

Ottawa Food Core Values Action Plan

Action

- All members participate actively in the work of Ottawa Food.
- We accomplish the goals we set in our strategic plan.
- We don't just talk; we turn discussion into viable action.
- Through our various programs, we connect people with food resources.

Collaboration

- We share resources with each other, help promote related activities, and work together on large projects like piloting new services or influencing public policy.
- We partner with existing systems/organizations to accomplish the work of Ottawa Food rather than create duplicate efforts.
- We work regularly with other food policy councils and coalitions from around the State of Michigan to accomplish mutual goals.
- We leverage funding to create a bigger impact.

Integrity

- We make data driven decisions to create our goals and use research-based and promising practices to create our strategies.
- We acknowledge when an issue is beyond our capability, capacity, or resources to make a positive difference.
- We measure and assess the effectiveness of our projects.
- We are good stewards of the financial resources we are given.

Inclusion

- We actively build an environment where everyone feels welcome and valued, regardless of race, ethnicity, social class, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, accessibility needs, or country of origin.
- We always seek input on the work that we do from the communities, individuals, and families we are trying to help, including hosting quarterly "Consumer Advisory Committee" meetings.
- We strive to translate all of our materials for the benefit of non-English speakers.
- We continue to educate ourselves around leading diversity, inclusion, and equity issues and practices.
- We structure our work to be partners with those who benefit from the work of Ottawa Food vs. seeing people as recipients of the work.

Empathy

- We listen carefully to our members, community partners, and residents to inform the decisions we make.

- We understand that the issues we're highlighting are sensitive in nature (i.e. hunger) and as a collaborative are thoughtful in how we address them.
- We dispel myths or misunderstandings about issues related to hunger and healthy eating.
- We work to understand the true barriers to healthy eating for all demographics of people.
- We learn from people's real experiences and let that drive our work rather than act on previously-held assumptions.