Food Security in the Inner City

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Abstract

Food security in the American inner city is one of the most pressing problems of the 21st century. The residents of these economically distressed areas have difficulty obtaining healthy, affordable food to feed themselves and their families. Depending on imports and over-reliance from the city’s food availability, while low income families and other vulnerable populations without access to food. In many cases, this disproportion of the complex situation leads to the abandonment of both nutrition and morals in favor of a full-scale withdrawal.

In response to these devastating effects, a variety of solutions have been proposed to combat the food insecurity problem. These fall into three categories to provide guidance: (1) community-specific, (2) global solutions, and (3) measures to reduce food insecurity through community-based solutions to the root of the problem—addressing systemic issues and urban dynamics. Moving food retail activities into the city while expanding the use of urban agriculture promotes food self-sufficiency and availability. Meanwhile, heightening urban density and using water would provide greater consumer purchasing power for both transportation and food.

The success of this initiative depends on its regular monitoring and promotion. Both professional and self-evaluation would provide a reliable measurement of the project’s changing nature due to the solutions, as well as a consideration of fast practices. Simultaneously, the position of aid and new promotion methods will enable: (1) necessary assessments and (2) financial support to ensure that the initiative realizes its maximum potential, satisfying the appetite of American inner cities.

Problem

Food Security: “Access by all people at all times to sufficient food and nutrition for a healthy and productive life.”

Inner City: “Concentrations of U.S. Census tracts having a 20 percent poverty rate or higher, or either:

• Poverty rate or unemployment rate 1½ times or higher than surrounding metropolitan area
• Medium household income of $10,000 or less than the surrounding metropolitan area.”

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