

## **Terms:**

The following are the definitions we're using for terms within this statement. If you have other sources, ideas, or feedback, we welcome your input! We have included sources where applicable.

**Authentic collaboration:** True collaboration is the relationship formed when two or more entities working together produce something greater than the sum of their individual abilities. The focus is on results and not process. Lines of communication are open for hard conversations and the knowledge, culture, and lived experiences of all members are welcomed, valued, and respected.

**Charity Language:** The way we talk about the issues we work on impacts how people think, feel and act. Therefore we need a more conscious approach to how we communicate – one that moves beyond this damaging narrative, to instead, one that tackles the root causes of poverty and builds a global movement for change. From Community Centric Fundraising (CCF): We must avoid creating a sense of charity or pity among donors toward other community members and instead encourage donors to see how they and their families also benefit from the work they are donating to sustain.

**Community Resilience:** The sustained ability of a community to use available resources (energy, food, labor, transportation, etc.) to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations. Community resilience is highly dependent on community health.

**Culturally responsive:** Cultural responsiveness is the ability to learn from, relate to, and interact respectfully with people of your own culture as well as those from other cultures. From the National Center for Culturally Responsive Educational Systems (NCCREST)

**Equitable Access:** People have equitable access when policies and supports minimize the effects of systemic disadvantage so that all communities have an equal opportunity to grow, harvest, and eat locally grown fruits and nuts that are culturally and personally meaningful.

**Food Equity:** An equitable food system is one in which all community members — including those most vulnerable like those living in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color — have equitable access to food. It is a system that, from farm to table, from processing to disposal, ensures economic opportunity; high-quality jobs with living wages; safe working conditions; access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food; and environmental sustainability. From [policylink.org](http://policylink.org)

**Food Justice:** The food justice movement seeks to establish food as a human right and to eliminate structural/systemic barriers and oppressive dynamics in our food systems so that all communities (especially marginalized populations) have the right to grow, sell, and eat healthy food.

**Food System:** Food systems include all the actors and activities involved in the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption, and disposal of food products that originate from agriculture, forestry or fisheries, and parts of the broader economic, societal, and natural environments in which they are embedded. The food system is composed of many interconnected systems and subsystems (e.g., farming systems, waste management systems, input supply systems, etc.) and interacts with other key systems (e.g., energy systems, trade systems, health systems, etc.). From the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**Healthy Food:** Fresh, nutritious, affordable, culturally appropriate, food that is grown locally with care for the well-being of the land, workers, and animals.

**Lived experience:** Personal knowledge about the world gained through direct, first-hand involvement in everyday events rather than through representations constructed by other people. From the Oxford dictionary

**Mutual Aid:** Mutual aid is when everyday people get together to meet each other's needs with the shared understanding that the systems we live in are not meeting our needs and that we can meet them together, right now, without having to pressure power structures to do the right thing. Mutual aid is an idea and practice that is based on the principles of direct action, cooperation, mutual understanding, and solidarity. Mutual aid is not charity, but the building and continuing of new social relations where people give what they can and get what they need, outside of unjust systems of power. From the school of Social Work Georgia  
<https://ssw.uga.edu/news/article/what-is-mutual-aid-by-joel-izlar/>

**People of Color (PoC):** After a lot of thought and conversation with partners and reading articles, we are choosing to use the term People of Color as a shorthand vs. BIPOC or any other summation. Based on our research, it feels the most inclusive. When referencing specific communities, we will use specific terms those communities choose.

**Strength Based:** Strengths-based (or asset-based) approaches focus on individuals' strengths (including personal strengths and social and community networks) rather than their deficits. From <https://www.scie.org.uk/strengths-based-approaches>

**Systemic Racism:** The perpetuation and legitimization of historical, cultural, institutional, and interpersonal dynamics that routinely advantage Whites while producing cumulative and chronic adverse outcomes for people of color. Structural racism is built into our country's history, politics, economics, institutions, culture, and entire social fabric. Structural racism is difficult to locate in a particular institution because it is interwoven throughout the whole of our society, continually reproducing old, and producing new forms of racism. Structural racism is the most profound and pervasive form of racism - all other forms of racism emerge from structural racism. From [Racialequitytools.org](http://Racialequitytools.org)