**CORE PARTNERS**
- River Valley Regional Commission
- Columbus Botanical Garden
- Feeding the Valley Food Bank
- UGA Muscogee County Extension
- Columbus State University
- UGrow, Inc.
- Columbus Land Bank Authority
- W.C. Bradley Farms

**GRASSROOTS NETWORK**
Established: 2015  
Organizational Structure: informal, independent  
Fiscal Agent: Georgia Organics  
Background: 6+ years of grassroots projects beginning with Columbus Local Food Fund.

**COMMUNITY INITIATIVES & PROJECTS**
- MercyMed Clinic + Farm: comprehensive services for patients to improve health, includes micro-farm, market, and nutrition education.  
- North Highland Farmers Market: Columbus’ first multi-partner producer-led market that doubles SNAP.  
- Bibb City Urban Orchard: a community fruit orchard in a neighborhood without fresh food access.  
- Community Garden Map: project in partnership with CSU that locates gardens for residents.  
- Feeding the Valley Giving Garden: campus garden produce featured in Senior Meals program.  
- River Valley Regional Commission’s Cold-Storage Market Feasibility Study: expected by end of 2019.

**LOCAL FOOD ACCESS POINTS**
North Highland Farmer's Market*, Columbus, May-Oct., 1st & 3rd Wed., 4-6pm  
West Georgia Farmers Co-op Market*, LaGrange, June-Nov., Sat 9am-1pm  
Jenny Jack Farm Stand*, Pine Mountain, April-Dec., Wed. 9am-12pm; 1st Sat. 9am-12pm  
Midland Community Farmer's Market, Midland, May-Oct., Sat. 9am-12pm  
Market Days on Broadway, Columbus, year-round, Sat.9am-12pm  
*accepts EBT/SNAP

**LOCAL POLICIES & PROGRAMS**
- Columbus Land Bank Authority: Lots of Good Use program returns property to good use, includes community gardens and market gardens uses. Sliding-scale fees for purchase and/or lease.  
- Columbus-Muscogee County: permits residents to own chickens only on lot sizes of 2 or more acres.  
- Columbus-Muscogee County Neighborhood Open Spaces: allows for community gardens and agriculture uses on open land.
### MUSCOGEE COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

- **Food Insecurity:** 21%
- **Children Eligible for Free & Reduced Lunch:** 73%
- **Adult Obesity:** 30%
- **Food Environment Index Rating:** 5.9*

*Scale of 1-10, 10 being best. Rating factors local food insecurity rates + access to healthy foods in local environment.

Source: Univ. of Wisconsin, 2019.

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#### Low Access Area(s)

Neighbors in the green area travel 1-10 miles to a grocery store and earn $39K or less for a family of 4.

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#### Retailers Accepting SNAP

- **Grocery Stores:** 39
- **Convenience Stores:** 108
- **Supercenter/Club:** 4

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#### Direct-to-Consumer Farms

- **Overall Farms:** 4
- **Farms harvesting vegetables:** 4
- **Farms harvesting fruit:** 1

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**Georgia Food Oasis Network (GFON) is a community outreach initiative of Georgia Organics.** GFON seeks to elevate and connect pioneering communities that recognize food is a powerful tool to unite residents, build local economies, and foster public health. As a GFON member, this community is dedicated to a coalition strategy that promotes:

1. **Public Engagement**
2. **Partnership**
3. **Planning**
4. **Policy**

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Georgia Organics connects organic food from Georgia farms to Georgia families.