**Assessment questions** and indicator metrics for investigating the community and consumer food environment

**Community Food Environment**
- WHERE and WHEN are the food deserts? (Eg. Geography and time of day, month, or year)
- WHO experiences a food desert? (Eg. Demographics, age). In WHICH ways is the community experiencing the food desert? (Eg. Physical access, acceptability, affordability)
- WHY did this come to be? (Eg. Historical context, food systems context)
- WHAT role are organizations and/or community policies playing in the food desert experience? WHO has the power and/or responsibility to change the social, economic, or physical food environment? (Eg, which food system influencer category and/or consumers)

**Consumer Food Environment**
- WHERE and WHEN are the food deserts? (Eg. Home, work, school; urban/rural, time of day, month, or year/seasonality)
- In WHICH ways are individuals experiencing the food desert? (Eg. Lack of money, transportation, sharing; social, cultural, or safety barriers to shopping; knowledge and skills barriers; poor quality or acceptability of foods)
- HOW are food system dynamics influencing individuals’ experiences? (Eg. Policy, education, social factors, research and technology, economics, marketing)

**Strategies to address food deserts** work to increase affordability, access, acceptability, and accommodation throughout the food system at the levels that reflect socio-ecological levels: interpersonal/individual, organizational, community, policy

**Policy & Values**
Local, state, & federal regulations, belief system

**Community**
Relationships between organizations, agriculture, marketing, community design & planning

**Organizational**
Organizations, social institutions, home, school, workplace

**Interpersonal & Individual**
Knowledge, skills, sharing, attitudes

**Food Equity Council**
Public support: food & nutrition assistance, public healthy grocery stores, corner store certifications, supermarket tax incentives, fair wages, public transportation, infrastructure support to local farmers, distribution, processing, food outlets

**Supermarket alternatives**: Healthy corner stores, co-ops, virtual shops, mobile markets, including acceptance of SNAP & WIC, & healthy food marketing and distribution

**Connecting farms and consumers**
Community planning: Walkability, safety, transportation

**Tribal and intertribal foodways initiatives**
Farm to early childhood education, school, and university including agriculture, food safety and nutrition education coupled with Federal school & summer meal programs

**Food Pantry Environment**
Community Health Partnerships

**Food and Nutrition Education**
Individual/interpersonal coping: Sharing food, home gardening, home preservation, foraging, travel to supermarket/alternatives, food assistance (SNAP, pantries, etc.)

*Graphic 2. Assessment indicators and multi-level strategies to address food deserts from the food systems & justice lens*