

## **Build infrastructure to do additional work**

**May 13, 2011**

### **What is the outcome of this proposal that will help advance the Healthy Polk priority?**

- Build the network to support the overall priority
- Possibly post/store information on a website
- Makes sense to coordinate this effort with the “food plan” and “communication among the food sectors” projects

### **Does this proposal already have an organizational home?**

- No

### **To be successful, what kinds of capacities would an organization need to have?**

- Staff time for agendas, planning, follow up
- Resources to guarantee continuity and momentum

### **Given these capacities, and the outcome, what are some organizations with a good mission match?**

- HUFF (Health Urban Food and Farming) working group
- RC&D, ATTRA, NCAT are programs with uncertain futures that have good mission matches also

### **What does this organization know about what this project could/will look like?**

- Build on existing work and networks

### **How can the rest of us help? What do you need?**

- Compensation for time
- Some of the traditional agencies (e.g., RC&D, ATTRA and NCAT) are either defunded, or are facing uncertain futures. Young minds are there that have worked in those agencies or will shortly lose their jobs in those agencies. It's worth considering how those minds could be connected to jobs to do this work

**Update**  
**September 9, 2011**  
**[Matt Russell](#) and [Linda Gobberdiel](#)**

- Infrastructure is needed so that people know what's happening and what others are doing
- Would potentially have a parallel function to the Statewide Food Council, which could help coordinate and provide policy guidance at the local level
- Healthy Urban Food & Farming (HUFF) Group, in conjunction with the Center On Sustainable Communities (COSC), has applied for funding from the J.R. Albert Foundation for capacity building for planning toward getting this going

What are the tangible needs and projects an infrastructure might undertake?

- Doing an assessment of the food system
- Writing a local food plan
- Convening/facilitating conversations like this one
- Immigrant/refugee incubator farm – help getting projects off the ground

What needs to happen next?

- Check with Healthiest State initiative to see if there are dollars for this kind of work
- Outline what resources are needed to create a plan – in conjunction with DMARC's strategic plan

Challenges

- Resources and staff with a variety of abilities (see tangible needs)
- Identify an organization to take charge