

Snapshot of Paterson, New Jersey

July–December 2021 Progress Report



Goals

- Expand summer meals and after-school dinner programs in the city of Paterson
- Adopt healthy food procurement practices at Paterson Public Schools
- Increase the number of community gardens in the city of Paterson



By the Numbers

- 6,000 students and their families provided with 100% locally sourced produce
- 14 community garden volunteers recruited to participate in garden maintenance, staff farm stands and engage in community outreach/education activities

Success Story

The food policy council's resident advisory board successfully recruited a local corner store owner and resident to join the board. Diversifying board members has enabled residents to build trust and shift power in their community, improving the quality of relationships and leadership. Board members are now planning, leading and presenting at various stakeholder meetings.

"Both [food policy council] members, partners [and] residents are continuing in the journey of shifting attitudes and beliefs about resident engagement. Often organizations ask residents to be beneficiaries of programs, but rarely ask residents to design programs or community impact strategies. Residents have a better understanding of the complex challenges that their communities face and insight into how to address those challenges."

Mary Celis,
The United Way of Passaic County



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