



# HOW DOES LOCAL TRANSPORTATION AFFECT FOOD ACCESS?

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Youth Community Agriculture Program  
Fall 2025

# ABOUT FOOD LITERACY PROJECT

*Founded in 2006, the Food Literacy Project (FLP) was created out of desire to reconnect young people with the earth and the people who work to feed us. With our mission being "Youth transforming their communities through food, farming, and the land," FLP is rooted in a framework of equity and social justice. We incorporate policy, systems, and environmental change strategies, responding to the complex and interactive layers of influence that intersect to enable or restrict young people's overall wellbeing, long-term stability, and success.*

*FLP takes a holistic approach – promoting healthy behaviors by improving individual knowledge, attitudes, and skills through direct experience, while also addressing systems-level social, economic, and environmental factors to influence root causes and conditions and build youth and community capacity to advance health, justice, and equity. Leveraging food and sustainable agriculture, youth leadership, cross-sector partnerships, and neighborhood assets, FLP works toward a vision for a healthy and equitable community where people and places thrive.*







# WHAT IS YCAP?

The Youth Community Agriculture Program (YCAP) offers 16-21-year-olds employment opportunities to develop skills for healthy, productive lives while transforming their food systems and communities.

Through farming, cooking, and community-building, participants learn collaboration, communication, and positive change. The program fosters a deeper environmental connection and enhances community relationships, impacting health, tastes, and potential success.

## OUR RESEARCH PROJECT

This fall, our crew participated in a Youth Participatory Action Research project where we identified an interest in local transportation issues and their correlations to how people get their food.

After a considerable amount of time and research we came up with the question “How does local transportation affect food access?”

After copious amounts of research and practicing different research methods we’ve come up with our final project this booklet and a documentary.

# MEET THE CREW

Tae'sparagus.-I've been a part of the Youth Community Agriculture Program for two years and my first season as a peer mentor. :) The thing I loved about working for the Food Literacy Project was the vast amount of information that I learned about the food that we grow in the garden, while also learning about the importance of this program and how it helps try to solve problems in different communities. Outside of work, I am a musical artist/producer and an aspiring tv writer.



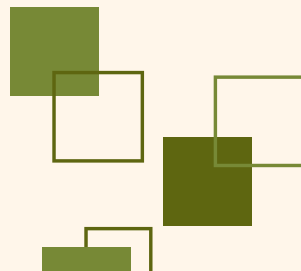
Hi, my name is Moxxie. My farm name is Moxxie Foxberry. This is my first season working with FLP. I'm in my sophomore year at Seneca in their agricultural program. I have enjoyed everything about working on the farm.



Dre Starfruit aka Tee'Asia Smith - This is my first YCAP season and my favorite part of the job is working with kids at different schools and teaching them how to cook.



Jericho Juniper - I've been working with FLP since spring 2023, and I have to say my favorite part is just being able to work outside and with the community. Outside of work, I have my own small business where I crochet, and I'm working towards being a chef.





# MEET THE CREW

laurel"lemon"- I've been with the food literacy project for 2 seasons now and what I learned from being on the farm and from ycap is that they showed responsibility and efficiency while doing farm work and taught me new things like how to cook with healthy vegetables and how people can get affected with food access and how we can help outside of work I play video games and play violin



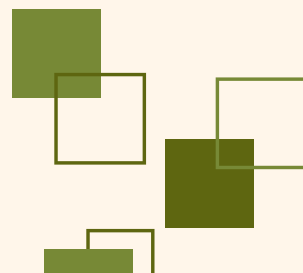
Hello, My Name Is Mykell Malay. This is my first season in YCAP. One thing I liked about in YCAP is how we farm and give to the community and talking to my peers. What I like to do after work is to draw and sleep and listening to music.

Dre Starfruit aka Tee'Asia Smith - Peer mentor and Food Literacy Advocate. Through the Food Literacy Project



Ty - My farm name is Ty tomato. This is my first season working on the crew. What I enjoy most about the farm is the people I work with..! They're all amazing!

samara- My farm name is Samara the strawberry, this my very first season at FLP. One thing I like to my time here s to talk and make friends and farm the sweet potatoes





# OUR FINDINGS

**Based on interviews and research using online tools, we've learned a multitude of things regarding food and transportation access:**

- Louisville currently ranks 9th in child food insecurity, with nearly 1 in 5 children experiencing food insecurity during the 2021 year.
- Lack of access to fresh food leads to an increase in chronic health problems and healthcare costs, part of a cycle people fall into when their options are limited.
- Community leaders even see a link between food insecurity and violent crime. This was proven by a Clemson University research study that showed for every one percent rise in food insecurity, violent crimes increased by 12%.
- More than 1 in 5 Louisville residents live in a food desert. Food insecurity has not returned to pre-pandemic levels and rising costs have made it more difficult to afford food.
- The most requested items in pantries are typically hygiene items (especially feminine hygiene items), pasta, canned chicken/tuna, canned veggies, and snacks
- Food deserts/apartheid can exist in both rural and urban areas
- The majority of TARCs' annual budget (nearly 60%) comes from the Mass Transit Trust Fund financed by local occupational tax revenue. Nearly 19 percent of its funding comes from the federal government, and 15 percent comes from farebox collection and passes, but hasn't changed the budget to accommodate changes in 2-3 decades.



## PANTRIES AND GROCERY STORES ACCESSIBLE BY TARC

**Dare to Care Food Bank (5803 Fern Valley Rd, 40228):** TARC Route 23 stop #26565, TARC Route 43 stop #31620.

**Sister Visitor Center (2235 W Market St, 40212):** Serves the Portland, Russell, and Shawnee neighborhoods and offers a client-choice pantry. TARC Route 15 stop #7205.

**Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Food Distribution Center (415 E St Catherine St, 40203):** Provides food assistance and is near TARC Route 2, 4, and 21.

**Community Ministries of Walnut Street Baptist Church (220 St Catherine St, 40203):** Offers a food bank and clothes closet. Located near TARC Route 2, 4, and 21.

**First Lutheran Church Food Pantry (417 E Broadway, 40202):** Provides food assistance on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Near the TARC Route 23 and 25.

**Newburg Community Center (4810 Exeter Ave, 40218):** This center has a food program and is on the TARC Route 23.

**South Louisville Community Ministries (415 1/2 W Ashland Ave, 40214):** Operates a Dare to Care food pantry and is located near TARC Route 4 and 18.

**Neighborhood Places:** These centers partner with Dare to Care Food Bank to provide emergency food assistance.

**Beechmont Community Center:** Near TARC Route 4 and 18.

**California Community Center:** Near TARC Routes 25, 23, and 10.

**Molly Leonard Portland Community Center:** Near TARC Routes 43, 71, and 12.

**Parkhill Community Center:** Near TARC Routes 12, 4, 27, 6.

**Shawnee Arts and Cultural Center:** Near TARC Routes 25, 21, and 23.

**Southwick Community Center:** Near TARC Route 19 and 23.

**Sun Valley Community Center:** Near TARC Route 10.

**Kroger (Multiple locations)** 2710 W Broadway (Route 21, 23, and 71) + 3165 S 2nd St (Route 4 and 6).

**Falls City Market (400 S 2nd St, 40202):** A food court and market hybrid that sells grocery items. Accessible via TARC Route 28 and 43.

**Frank's Meat & Produce (3342 Preston Hwy, 40213):** Offers fresh meats and produce. Located along TARC Route 18 and 43.

**ALDI (3442 Preston Hwy, 40213):** Grocery store with fresh produce and specialty items. Located along TARC Route 18 and 43.

**4 Point Grocery (1035 S 3rd St, 40203):** A full-service grocery in Old Louisville. Near TARC Route 4, 25 and 2.

**Webb's Market (944 E Muhammad Ali Blvd, 40204):** A corner store with some groceries, produce, and made-to-order sandwiches. Accessible via TARC Route 19.

*List compiled by the Food Literacy Project Youth Community Agriculture Program*