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Creating tools and strategies to build entrepreneurial food systems for marginalized populations

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Designing and establishing a sustainable food system has become a growing interest among policy makers and scholars around the world. In the United States, most of the sustainable food systems have been defined to support and promote strategies that are economically sound, socially just, and environmentally feasible. This workshop shares two successful strategies to inspire and motivate community partners to design, build, and expand entrepreneurial food systems to benefit marginalized populations. Workshop participants will engage in interactive discussion to understand community needs related to entrepreneurial food systems, definitions of entrepreneurial food system strategies, and share their own experiences in dealing with issues linking food to economic opportunities. We will introduce a path of education and training for individuals and organizations to develop entrepreneurial characteristics and skills while working with food system issues. Two distinct examples will be shared with workshop participants with respect to using very limited or no resources to create sustainable food systems in North Carolina, USA – the story of Dollar Enterprise and the Growing Change. Workshop participants will receive specific guidance and will have time to go through a training process to design and create their own entrepreneurial food systems. The outcome of this workshop include shared experiences and skills, educational and training materials, and practices and applications to support entrepreneurial food system strategies.

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