

Roles for CFSC

From the CFSC Membership Meeting, Monday Nov. 12, 2007. See <http://www.foodsecurity.org> for more information about the meeting.

These are the flip chart notes taken during a group discussion of what CFSC's role in the movement should be, and issues we should think about as we are looking forward: roles to keep, drop, or become; critical issues to address in Strategic Planning.

- Counter the misconception that high-quality local food is elitist; it's for low-income people too.
- In policy work, maintain bridge w/ anti-hunger sector
- Shared analysis, de-bunking myths about local food – need universal access
- Class issues – lots in local food movement. Need to talk about them.
- Step up to food bank movement and identify solutions (food bank system failing); moment for education.
- Make sure healthy local food is available to people who are struggling. Educate re: benefits to healthy local food
- Collect promising practices and catalyze resources to support
- Values are an important tool – articulate and use them to shape dialogue w/ others & our programs.
- Put poverty on our agenda - address it as a root cause of food insecurity. Food is not the only way to address it – integrate with serious anti-poverty efforts – living wage, health care. Work with organizations already working on poverty.
- If we want to do movement-building, we need to structure CFSC differently. Community organizing approach.
- Need a deeper relationship w/ low-income people (not just indicator!) This could be the best place to learn what they think. Focus Farm to School work on low-income sector; links inform broader discussion about what we do.
- Who's at the table? Need regional approach – urban & suburban together.
- Need to maintain old partnerships & create new ones
- Give us as a coalition practical tools around race, class, & DR that we can incorporate into our work
- There is an opening to talk about need for fairness & equity throughout food system – look at need for systemic change – farm income from fair markets.
- Strengthen regional work. This strengthens accountability.
- Encourage work on class, race, & diversity.
- Possible merger between SAC & NCSA has big implications. Regional SAWG also important.
- Dangerous to do things “for” poor people if you don't know them. Relationships are the most important tool for DR work. Our authority rests on their authority.
- We can overcome gap between low-income & high-income people. Refuse to allow issue of access to food to be polarizing.
- We need lots of people, a strategy, & a plan to have big victories.
- Want to take cues from you – members (policy).
- Are we an organization or a coalition? What does it mean to be a coalition & be rooted in community?
- There is no bottoms-up engagement process to bring people in.
- How do we as members. . .
 - really get empowered?
 - be part of decisions?
- A real coalition is inclusive, members make decisions.