



FOOD POLICY COUNCIL REPORT 2016

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JOHNS HOPKINS
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Food Policy Networks
Creating Opportunities for Local and State Food Policy Change

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Introduction

The following is a summary of results from the 2016 Food Policy Council (FPC) survey, conducted annually since 2013, by Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (CLF). The purpose of the survey is to investigate trends among food policy councils across the United States and Canada, and subsequently update their information in the Food Policy Networks (FPN) online directory of FPCs. The FPN project is a CLF initiative that supports the development of effective food policies through working directly with FPCs and other local and state actors. The directory aims to facilitate cooperation and information sharing between councils, as well as highlight their work. The CLF has been instrumental in both providing technical assistance and tracking comprehensive information relating to FPCs since 2013. As far as we know, no other organizations in the United States systematically collect or share information about FPCs in this manner.

As demonstrated by the results and accompanying analysis, the number of FPCs (including food coalitions with similar names such as “food councils,” “collaboratives” and “networks”) are growing rapidly across North America. While it may be difficult to accurately attribute

this growth to any factor or set of factors, we are reasonably certain that two things are occurring. The first is an undeniable urge among more food system stakeholders to work collectively at the local, state, and provincial levels in hopes of achieving more together than they

would alone. Second, we sense a growing recognition by those stakeholders that government has a greater role to play in addressing food system challenges, thus an increased interest in policy.

FPCs took the survey online June through November of 2016. Generally council chairs, directors, facilitators and occasionally council members completed the survey on behalf of their council. The following report includes data from 324 FPCs. Included are 59 councils that did not complete a new survey; rather their survey information from 2015 was replicated for 2016. In addition, for the 2016 responses, some questions that were left blank were filled in if the answer had been indicated on a prior survey and could be reasonably inferred to be unchanged,

such as year formed or geographic area. Of the councils that filled out the survey, 64 councils reported taking the survey for the first time. Participants were able to skip survey questions at their discretion, thus a varying number of FPCs answered each question.

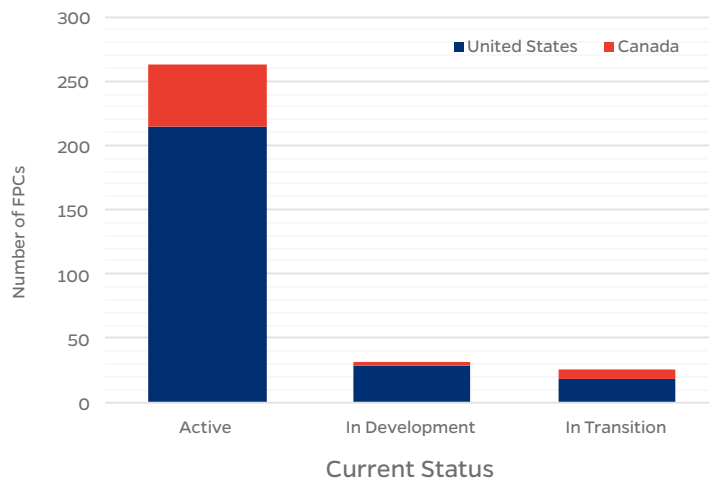
While 58 FPCs from Canada are included in the survey, this number undercounts the FPCs in Canada. Canada has a national convener of food policy groups as well as provincial conveners of FPCs in a given province. At the national level, Food Secure Canada convenes FPCs, similar food and farm organizations and provincial FPC networks from across Canada. Provincial networks, like Sustain Ontario, convene the councils in a given province and are likely the best sources of informa-

Figure 1

Active FPCs

n=324

Note: There are 4 active tribal councils not represented in this graphic. Additionally, there are 23 active councils represented in this graphic but not included elsewhere in the report because they did not complete the survey and we have no prior information on them. Their activity was verified through a partner organization and an active web presence.



tion about FPCs in a particular region of Canada. A report titled, “Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs: A preliminary analysis of how Canadian cities and regional districts are involved in food system change” is a comprehensive source of information on Canadian FPCs.¹

The survey results represent over 300 FPCs, which engage thousands of members across North America to influence food environment priorities and policies. Food policy councils are critical catalysts for organizing and carrying out change relating to the food environment. As we move through changing political times, we recognize and emphasize the importance of FPCs’ ongoing work and particular achievements, including uniting diverse voices in communities, educating and informing the public, influencing passage and implementation of effective

food policies in their jurisdictions, and continuing to grow and gain influence, often in spite of limited resources.

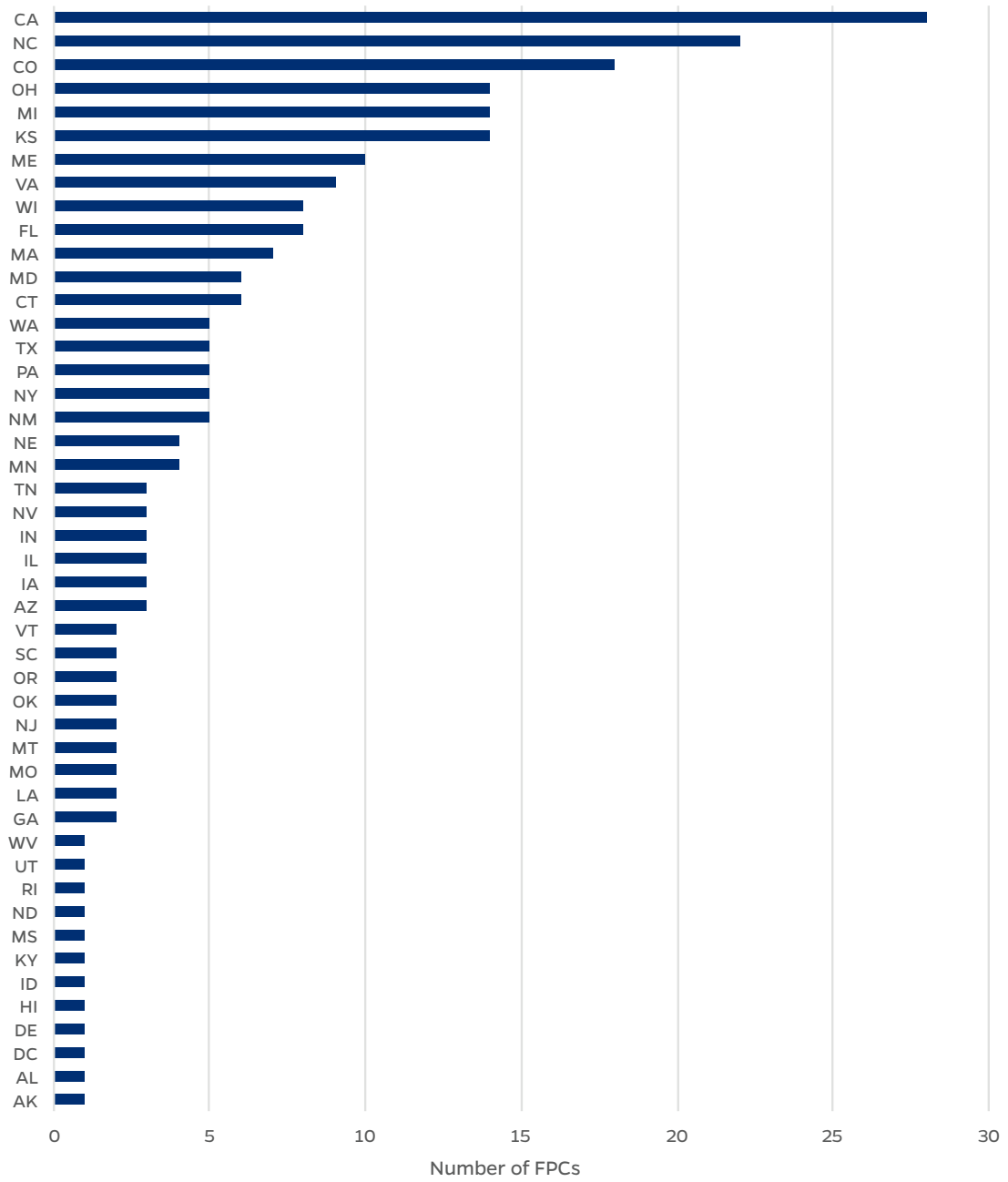
This report, while not comprehensive, provides insight into the current state of food policy councils, including the ways in which they operate, and the topics they choose to address. In addition to the statistics derived from the surveys, stories of individual food policy councils are presented as case examples throughout the report. We hope through disseminating the results of the FPC survey and highlighting the actions of FPCs through stories, we can raise awareness of the work of FPCs, garner support for their work and inspire those doing the work to carry on.

1. MacRae, Rod, Donahue Kendal. 2013. “Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs: A preliminary analysis of how Canadian cities and regional districts are involved in food system change.” http://capi-icpa.ca/pdfs/2013/Municipal_Food_Policy_Entrepreneurs_Final_Report.pdf

Figure 2

Number of FPCs per U.S. State

n=262



Overview

Out of a total of 411 councils contacted in the United States and Canada, 324 were verified to be either active, in development or in transition. Active is defined as meeting at least once annually, in development as formed within the last 12 months, and in transition as a council that is redefining their structure and/or purpose. Of these councils, 214 are active, 29 are in development and 19 are in transition in the United States; the numbers are 49, 2 and 7, respectively, for Canada. Additionally, there are four tribal councils, three of which are active and one of which is in transition. There are a number of councils that are not included

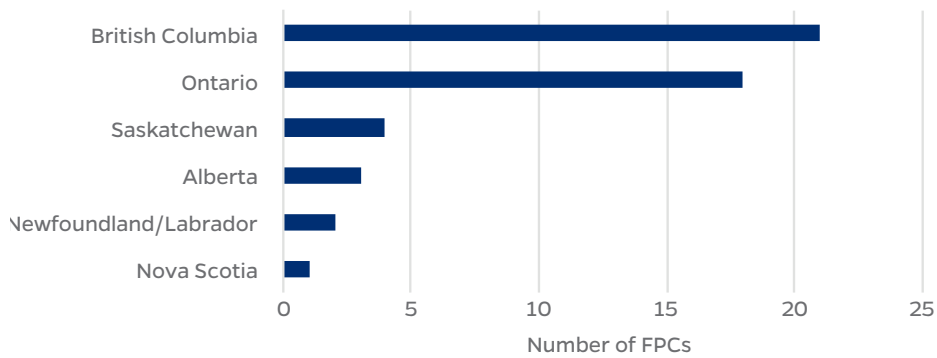
in the remainder of the report due to inactivity or a lack of information about the councils. Of these councils, 65 are verified as inactive, 23 are verified as active but have never completed an FPC survey, and the status is unknown for 22 councils because they did not respond to repeated email requests and do not have a current social media presence.

In the United States, at least one food policy council responded to the survey in all but three states. No food policy councils were identified in South Dakota, Wyoming, or New Hampshire. Councils were asked to specify their area of operation

as regional, state (U.S.), province (Canada), county, county and city/municipality, city/municipality, or Native American Tribal Council. Over half of states (28) have one state-level FPC, 17 states have no state-level FPC, and one state (Wisconsin) has three state-level FPCs. In over half of the states, there are regional FPCs that cover multiple counties in a state;

16 states have one, seven states have two and four states have three or more regional FPCs. The distribution of FPCs across the states varies widely, with the largest number of councils in California, followed by North Carolina and Colorado.

Figure 3 Number of FPCs per Canadian Province n=58



Jurisdiction and Structure

The most common type of council in the United States is the grassroots coalition that functions on a county level. Nearly a third of FPCs in the U.S. are grassroots coalitions, while another 37 percent are either housed in a nonprofit organization or are an independent nonprofit organization. In terms of geographic reach, 38 percent of FPCs operate at a county

level, while an additional 11 percent operate at a city/municipality and county level. While the sample size in Canada is smaller, as seen in Figure 5, patterns in geographic and structural organization are somewhat similar. Only five provincial councils are represented in the survey, and the largest category represented is city/municipality councils.

Figure 4 FPCs by Structure and Jurisdiction (United States) n=216

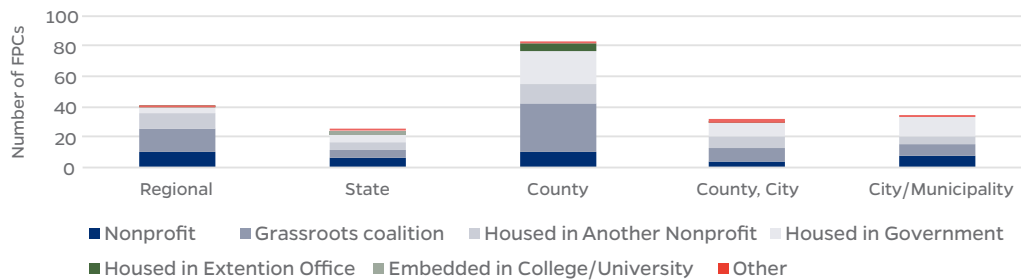


Figure 5 FPCs by Structure and Jurisdiction (Canada) n=32

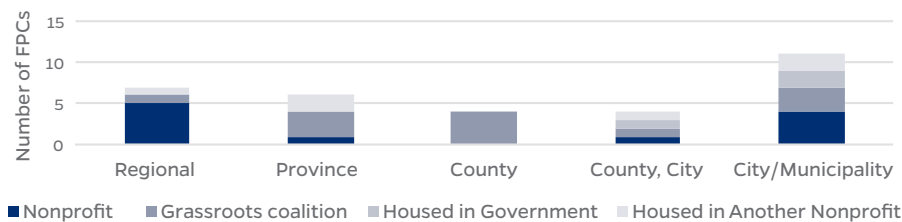


Figure 6

Structure of FPCs (United States and Canada)

n=255

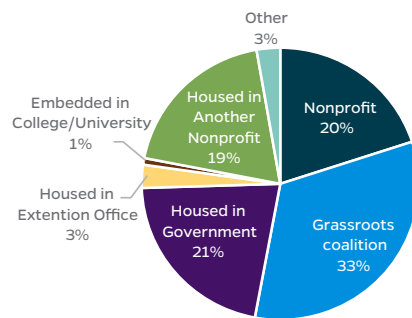


Figure 7

FPCs in California

n=25

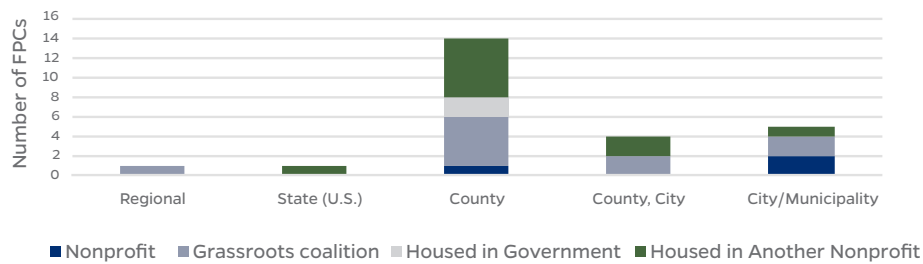
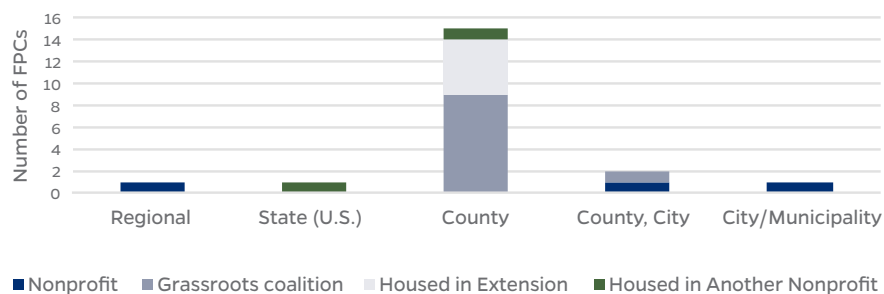


Figure 8

FPCs in North Carolina

n=19

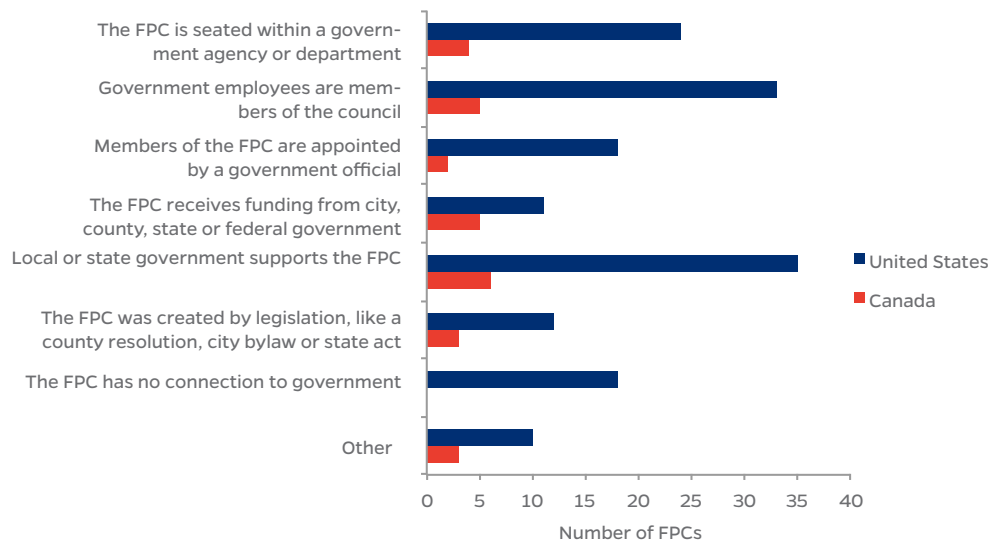


A question for further exploration is how differences in the number of councils may relate to state size, population distribution, funding sources and diversity of needs across the state. As examples, graphs that show the detailed breakdown of FPCs by jurisdiction and organization type are included for California and North Carolina.

When asked about their relationship with government, approximately 15 percent of councils reported that government employees are members of their councils, 15 percent reported receiving funding from city, county, state or federal govern-

ment and nearly 12 percent reported that the FPC is seated within a government agency or department. Around 9 percent of councils reported no connection to government. A total of 226 councils responded to this question. The answer options for the question are not mutually exclusive by category. In other words, councils that are seated within a government agency may also receive in-kind donations or have government employees as council members. Figure 9 shows the breakdown of responses for the United States and Canada.

Figure 9 Connections to Government n=226



A 'Nimble' Structure: Rhode Island Food Policy Council

The Rhode Island Food Policy Council (RIFPC) is a statewide non-governmental food policy council. The RIFPC was formed in 2011 and operates under fiscal sponsorship from Third Sector New England (TSNE), a nonprofit that provides management and business services to other nonprofits. RIFPC consists of two part-time employees and a rotating panel of council members. It is supported by a core group of local and regional funders: the Henry P. Kendall Foundation, the Island Foundation, the John Merck Fund, the Rhode Island Foundation, and the van Beuren Charitable Foundation. Council members serve two- to three-year terms and are selected through an open nomination and consensus-based voting process. Work Group Chairs are nominated and selected in a similar manner. Leo Pollock, Network Director, and Sumana Chintapalli, Communications and Outreach Director, shared their insights and reflections regarding how the RIFPC's structure influences their work.

Leo, who has been involved with the Council since its conception, said the flexible structure was a deliberate decision that has allowed for flexibility and efficiency. For example, the Council is not constrained by political views of elected officials, does not compete with partner organizations for funding and the administrative, human resources, and legal support from TSNE staff allows the two council employees to dedicate all their time to direct Council work. With this structure, they are able to enhance the capacity of other nonprofits working in the local food systems sector by helping them identify and apply for relevant funding. They also facilitate coordination and

collaboration between other nonprofits and the local government.

For example, the RIFPC co-manages the Local Agriculture and Seafood Act (LASA) grants program with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Division of Agriculture. The program is a public-private partnership, where the State of Rhode Island and private funders provide matching funds to new farmers and seafood producers, totaling \$230,000 annually.

Another example of ongoing collaboration and impact? The Council was instrumental in advocating for the creation of Rhode Island's first Director of Food Strategy position. The new Director of Food Strategy, Sue AnderBois, formerly served on the Council and is working with them now as she develops Rhode Island's first food plan. Leo says the Council is providing key support by utilizing their established work groups and capacity of RIFPC members. Like in this scenario, the Council's nimble structure will continue to allow for adaptation to meet the changing needs of the evolving food system.

The Process of Formation: Inspiration from Florida

A common question among food policy councils across the country is how to get off the ground. Many councils have questions about setting up their structure, engaging members and creating organizational missions and visions. While there are as many formation processes as councils, some experiences shared by Florida Food Policy Chair, Rachel Shapiro, may resonate widely.

The Florida Food Policy Council was reactivated in 2016 after approximately a three-year hiatus. The group involved in the current iteration is composed of both former and new members. According to Rachel, the council is focused on engaging diverse communities throughout the state; they believe engagement and representation are key to the council's longevity. In fall 2015, Rachel attended the Florida Local Food Summit where she met a group of people interested in forming a state-wide food policy council. This group formed a steering committee that met regularly for about six months. During this phase, the goals were to elect a board of directors and form the foundation of a strong, grassroots organization. After six months, the steering committee held its inaugural membership meeting in Ft. Myers, Florida, directly after the Regional Small Farms Conference. The meeting was open to the public and intended to drive membership and start the foundation building process. It was facilitated by Mark Winne, senior advisor to CLF, author and long-time food policy advocate. The group decided on a council structure and identified challenges, strengths, and important policy issues for the region.

In order to spread the word about the council's formation, the steering committee members activated their existing networks and issued press releases. In addition, they held more meetings across the state to ensure the council was known, accessible and representative to those beyond the original conveners. In a further effort to engage diverse stakeholders, the council scheduled their membership meetings alongside other events and reached out to sectors that were underrepresented at the regional meetings, such as conventional agriculture interests. These efforts have resulted in over 100 council members in the first six months.

They plan to formalize their structure and create mission and vision statements at a meeting planned for June of 2017. After that, they will file for 501c3 status and bring on paid staff. Though later than they originally imagined, this timeline is conducive to more diverse involvement, a vital prerequisite for the needed work.

Rachel reports that having a core group of committed individuals and prioritizing of flexibility has been key to success thus far. The steering committee has been receptive to feedback from large groups of stakeholders and adjusted their methods, priorities and timelines as appropriate.

Figure 10

Number of Active Councils

n=418

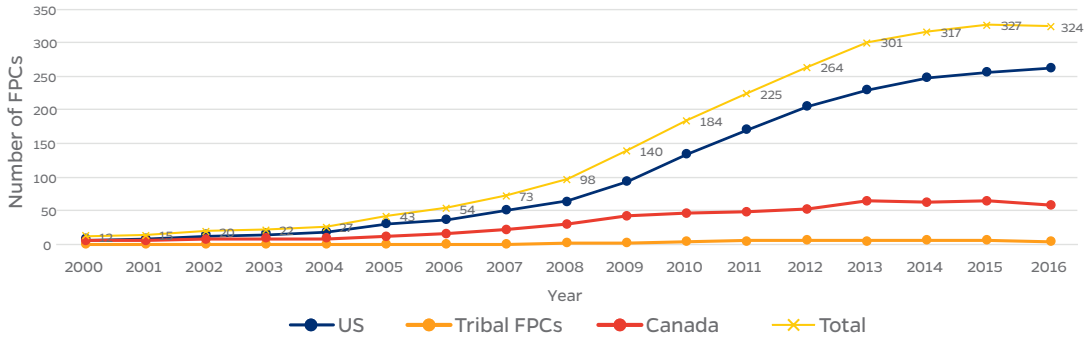
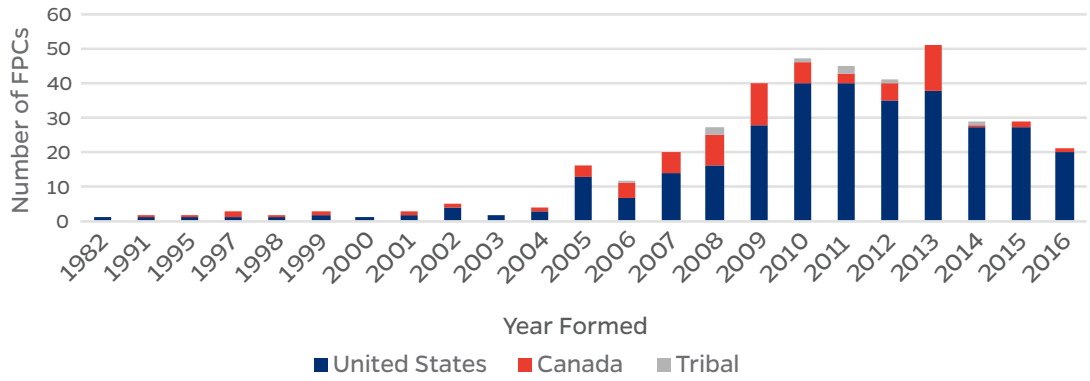


Figure 11

Year of Formation

n=406



Time of Formation

The total number of FPCs operating across North America continues to rise, despite some previously active councils becoming inactive: 18 councils reported formation during 2016 alone. Of note, when considering the total number of councils reported yearly, it is possible that some councils are missed during surveying; to be counted, the CLF staff must learn of the council's existence and the council must agree to partake in the sur-

vey. Second, it is likely that as CLF's work and contact with food policy councils has expanded, the reach of the survey has also broadened, thus figure 10's increasing numbers include councils that are not newly formed, simply new to taking the survey. Hopefully, in conjunction the two data points—Number of Active Councils and Year of Formation (Figure 10 and 11)—provide an idea of both the survey's scope and the changing number of FPCs.

Councils that Formed in 2016¹

Name	Location	Status
Dayton-Montgomery County Food and Hunger Coalition	OH	In Transition
Evansville Area Food Council	IN	In Development
Food Policy Council of St. Lucie County	FL	In Development
Ford/Gray Food Policy Council	KS	Active
Johnson County Food Policy Council	KS	In Development
Junction City Food Policy Council	KS	In Development
Kent County Food Policy Council	MI	In Development
Local Food Policy Council of New Hanover County	NC	Active
McDowell County Local Food Advisory Council	NC	Active
Middlesex-London Food Policy Council	Ontario	In Development
Nebraska Food Policy Council	NE	In Development
New York State Council on Hunger and Food Policy	NY	In Development
No official name (Rockingham County)	NC	In Development
Pitt County Farm and Food Council	NC	In Development
South Carolina Food Policy Council	SC	In Transition
Tompkins County Food Policy Council	NE	In Development

Figure 12

FPC Budget (United States)

n=192

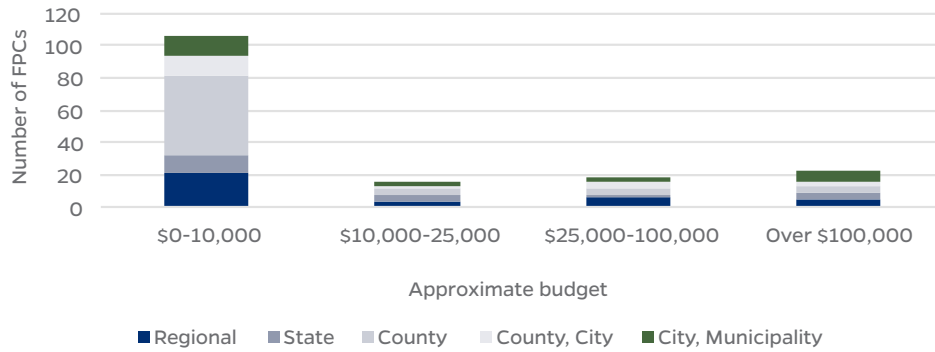


Figure 13

FPC Funding

n=190

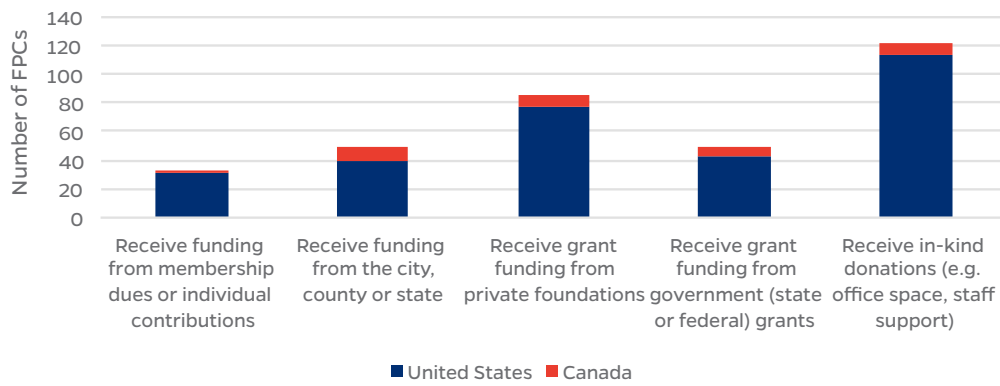
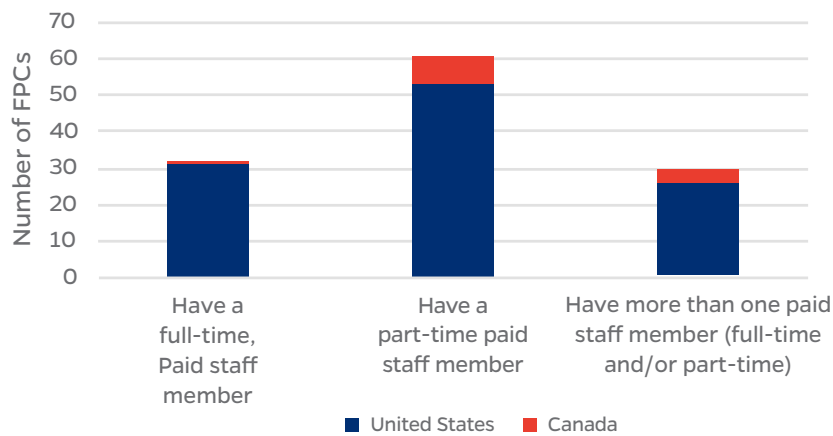


Figure 14

FPC Staffing

n=190



Resources: Funding and Staffing

This year, the FPC survey included questions about funding and staffing. The inclusion of questions on funding is in recognition of the vital role of funding and often the challenge of securing funding for FPCs. In addition to asking about their budgets, questions delved into funding sources, and inquired about other sources of support, such as in-kind donations. Councils were also asked about staffing to begin to gauge the significant role that paid staff play in supporting FPCs.

Nearly two thirds of councils (64 percent) reported an annual approximate budget of no more than \$10,000. A total of 23 councils in the United States reported a budget between \$25,000 to \$100,000. An additional 24 councils reported budgets over \$100,000. Of the councils that reported budget information in Canada,

outcomes were similar: 64 percent reported a budget no greater than \$10,000.

Most councils do not operate on these budgets alone. Out of councils that answered questions related to budget (n=184), 71 percent reported receiving in-kind donations such as time from staff and office space. Councils also noted time from volunteers as crucial. More in depth information related to council resources is displayed in Figure 13 and examples of this type of support are included in some of the council highlights: the stories of Rhode Island Food Policy Council, Del Norte Food Policy Council and Lehigh Valley Food Council demonstrate how councils around the country are completing sizable projects on small budgets by acting strategically with other organizations and utilizing volunteers.

Strategic Use of Partners: Finding Common Ground in Canada

The All Things Food Community Food Network (ATF) is a municipal level organization with stakeholders and partner organizations within the city of Cornwall and surrounding areas of Stormont, Dundas and Gengarry; the population served is approximately 100,000. It was established in 2007 with provincial funding with the goal of uniting diverse stakeholders to address issues within the local food system including food accessibility, affordability, education and literacy, and environmental sustainability and other related initiatives. This network is now under the larger umbrella of the Social Development Council of Cornwall and Area, a nonprofit municipal council with a mandate for poverty reduction, food security, increased employability, and education. ATF has one part-time employee, Kathleen Rendek who serves as the coordinator, and many volunteers—she estimated they have collectively served 3,000 hours in 2016 alone. The Network's current budget (under \$25,000) comes from provincial and federal funding opportunities and fluctuates based on the grants and other opportunities received. In-kind donations include meeting and program spaces, office space, program and project evaluation from Health Unit staff, public land for gardens and events, and hours from employees of partner organizations.

Kathleen said as ATF has evolved, a lesson has been learning to be effective by leveraging volunteers and partnerships where they fit best, instead of trying to force consensus on every issue. For example, while in the early days of formation they held collective meetings for

diverse stakeholders and partners, now they are more deliberate in honing collaborations to partners' interests. This results in more work accomplished and less time lost in the logistics. Partner organizations and individual volunteers are organized under 16 working groups based on interests, projects, and/or events. Organizations include other nonprofits relating to food and gardening, a food bank, a social development council, and an organization whose goal is to mitigate rural poverty. ATF works closely to advise city, county and provincial planning and policy.

Kathleen believes ATF's greatest impact on the food environment is changing procurement practices in the region. The group has been able to influence institutional procurement policies by working with businesses to increase their purchasing of local food. They are currently working to heighten consumer awareness of the food system, which they see as prerequisite for more local and seasonal purchasing. They are starting with the youngest consumers, by partnering with schools to provide on-farm tours, grow gardens, and develop new curriculum for teaching about food systems. These efforts have been met with enthusiasm and engagement, and as noted, an abundance of volunteers.

While Kathleen notes the varying government structure results in distinctions between Canadian and U.S. food policy groups, she believes there are many underlying similarities and there is utility in continued efforts to improve collaborations and information sharing.

A Grassroots Coalition: Synergy with Local Partners

The Del Norte County and Adjacent Tribal Lands Community Food Council (DNATL CFC) is a grassroots food council located across tribal and nontribal lands in northern California; the inclusion of both jurisdictions is rare among food policy councils. The council was formed in 2010 with funding from the California Building Healthy Communities Endowment (BHC), a program run by California Endowment, philanthropic organization that is investing in 14 communities in California for 10 years, with the goal of improving health outcomes. BHC funds DNATL CFC's staff positions—a program director, and the share of an Americorp Vista. As a grassroots organization, DNATL CFC has extreme flexibility in operation and priorities, but also limitations around eligibility for funding; while free to pursue the objectives they choose, without nonprofit or government status, the council cannot independently apply for grants.

Program Director Brittany Rymer explained that this presents an opportunity rather than a challenge, as it results in strong partnerships with organizations embedded in the community. For example, the council worked with Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation to help them apply for a \$400,000 USDA Community Food Project grant and a \$100,000 USDA Local Food Promotion Program grant. The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation received both. In addition they're currently partnering with the Del Norte County Unified School District to apply for a \$100,000 USDA Farm to School Grant. By partnering with other

organizations to apply, they can form stronger community partnerships and increase their collective impact.

Brittany sees DNATL Community Food Council's primary roles as facilitating networking and information sharing as well providing technical assistance, such as identifying and applying for grants. For instance, in their early days DNATL CFC provided in-depth information about needs and opportunities in the community by partnering with the California Center for Rural Policy to conduct a community food assessment. Council meetings are open to the public and frequented by curious and involved citizens and representatives of local nonprofits, who may use the opportunity to network and collaborate. A typical meeting is attended by 15 to 20 people.

While the DNATL CFC staff remain small, they believe their grassroots approach results in acquisition of additional funds, data and collaboration, which multiplies efforts of existing organizations and results in more resources to improve the local food environment.

Figure 15

Organizational Resources Created by FPCs

n=202

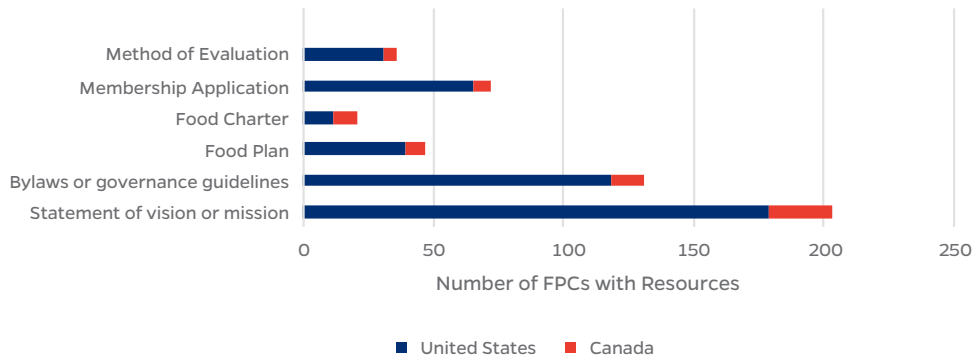
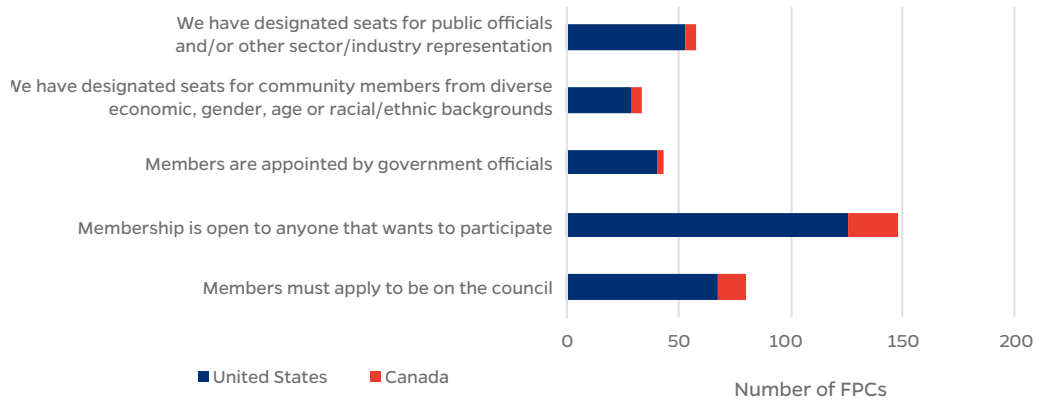


Figure 16

FPC Membership

n=227



Membership and Organizational Documents

Almost all FPCs that responded to questions about organizational documents (202 councils) reported having a vision or mission statement. Additionally, nearly half of U.S. councils reported having by-laws or governance guidelines in place. Far fewer councils have food plans and methods of evaluation, and only 11 councils in the United States reported having a food charter, though as is shared in the Rhode Island Food Policy Council highlight, some councils may assist in crafting a city, state or other governmental charter. In Canada, slightly more councils reported having a food charter instead of a food plan.

Councils were also asked about their membership, if and how government was involved in selecting members and whether any emphasis is placed on including those representing government

and/or those of diverse backgrounds. Of the U.S. councils that answered the membership questions, two thirds reported that membership is open to anyone who wishes to participate, 30 percent reported members must apply to be on the council and 18 percent reported members are appointed by government officials. Twenty-four percent of councils reported having seats reserved for government officials and 13 percent said they reserve council seats for those of diverse backgrounds. In Canada, of the councils that answered the question, 22 reported that membership is open to anyone who wants to participate and 13 reported that members must apply to be on the council. Since some councils have structures where meetings are open to the public, these questions were not relevant to all scenarios.

Find an Issue and Run with It: Food Recovery in Lehigh Valley

Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council is a regional council located in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. It was formed in 2015 by United Way, the Community Action Committee of Lehigh Valley (the backbone organization) and fifteen other local organizations. While membership is open to anyone who wants to participate, seats are also reserved for both those of diverse backgrounds and government officials. The council has a statement and vision, bylaws, working groups that are starting to mobilize and one part-time employee—council coordinator, Susan Dalandan. Like many councils, the Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council established working groups in order to organize members around particular topics and initiatives. Approximately one third of the working groups have identified clear gaps in existing programs and are moving forward with plans to improve the utilization of resources and address program gaps. In particular, the Food Recovery & Respect Working Group has generated particular action within the council and community. Susan spoke with CLF about how the council has worked through this group to coordinate food recovery efforts across the valley.

The council's multi-faceted approach to food recovery has provided opportunities for diverse stakeholders. The Food Recovery & Respect Working Group works with a local market and restaurants to recover unsold produce and other food items. In addition, six farms and a network of home gardeners, through Plant a Row Lehigh Valley, donate excess produce seasonally. Other farms have expressed interest in participating and await the capacity of

the program to increase. Susan estimates that since the project's inception in May 2016 about 35 volunteers have collected and distributed approximately 12,000 pounds of food to emergency food providers and area food pantries.

Lessons learned? Susan said, "Don't be afraid to ask questions and seek out community members for feedback. Some of your roadblocks may have a very simple answer, but no one bothered to ask the question. Community members have the most valuable insight when evaluating gaps in meeting their needs." Second, find an issue around which diverse stakeholders can unite and the council can achieve "wins." The momentum and already established relationships will likely be an asset as the groups tackle issues that are harder wins politically or more contentious among stakeholders.

Priorities of Food Policy Councils

One objective of the FPN project is to assist FPCs with their organizational and policy priorities. In order to learn what councils are focused on and how the FPN project can be instrumental moving forward, councils were asked to identify two organizational priorities and three policy priorities from a list of choices (see Figures 17 and 18). They could also select 'other' and enter an answer as free text.

The most common policy priority identified by councils was healthy food access, which was also identified in 2015. Economic development was the second most common priority and food procurement the third. This was a shift from last year when the second and third most common priorities noted were urban agriculture and education. Common themes among councils who selected 'other' for the 2016 survey were education and food literacy.

FPCs were asked to select their top two organizational priorities. The most fre-

quent responses were community engagement and inclusion, and strategic or policy planning. A common response among councils who selected 'other' was networking. In the 2015 survey, organizational and policy priorities were grouped together, however networking was the top organizational priority mentioned.

Additionally, councils were asked to note their technical assistance needs as an open-ended response. Responses were grouped into categories for analysis. The top categories noted were policy training and guidance, communication, and fundraising. Within the realm of communication, many councils specifically mentioned wanting assistance around communication with elected officials. This was a shift from last year when policy training was third, preceded by fundraising/working with funders and organizational development.

Figure 17

Organizational Priority

n=223

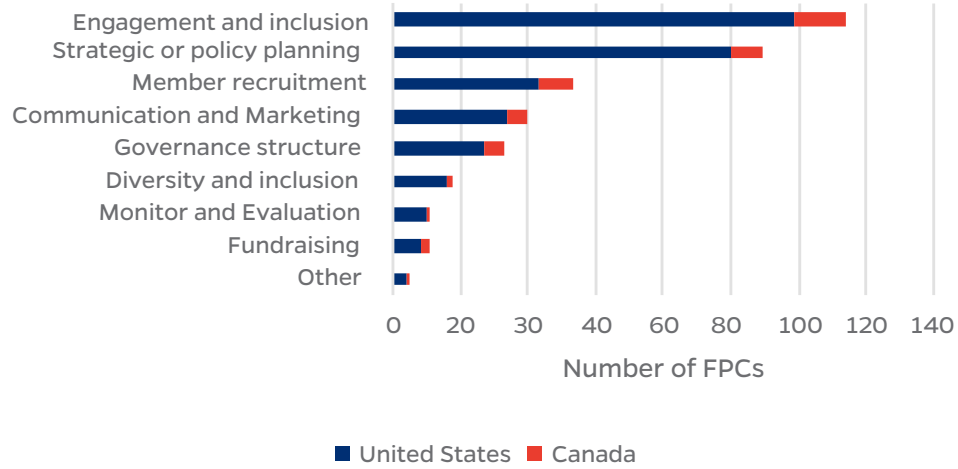
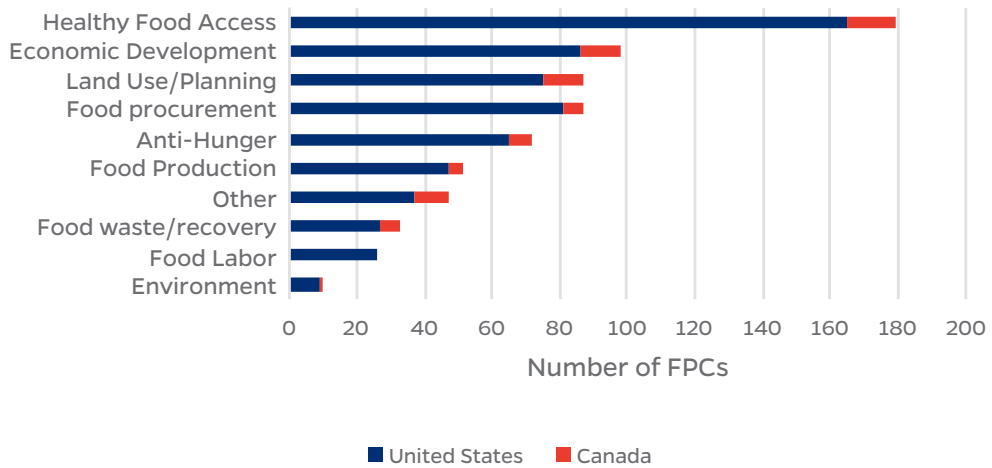


Figure 18

Policy Priority

n=250



Nonprofit Council Works with City/County Officials to Unanimously Pass Food Charter

The Bloomington Food Policy Council is a countywide council serving Monroe County, Indiana, and the City of Bloomington. Though it officially formed and gained nonprofit status in 2011, groundwork for its creation goes back to 2005. In April 2015, the Bloomington City Common Council unanimously voted to adopt a food charter, formulated through the Bloomington Food Policy Council (BFPC); in August Monroe County followed suit. Michael Simmons, council co-chair, shared insight into how the council was able to accomplish the unanimous adoption of the food charter.

A food charter was created through BFPC with direct community input through community asset mapping, meetings and working groups involving diverse participants. After the charter was drafted, BFPC identified and recruited two council members, known to be supportive of issues relating to food policy, to champion the charter. These council members served as liaisons, able to build support and solicit feedback among key groups, including leaders of government departments (planning, environmental health, planning, etc). To show widespread support of the food charter, BFPC collected letters of support and statements from stakeholders including the City Planner, the Solid Waste Management Division, Sustainability Commission and the Environmental Commission. They held multiple meetings with additional city council members and went over the charter line-by-line to ensure understanding and support. Throughout this process, issues of higher priority to elected officials arose, and at times the charter was placed on the

backburner. After a year and a half of advocacy the charter passed, first in the city and then countywide. Michael attributes the success to the initial community input, time taken to build support and understanding and patience with the process. BFPC's next step is building on the food charter to create a food action plan.

Figure 19

Degree of Engagement (US)

n=216

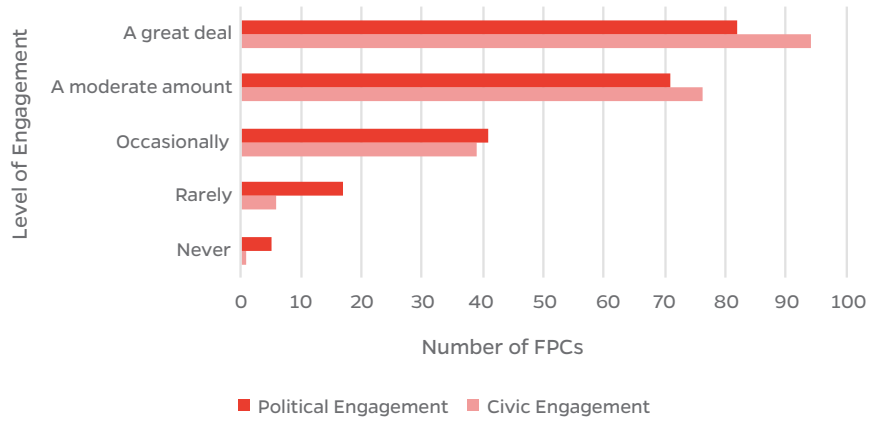
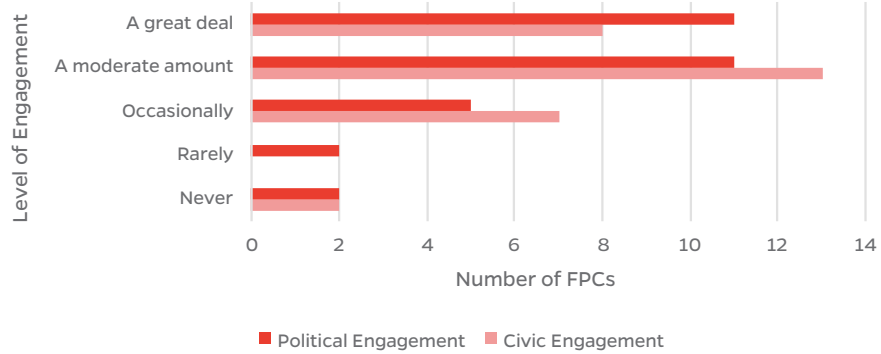


Figure 20

Degree of Engagement (Canada)

n=31



Civic and Political Engagement

Finally, FPCs were asked to what degree they need to engage both their community and elected officials to accomplish their organizational and policy priorities. Of the U.S. councils that answered these questions (216), 44 percent reported the need to civically engage the community a great deal to accomplish their top priorities. Less than four percent said they

never or rarely need to civically engage the community. Thirty-eight percent reported needing to engage elected officials a great deal to accomplish their goals. In Canada, the majority of councils reported engaging a moderate amount or a great deal, both civically and with their elected officials.

Conclusion

This report is part of CLF’s ongoing Food Policy Networks project, which aims to build the capacity of all models, structures, and geographies of FPCs as vehicles to advocate for effective food policies. Given the critical role FPCs play in food policy work, systematically quantifying FPCs, as well as their capacity, priorities and accomplishments is a critical aspect of understanding the current food policy environment. We hope the information included in this report not only helps communities learn more about emerging food policies and programs, but demonstrates how they can more effectively organize themselves and their work to better achieve their goals.