

Toronto Black Food Sovereignty Plan



Acknowledgements

The Confronting Anti-Black Racism (CABR) Unit acknowledges that we are on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat people and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

CABR also acknowledges we are all Treaty peoples – including those who came here as settlers – as migrants either in this generation or in generations past – and those of us who came here involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery. As we present the Toronto Black Food Sovereignty Plan, we pay tribute and share gratitude to those ancestors of African origin and descent.

28.4% of Black households are food insecure.

36.6% of Black children live in food insecure households.

63% of Black (food) organizations* expect to run out of funding in 6 months or less.

Toronto Neighbourhoods with high Black populations experience less access to community gardens, green space and tree canopy cover, and are more likely to be vulnerable to the impacts of climate emergencies.

Black Torontonians are...

9% of the population

3.5x more likely to be food insecure

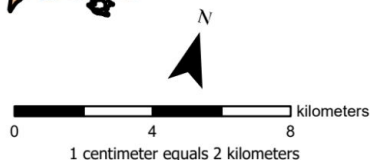
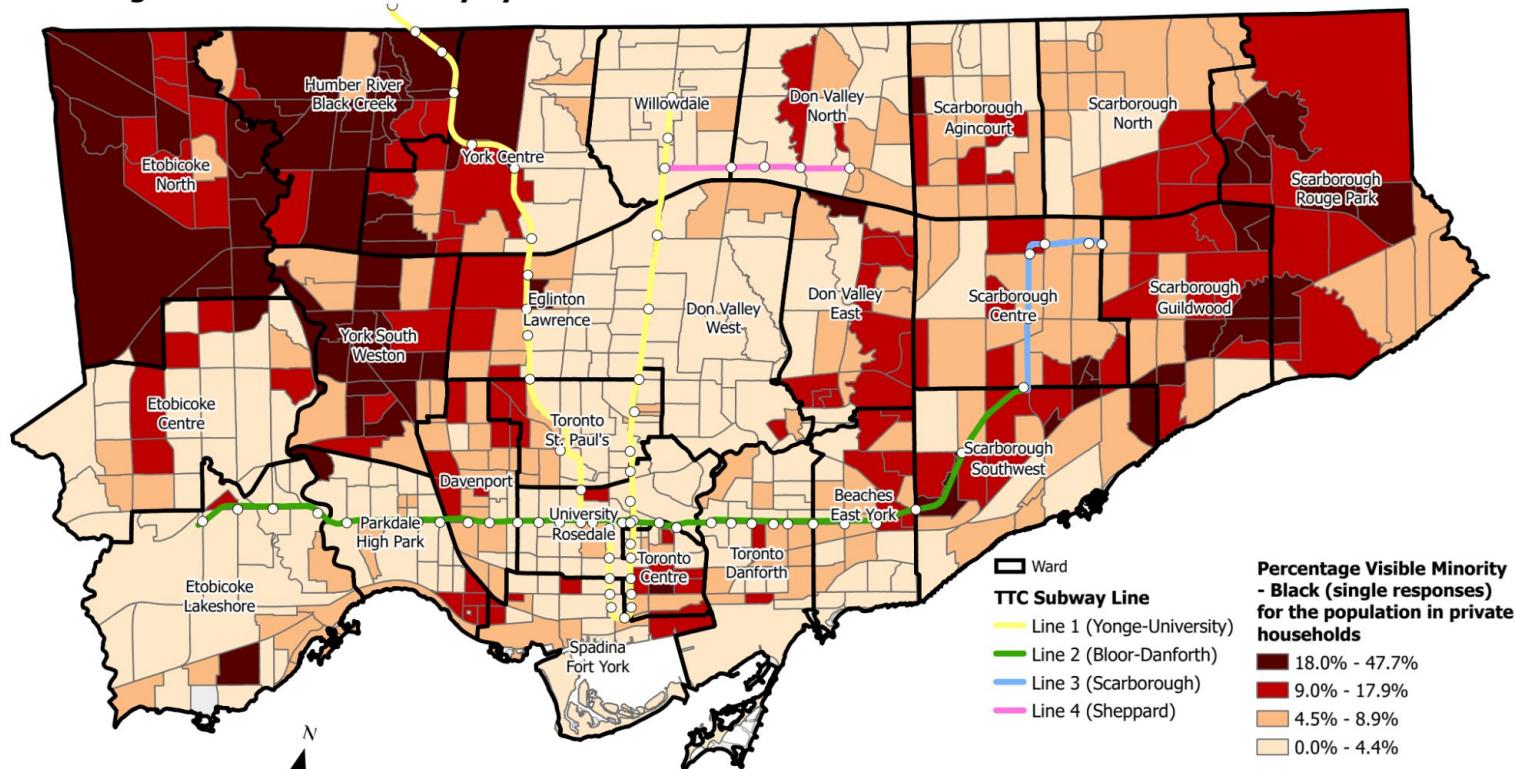
14% of the COVID-19 cases**

*Includes Black organizations surveyed as part of the 2020 Unfunded: Black Communities Overlooked by Canadian Philanthropy

** COVID-19 cases within the Black community were 26 percent of the population at the time of developing the Black Food Sovereignty Plan

The Black Population in Toronto

Black Population Percentage, City of Toronto, 2016 Percentage Black Visible Minority by Census Tract

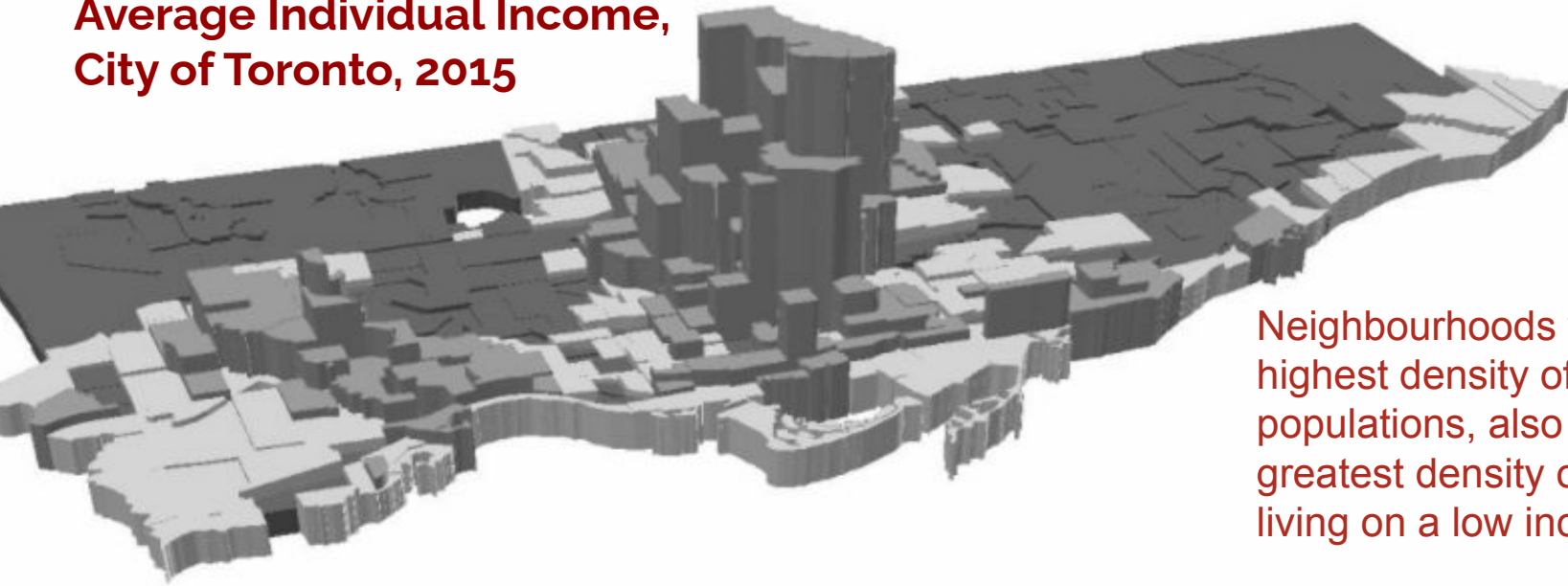


While the City of Toronto aims to provide fully accessible content, there is presently no text based alternative available for some of the content in this document. If you require alternate formats or need assistance understanding this map, drawings or any other content, please contact Melana Roberts at Melana.Roberts2@toronto.ca.

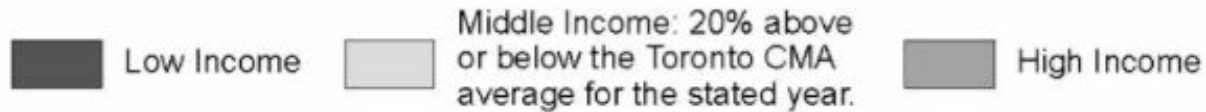
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016; City of Toronto.
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Published: August 2021
Version: 1.0 (future versions of this map may change)
Prepared by: Social Research and Analysis Unit

Spatial Marginalization and Black Populations in Toronto

**Average Individual Income,
City of Toronto, 2015**



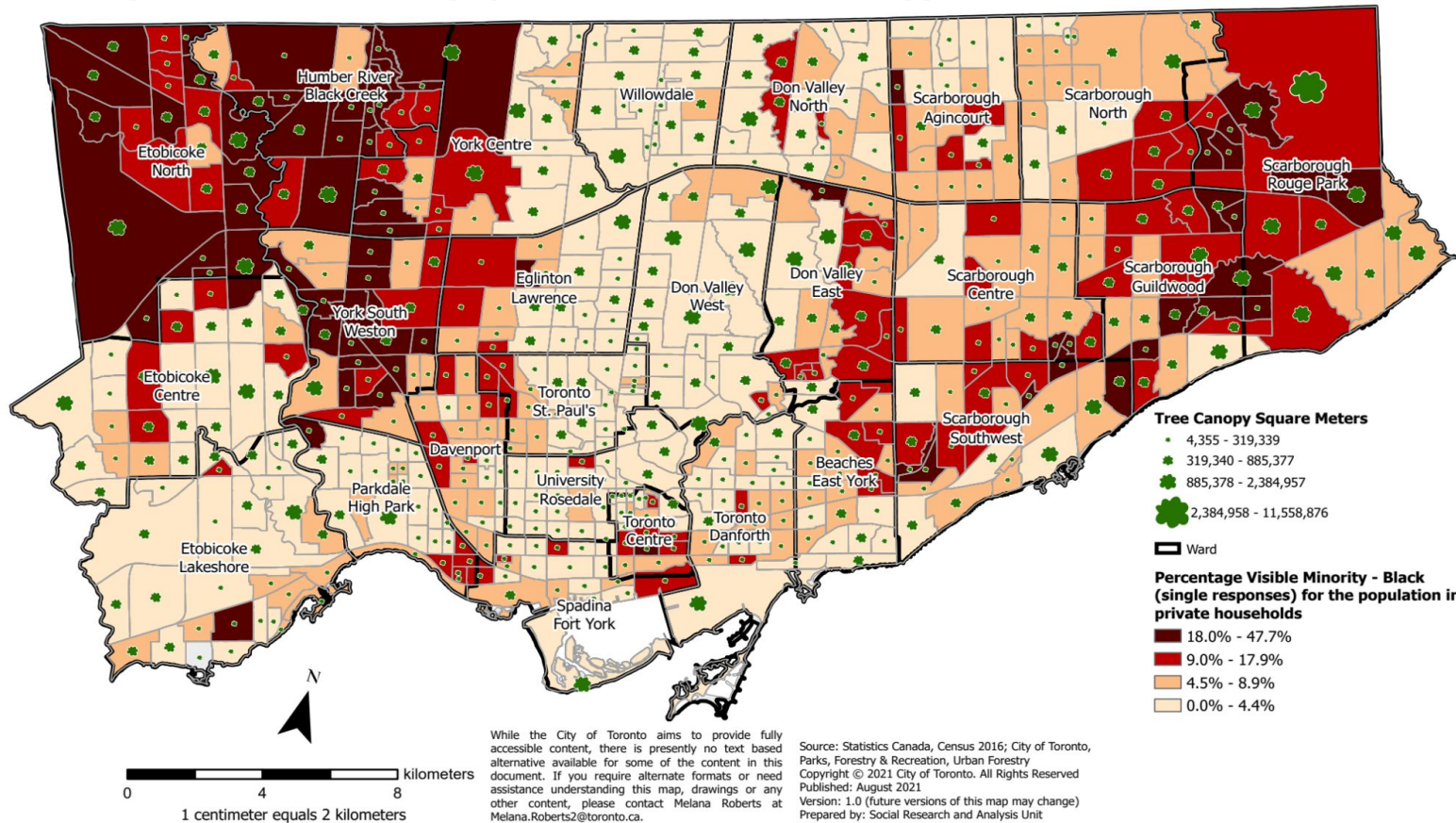
Neighbourhoods with the highest density of Black populations, also have the greatest density of residents living on a low income.



Access to Green Space and Tree Canopy Cover

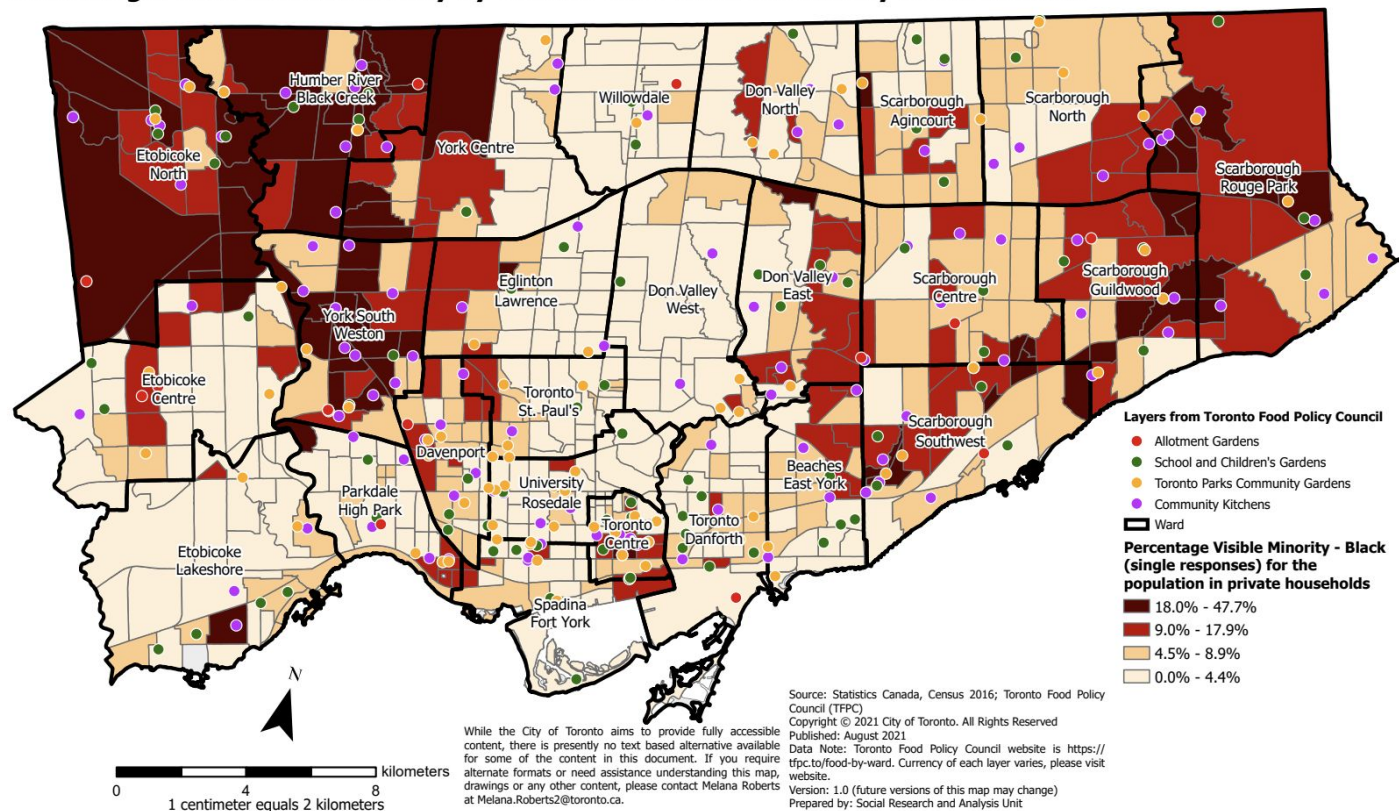
Black Population Percentage, City of Toronto, 2016

Percentage Black Visible Minority by Census Tract with Tree Canopy



Access to Community Gardens and Kitchens

Black Population Percentage, City of Toronto, 2016
Percentage Black Visible Minority by Census Tract with Community Food Services



What We Heard



Black Food Sovereignty
Initiative of Toronto

Afri-Can FoodBasket presents the 1st annual
Black Food Sovereignty Toronto conference:

Cultivating Black Food Sovereignty in Toronto:

Celebrating the Past, Envisioning the Future

November 27, 2020 | 5:30 - 8:30 PM (EST)
November 28, 2020 | 9:00 - 2:30 PM (EST)

We encourage and welcome the voices of people of African descent to join the conversation, African, Black & Caribbean voices.

For more information visit www.bfstoronto.ca
or contact bfst@africanfoodbasket.ca





“We need a Black food strategy funded by the government of Toronto. We shouldn't have to worry about chasing dollars; there needs to be access to core services to support health and food access for our communities” - Conference participant

- Partnered with over 30 community agencies serving Toronto's diverse Black communities
- Over 250 registrants shared feedback;
- Engaged 15 young leaders to guide conference conversations

Reimagining a Response to Black Food Insecurity

Why Food Security versus Food Sovereignty?

- Focuses on people's ability to access adequate food
- Understands food as a traded commodity and hunger as the result of insufficient production and lack of access
- Is less focused on production and procurement methods
- Based on four pillars: food availability, food access, food use, and the stability of these pillars
- Focuses on systems and is centred on the decision making power of people to define how to access their culturally appropriate foods
- Uses a human rights approach and recognizes that food is a right
- Understands hunger as a problem of food governance, unequal distribution and injustice
- Puts local farmers and other food providers at the centre of the food system and highlights relationships between communities, nature and sustainability

What We Heard from Black Communities

“Food is in our culture, no matter what part of the diaspora you’re from, food is how we build our resilience as preserve our histories.”

“Connections between wellness, especially in a pandemic, need to be more connected to food. ”

There is a lot of shame as a parent when you can’t feed your kids. When you know what is healthy but you simply can’t it”:

“Growing our own culturally appropriate food is a social prescription for health”

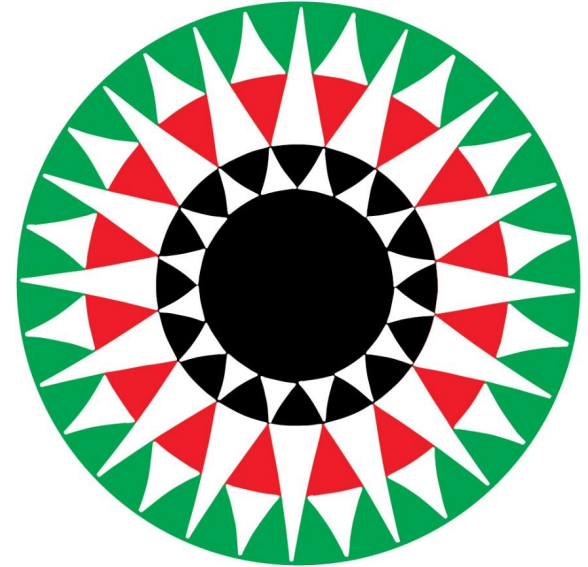
“Reclaiming our time insecurity will lead to our food security. We don’t have enough time to take two buses to access healthy food after juggling two or three jobs.”

“Black organizations need more support. We cannot keep up with demand”

“We need infrastructure in our communities and available to Black agencies and residents to get to us through moments of crisis like COVID-19”

What is Black Food Sovereignty?

"The right of people descent to healthy and culturally-appropriate food, produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems and build their own institutions to advance community capacity and resilience for food access"



Structural Challenges to Food Security and Health

Food Aparthieds and Disconnected Black Food Networks

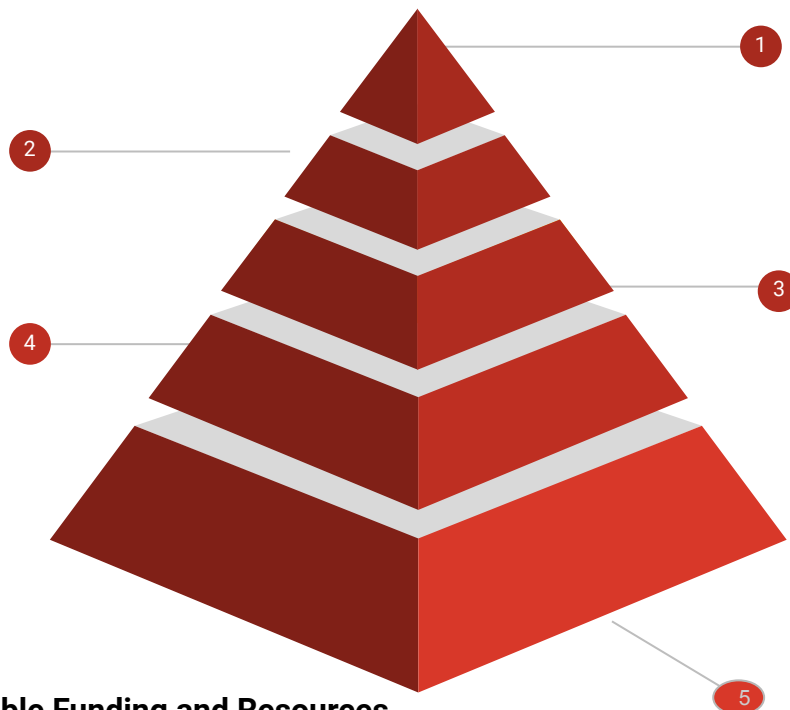
Retail food stores and grocery stores are often located far apart and often stock poorer quality produce, with increased security presence, in neighbourhoods with a higher density of Black Torontonians, creating additional barriers to access food.

Limited Access to Green Space

Research shows that poor and racialized communities have less access to green space in the city, including parks and tree canopy cover, and on the whole are more vulnerable to food security impacts related to extreme weather events.

Uneven Access to Sustainable Funding and Resources

Grassroots and emerging Black, Black-led and Black-Serving organizations are unconventional and experience lower funding capacity and core infrastructure to sustain long term services and programs. This restricts the fostering of a critical mass of services, resources, cultural knowledge and networks to mitigate and prevent issues within the Black community, especially when crisis and rapid emergency response is required (in addition to fulfilling ongoing service delivery).



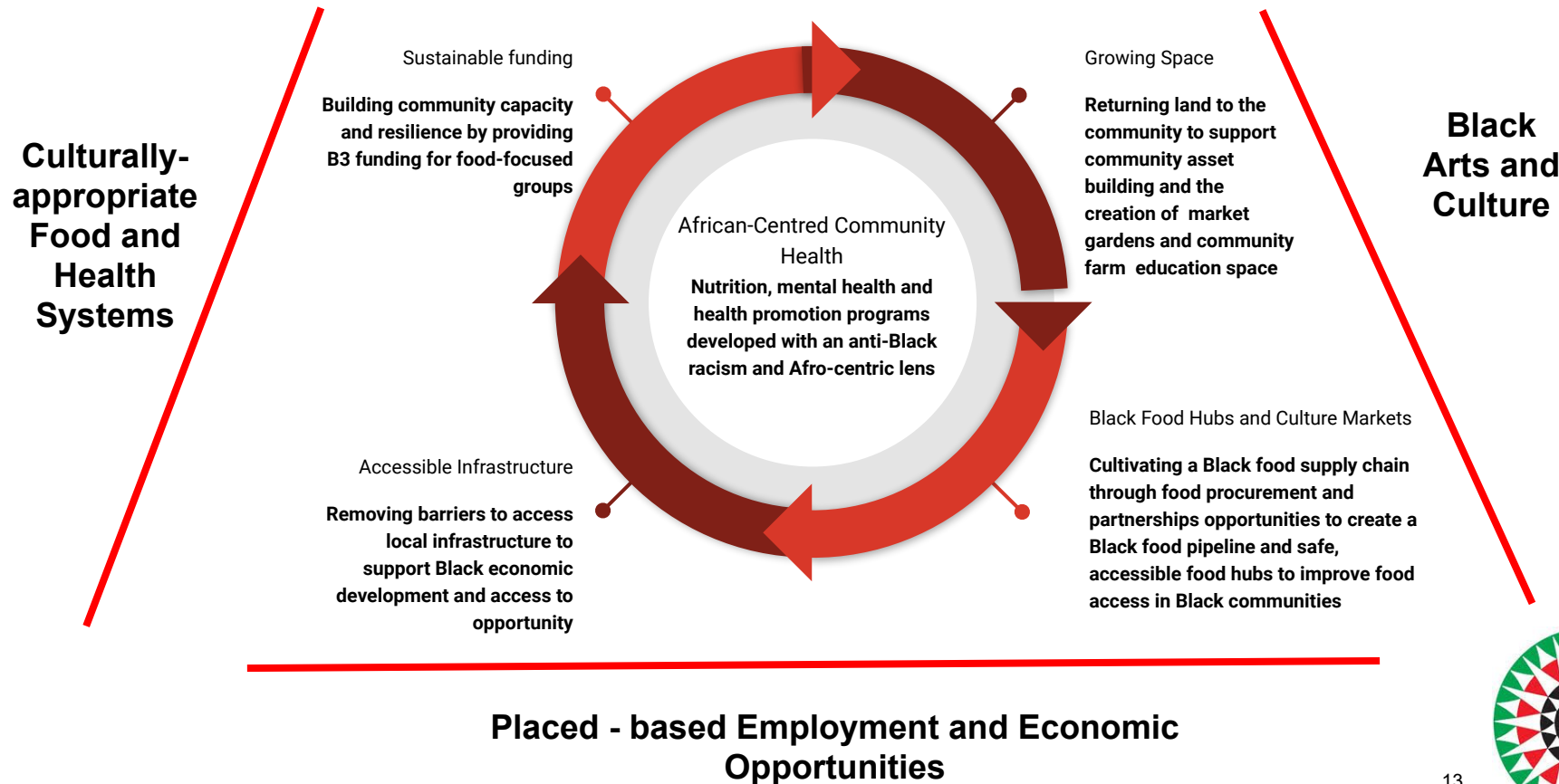
Structural Racism in the Health Care System

Lack of access to health care services in Black communities, gaps in care, and inequities in outcomes are a result of limited culturally appropriate nutrition, food preparation and wellness programs

Barriers to Access Infrastructure

A disproportionately low distribution of important food assets in neighbourhoods with high percentages of Black residents. Due to the location of assets they are often inaccessible to many Black youth, residents to access when needed.

Framework to Build a Black Food Ecosystem



Guiding Principles

Food Sovereignty

The right of people descent to healthy and culturally-appropriate food, produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems and build their own institutions to advance community capacity and resilience for food access.

The Right to Food

The right to food is a fundamental human right. It is enshrined in a range of international legal instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948.



The UN International Decade for People of African Descent:

The programme of UN activities identify Development, Justice and Recognition as core principles.

5 Pillars for Action

The Black Food Sovereignty Plan is a community-led Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit Plan to address chronic food insecurity, anti-Black racism and structural inequity in Toronto's local food system to create immediate and long-term change to improve the health, wellbeing and capacity of Black Torontonians.

The Plan is guided by 5 thematic pillars:



1

Sustainable
Funding &
Community
Capacity
Building



2

Access to
Growing
Space



3

Accessible
Infrastructure



4

Black Food
Hubs and
Cultural
Markets



5

Culturally
Rooted
Community
Health &
Nutrition
Programs

Advancing City Strategies & Commitments



Recommended Actions

RECOMMENDATION #1

Sustainable Funding & Community Capacity Building: Support Black-led, Black-serving and Black mandated food organizations to effectively serve and respond to community food insecurity through providing access to sustained operating funds, service navigation support, expert advice, and capacity to lead long-term food system transformation, community learning and the tracking of progress on outcomes.

ACTIONS

1 Social Development, Finance and Administration Community Funding Unit in partnership with the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to increase community resilience in times of crisis and support emergency food relief through the implementation of a Black Mandated Funding Framework that prioritizes Black mandated food organizations to ensure adequate annual operating funds are deployed to address Black food insecurity.
SDFA-CFU, SDFA-CABR

7 Parks Forestry and Recreation to continue to provide and strengthen technical support training, service navigation mentorship and social incubation to organizations and resident leaders involved in community-based urban agriculture.
PF&R

8 Parks Forestry and Recreation to work closely with the Indigenous Affairs Office and Social Development Finance and Administration CABR Unit to continue to build community capacity to lead land-based youth leadership and urban community-based agriculture initiatives to support Black and Indigenous youth.
PF&R, SDFA-CABR, IAO

2 Social Development, Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to develop and fund a Black Food Sovereignty Advisory Circle to position community leadership as a central driver of the Plan, facilitate Black residents to identify and track progress toward targets, and to lead ongoing engagement with Black-led, Black-serving organizations and Black communities for effective implementation.
SDFA-CABR

9 Social Development, Finance and Administration Poverty Reduction Office work with Parks Forestry and Recreation Business Services Branch and the Black Food Sovereignty Advisory Committee to support the compiling and distributing of key learnings and outcomes from existing urban agriculture projects to support the development of new Black-led urban agriculture initiatives, including learnings from the development of the Black Creek Community Farm, the Community Engagement Entrepreneurial Development (CEED) Market Gardens and other projects.
SDFA-PRSO, PF&R

3 Social Development, Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit and the Poverty Reduction Office in partnership with the Equity Diversity and Human Rights Division to contribute to the development of protocols related to the collection of baseline data, monitoring and evaluation to measure and report on food security outcomes through CABR's Black Health Services Coordination Strategy.
SDFA-CABR, SDFA-PRSO, EDHR

10 Solid Waste Management Services to continue sharing advice, learnings and insights from the Community, Reduce & Reuse Programs as it relates to creating and sustaining community capacity to lead close-loop food waste loss and food waste reduction programs which help support local food security in neighbourhoods with high Black populations, and help develop self-sustaining community-led food initiatives and Reuse Programs.
SWMS

4 Social Development, Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to facilitate and fund an annual community-led Black Food Sovereignty Conference to foster opportunities for knowledge sharing, community networking and learning to better understand Black food insecurity and support evidence-based interventions to advance a local and global Black food sovereignty movement toward the realization of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent.
SDFA-CABR

11 Toronto Water to advance the implementation of Black Food Sovereignty urban agriculture sites through providing operational advice and input for water access on growing sites as needed.
TW

14 Economic Development and Culture to work with the Black Food Sovereignty Unit to encourage Black food businesses to participate in food and beverage events and trade shows that help to promote the Black leadership in the food & beverage sector in Toronto.
EDC

5 Social Development, Finance and Administration's Tower and Neighbourhood Revitalization Unit to consult with Solid Waste Management Services to apply learnings and success in urban agriculture from the Community Reduce & Reuse Programs to inform the creation of local community knowledge networks to share learnings gained from COVID-19 digital urban agriculture programming in neighbourhoods with large Black populations, including how to build resident leadership, share and connect Black residents with local employment opportunities, and increase access to growing space in tower renewal and revitalization communities.
SDFA-CABR, SDFA-TNR, SWMS

12 Strategic Partnerships Office to coordinate with Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Social Development, Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit and consult with Solid Waste Management Services on their expertise with community resource Sharing and Reuse programs in neighbourhoods with high Black populations, to increase the capacity and sustainability of the Black Food Sovereignty Plan by identifying appropriate corporate and institutional funding and resource partners to advance capital projects, including sponsorships and tool donations for new community gardens and to expand initiatives like the Garden Tool Lending Program.
TOP, PF&R, SDFA-CABR, SWMS

6 Social Development, Finance and Administration Community Funding Unit and the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit in partnership with Parks Forestry and Recreation to improve access to urban agriculture funding opportunities at the City through targeted outreach and promotion of the Urban Forestry Community Grants, the Incentive Program and Community Funding Programs to Black communities, with a focus on 2SLGBTQ+, francophone and continental African populations.
SDFA-CABR, SDFA-CFU, PF&R

13 Economic Development and Culture to continue to support Black arts, culture and food festivals through existing resources to ensure the sustainability of African, Caribbean and Black-led food and culture programming and to increase opportunities for Black food businesses and Black entrepreneurs.
EDC

Recommended Actions

RECOMMENDATION #2

Access to Growing Space: Reimagine public land as an opportunity to advance an inclusive reparative economy approach to build increased community resilience, land-based learning initiatives and healing through identifying, returning and repurposing land to promote stewardship and urban agriculture initiatives.

ACTIONS

15 Parks Forestry and Recreation to work with Social Development, Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to update the Community Garden Action Plan and the Community Garden Policy using the CABR anti-Black racism operational framework to identify and mitigate barriers to access and develop actions to expand community garden and growing spaces to be used to their full potential.

PF&R, SDFA-CABR

21 The Social Development, Finance and Administration Youth Development Unit, Indigenous Affairs Office and Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to build and strengthen Black and Afro-Indigenous youth leadership development by using an ABR lens to inform existing and new place-based food and growing programs, delivered in partnership with Black-led, Black-serving organizations, to address Black youth outcomes as they relate to community violence, mental health, and food security. Specific interventions would include:

- a) Co-develop and shape new and existing educational initiatives with Black-led community food partners that change historical narratives and connections between land, slavery and colonization through the incorporation of Indigenous land stewards and knowledge keepers and African-centred cultural content into land-based wellness and learning;
- b) Provide container growing workshops to promote and support urban agriculture growing opportunities in tower communities in Black Food Sovereignty neighbourhoods; and
- c) Secure access to underutilized green space to support the creation of safe mental health and wellness space for Black youth, in partnership with Community Health Centres, Toronto Community Housing and community partner agencies.

SDFA-CABR, SDFA-YDU, IAO

16 Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the Black Food Sovereignty Advisory Circle to prioritize requests for community gardens and allotment gardens in under-served parks in neighbourhoods with high Black populations including Jane and Finch, Little Jamaica, and Lawrence Heights.

PF&R

22 The Indigenous Affairs Office and the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to work collaboratively to advance shared goals for Black and Indigenous food sovereignty in the city and to proactively identify opportunities for engagement and dialogue with treaty and territorial rights holder, Indigenous land stewards and residents of African, Caribbean and Black descent, when developing new land stewardship and land use opportunities for Black farmers and gardeners.

SDFA-CABR, IAO

17 Social Development, Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to consult with Economic Development and Culture to increase community food access and ownership among Black communities by identifying at least two pilot sites for "community land sharing and community land trust models" supported by a Black-led food agency. Other site uses may also include: Black food markets, Black food business initiatives, cultural food festivals and other food programs. Land under consideration can include City facilities, Heritage Toronto properties, Create TO, TRCA, Toronto Hydro, and underutilized museum lands.

SDFA-CABR, EDC

23 Economic Development and Culture Section to provide increased access to green space for Black and Indigenous-led food sovereignty and fresh food access initiatives. Initiatives include providing event support for farmers' markets in City-permitted lands, and continued support by the local BIA for the Afro-Caribbean Farmer's Market in Little Jamaica.

EDC

18 City Planning in collaboration with the Housing Secretariat and Social Development, Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to:

- a. Identify opportunities for community growing space for food, (including vegetables, and/or fruit, nut trees) in development applications in neighbourhoods with high Black populations; and
- b. Identify where site specific zoning permissions may be required to permit market gardens in Tower Renewal sites.

CP, HS, SDFA-CABR

19 The Housing Secretariat, in collaboration with Transportation Services, CREM, Social Development, Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit and the TDSB to identify opportunities for community growing space for food, (including vegetables, and/or fruit, nut trees), on new affordable housing and supportive housing sites, school properties, and surplus city land, in neighbourhoods with greater density of Black populations.

HS, TS, CREM, SDFA-CABR, TDSB

24 Solid Waste Management Services to provide advice and input to the Black Food Sovereignty Advisory Circle on how circular economy principles may support the reimagining of public land based to increase land access for Black communities based on its research findings on material flows in Toronto's food system from the Baseline for a Circular Toronto study. **SWMS**

20 Environment and Energy Division to improve community food security and access to green space in Black Food Sovereignty neighbourhoods through prioritizing Community Planting and Stewardship and Pollinate TO grants and other relevant climate action funding applications from Black-led, Black serving organizations to increase the overall number of Black-led funded projects.

EED

25 Social Development, Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit will work with Divisions across the City of Toronto to strengthen the City's tree canopy in neighbourhoods with high Black populations to increase future opportunities for community-managed "food forests" and harvesting opportunities from local fruit trees.

SDFA-CABR

Recommended Actions

RECOMMENDATION #3	RECOMMENDATION #4
<p>Accessible Infrastructure: Improve access to assets that drive economic and social benefit in Black communities, including but not limited to community and incubator kitchen spaces and other facilities to expand equitable access to development and community food education opportunities.</p>	<p>Black Food Hubs, Procurement and Cultural Markets: Create an enabling environment for community wealth building initiatives and collective Black economic prosperity to emerge through the establishment of food supply chains that support resilient and sustainable Black-owned and Black operated food businesses to advance procurement, workforce development and improve cultural food access.</p>
ACTIONS	
<p>26 Economic Development and Culture and Social Development, Finance and Administration Tower and Neighbourhood Revitalization Unit to work with Parks, Forestry and Recreation to develop partnerships and support permit access for Black-led, Black serving food programs to use community kitchen space in Community Recreation Centres and at other community-based facilities (ex. Community Health Centres, community arts centres, and museum kitchen spaces). EDC, SDFA-TNR, PF&R</p>	<p>27 Economic Development and Culture Sector Development Unit to develop partnerships to fund organizations and provide workforce development and business training supports for Black businesses, and facilitate priority access to kitchen space and industrial food production facilities for Black Torontonians, Black entrepreneurs and Black-owned and Black-operated food businesses. EDC</p>
<p>28 Social Development Finance and Administration Poverty Reduction Strategy Office and the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to increase access to healthy and culturally-appropriate food through the development of accessible Black Food markets and cultural food activities in neighbourhoods with high rates of food insecurity among Black residents. SDFA-PRSO, SDFA-CABR</p>	<p>29 Economic Development and Culture to work with Social Development Finance and Administration's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit and other key Black community stakeholders to develop a Black Food and Cultural Business promotional plan, using Black focused social media and influencers to highlight food initiatives and businesses within African, Caribbean and Black communities. EDC, SDFA-CABR</p>
<p>30 Social Development, Finance and Administration Poverty Reduction Strategy Office Anchor TO Black Vendor Initiative and Environment and Energy Division to consult with Solid Waste Management Services to develop a Black Food Sovereignty Food Vendor Initiative to provide Black farmers and Black owned and operated businesses with a priority designation—denoting their status serving the Black community and meeting circular economy outcomes and sustainable food system best practices to increase access to City procurement opportunities.. SDFA-PRSO, EED, SWMS</p>	<p>31 Economic Development and Culture with support from Social Development, Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to provide targeted support and improved access to opportunities for Black-owned and Black-operated businesses impacted by the pandemic, by connecting and increasing the number of Black food entrepreneurs and businesses on the City's vendor list, access to procurement initiatives and participation in existing City-led food service opportunities, such as the City's new North York Food Hall project, Cafe TO and Fine Dining Scarborough. EDC</p>
<p>32 Economic Development and Culture, Social Development Finance and Administration and Parks, Forestry and Recreation to encourage and help develop food start-ups, micro-enterprises and Black-led, Black-serving Farmers Markets by providing an equitable amount of (city-owned) space to Black retailers and social enterprises, using creative approaches like, below market rental rate agreements and permits. EDC, SDFA-CABR, PF&R</p>	<p>33 Social Development, Finance and Administration Youth Development Unit and the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to work with People and Equity to connect Black youth engaged in land-based learning initiatives with opportunities for hyper local green infrastructure jobs with the City to create pathways for Black youth in the landscape/arboriculture industry, with wrap around employment supports from entry until after completion. SDFA-YDU, SDFA-CABR, P&E</p>
<p>34 Economic Development and Culture Sector Development Branch and Social Development Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Units to work with the Black Food Sovereignty Advisory Circle to increase outreach and understanding of African, Caribbean and Black food business needs through improved data collection to improve customer service delivery, share economic initiatives and to effectively spotlight and promote Black businesses. EDC, SDFA-CABR</p>	<p>35 Social Development Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit, with leadership from the Black Food Sovereignty Advisory Circle to increase research and understanding of historical and present day relationships and intersections between food sovereignty, economic empowerment and health outcomes, through the establishment of a Centre of Black Food Excellence facilitated by a research and information sharing partnership with universities and colleges, and with Black academics and policy professionals to develop an evidence-based approach to advancing research, advocacy and policy to realize Black food sovereignty goals. SDFA-CABR</p>
<p>36 The Social Development Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to advocate for economic development funding from the Provincial and Federal orders of Government to strengthen existing Black food networks and advance the establishment of Black food hubs, infrastructure in neighbourhoods with the greatest density of Black populations and high levels of food insecurity; and to improve Black food business' access to capital through more targeted implementation of the Federal Black Business Entrepreneurship Loan Fund and Program. SDFA-CABR</p>	<p>37 The Social Development Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to advocate for good food jobs and improved standards of work for food workers, including the development of Federal agricultural training and funding programs tailored to meet the unique barriers and challenges faced by Black, Indigenous and racialized immigrant farmers. SDFA-CABR</p>
<p>38 The Social Development Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to advocate for the collection of disaggregated race-based data within Canada's agricultural workforce as part of the annual Census of Agriculture to improve the understanding of inequity and gaps in Black land and farm ownership. SDFA-CABR</p>	

RECOMMENDATION #5

Culturally Rooted Community Health & Nutrition Programs: Cultivate and deliver African-centred nutrition, mental health and health promotion programs informed by African, Caribbean and Black communities' distinct experiences, culture and needs, to deliver responsive, trauma-informed, holistic and supportive healthcare resources and services to address food and diet-related health disparities.

ACTIONS

39 Toronto Public Health to work with the Black Food Sovereignty Advisory Committee to explore the mainstreaming of pan African-centred, culturally appropriate food and education that works towards improving overall health outcomes and food literacy for Black children and youth across the City. **TPH**

41 Parks, Forestry and Recreation in coordination with Social Development Finance and Administration to continue to build more ethnically diverse and Black ancestral foods into existing community recreation programs and community gardening. This includes peer-learning initiatives, seed saving, vertical farming, aquaponics and garden demonstration projects **PF&R, SDFA-CABR**

43 The Social Development, Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to advocate to other orders of government for the fullest implementation of the right to food to promote and protect the right of individuals, including Black Torontonians, alone or in community with others, to feed themselves and their families, with adequate and culturally desirable food that is produced and consumed in sustainable ways.. **SDFA-CABR**

40 Environment and Energy Division to work with the Black Food Sovereignty Advisory Circle, Black-led, Black serving organizations and food businesses to profile and integrate African, Caribbean and Black cultural and ancestral foods in their existing seasonal eating education campaigns that celebrate diverse Black food histories through the Live Green "Rethink Food" campaign and other outreach efforts. **EED**

42 Solid Waste Management Services to share their knowledge on collection and redistribution of surplus fruits and vegetables from residents' backyards with Black communities participating in the Community Reduce, Reuse Program to facilitate collaborative resident-led governance models that support food access and nutrition initiatives such as canning and preserving. **SWMS**

44 The Social Development, Finance and Administration Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit to advocate that food security is a central issue and social determinant of health and that the Province of Ontario should include food security and prioritize equitable access to food as a pillar in their next five (5)-year anti-racism strategy. **SDFA-CABR**

45 Economic Development and Culture Museums and Heritage Services (MHS) Sector to work with Black history organizations, Black food researchers, Black nutritionists, Black chefs and Black academics to develop initiatives that increase knowledge, use, and celebration of African, Caribbean and Black ancestral food traditions and cooking culture through facilitating community education and cultural events and opportunities. **EDC**

Outcomes

In addition to reducing the rates of Black food insecurity the Black Sovereignty Plan will contribute to the following outcomes:

01

Sustainable Funding & Community Capacity Building

- Increased capacity to respond to emergency needs
- Improved access to information & learning food & opportunities to improve planning & target response;
- Enhanced sustainability of Black food organizations

02

Access to Growing Space

- Equal access to local growing space
- Increased capacity for youth environmental leadership
- Improved protections against food insecurity

03

Accessible Infrastructure

- Equitable access to City food assets & infrastructure
- Improved economic opportunities for food business
- More spaces for community food security initiatives

04

Black Food Hubs, Procurement and Cultural Markets

- Improved recognition of Black food culture
- Increased local access to healthy cultural foods
- Increased opportunities for Black food vendors/growers and businesses

05

Culturally-Rooted Community Health and Nutrition Programs

- An anti-Black racist informed health approach
- Improved health outcomes
- Increased access to culturally relevant health programs, education and opportunities

Future Conditions to Thrive

Vibrant, Visible & Connected Black Food

Spaces and Culture Hubs

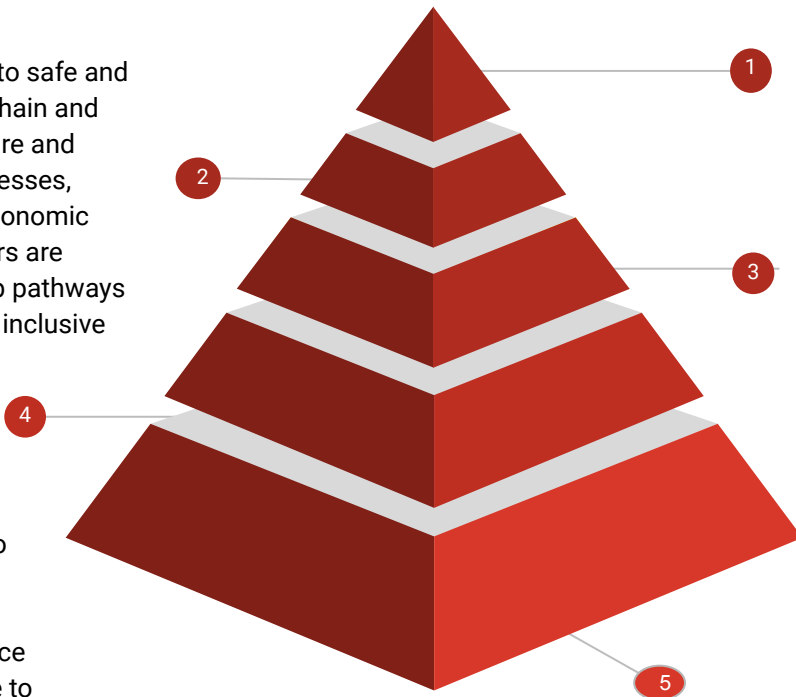
Black communities have sustainable access to safe and secure space to deliver a Black food supply chain and hub, where communities can congregate, share and access affordable food, made by Black businesses, farmers and Black culture workers to drive economic development; Black food networks and leaders are connected to workforce opportunities and job pathways that create vibrant food spaces and generate inclusive community-centre economies.

Access to Land for Learning, Leadership and Liberation

Land from the City has undergone an expropriation review and has been returned to community to start new urban agriculture initiatives, including community-run gardens, urban farms, food forests and new green space in Black communities. ACB residents are able to grow and sell food and share knowledge through intergenerational exchange.

Resilient, Proactive, Strategic Black Organizations

B3 organizations receive sustainable funding and can adequately resource organizational planning activities to rapidly respond in times of crisis, while having the ongoing capacity to support the mental health and wellbeing of their Black staff to support immediate and long term needs; and provide the extra resources required to reach the most underserved members of ABC communities.



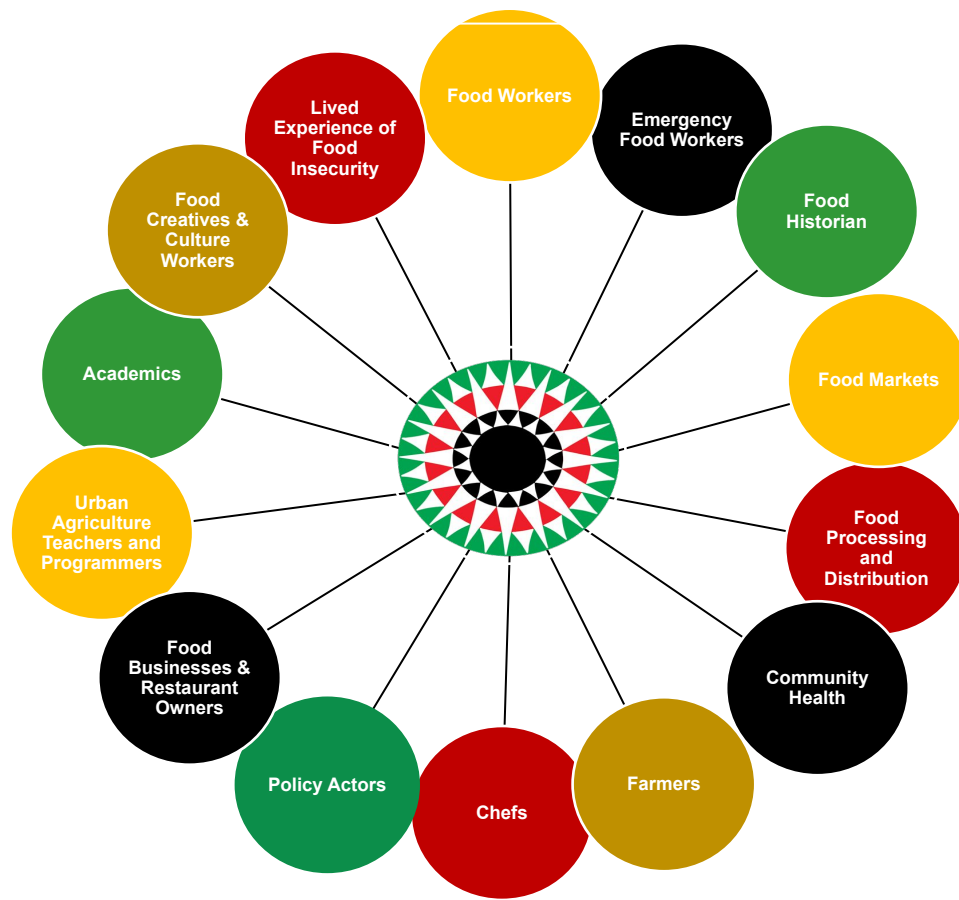
African-Centred Food, Health and Healing Programs

City-led food and health programs recognize the unique barriers and challenges Black residents face and respond with holistic, systemic and trauma-informed interventions and programs to deliver healthcare that is responsive and culturally-appropriate.

Place-based Assets to Drive Economic Opportunities and Community Wealth Building

Assets and resources are evenly distributed across the City and reflective of the place making efforts and needs of Black communities to support food entrepreneurs, community cooking initiatives, cultural events and community building efforts that allow residents to remain rooted in place.

A Community-led Model



The Black Food Sovereignty Plan will use a community co-leadership model that will work with (up to) 15 Black community members who will guide the implementation of the Plan. Membership will be guided by a terms of reference and will include representation from across the food system and of diverse Black communities.

Toronto Black Food Sovereignty Advisory Circle Membership Structure

The Black Food Sovereignty Advisory Circle

The mandate of the Black Food Sovereignty Advisory Circle will be to:

1. **Measure and Track Outcomes:** Provide expert advice and guidance to monitor, evaluate and assess the impact of the Plan;
2. **Identify and Advise:** Support issue identification, including challenges, gaps, and opportunities to strengthen planning, reporting and overall implementation
3. **Engage and Update:** Facilitate transparent, accountable and responsive updates and communications and engagement with Black communities and key stakeholders
4. **Raise Awareness:** Advise the CABR Unit on areas where the City should be taking a lead to effectively advance positive outcomes for Torontonians of African Descent;
5. **Amplify Impact:** Support partnership development with Black communities, leaders, organizations and institutions to increase opportunities for collaboration with Torontonians of African Descent.

A Road Map to Black Food Sovereignty

Embedding an anti-Black racist Approach for Food Systems Change



2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<p>Improving Local Access to Cultural Foods and Black Food Security</p> <p>Year one will focus on addressing immediate challenge of chronic food insecurity by advancing initiatives that focus on improving food access.</p>	<p>Advancing Equitable Distribution & Access to Infrastructure</p> <p>Year two will focus on the equitable distribution of food assets in neighborhoods, and improve overall access to infrastructure.</p>	<p>Increasing Recognition of Black Food Work and Culture in Toronto</p> <p>Year three will have a focus on spotlighting Black food and culture through campaigns and initiatives to celebrate and recognize Black food culture, art and business.</p>	<p>Establishing and Building Capacity for Knowledge Dissemination</p> <p>Year four will focus on increasing capacity Black-led research and knowledge production on Black food issues, history and culture to advance community education.</p>	<p>Community Owned Assets, Institutions and Black Food Leadership Governance</p> <p>The final year of the plan will aim to deliver community owned and governed assets that serve sustainable Black food leadership and self determination in the food system.</p>

Tools to Measure Impact

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting will be supported by the Black Food Sovereignty Advisory Circle in collaboration with Clty divisions, who will use two frameworks to inform the development of indicators for the Plan.

The Confronting Anti-Black Racism Ubuntu Framework:



Toronto Food Policy Council Food Lens

1. Economic Development
2. Food Security and Food Justice
3. Healthy and Sustainable Diets
4. Food Procurement
5. Land Use Planning and Food Infrastructure
6. Food Loss, Waste and Circular Economy

Moving Forward

Developing Governance Structures and Outreach

Recruit and launch the Black Food Sovereignty Advisory Circle to inform the development of targets, indicators.

Conduct outreach to support a community facing launch of the Plan.

Planning with City Divisions

The Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit will meet with City divisions in Q1 2022 to coordinate planning and implementation for year one activities.

Annual Reporting to City Council

The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration will report back to City Council on the progress and implementation in Q1 2022, as part of the CABR annual reporting.