution at Sollers Center*

Community Story

Turner Station, Maryland, is a historically African American community in the Dundalk area of Baltimore County located on Sollers Point, a neck of land between Bear Creek (north) and the Patapsco River (south) at the entrance to Baltimore Harbor. The neighborhood's name derives from the train depot that the Sparrows Point Railroad Company built after purchasing a parcel of land from local farmer Joshua M. Turner around 1891. The railroad was interested in moving people to and from the newly built Maryland Steel Mill on nearby Sparrows Point (Figure 1).¹ Decades later, Bethlehem Steel took over and expanded mill operations, becoming the largest steel-producing facility in the world.



P Figure 1- Aerial view of Sollers Point/Turner Station (foreground, looking Southeast). The old Sparrows Point Bethlehem Steel Mill site is circled.

The mill expansion induced a huge influx of steelworkers. As part of the Great Migration, many African Americans moved to the area seeking jobs at the mill. With no access to Bethlehem factory housing, the newly arriving African Americans had very limited options for places where they could live. Left to fend for themselves, some took to building cabins and living on the “meadows” area of Turner’s farm, given its proximity to the mill.² One of the new arrivals, Anthony Thomas, persuaded Turner to sell parcels to the squatters.³ This set the stage for decades of growth and a vibrant, self-sufficient community. For decades, Turner Station flourished. It became a vibrant, largely self-sustaining, tight-knit Black community with its own schools, churches, homes, and a variety of businesses such as Fanny Major’s Community Laundry, grocery stores, clothing stores, the Anthony theater, Balnew Cab Co., Allmond’s Confectionary Store, and restaurants and lounges such as Adam’s Cocktail Lounge, which hosted jazz greats including Pearl Bailey and Chick Webb.⁴

¹ Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society & Museum. Turner Station history. <http://www.dundalkhistory.org/turnerstation.html> Website accessed February 25, 2025.

² Bringing back Turner Station. Jonathon Pitts. Baltimore Sun. https://digitaledition.baltimoresun.com/tribune/article_popover.aspx?guid=f1d3ecc0-3fff-49ed-a3c2-2cdb14457e04. Accessed April 8, 2025.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society & Museum. Turner Station history. <http://www.dundalkhistory.org/turnerstation.html> Website accessed

In the decades after World War II, the steel industry began to decline. Bethlehem Steel started facing financial difficulties in the 1980s, its problems compounded by globalization and aging equipment. The mill shut down permanently in 2012 after Bethlehem Steel filed for bankruptcy.

As the steel manufacturing declined, so did Turner Station's population and prosperity. By the 21st century, its population had declined by 50% from its peak. The surrounding neighborhoods were left to themselves as they faced economic decline, disinvestment, and loss of community assets. In the mid-1970s, the community united against regional urban renewal efforts to build an Interstate Highway through Sollers Point. However, external economic and logistical needs were simply too great for the community to overcome. The new highway project would put the community literally in the Shadow of the Francis Scott Key Memorial Bridge. The catastrophic collapse of the bridge in 2024 revived some of those original community concerns as state and national leaders sought to expedite progress on a replacement bridge.

With its monumental steel arches stretching over the water, the bridge symbolized engineering and logistical ingenuity, but for many Turner Station residents, it was a visual reminder of their lack of influence over their own self-determination and community well-being. However, what lay unseen beneath the water posed an even more serious threat to the community's well-being. Nearly 100 years of steel mill operations had left contamination in the waterways surrounding the community, threatening environmental and health risks. The toxic legacy included heavy metals, chemicals, oil, grease, and other chemical byproducts of steel production. Clean up posed a complex environmental challenge.

Despite the mix of challenges facing the community, many residents have stayed and are proactively championing their community. Some successes have buoyed their ongoing efforts. For example, in 2022, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added Bear Creek to the National



Figure 2 - Historic aerial view of Bethlehem Steel Plant on Sparrows Point. Source: Lyons Home Meeting Room photograph. Photographer unknown



Figure 3 - Residents working the raised beds at new Chestnut Park. Photo credit, Danielle Gomez, resident.

Priorities List -- also known as Superfund -- and has begun the planning and cleanup process.⁵ Additionally, polluted portions of the steel mill site itself are being addressed and it continues to transform with construction of new commercial enterprises and logistical centers. Tradepoint Atlantic, which purchased the 3,100 acres of the mill site in 2014, has helped transform it into a modern, remediated industrial and employment site. They continue to work closely with Maryland, EPA, and surrounding communities on environmental cleanup and productive land reuse.⁶ Another recent success celebrated by the County in January 2025 was the ribbon cutting for a new world-class Sparrow's Point Park and community recreation center. Its proximity to Turner Station will be an attractive feature for long-term and potential new residents.

Residents themselves have directly contributed to Turner Station improvements and reinforce a strong sense of community, history, and pride. Local churches and other faith-based organizations, along with social groups and community organizations, provide direct help with community gardens, senior centers and community centers. Residents have also leveraged programs via Baltimore County and local partners. For example, the community has engaged with Baltimore's Conservation Corps, who have implemented community projects directly within Turner Station.⁷

The Conservation Corps set a mission to transform Turner Station from a neglected community into a vibrant, caring, and attractive area to live in. Members are dedicated to revitalizing Turner Station and pursuing development connected to the community's long history, waterfront location, and unique place in the Nation's history. The Corps' Turner Station Conservation Teams (TSCT) have succeeded on several community projects, including parks, flood resilience, tree planting, and air monitoring.⁸

⁵ EPA Superfund Site: Bear Creek Sediments Sparrows Point, MD.

<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.cleanup&id=0305762> Website accessed February 25, 2025.

⁶ McCord, Joel. WYPR -- 88.1 FM News. EPA Eyes the Sparrows Point Clean-up. May 26, 2021. <https://www.wypr.org/wypr-news/2021-05-26/epa-eyes-the-sparrows-point-clean-up> Website accessed February 25, 2025.

⁷ Turner Station Conservation Teams. Our History. <https://www.turnerstation.org/about-tsct/our-history/> Website accessed February 25, 2025.

⁸ Ibid.

Local Foods Local Places

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

COMMUNITY POC:

Gloria E. Nelson, President, Turner Station Conservation Team

Michael Thompson, Vice President, Turner Station Conservation Team

Olivia Lomax, Community Advocate, Resident

Tasha Greshman-James, Executive Director, DRC

Andrea van Wyk, Baltimore County Project Manager, TNC (Non-Profit)

Maria Mougridis, Planner, Department of Planning, Baltimore County

Maurisha White, President, Turner Station Recreation Council

Figure 4 - Turner Station LFLP Steering Committee. Note, Ngone Seye Diop, Baltimore County Planning, replaces Maria Mougridis going forward.

These local community groups and the Conservation Team have worked closely with residents, supporting community efforts on projects and carefully monitoring progress with the ongoing Superfund site cleanup,⁹ as well as supporting the community's interest in staying engaged in planning and development of the replacement Key Bridge.

In 2023, TSCT underwent a 10-month strategic planning process, engaging with community partners, champions, and funders to quantify the organization's top community priorities. The process identified several, one of which was to

"advocate for the needs and wants of Turner Station residents and community." Better access to healthy food was identified as a major *need and want*.

In 2018, the nearest local grocery store serving Turner Station had closed. Located in the Logan Village shopping center, its closing turned Turner Station into a "food desert." Access to healthy food suddenly became a profound need for the community and was identified as a top priority. With this priority in mind, community members applied for technical assistance from EPA's Local Foods, Local Places Technical Assistance (LFLP) program. Their application identified several initiatives to explore through the EPA assistance, such as creating or attracting a new grocery store or co-op, expanding community garden services, shoring up the long-term stability of a community food pantry, and other ways to address food insecurity in Turner Station.

Turner Station, Maryland, was one of six communities across the United States selected to participate in the LFLP program in 2024-25. This workshop is one of the three supported by EPA's Superfund program.¹⁰ The LFLP program is supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Community Revitalization (OCR), U.S. EPA Office of Superfund Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). These agencies worked directly with the community in a process to develop this action plan.

The LFLP technical assistance supports community efforts to improve local healthy food access and develop a thriving local food system in a way that simultaneously supports other key community goals. Food is essential to everyone, and it can be an incredibly



Figure 5 – There was at some time in Turner Station a mobile produce/food truck. Mobile markets were discussed at the workshop. Photo Credit, Lyon Homes Community Meeting room photo. Author unknown.

⁹ Smail, Paul. Chesapeake Bay Foundation/Green2.0. EPA cleanup needed in Baltimore to address legacy pollution near former steel mills site. <https://www.cbf.org/blogs/save-the-bay/2021/11/epa-cleanup-needed-in-baltimore-to-address-legacy-pollution-near-former-steel-mill-site.html> Website accessed April 12, 2025.

¹⁰ EPA Local Food Local Places, Partner Communities. <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places#2024%20Partner%20Communities%20March%204.%202025%20at%202:40%20PM> Website accessed March 5, 2025.

effective force within the community to catalyze local placemaking and development of community food-related assets, which improve quality of life and are appealing to people and companies when they are considering where to live or locate their business operations. Food can accelerate economic activity in downtown or Main Street very quickly. It is an effective way to bring people together in both indoor and outdoor spaces, supporting healthy eating and active lifestyles that are often part of community-wide planning goals. Done right, it can also help improve local environmental protection outcomes on multiple concerns. Food can improve a sense of community, strengthen social cohesion, and effectively address many human health concerns.

The Turner Station Conservation Team invited several community partners to form the Local Foods, Local Places Steering Committee, which would help prepare for this technical assistance (see **Figure 4**). The remainder of this report and appendices document the engagement process, the activities of a two-day Local Foods, Local Places workshop in Turner Station, Maryland, and most importantly, the action plan and next steps for achieving the community's goals. Over the course of three planning calls and workshop discussions, the steering committee identified the overarching theme of the workshop as **Increased community accessibility to healthy, nutrient-rich, fresh food and produce**. The supporting goals for this theme were:

- Goal 1: Grow your own food.
- Goal 2: Identify and connect with local and regional food supply.
- Goal 3: Build a creative and localized distribution network.
- Goal 4: Work towards a future grocery or larger co-op.

Engagement

The technical assistance engagement process for Local Foods, Local Places has three phases, illustrated in **Figure 6** below. The **assessment phase** involves identifying community issues and opportunities and coordinating partners in preparation for the on-site workshop. This phase also involves forming the local steering committee to guide the project and plan the public workshop. Steering Committee members participate in three or more pre-workshop preparatory calls.

The **convening phase** includes a two-day workshop in a local community space where the residents can gather to develop LFLP goals. The LFLP consulting team and federal and state partners participate in the workshop, providing insights and suggestions as the community develops a draft set of LFLP goals.

During the **implement phase**, the federal partners and the consulting team work closely with the local steering committee to prepare the action plan and identify potential implementation resources.

The technical assistance workshop was held January 15-16, 2025. It included an informal lunch with the steering committee members and federal partners, a tour of the community, an evening community meeting at the Sollers Point Multipurpose Center on Day 1, and an

action-planning session at the same location on Day 2. The workshop presentations, workshop results, and participants list are included in **Appendices A-C**.

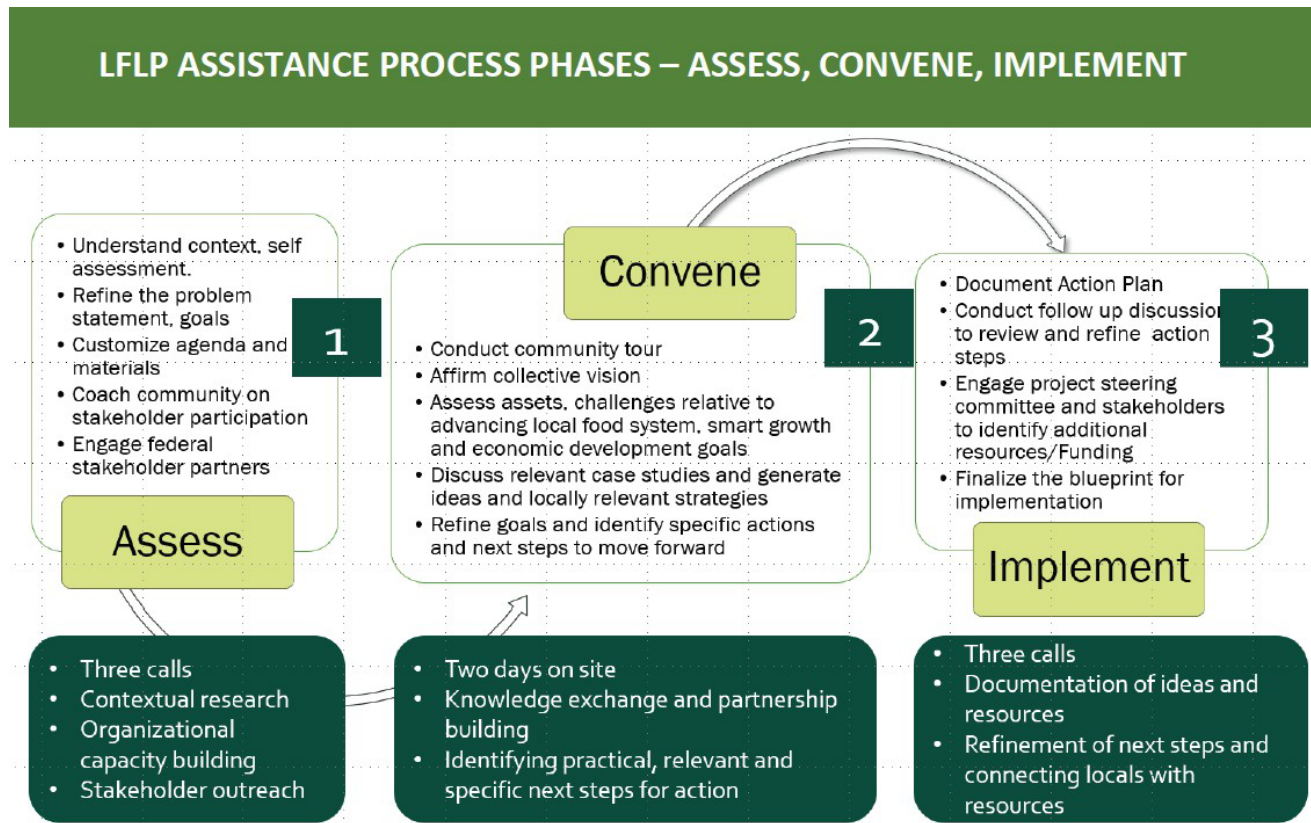


Figure 6 - LFLP Process Diagram



Figure 7 - Participants dot voting to prioritize actions, day two of the workshop. Photo Credit: Revive Strategies.

Community Tour

The Local Foods, Local Places steering committee organized an informal lunch with the visiting U.S. federal, state, and local government agency partners on January 15, 2025, at the Sollers Point Multipurpose Center. After lunch, they departed via a coach courtesy of the Baltimore Port Alliance. The Steering Committee and Consultant team prepared a tour handout describing each stop and a map (Figure 8). The tour stops were designed to highlight assets and opportunities in Turner Station and existing projects and initiatives like the



Figure 8 - The tour visiting St Matthews UMC Food Pantry. Photo credit, Jason Espie, Revive Strategies.

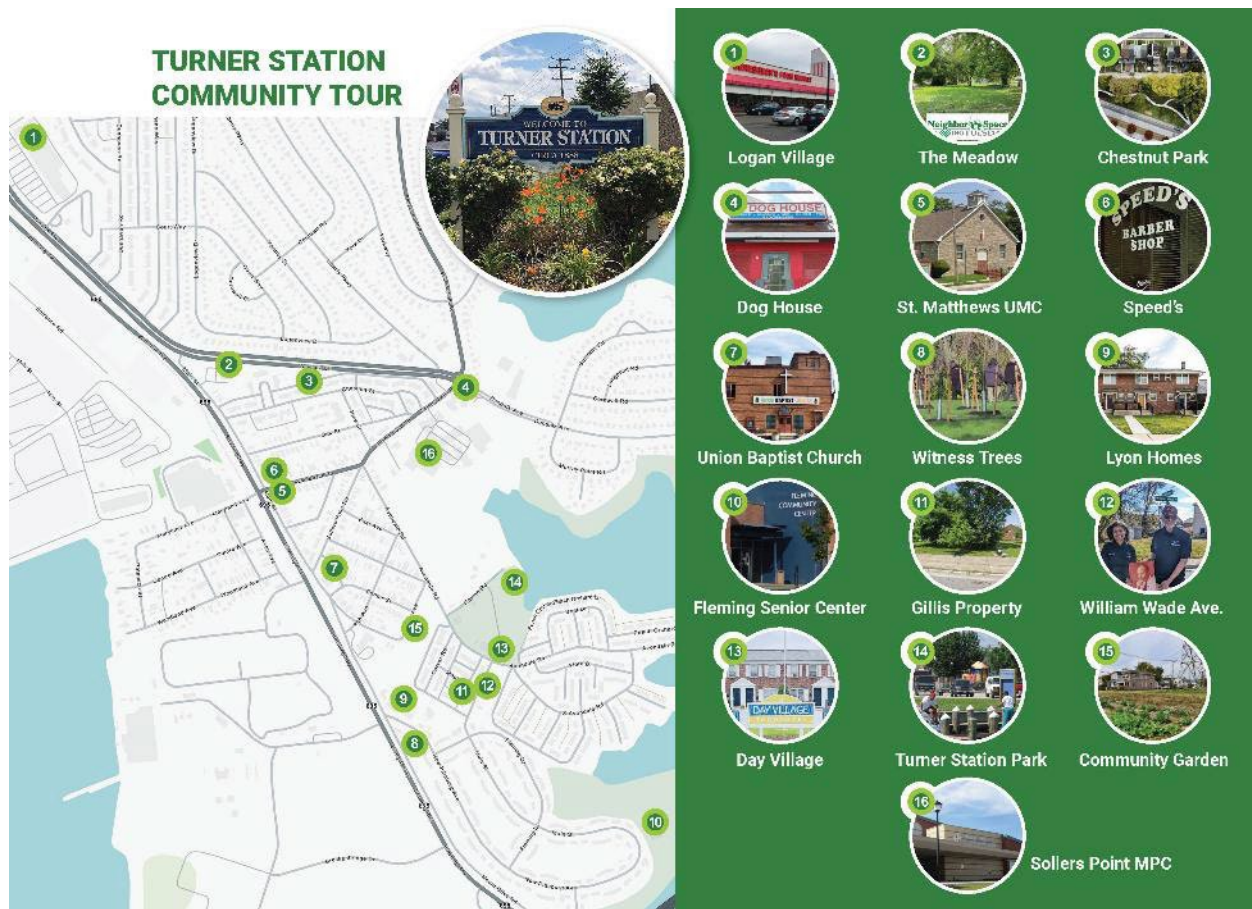


Figure 8 - Excerpt of Community Tour Map and Handout. Figure 9 - Excerpt of Community Tour Map and Handout. The entire tour handout is available in Appendix G.

Witness Trees project, Food Pantry at St. Matthews United Methodist Church, and community gardens. Some tour images are available in the **Appendix D: Workshop Photo Album**.

Day 1: Vision and Values

On the evening of January 15, 2025, 44 community members, stakeholders, key partners, and federal and state agency representatives convened at the Sollers Point Multipurpose Center for the first of a two-day LFLP community workshop. That evening, the technical assistance team facilitated and presented the purpose and background of the workshop, followed by a series of exercises that captured the group's aspirations for the future of Turner Station.

In the first exercise, every person in the room was asked to write on index cards and complete the sentences: “I believe my community...” and “I believe healthy food...” This exercise captured how residents feel about their community and what they felt about food, health, and access in Turner Station. Next, community members were asked to write a **newspaper headline** about something aspirational happening in Turner Station 3-5 years from now. This captured the community's vision for the future. They read out the results, followed by a discussion. The visioning exercises revealed many of the group's aspirations for improving access to food. Headline topics envisioned markets and farmers markets, a lively and healthy Turner Station, the opening of a new locally owned food co-op, main street revitalization, the redevelopment of Logan Village, cultural festivals, soup kitchens, improved community gardens, stable food pantries, and more. **Appendix B: Workshop Results** presents the exercise results and community-produced feedback.

The facilitators encouraged participants to think about ideas and actions discussed during the meeting that resonated with them and come to the next day's action planning work session to explore how to make an action plan to support the workshop goals of growing food, finding food sources, distributing food, and establishing a grocery store or co-op solution.

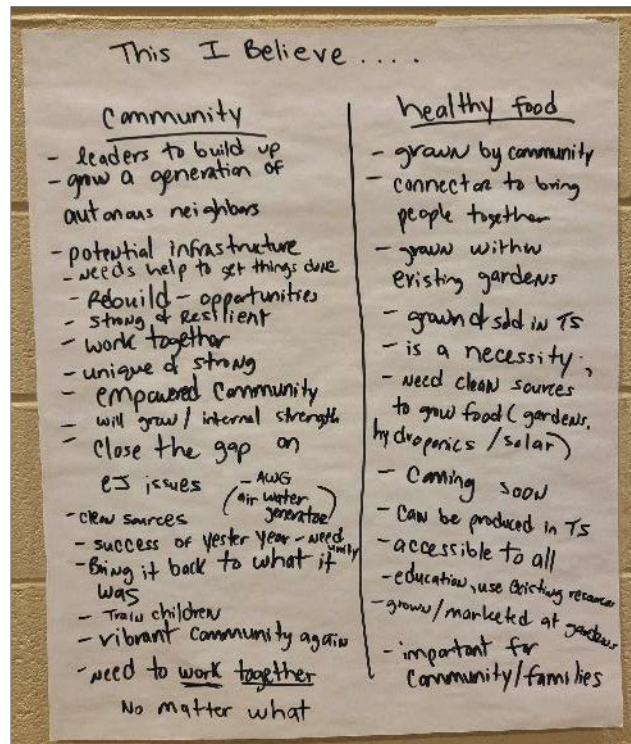


Figure 10 - Flip chart summarizing the "This I believe..." exercise

Day 2: Action Brainstorming, Prioritizing, and Detailing

Forty-two people attended Day 2 of the workshop on January 16, 2025. The morning session began with a recap of the Day 1 vision and values exercises. Since the workshop's theme was improving access to healthy food, the consultant team presented a series of practices and strategies that communities elsewhere have undertaken to improve food access. These included farmers' markets, mobile markets, types of food retail, healthy corner store initiatives, food pantries, soup kitchens, and neighborhood pop-up distribution systems. To address the topic of a local grocer, the consultants summarized two basic approaches to realizing a food retail store, grocery, or market. One path is the do-it-yourself method or food co-op. They presented an overview of what a food co-op is, the several forms it could take, key considerations, and organizational formats.



*Figure 11 - Day two, participants spending quiet time brainstorming ideas for the action plan on post it notes.
Photo Credit: Revive Strategies*

The first guest presenter was **Cassia Herron**, President of the Louisville Association for Community Economics (LACE) in Louisville, Kentucky. Cassia was a former LFLP participant, bringing a peer community perspective to Turner Station. She virtually presented her case story about the lessons learned from trying to establish a locally run and owned food co-op. Her story is a work in progress, but it illustrates some of the potential challenges in organizing to create a local food co-op.

The second guest presenter was **Marilyn Steele**, Co-Owner of Oasis Fresh Foods Market in Indian Head, Maryland. Her inspiring presentation told of her journey to successfully develop and open a new, mixed-use fresh food store, ice cream shop, residential apartments, and garden. Her story inspired some community residents to organize a field trip to the Oasis to learn more about how it was done.

During lunch, the visiting federal partners from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided informative presentations on their agency resources relevant to Turner Station's goals (see **Appendix A: Workshop Presentations** for Day 1 and Day 2 presentations).

The afternoon work session brainstormed ideas for actions, prioritized them, and, in small groups, proceeded to detail each action, explaining what it is, why it's important, what the timeframe is, who the responsible parties are or could be, and what resources are needed for success.

Community Action Plan

The culminating product of the workshop is this community action plan, which focuses on a short-term timeframe of actions that can be taken in one month to five years. This plan is organized around four community goals and includes actions the participants brainstormed at the workshop and during follow-up calls. This action plan also includes a list of funding resources (**Appendix E: Funding Opportunities**) and additional resources (**Appendix F: Additional Resources**) to aid the community in implementing their action plan.



Figure 12 - One participant is enthusiastic about the prioritization results. Photo credit: Ron Batcher, USDA AMS.

Action Plan Tables

GOAL 1: Grow your own food. Improve and empower more local food production through expanded or new community gardens; school and church gardens; gardening classes; garden tool libraries; and better access to land and irrigation water.

By producing more locally grown products, Turner Station can improve awareness of food insecurity, while fostering community collaboration, social connections, and local pride. Food produced in the community offers a direct locally sourced and steadier supply of healthy seasonal foods for residents. It will contribute to a more vibrant local food economy. Growing food locally also provides an opportunity for food, health and environmental education at all ages, sharing sustainable gardening best practices and empowering residents to make healthier eating choices.

Action 1.1: Expand the existing community gardens and identify opportunities for new ones to increase local food production and educate residents who want to learn to grow their own food.	
What this is and why it's important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing garden is an important, long-term asset for the community in providing local fresh foods to the community Improvement could look like, new shed, shared tools, water security, mural for signage and community
Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing greater variety of produce More community members involved
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring together supporting cast and other interested parties to work on community garden improvements. (1-3 months) Contact businesses for donations.(1-3 months)
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Olivia Lomax, St Mathews Church/Food Pantry, as convenor



Action 1.1: Expand the existing community gardens and identify opportunities for new ones to increase local food production and educate residents who want to learn to grow their own food.

Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muriel Gray • Danielle Gonzalez (Girl Scouts/gardener) • Chris Wood (Lyon Homes) • Akira Wade • Girl Scouts • Black Church Food Security Network, Heber Brown • Olivia Lomax and Mr. Lomax • Baltimore County Parks and Rec (water provider) • BGE (property owner with signed agreement)
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rain barrels (https://extension.umd.edu/resource/rain-barrels-and-cisterns/) • Quality topsoil and soil amendments • Garden Tools • Toolshed • Water sources • Mural and signage • Materials for composting: https://baltimorecompostcollective.org/ - program collects food scraps for composting from community members; could be helpful to learn about logistics of creating a collective. • Beginning Farmers program in the future: https://extension.umd.edu/programs/agriculture-food-systems/program-areas/integrated-programs/beginning-farmer-success/
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowes Home Improvement • Home Depot (previously donated supplies. Danielle Gonzalez had connection) • Port Alliance (lumber for raised beds). • UMD Extension (Claire) to identify rain barrels • Institute for Local Self-Reliance (Clarissa Libertelli, Community Composter Coalition manager) - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Free community composting resources. ○ Host a National Community Composting Coalition open to membership. ○ Provide technical assistance training and tools. • Resources for Community Composters • Neighborhood Soil Rebuilders Coalition • Farm Alliance of Baltimore: Urban agriculture and food justice nonprofit, comprising a vibrant network of over 40 member farms, community gardens and growers. Members contribute to fostering sustainable urban agriculture and enhancing food sovereignty in Baltimore. It empowers local farmers, increases access to fresh food and strengthens community resilience through collaboration and education (info@farmalliancebaltimore.org) • Cooperative Fund: Up to \$10,000 to support co-ops and small farmers in day-to-day operations to development their



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	<p>organization. Projects focus on regenerative agriculture, land access and retention and supporting cooperatives working primarily on agricultural related projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clif Family Foundation: Supports regenerative and organic local agriculture, healthy foods access and climate justice. Awards range from \$5,000 - \$50,000 and last for one year.• Chesapeake Bay Trust Community Engagement: Grants that support education and engagement activities for projects such as community gardens, rainwater capture and harvesting, greening and tree planting, art installations, etc. Up to \$5,000 grant amount, accepted on a rolling basis.

Action 1.2: Create a nutrition and cooking education program in the community.

What this is and why it's important	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Nutritional and Cooking Education Program will empower Turner Station residents with the knowledge, skills, and resources to make healthier food choices and prepare nutritious meals. The program will provide hands-on cooking classes, nutrition workshops, meal planning guidance, and culturally relevant recipes that align with community traditions, while promoting overall wellness.• Many Turner Station residents face limited healthy food access. Teaching them about ways to maximize the use of available resources by using combination of grocery stores, community gardens and food pantries, to improve their access to various types of produce needed to prepare nutritious, cost-effective meals.• Consuming Nutritious meals on a more regular basis will help Improve local health outcomes. Turner Station residents faces high rates of diabetes, heart disease, and obesity linked to poor diet. Teaching the connection between food and health will help manage, reduce and prevent, reduce and manage these chronic health conditions.• The nutrition program will be community-centered, incorporating local chefs, nutritionists, healthcare professionals, and elders to share their expertise and provide practical, accessible, and engaging information. It will also collaborate with local food security programs, such as the Turner Station Marketplace, food pantry, and the community garden, to ensure fresh produce is available and utilized effectively.• Monthly healthy food events at in local community spaces, schools, churches, and senior centers will improve accessibility for all ages, from youth to seniors. It will also
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Action 1.2: Create a nutrition and cooking education program in the community.	
	<p>provide hands-on cooking classes, focusing on simple, affordable, and nutritious meals. Community members, including nutritionists and healthcare professionals will provide instruction on topics such as portion control, balanced diets, diet-related health conditions, meal budgeting, recipe-sharing and cultural cooking nights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By incorporating traditional and locally inspired meals with a health-conscious approach, the program ensures that nutritious eating doesn't mean sacrificing culture and taste, and in fact celebrates it • Knowledge is power. Teaching budget-friendly meal preparation, cooking skills, and how to read nutrition labels empowers residents with tools and knowledge needed to take control of their health and well-being. It builds self-sufficiency. • By partnering with local farmers, community gardens, backyard gardeners and with food co-ops, the program encourages residents to buy fresh, local ingredients, supporting the Turner Station economy and fostering a stronger local food system.
Measures of Success	<p>To ensure the Nutritional and Cooking Education Program in Turner Station makes a lasting impact, the community will track the following key success indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Participation and Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of Participants – number residents attending cooking classes, workshops and events. ○ Demographic Reach – Maintain a measurable diverse mix of participants, including youth, families, seniors, and individuals with health conditions. ○ Retention Rates – Measure how many participants attend multiple sessions and stay engaged over time. • Health and Behavioral Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improvement in Food Choices – Conduct surveys before and after the program to track increases in healthy food consumption. ○ Reduction in Diet-Related Health Risks – Partner with local healthcare providers to assess changes in weight, blood pressure, and diabetes risk among participants. ○ Self-Reported Cooking Confidence – Measure the percentage of participants who feel more confident in preparing nutritious meals at home. ○ Reduced rates of food insecurity in Turner Station. Lower rates of diet-related diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and obesity.

Action 1.2: Create a nutrition and cooking education program in the community.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of Cooking and Nutrition Workshops Held – Ensure that a consistent number of classes are available each month. ○ Knowledge Retention Rates – Use quizzes, surveys, and feedback forms to assess learning progress. ○ Community Recipe Adoption – Track the number of people using or sharing the healthier recipes provided in the program. • Economic and Food Access Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase in Local Food Purchasing – Monitor whether participants are buying more fresh produce from local sources, such as the Turner Station Marketplace or farmers markets. ○ Food Affordability Awareness – Survey participants on their ability to budget for healthier meals using program strategies. ○ Utilization of local Food Security Programs – Measure if more families are accessing the food pantry, community garden, or meal delivery services because of the program. ○ A stronger local food system that supports Turner Station's businesses, farms, and community co-ops • Sustainability and Expansion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteer and Partner Engagement – Track the number of local chefs, nutritionists, and community members contributing their time and expertise. ○ Program Funding and Grants Secured – Assess the financial sustainability of the program and growth potential. ○ Community Ownership and Leadership – Measure the number of residents stepping up to lead workshops and mentor others. ○ A more connected and empowered community, where residents take ownership of their health and well-being.
Timeframe	<p>Phase 1: Planning and Development (1-3 Months)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish community partnerships with local chefs, nutritionists, healthcare professionals and volunteers. ○ Secure funding and sponsorships through grants, local businesses and MRAF's food security initiatives. ○ Design curriculum, including cooking workshops, meal planning sessions and nutritional education content. ○ Identify and secure locations for classes (e.g., MRAF spaces, schools, churches, community centers).

Action 1.2: Create a nutrition and cooking education program in the community.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop a marketing and outreach plan to engage residents and recruit participants. ● Success Milestones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At least 3-5 community partners confirmed. ○ Program curriculum finalized and pilot-tested. ○ 25+ residents pre-registered for the first set of classes. <p>Phase 2: Pilot Launch and Community Engagement (4-6 Months)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Key Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launch monthly cooking workshops and nutrition education sessions. ○ Gather baseline data on participants' health, cooking habits and food choices. ○ Organize a community food event to raise awareness and celebrate local food traditions. ○ Conduct preliminary surveys to measure early impact and adjust programming as needed. ○ Strengthen engagement with local grocery stores, farmers' markets and Turner Station Marketplace. ● Success Milestones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First 5-10 workshops completed with positive participant feedback. ○ 50+ residents actively participating in the program. ○ At least one community-wide food event successfully held <p>Phase 3: Full Implementation and Expansion (7-12 Months)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Key Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expand to weekly cooking and nutrition classes based on community demand. ○ Establish a volunteer-led mentorship program where trained participants can help teach others. ○ Create a digital and print recipe guide featuring culturally relevant, healthy meal options. ○ Integrate a "Grocery Budgeting and Meal Planning" component to support affordability and smart shopping. ○ Partner with Turner Station Marketplace and local food retailers to promote healthy food access. ● Success Milestones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 100+ residents engaged in the program. ○ At least 15-20 workshops held. ○ Increase in residents purchasing fresh food from local vendors.
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Action 1.2: Create a nutrition and cooking education program in the community.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measurable improvements in participants' food choices and cooking habits <p>Phase 4: Evaluation and Sustainability (12+ Months)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct post-program impact assessments and follow-up surveys. Use collected data to refine and expand the program based on community feedback. Apply for long-term funding and grants to sustain operations beyond Year 1. Strengthen local food partnerships to ensure continued access to affordable, fresh food. Explore integrating the program into other community nonprofit's wellness, youth and senior initiatives. Success Milestones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrated positive impact on health outcomes. Increased community ownership, with volunteers and participants taking leadership roles. Expansion of the program into schools, after-school programs and senior care facilities.
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Danielle Gonzalez Mrs. Renee Association Foundation (MRAF) – Antuan Scott
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doctoral Student from the University of Maryland (UMD) – Assisting with curriculum design, research and hands-on workshops. Shauna Henley has the student's contact. Shauna C. Henley, Ph.D. (UMD Extension) – Expert in food safety, nutrition and community education. Current programs led by Dr. Henley that could be integrated into Turner Station's Initiative include : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Preservation Workshops – Learn canning, freezing and drying techniques to extend the shelf life of fresh food. Garden Food Safety – Best practices for growing, harvesting and handling homegrown produce. Capture the Flavor: Herbs and Spices – How to reduce salt, sugar and unhealthy additives while maximizing flavor with natural ingredients. Hypertension Series (5 classes) – Diet and lifestyle education for managing high blood pressure. Dining with Diabetes (series of 4 classes) – Nutritional strategies for diabetics, including meal planning and sugar management. Kitchen Kaizen – Improving efficiency and safety in home kitchens. Kitchen I Spy – Engaging food safety and kitchen hygiene activities for families.



Action 1.2: Create a nutrition and cooking education program in the community.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food Prep Trivia – Interactive learning on healthy eating habits through trivia and games. ○ How to Start a Food Business – A practical guide to launching a food-based business, including licensing and regulations. • How This Support Enhances Turner Station’s Nutritional and Cooking Education Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expert-Led Workshops: Residents will benefit from evidence-based training on nutrition, food safety and cooking techniques. ○ Food Security and Sustainability: Teaching food preservation and gardening safety helps families make the most of fresh produce from Turner Station Marketplace and community gardens. ○ Chronic Disease Prevention: Programs like Dining with Diabetes and Hypertension Education will be key in addressing diet-related health disparities in Turner Station. ○ Entrepreneurial Opportunities: Residents interested in starting food-related businesses will have access to professional guidance.
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Estimated Budget: \$20,000 - \$30,000 • Commercial Kitchen Spaces for Classes and Workshops (Sollers Point Multipurpose Center Commercial Kitchen). The MP Center has a fully equipped kitchen that can accommodate cooking demonstrations, meal prep sessions and hands-on workshops for community members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need partnership or sponsorship to use space • St. Matthew’s Food Pantry Kitchen – A community-accessible kitchen that can support food prep classes, nutrition workshops and food preservation training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need partnership or sponsorship to use space • Kitchen Appliances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stovetops, ovens and prep tables for cooking demonstrations and meal prep. ○ Refrigerators/freezers for storing fresh ingredients and prepared meals. • Cooking equipment and supplies (\$5,000-\$7,500): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cooking utensils, knives and cutting boards for safe, hands-on learning. ○ Mixing bowls, measuring cups and kitchen scales for nutritional portion control education • Food ingredients for workshops (\$3,000-\$5,000) • Educational Materials Supplies and printing (\$1,000-\$2,000) : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Printed recipe booklets featuring healthy, affordable meals using local ingredients

Action 1.2: Create a nutrition and cooking education program in the community.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grocery budgeting guides and meal planning templates ○ Food safety handouts and nutrition education materials ○ Cooking aprons and chef hats for interactive, engaging learning experiences • Instructor Stipends for guest chefs, nutritionists (\$7,500-\$10,000). • Programmatic administrative and marketing costs (\$2,500-\$5,000).
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program (CFPCGP): Supports community-based food security projects supporting low-income individuals by increasing access to healthy, nutritious food • <u>Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grants:</u> Funds initiatives focus on achieving health equity, including programs that promote healthy eating and chronic disease prevention • <u>Horizon Foundation Grants:</u> Supports organizations working to improve community health and wellness, including nutrition education and food access initiatives • <u>Walmart Foundation Community Grants:</u> Offers local grants ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 to support community-based organizations. • <u>Baltimore Community Foundation Grants:</u> Provides funding to programs, civic projects and nonprofits across Baltimore city and county. • <u>Giant Food Community Grants:</u> Supports local nonprofit organizations focused on eliminating hunger, improving nutrition and strengthening communities. • <u>Safeway Foundation Grants:</u> Dedicated to bettering the lives of people in their neighborhoods through support of hunger relief, education and health and human services. • <u>Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation:</u> Supports a variety of hunger-related initiatives, including grants to nonprofits that address food insecurity. • <u>Wegmans Community Giving:</u> Partners with and donates to local nonprofit organizations to build better communities, focusing on helping families and enriching neighborhoods. • <u>Trader Joe's:</u> Supports local communities through donations to nonprofit organizations, particularly those focused on hunger relief. • <u>Costco Charitable Contributions:</u> Provides donations to nonprofit organizations focused on children, education and health and human services.

Action 1.3: Start beekeeping in the community and create new opportunities for planting native, wildflowers.	
What this is and why it's important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bee keeping will increase yields of food production relying on pollinators • Bring bees back to Turner Station • Wildflowers contribute to local beautification • Related murals and signage highlight pollinator locations and engage with youth in food and environmental education.
Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish two bee hives on a garden site. • Number of bee colonies surviving one year or more. • Number of new sites contributing to wildflower diversification • Measurable quantity of local honey provided to local community
Timeframe	<p>Short term (0 - 6 months) – ideal to start in Spring 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assemble interested people (e.g., Chris Wood, Danielle Gonzalez, others) to determine locations and next steps • Take a walk around sites: walk, talk, implement
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danielle Gonzalez (local grower/resident)
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girl Scouts Troop 353 • Boy Scouts • Christopher Wood (Lyon Homes/Henrietta Lacks Village) • USDA • University of Maryland Extension's Garden Food Safety and Master Gardeners Home and Garden Information Center • Filbert Street Garden in Curtis Bay – Beekeeper is Charles DeBarber (info@filbertstreetgarden.org) • Central Maryland Beekeepers Association (hosts workshops for new beekeepers)
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bee colonies • Hive and apiary infrastructure (Frame and foundation) • Safety equipment (e.g., smoker, protective gear) • Feeder (for periods of low nectar) • Wildflower plants (Danielle Gonzalez has plenty on her property already)
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP) • USDA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program • USDA Sustainable Agriculture, Research, and Education (SARE) Program • Local Maryland beekeeping programs • 2025 Bee Grant

Action 1.4: Create vertical community gardens focusing on micro and collard greens.	
What this is and why it's important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes environmental stewardship. • Provides local good growing opportunity and does not take up a lot of space. • It is a gateway to traditional gardening.

Action 1.4: Create vertical community gardens focusing on micro and collard greens.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an opportunity for education and programming centered around greens. Work with the Sollers Point Multipurpose Center to explore space for these vertical, year-round gardens. Having it here would provide greater access to the community.
Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vertical gardens built, including some within Sollers Point Multipurpose Center. Number of participants engaged on project. Reengagement of participants over time. Pounds of food produced. Reduced food waste and composting.
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short term (0-6 months) – very eager! Meet within 1- 4 weeks to discuss space needs and usage.
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quandra Gray (What the Sprout) [See What the Sprout concept proposal in Appendix H] Gloria Nelson, TSCT – will to help convene group and support Quandra.
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Madison Russell (Lyon Homes) – To help with outreach, potentially hosting workshops at community center (note: center has 75 person capacity) Seniors Scouts Local schools and libraries Turner Station Conservation Team Henrietta Lacks Legacy Group Baltimore County Parks and Recreation (manages the Multipurpose building) Turner Station Recreation Council (coordination on the space)
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to secure locations with good foot traffic (explore if this can happen at Sollers Point Multipurpose Center) Create educational awareness about vertical gardening and microgreens to spark community interest. Shelves, seeds (trueleafmarket.com), water, electricity, lighting, soil. Engagement hours (volunteering) to help with garden management and distribution of greens to the community All About Microgreens resource page.
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USDA Urban Agriculture Innovative Production (UAIP) Planning grant CDC grants Home Depot Foundation

NOTE: Other events and programming ideas for **Goal 1** that were discussed during the Turner Station workshops include the following:

- Creating container gardens/mini green house to start seedlings.

- Create more awareness of the existing community gardens through signage and/or social media.
- Establish a local seed bank at the library.
- Create food entrepreneurship programs and opportunities
- Provide teaching opportunities related to canning and preserving, in order to promote less food waste and resiliency during non-growing months.

GOAL 2: Identify and connect with local and regional food supply. Identify local and regional growers, pantries and food banks that could supply local distribution.

It is important to understand where and what food is grown in the area within and surrounding Turner Station so that it can be better distributed to those who need it most.

Action 2.1: Host seasonal gatherings at community gardens in Turner Station to give away surplus harvest	
What this is and why it's important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socializing residents around a shared challenge and build trust and connection • Education • Bring greater community awareness of the garden, maybe grow new gardeners, get people interested. • This could also include providing recipe cards for the harvest being given away during each season.
Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participants • Increase in awareness and community garden usage (i.e., family plots) • Interest in the continuation of gatherings
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term (0 - 9 months) – during the growing season in Spring and Summer. • Make it a yearly event, possibly hosting it twice a year if successful.
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I Believe in ME” (IBIM) Girls Group – Cortney Roberts • Mr. Lomax – Garden Manager and friends
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellow onsite growers (Girls Scouts, Danielle, Quandra) • Community gardeners - bring expertise • Community members as participants
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach – flyers, social media, people getting the word out • Food prepared for gatherings • Cutlery and silverware for gatherings • Workshop supplies • Volunteers to help prepare food and organize event • Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act-Food Donation FAQ https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-good-samaritan-faqs.pdf
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food donations

Action 2.2: Invite a regional farmers market to come into the community, starting on a trial basis such as with local community festivals and events.

What this is and why it's important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are nearby and regional farmers markets to connect with. Dundalk Famers Market. They might be enticed to initiate pop-up markets in Turner Station. • Research what vendors might be willing to participate. • If they don't want to set up within Turner Station, explore opportunities for specific vendors and farmers to offer residents community supported agriculture (CSA) subscriptions, with SNAP Double Up Food Bucks for affordability, or setup in alternative sites within Turner Station. • Individual farmers might wish to contribute or sell food via Turner Station mobile markets or at a new farm stand location. • Important to connect and learn from others – what worked for them and what didn't.
Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 nearby farmers market managers contacted. • Number of farmers connections made. • Number of farmers market days per year (either pop-up or on regular schedule basis). • Number of families served. • Number of visitors to markets and events.
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term (0 – 6 months) – begin conversations • Medium term (6+ months) – Bring farmer's market to community
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngone Seye Diop nseyediop@baltimorecountymd.gov (formerly Maria Mougridis) (Baltimore County) jointly with Madison Russell (Lyon Homes) • Form a Market Advisory Committee to support this
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dundalk Chamber of Commerce • Baltimore County Permitting (Zoning office) • Baltimore County Development of Health (SNAP/EBT)
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a market advisory committee to research and connect with other markets in the region. • Determine the farmer's market model for Turner Station. • Build relationships with growers and producers. • Volunteer time.
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baltimore County grants

Action 2.3: Stabilize and expand the local food pantry.

What this is and why it's important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local food pantry needs continual financial and donation support to continue. • Expanding it, or finding new locations for ancillary distribution, will reach more people and feed more people.
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Action 2.3: Stabilize and expand the local food pantry.	
Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased pantry size. • More people being fed. • Increased number of partners or expand current partnerships. • Increased days of service.
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term and Long term (1 – 2 years) – funding needs in the immediate and long term
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turner Station Conservation Team (Gloria Nelson). • St. Matthew's Church (Olivia Lomax). • Other community congregations.
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Assistance Network (CAN) – Community Choice Pantry. • Mrs. Renee Association Foundation (MRAF). • Local growers and farmers. • Volunteers from the community garden.
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer time to distribute food to people who can't come to church. • Need fresh protein sources. • Always need more fresh produce.
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with CAN to learn how they are funded • Maryland Food Bank funding (new capacity grant opportunity – Gloria has information). • Partners Recovery Retail. • Need funding sources to purchase fresh produce. Harriet Johnson (grant writer) can support this effort.

NOTE: Other events and programming ideas for **Goal 2** that were discussed during the Turner Station workshops include the following:

- Establishing a network of local and regional food suppliers.
- Create opportunities for seedling/seed swaps (noted Howard County Public Library has one).
- Research local farms and community supported agriculture operations that participate in gleaning programs.
- Invite local growers to tour the community and connect with residents
- Provide food safety training for pantry workers and others who may handle food in the community.
- Create a Meals on Wheels program that is distributed by bicycles.

GOAL 3: Build a creative and localized distribution network. Connect and expand existing distribution networks and identify creative ways to distribute food throughout the community, including through pop-up markets, mobile grocers and distribution sites with ambassadors.

Goals 1 and 2 centered on producing or connecting with regional food producers. Goal 3 focuses on the distribution aspect of food acquisition. Several models exist for localized food distribution, such as pop-up markets, neighborhood ambassadors running food distribution sites (e.g., LFLP New Roots, Louisville, Kentucky model). Actions below derive from participant brainstorming ideas generated during the Turner Station LFLP Workshop, representing action ideas they felt were suitable to Turner Station and its residents. The actions focus on either distributing food to residents where they are, or bringing residents to available food outlets.

Action 3.1: Re-introduce transportation shuttle to area grocery stores.	
What this is and why it's important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop Participants highlighted that Baltimore County previously initiated a grocery shuttle. It was not widely used, likely due to an inconvenient location and inconvenient shuttle times. This action would seek to re-introduce this shuttle, after first implementing community canvassing and dialog to determine the best times and locations for a shuttle. If designed well, with convenience in mind, more people would use it. Residents should work with Baltimore County and State transportation departments to establish more direct bus service to a Giant grocery, or other grocery stores identified by local consumers.
Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grocery shuttle is in place Service utilized by local residents regularly.
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short term (1-2 months) to determine feasibility Mid term (3-8 months) to coordinate with Baltimore County
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turner Station Conservations Teams – Gloria Nelson and team at TSCT, to make contact and explore re-introduction of the service.
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baltimore County Department of Health – TBD, new person (Ngone Seye Diop to investigate) Baltimore County Executive Office – Erica Crouch, community liaison Marchel Simmons – Baltimore County – All dates and times need to be coordinated with Marchel. Mark Millspaugh – Maryland state government, will need to be kept in the loop/informed about this. Ashley Wallington Baltimore County – Original contact who managed the program, is no longer serving in that role. Ms. Cynthis Mingo, Fleming Senior Center – She previously managed similar system. The original planned ride model was simply a sign-up sheet for a specific date and time. Any new bus would need to hold about 9-12 people. This can be coordinated with Marchel.

Action 3.1: Re-introduce transportation shuttle to area grocery stores.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emails for everyone are located in Appendix C.
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baltimore County to provide food and health-related transportation service
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baltimore County

Action 3.2: Introduce a low-cost community kitchen and food hub, a mobile food market, or delivery team to provide food to food-insecure or limited mobility persons in the community.	
What this is and why it's important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile markets take many forms, but primarily they serve as extensions of existing food outlets, pantries, farmers markets, or community gardens. Historically, there was a food delivery truck in Turner Station, so this is not a new concept. Bringing it back to life would be the primary action. Turner Station already has a robust and active community garden that distributes food for free. A mobile truck or bike cargo cart would be an extension of this food-producing activity. Food from the food pantry could then be delivered to people with limited mobility. Establishing a community soup kitchen where residents can get food, or where meals can be prepared for delivery rain or shine. It would help address some of the food insecurity needs in Turner Station. Soup kitchen would also serve people experiencing homelessness, less fortunate individuals and seniors. In addition to a soup kitchen, other food distribution sites or locations could be researched and could include locations identified in Action 3.2 for the mobile market, or entirely new sites. Food distribution must be done in coordination with existing community garden and food pantry operators. Talk with Dundalk Farmers Markets to explore the potential for either buying CSA shares for mobile delivery, especially if they accept SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks. This is another local food supply potential. Explore other sources of fresh, healthy food for delivery by the mobile market team. Identify places for delivery where there are concentrations of food-insecure and/or limited mobility residents. This will require research and conversations within various residential areas. Are there any nearby existing mobile markets that could be contacted and enticed to provide stops in Turner Station?
Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When a mobile food distribution is set up, working, and Turner Station residents who are in need are receiving food either for free or affordably.
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigations, research, identifying persons and places of need (3-4 months)

Action 3.2: Introduce a low-cost community kitchen and food hub, a mobile food market, or delivery team to provide food to food-insecure or limited mobility persons in the community.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with community garden organizers and the food pantry to explore how this mobile market could work, who, where, how and when (regularly). • Investigate and identify potential new food producers or markets that want to participate (2-4 months) • Seek a donated vehicle, cargo bike or e-bike for delivery. • Identify volunteer delivery persons to drive the donated vehicle or their own vehicle on a set schedule to people and places of need. (Operations starts within 5-6 months)
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antuan Scott, Mrs. Renee Association Foundation (MRAF) to coordinate with assistance of LFLP participants • Akia Wade, Neighborhood Companions Inc.
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TSCT • Baltimore County Department of Health (contact TBD) • Franciscan Center, Baltimore
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donated vehicle and money for gas. • Donated cargo bike (optional). • Too Good To Go, food donations. • Research lessons learned from North Lake Charles, LA and Lewiston ME (LFLP alumni)
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD

Action 3.3: Increase local awareness of existing and potential food access outlets and partnerships

What this is and why it's important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not everyone in Turner Station may be fully aware of existing food outlets or sources, like the community garden or food pantry. • This action involves collecting information on as many local or nearby food sources as possible and distributing it throughout the community. • This information could be hosted on a website (e.g., TSCT) and a QR code could be posted in strategic places around the community. • Word of mouth and in-person meetings will also be an important means of getting information out.
Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An informational handout and website is published and distributed around the community. • Health expo organized with Baltimore County Department of Health, to include Community Health Workers sharing information about healthy food and nutrition and provide access points. • Signage installed to better point out local food distribution points (e.g., gardens, pantry) • Other sources of food for information distribution identified. • Talk with the Maryland Food Bank to see if there are other local or nearby resources that can be shared with residents.

Action 3.3: Increase local awareness of existing and potential food access outlets and partnerships	
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium term (3-6 months)
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baltimore County Department of Health – Ngone Seye Diop (formerly Maria Mougridis) to investigate who to contact
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active LFLP workshop participants and/or new volunteers • Girl Scouts • Community Garden • St. Matthews Food Pantry • Food distribution at Sollers Point Multipurpose Center • Mrs. Renee Association Foundation (MRAF)
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time to assemble knowledge and publish • Funding for printing • Volunteer web hosting (TSCT or Sollers Point Multipurpose Center)
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD

NOTE: Other **actions and ideas for Goal 3** that were discussed during the Turner Station workshop included:

- Connecting to or exploring the concept of a food hub, e.g., Farmer Chippy's Plantation Park Heights food hub distribution model (UMD Extension).
- Engage with the Dollar Tree Store in offering free produce distribution at their space.

GOAL 4A: Redevelopment of Logan Village, which would include a local food grocer or food coop, as well as other commercial or civic uses.

Turner Station residents have made it clear they want to re-establish healthy food access through a grocery store, local food coop, or some form of food retailer in, or near Turner Station. There are different views on how this can or should be accomplished, thus creating Goal 4A and Goal 4B. Goal 4A concentrates efforts to see the Logan Village shopping center redeveloped.

The Logan Village shopping center, located just north of Turner Station, previously housed Geresbeck's Food Market, the nearest retail food outlet to Turner Station residents. The location of the shopping center is in Dundalk at a site adjacent to Turner Station and would benefit both communities. Both neighborhoods combined would present a larger market appeal to a prospective retailer. The location is within walking distance of many Turner Station households. It is along a transit line and within walking distance of a senior living center. Geresbeck's was the anchor retailer of this shopping center, but it closed in 2018, putting Turner Station into limited food access status. Several other retailers have since left. The redevelopment and revitalization of Logan Village would be a boon to area residents, providing convenience and economic development opportunities to many.

Action 4A.1: Connect with Logan Village property owners	
What this is and why it's important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current site has some small retailers, but the anchor (which used to house the grocery store) is vacant. It provides an opportunity for redevelopment within the community.
Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting(s) held with property owner to discuss near and long-term plans for the parcel
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2 months
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baltimore County Planning Department (lead)
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Dundalk Community Leaders Team of Olivia Lomax, Gloria Nelson and Ngone Seye Diop/Baltimore County Dept of Planning Interested residents Gloria Nelson, Olivia Lomax, and anyone interested.
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> time
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private funding

Action 4A.2: Connect with Enterprise Homes to engage in added mixed-use capacity	
What this is and why it's important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A mixed-use approach to the redevelopment of Logan Village could provide an additional boost to revitalization efforts versus commercial redevelopment alone.
Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-term Measure: When contact made with Enterprise Homes. Long-term measure: Number of commercial and housing spaces created in redevelopment.
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2 months
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baltimore County Planning and/or Economic Development
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloria Nelson, Olivia Lomax, and anyone interested. Greater Dundalk Community Leaders
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable for this action.

Action 4A.3: Redevelopment Plan/Small Area Plan	
What this is and why it's important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Small Area plan would help guide redevelopment and revitalization of Logan Village and Turner Station, given the overlapping mutual relationship of both locations. Planning that considers mutual relationships at the regional level be in a better situation to succeed. It would improve the economic outcome versus looking at the narrower scope, which may miss key convenience and economic development opportunities for residents.
Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A small area plan
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Year.
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baltimore County Planning Department (Ngone Seye Diop)
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloria Nelson, Olivia Lomax, and anyone interested.

Action 4A.3: Redevelopment Plan/Small Area Plan	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Dundalk Community Leaders
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baltimore County staff time Community time on input and surveys. Funding for a consultant (if needed)
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baltimore County.

Action 4A.4: Develop an outline (playbook) for grocery recruitment	
What this is and why it's important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attracting a grocery chain to open up business in Turner Station may be challenging without a playbook on the best ways for the community to demonstrate the business case for a company to establish a grocery store in or near Turner Station.
Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline or strategy for grocery store recruitment.
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 months
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Dundalk Community Leaders
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloria Nelson, Olivia Lomax, and anyone interested. Baltimore County Planning Department (Ngone Seye Diop)
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None for plan
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time.

GOAL 4B: Work towards a future grocery store or larger co-op located within Turner Station. Goal is to make the dream of a local grocer or expanded co-op possible either as part of broader redevelopment, or it occurs on its own.

Turner Station residents say they have waited long enough. A reliable, locally owned grocery store isn't a luxury—it's a necessity. Local Families deserve accessing fresh, healthy food directly from within their own community. Residents have made their voices clear: they want a grocery store, co-op, or food retailer within Turner Station. This isn't just about convenience. It's about dignity, health, and economic empowerment. While there are different perspectives on achieving this, one thing is certain: the community must take action. That's why Goal 4 has been split into two separate goals 4A and Goal 4B—to explore multiple paths forward.

A Grocery Store in the Heart of Turner Station

For many, the ideal location for a community grocery store is a 0.48-acre lot on Main Street, historically a vibrant hub for local businesses. Generations ago, this land was a thriving commercial center where businesses flourished, and families gathered. We now have an opportunity to bring that legacy back to life. Further, Turner Station residents were deeply inspired by Oasis Fresh Foods, a community-driven grocery model that successfully brought fresh food to an underserved area, that created mixed-use development opportunities and was grounded in a community ownership model.

More Than a Grocery Store—A Catalyst for Change

This is about more than just selling food. The vision is to create a community hub that provides:

- Fresh, affordable groceries to eliminate the limited food access status in Turner Station.
- A gathering space where residents can connect, collaborate and build stronger bonds.
- Health and wellness services to promote nutrition, fitness and preventative care.
- Economic empowerment by creating jobs and supporting local entrepreneurship.

See Appendix I for the full MRAF proposal for Goal 4B.

Action 4B.1: Organize and take a field trip to the Oasis.	
What this is and why it's important	<p>This field trip to Oasis Fresh Food Market in Indian Head, MD was a transformative learning experience designed to give Turner Station residents and stakeholders firsthand knowledge of how a successful, locally-driven grocery store operates. In the process, participants gained valuable insights into its business structure, community impact and sustainability strategies.</p> <p>Completed just weeks after the LFLP workshop, the field trip was designed as a short-term initiative with a high-impact learning experience, as part of the broader plan to launch Turner Station Marketplace. This field trip was significant in its ability to:</p>

Action 4B.1: Organize and take a field trip to the Oasis.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a Proven Community Grocery Model – By observing Oasis Fresh Foods in action, participants could see how a small, community-based grocery store thrives in an underserved area, providing fresh food access while maintaining financial sustainability. This included a discussion of funding models, supplier partnerships, business planning and zoning requirements • Educate and Inspire Local Leadership – Engaging with Oasis Fresh Food Market’s founders, Marilyn and Mark Steele, allowed Turner Station leaders to understand the challenges and solutions involved in launching a community-owned grocery store. This real-world knowledge is invaluable for planning Turner Station’s own food initiative. • Bridge Knowledge Gaps in Food Access Solutions – Many participants had never seen a community grocery model in action. By visiting Oasis, they witnessed the power of local ownership, the role of cooperative business models and the importance of reinvesting in the community. • Strengthen Momentum for the Turner Station Marketplace Project – Seeing a successful food justice initiative gave Turner Station residents and leaders renewed motivation and practical steps toward launching the Turner Station Marketplace, the community’s own grocery store that will combat food insecurity and create economic opportunities.
Measures of Success	<p>The impact of the field trip was measured by tangible takeaways and next steps that contribute to the development of Turner Station’s own grocery initiative. Key indicators of success include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge Transfer and Strategic Planning – Participants returned with a deeper understanding of funding strategies, operational challenges and community engagement tactics, which are now being incorporated into the Turner Station Marketplace business plan. • Community Engagement and Participation – Attendees included local advocates, nonprofit leaders and community members, ensuring that a broad representation of voices contributed to the initiative. • Partnership Development – The trip established a working relationship with Oasis Fresh Food Market, creating an opportunity for ongoing mentorship and collaboration between Oasis and MRAF. • Clear Next Steps for Turner Station Marketplace – Lessons learned during the field trip directly influenced the structure, funding approach and operational strategy of the Turner Station Marketplace, accelerating the timeline for launching the project. • Community Mobilization – The experience generated increased enthusiasm and commitment from Turner Station residents, leading to stronger grassroots support for food security initiatives.

Action 4B.1: Organize and take a field trip to the Oasis.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediate Impact on Participants – MRAF ensured that every attendee could purchase fresh groceries with vouchers, offering immediate relief to families facing food insecurity while demonstrating the power of accessible, community-driven food solutions.
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed: February 22, 2025
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Renee Association Foundation (MRAF) – Organized, funded and led the trip
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marilyn Steele and Oasis Fresh Food Market Team – Provided an in-depth tour, shared valuable insights and offered mentorship on launching and sustaining a community grocery store. Local Foods, Local Places (LFLP) Initiative – Supported Turner Station’s food security movement, providing expertise in community food planning. Turner Station Residents and Advocates – A diverse group of community leaders, nonprofit representatives and residents participated to bring back knowledge and mobilize action locally. Elected Officials and Stakeholders.
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation: MRAF covered costs for a chartered vehicle Meals and Refreshments provided to attendees Grocery Vouchers: Each participant received a voucher to purchase fresh food at Oasis, ensuring an immediate impact on families facing food insecurity. Educational Materials: Information packets summarizing key lessons, funding models and business strategies from Oasis Fresh Food Market. Follow-Up Strategy Sessions: MRAF hosted a debriefing session post-trip to capture insights, discuss next steps and integrate learnings into the Turner Station Marketplace plan.
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Renee Association Foundation (MRAF) covered all trip-related expenses as part of its commitment to food security and community development.

Action 4B.2: Survey the community with “boots on the ground”	
What this is and why it's important	<p>This initiative involves conducting an in-depth, door-to-door and in-person survey to gather direct input from Turner Station and Wateredge residents about their food needs, preferences and challenges. While past surveys have provided valuable insights, this effort ensures that every voice is heard, especially from those who may not have access to online surveys or traditional community meetings.</p> <p>The goal is to engage residents directly, build trust and collect accurate, community-driven data to shape the development of the Turner Station Marketplace grocery store. This effort will help:</p>

Action 4B.2: Survey the community with “boots on the ground”	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the specific grocery needs of residents – Identify the most-needed food products, price points and preferred shopping experiences. • Address barriers to food access – Learn about transportation challenges, affordability concerns and existing shopping habits to tailor the store’s offerings accordingly. • Ensure the community’s voice shapes the project – By prioritizing resident-driven decision-making, the Turner Station Marketplace will be truly built for and by the community. • Strengthen grassroots engagement – Face-to-face interactions create opportunities for deeper community buy-in, increasing participation and local support for the grocery store initiative. • Provide data-driven evidence for funding and grants – Having direct, on-the-ground survey results will strengthen grant applications, funding proposals and partnership pitches, showing measurable community demand for a local grocery store.
Measures of Success	<p>The success of this initiative will be measured by the depth and reach of community engagement, the quality of data collected and how effectively it informs the development of Turner Station Marketplace. Key indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Households Surveyed – goal is to survey at least 65% of Turner Station households and a pilot group in Wateredge, ensuring comprehensive input. • Diversity of Respondents – Ensuring that responses reflect all age groups, income levels and accessibility needs within the community. • Identify top grocery priorities, food accessibility challenges, and pricing expectations to inform store inventory and operational planning. • Community Awareness and Participation – Tracking increased community engagement, including sign-ups for focus groups, volunteer participation, and advocacy efforts. • Use of Data in Store Planning – Successfully integrating survey findings into the Turner Station Marketplace design, inventory selection, and pricing model. • Increased Community Trust and Support – Positive feedback and commitment from residents to shop at and support the new grocery store when launched.
Timeframe	<p>Short-Term (90 days, to be completed by end of April 2025)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2025: Finalize survey design, recruit volunteers, and train on survey methods. • March–April 2025: Boots-on-the-ground community outreach, including door-to-door surveys, pop-up events, and focus groups.

Action 4B.2: Survey the community with “boots on the ground”	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2025: Data analysis and report compilation, present findings to MRAF leadership and project partners for final planning.
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Renee Association Foundation (MRAF)
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turner Station and Wateredge Residents and Local Volunteers – Residents will be recruited as survey ambassadors, helping to distribute and collect responses. • Turner Station Recreational Council (TSRC) – Assisting in organizing survey pop-ups at community events. • Faith-Based Organizations and Local Churches – Encouraging participation through church services and community outreach programs. • Community Elders and Neighborhood Leaders – Trusted local voices will be enlisted to help increase participation among seniors and longtime residents. • Local Schools and Youth Groups – Engaging students and young volunteers to assist in conducting surveys and documenting responses. • Baltimore County Health and Community Services – Providing additional insights into food insecurity data and community health needs.
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printed and Digital Survey Materials – Paper surveys for door-to-door outreach and online versions for digital participation. • Volunteer Stipends and Incentives (e.g., grocery gift cards) for volunteers conducting in-person surveys. • Survey Training Sessions – Educating volunteers on effective engagement techniques and data collection best practices. • Pop-Up Survey Stations – Hosting survey collection booths at high-traffic locations (e.g., community centers, churches, bus stops). • Transportation for Volunteers • Data Entry and Analysis Support – Using survey software or hiring a data consultant to analyze trends and compile reports. • Community Information Sessions – Hosting follow-up events to share results and allow residents to provide feedback on preliminary findings.
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Renee Association Foundation (MRAF) (Self-Funded for Initial Surveys) – Covering costs of printing, survey materials, and volunteer coordination. • Baltimore County Health and Community Grants – Funding available for food security and community engagement initiatives. • Local Foods, Local Places (LFLP) – Providing technical assistance for local food planning efforts. • Chesapeake Bay Trust’s Environmental Education Grant program (see Track 2 Environmental Literacy Capacity Building Grant)

Action 4B.2: Survey the community with “boots on the ground”	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Sponsorships (Local Businesses and Grocery Retailers) – Engaging potential grocery store partners to co-sponsor outreach efforts.

Action 4B.3: MRAF becomes accredited	
What this is and why it's important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accreditation is a critical milestone for the Mrs. Renee Association Foundation (MRAF) as it enhances the organization's credibility, legitimacy, and ability to secure funding for the Turner Station Marketplace and other community initiatives. By obtaining accreditation, MRAF will: Strengthen Organizational Trust and Reputation – Accreditation establishes MRAF as a recognized, compliant, and accountable nonprofit, increasing confidence among donors, grant makers, and government agencies. Increase Grant and Funding Opportunities – Many major funders, including government grants, corporate sponsors, and private foundations, require accreditation to verify that an organization is financially responsible and mission-driven. Enhance Operational Standards and Best Practices – The accreditation process ensures that MRAF follows nonprofit management best practices, including financial transparency, governance, compliance, and ethical fundraising. Expand Community Impact and Partnerships – Accreditation positions MRAF as a trusted partner for collaborations with local government, businesses, and community organizations, opening doors for joint initiatives and larger projects. Facilitate Growth and Sustainability – With accreditation, MRAF will be better equipped to scale its programs, secure multi-year funding, and establish long-term financial sustainability. This accreditation is essential to ensure the long-term success of MRAF's mission to eliminate food insecurity, promote economic development, and empower the Turner Station community.
Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The success of this initiative will be measured by the completion of the accreditation process and its tangible benefits to MRAF's mission. Key indicators include: Accreditation Approval – MRAF successfully obtains nonprofit accreditation from a recognized accrediting body. Grant and Funding Eligibility Expansion – MRAF qualifies for a wider range of funding opportunities, including federal grants, foundation support, and corporate sponsorships. Operational Improvements – MRAF successfully implements accreditation-based recommendations for governance, compliance, and financial reporting. Increased Donor and Partner Confidence – Enhanced credibility leads to higher donor retention, new funding

Action 4B.3: MRAF becomes accredited	
	<p>commitments, and stronger partnerships with key stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition and Public Awareness – Accreditation results in increased visibility and public recognition, positioning MRAF as a model nonprofit for community development.
Timeframe	<p>Short-Term (To Be Completed Within 90 Days, by April 2025)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2025: Complete application submission, gather required documentation, and ensure compliance with accreditation standards. • April 2025: Receive accreditation decision and begin implementing any necessary recommendations.
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Renee Association Foundation (MRAF) (same as 4B.1) - Managing the accreditation process, preparing necessary documentation, and ensuring compliance with all requirements.
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonprofit Accreditation Bodies – Organizations such as the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance (BBB WGA), Charity Navigator, GuideStar (Candid), and National Council of Nonprofits will guide the accreditation process. • MRAF Board of Directors and Leadership Team – Ensuring compliance with governance, financial transparency, and operational standards required for accreditation. • Legal and Financial Advisors – Supporting MRAF in document preparation, financial audits, and regulatory compliance. • Community and Funding Partners – Providing letters of support, verifying MRAF's community impact, and advocating for accreditation approval.
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application and Processing Fees – Some accrediting organizations charge fees for reviewing and certifying nonprofits. Financial Audit and Compliance Reports – MRAF may need an external audit or financial review to meet accreditation standards. Legal and Governance Documentation – MRAF must ensure that its bylaws, conflict of interest policies, and financial statements meet required standards. Administrative Support – Dedicated personnel or consultants may be needed to streamline the accreditation process. Accreditation Follow-Up and Implementation – Resources will be allocated for training staff, updating policies, and maintaining compliance post-accreditation.
Possible Funding Sources	

**Action 4B.4: Obtain conceptual design support from USDA AMS and raise funding.**

<p>What this is and why it's important</p>	<p>This action focuses on receiving conceptual design assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA AMS). This design assistance will help the community develop a detailed, professional vision for the Turner Station Marketplace grocery store. By leveraging federal resources and expert design support, this step will lay the foundation for securing funding for a community grocery store that meets the specific needs of Turner Station residents.</p> <p>Key reasons why this initiative is critical:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA AMS provides technical assistance, design expertise, and funding opportunities that will help shape the store's layout, operational model, and sustainability strategies. • Having a USDA-backed conceptual design will make the grocery store initiative more attractive to funders, investors, and grant agencies, increasing the likelihood of securing state, federal, and private sector funding. • The design will seek to maximize space efficiency, customer flow, and inventory management, ensuring that the store operates smoothly and profitably. • USDAAMS support can help integrate energy-efficient design, green building practices, and infrastructure suited to an urban food hub, aligning with community goals and environmental sustainability efforts. • With a conceptual design in hand, there will have a clear roadmap for next steps, including cost projections, construction timelines, and phased development planning. • This initiative is a critical bridge between vision and reality, transforming the idea of a community-owned grocery store into a professionally planned, investment-ready project.
<p>Measures of Success</p>	<p>The success of this initiative will be determined by tangible progress in securing USDA AMS support, developing a viable grocery store design, and advancing the project toward funding and construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDAAMS technical assistance secured • Completed Conceptual Design and Site Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building layout and store infrastructure ○ Space allocation for fresh produce, dry goods, and refrigeration ○ Community-integrated features (farmers' market, business incubator, nutrition center, etc.) ○ Sustainability and energy-efficient elements • Increased Grant and Funding Eligibility • Stakeholder and Community Buy-In – Residents, local officials, and economic development leaders express support and commitment based on the finalized conceptual design. • Initiation of Construction Planning and Cost Estimation – The completion of the conceptual design leads to detailed cost projections, construction timelines, and zoning approval processes.



Action 4B.4: Obtain conceptual design support from USDA AMS and raise funding.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Funding Secured – Capital from grants, state programs, and private-sector partners is secured, using the USDA AMS design as a compelling asset.
Timeframe	<p>Medium-Term (Immediate to 12 Months, by March 2026)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March–May 2025: Submit USDA AMS application, gain approval, and initiate design discussions. June–September 2025: Work with USDA architects to develop conceptual drawings, site plans, and infrastructure needs. October–December 2025: Finalize conceptual design, prepare funding proposals, and secure additional investment commitments. January–March 2026: Use finalized plans to initiate zoning approvals, grant applications, and pre-development steps.
Taking the Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Renee Association Foundation (MRAF)
Supporting Cast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selma Saunders (Grant Writer, MRAF Local) – Assisting with USDA AMS application and securing funding from additional sources. Ron Batchner (USDA AMS Architect) – Providing conceptual design support, technical expertise, and infrastructure recommendations. Community Stakeholders and Economic Development Leaders – Engaging local residents, business owners, and planning officials to ensure the project aligns with community needs and zoning regulations. Community members, partners, and advocacy groups are encouraged to participate in the planning, review, and fundraising efforts.
Costs/Resources Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USDA AMS Application and Compliance Requirements – Ensuring all necessary paperwork, feasibility studies, and site information are submitted. Design and Planning Consultations – Meetings, site visits, and workshops with USDA AMS architects and planners. Legal and Zoning Reviews – Engaging legal advisors or city officials to confirm land use regulations. Project Coordination and Reporting – Administrative costs to document and track progress, submit reports, and manage design adjustments. Community Engagement and Outreach – Hosting planning sessions, town hall meetings, and stakeholder briefings to gather input and maintain transparency.
Possible Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) technical assistance, including architectural design services, and grants for market infrastructure. Maryland Department of Commerce Financing Programs – Offers grants and loans for business development, job creation, and community-driven economic projects. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) – Federal funding that supports revitalization efforts in underserved communities.



Action 4B.4: Obtain conceptual design support from USDA AMS and raise funding.

- Baltimore County Department of Economic and Workforce Development Financial Assistance – Supports projects that promote food security, job creation, and local business development
- USDA Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) – Supports planning and implementation of community food enterprises, including grocery stores and food hubs
- USDA Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) – Funds projects that increase healthy food access in low income, low food access areas through grants and loans.
- Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Neighborhood Business Works Program – Provides loans and grants for small business and commercial development in underserved communities.
- Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation ([MARBIDCO](#)) – Offers grants for food processing, local food systems, and community markets.
- U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works Program – Provides funding for construction and development of facilities that support job creation and economic growth.
- Reinvestment Fund's Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) – Offers flexible capital for food businesses and grocery store projects in underserved communities.
- Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) Economic Development Program – Provides funding and incentives for energy-efficient commercial development projects.
- [National Cooperative Bank](#) (NCB) Community Development Loans – Supports cooperative and community-owned grocery stores with financing solutions.
- Federal New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program – Encourages private investment in community development
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Economic Development Grants – Provides funding for community-based commercial development projects.
- Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA) Food Equity Initiative – Grants to support local food retail and nutrition-focused projects.
- Maryland Food Access and Nutrition Network (MFANN) Grants – Supports initiatives aimed at increasing access to healthy foods in underserved communities.
- The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation Grants – Provides funding for programs that address basic human needs, including food security.
- Annie E. Casey Foundation Grants – Supports community development initiatives focused on improving outcomes for children and families.

Federal and State Grants and Programs:

1. USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Grants – <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants>
2. Maryland Department of Commerce – Financing Programs – <https://commerce.maryland.gov/fund/programs-for-businesses>
3. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) – https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs
4. Baltimore County Department of Economic and Workforce Development – Financial Assistance – <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/economicdev/financial-assistance>
5. USDA Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) – <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp>
6. USDA Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) – <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/healthy-food-financing-initiative>
7. Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Neighborhood Business Works Program – <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Business/Pages/NBW.aspx>
8. Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) – <https://www.marbidco.org/>
9. U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works Program – <https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/public-works>
10. Reinvestment Fund's Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) – <https://www.reinvestment.com/healthy-food-financing-initiative>

Local and Private Sector Funding Opportunities:

11. Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) Economic Development Program – <https://www.bge.com/SmartEnergy/InnovationTechnology/Pages/EconomicDevelopment.aspx>
12. National Cooperative Bank (NCB) Community Development Loans – <https://www.ncb.coop/>
13. Federal New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program – <https://www.cdfifund.gov/programs-training/programs/new-markets-tax-credit>
14. Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Economic Development Grants – <https://www.lisc.org/our-initiatives/economic-development/>
15. Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA) Food Equity Initiative – <https://www.ahealthieramerica.org/our-work/food-equity-initiative-79>
16. Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund – <https://www.cdfifund.gov/>
17. Opportunity Zone Investment Funds (IRS Information) – <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/opportunity-zones>
18. Maryland Food Access and Nutrition Network (MFANN) Grants – <https://www.mdhungersolutions.org/mfann/>
19. The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation Grants – <https://hjweinbergfoundation.org/grants>
20. Annie E. Casey Foundation Grants – <https://www.aecf.org/grants>

MRAF proposed a substantial list of “Other events and programming ideas” for Goal 4B, which can be found in Appendix I.

Implementation and Next Steps

The workshop was held in January 2025, and three follow-up calls were held on February 11th, March 4th, and March 18th of 2025. LFLP Action Plans focus on near-term goals and priorities, and as such, often progress is made by participants toward certain actions in the follow-up period after the workshop and before publication of the final report.

- Olivia Lomax contacted Heber Brown III of The Black Church Food Security Network about the community gardening efforts related to Goal 1.
- Olivia Lomax coordinated a meeting between local farmers from the community garden and St. Matthews Church Food Pantry to develop a new plot to produce fresh foods for the pantry, which will be run by volunteers.
- Danielle Gonzalez is working with the local Girl Scouts troop to plan for and develop garden plots in Chestnut Park.
- Antuan Scott/MRAF coordinated a field trip to visit Oasis Fresh Food Market on February 21, 2025, as outlined in Action 4B.1. A photo album of this very informative outing can be [seen here](#).
- MRAF published a [website](#) and a [survey](#) to promote Goal 4B.
- USDA AMS Design services met with MRAF and are working on a conceptual design.
- Quandra Gray/What The Sprout LLC, submitted a proposal to implement vertical, indoor gardens as a prospectus for Action 1.4. See Appendix H for their full proposal.
- Baltimore County Department of Planning provided connections and information on local priorities identified during the workshop.

Appendices

- Appendix A – Workshop Presentations
- Appendix B – Workshop Results
- Appendix C – Workshop Participants
- Appendix D – Workshop Photo Album
- Appendix E – Funding Opportunities
- Appendix F – Additional Resources
- Appendix G – Community Tour Handout and Map
- Appendix H – “What the Sprout?” Proposal
- Appendix I – MRAF Proposal for Goal 4B