



Bronzeville Food Co-op

2026 Updates

2025



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About Us



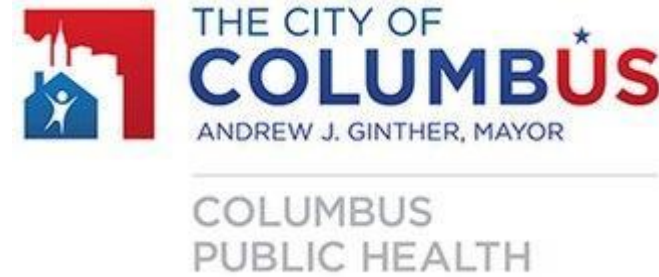
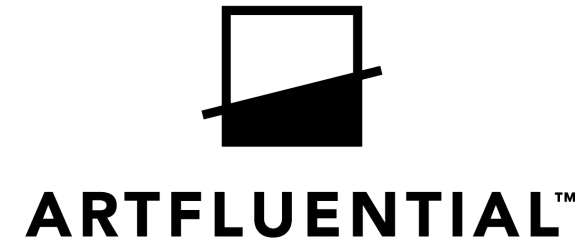
Who we are.

The Bronzeville Food Co-op is a community-driven effort to establish a cooperatively owned grocery store serving the Bronzeville and Greater Near East Side neighborhoods of Columbus. These are areas long impacted by disinvestment and limited access to fresh and affordable food options.



Partners

- Artfluential
- Broad Street Presbyterian Church
- Bronzeville Growers Market
- Bronzeville Neighborhood Assoc.
- Co-op Columbus
- Columbus Public Health
- FoodLeads
- Growing & Growth Collective
- Kelley Companies
- Near East Area Commission
- Neighborhood Design Center
- The Ohio State University
- PACT
- RISE Together Innovation Institute
- Shel10
- United Way of Central Ohio
- Urban Strategies, Inc



*Neighborhood Context &
Community Need*



Historical Context

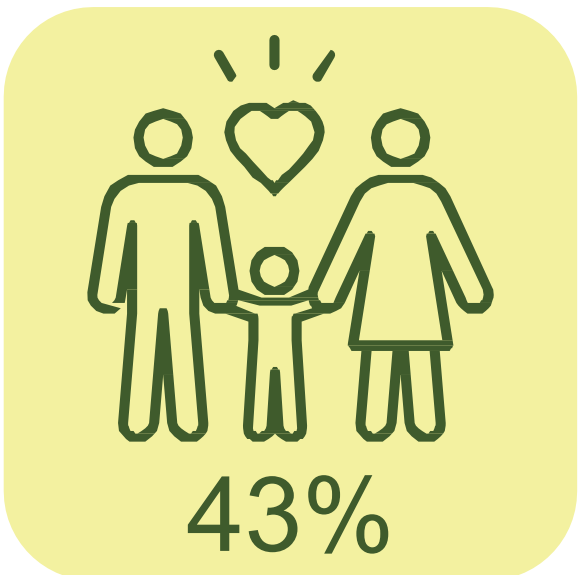


The Need

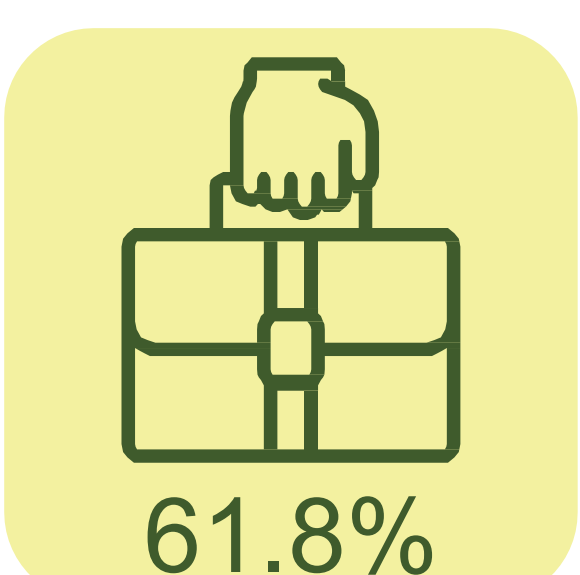
- Historically Black neighborhood - **53% African American**, 38% White, 7% Multi-Racial, and 3% Hispanic
- 65% **renters**, many of whom spend nearly a third of their income on housing
- \$44,099 **median income** in Bronzeville
- 37% **poverty rate** in Bronzeville
- Bronzeville experiencing **rapidly increasing housing prices** – from **\$188,900** in 2020 to **\$285,208** in 2025



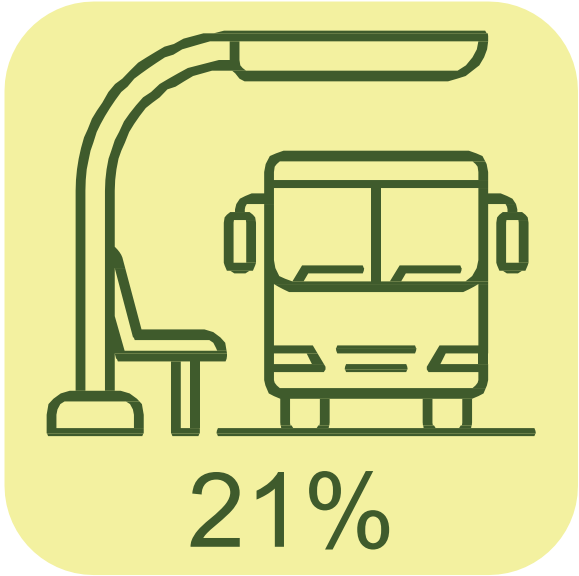
Residents call the Near East Side area "home"



Households within Bronzeville are families



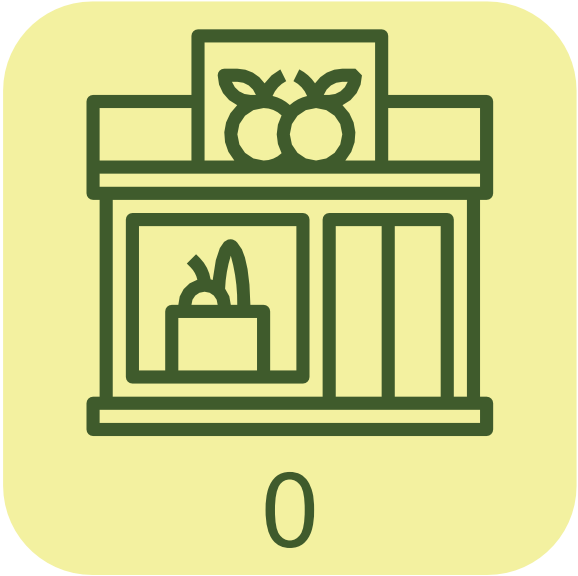
Residents are white collar workers



Households don't own a personal vehicle



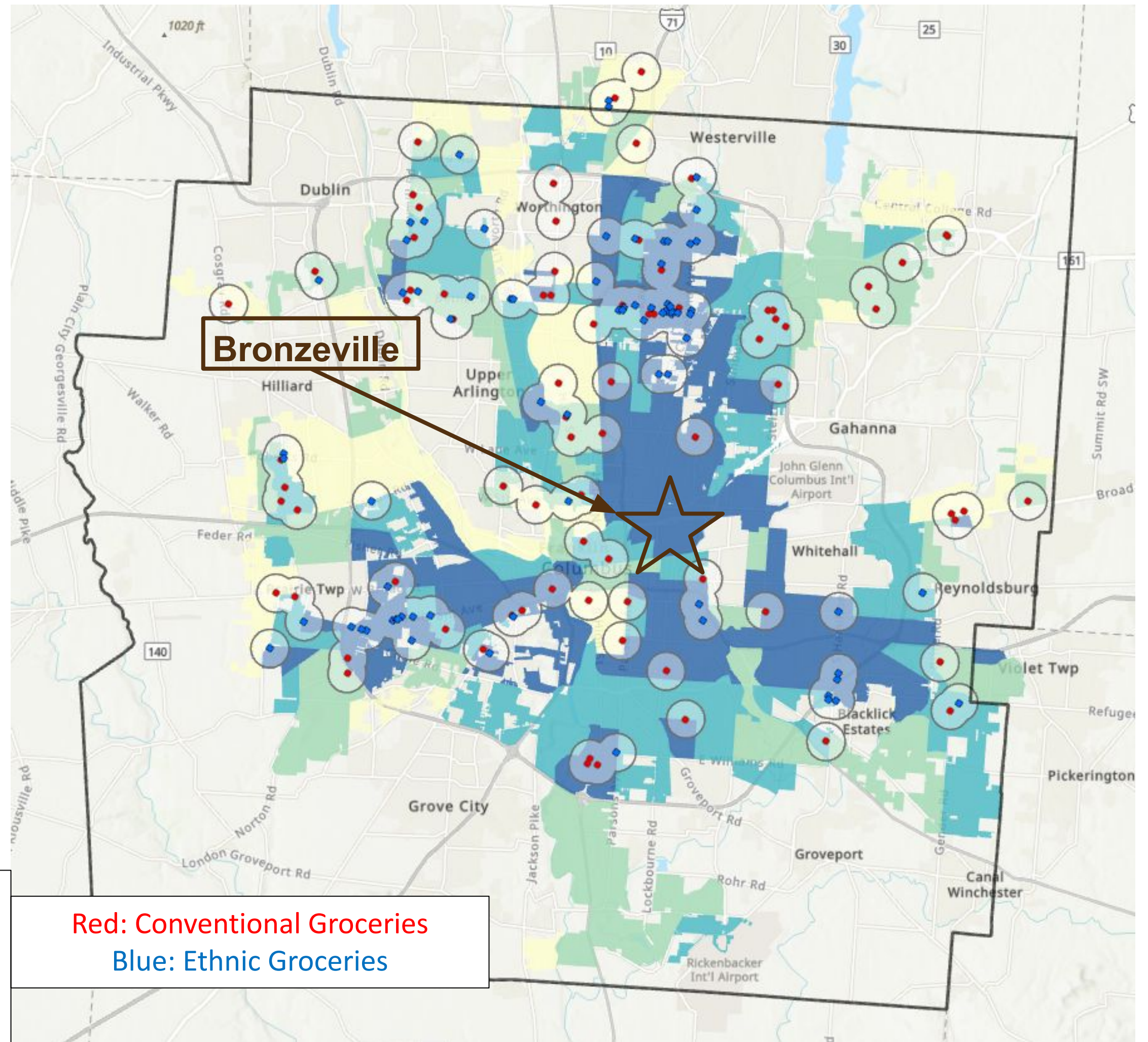
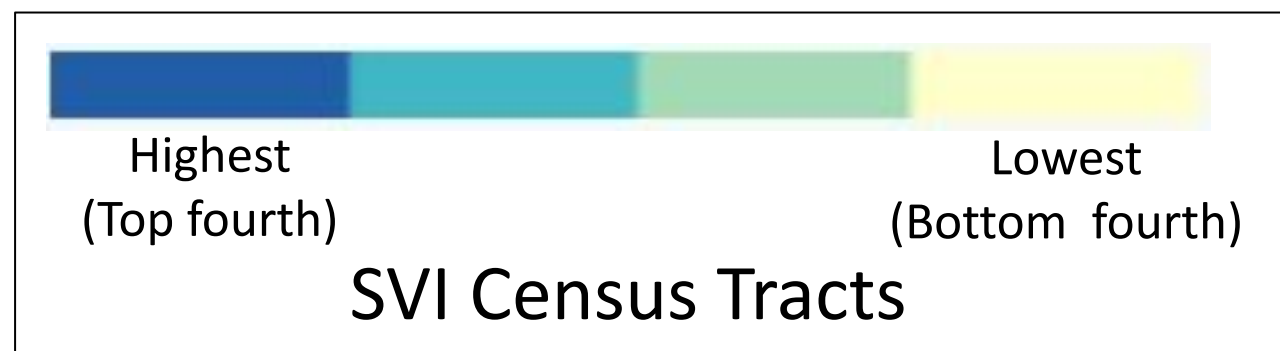
Spent annually at food and beverage stores by residents



Full-service grocery stores available within the Near East Side

Grocery Stores with Half-Mile Radius Buffers and Social Vulnerability

Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) refers to the socioeconomic factors (such as poverty, lack of access to transportation, and crowded housing) that adversely affect communities that encounter community-level stressors.



Alignment

- Goals of the Bronzeville Food Co-op align with:
 - City of Columbus, Department of Development
 - Neighborhood Revitalization
 - PACT Blueprint for Community Investment
 - NES Food Access Collaborative
 - Columbus and Franklin County Local Food Action Plan
 - Goal Area B-6
 - “Support grocery store and healthy food retail location and expansion in neighborhoods with low access”



GOAL A: Enhance coordination and communication among existing food resources and agencies.

At the city and county level, coordinated support is needed to improve how people access food, grow food, learn about food and prevent food waste. A collaborative approach is required to ensure these issues are addressed across public departments, aiming for cooperation among similar efforts. Increased collaboration will benefit community programs, neighborhood efforts and cross-county networking while ensuring that underserved residents have increased access to a wide range of services.

ACTIONS

A-1 Establish a Joint City and County Local Food Team and Advisory Group to coordinate the implementation of the Local Food Action Plan and connect to other food system initiatives

GOAL B: Improve access to and education about healthy food, affordable food and local food.

The following actions will improve the availability and affordability of healthy food and local food for all residents while providing them skills to feed themselves and their families. These actions represent a variety of solutions to expand and improve programs that have been tested in our community and around the country.



ACTIONS

B-1 Prioritize access to healthy, affordable food sources in transit system infrastructure and planning efforts

B-2 Expand the availability of training and tools to help small food retail locations become reliable places for healthy, affordable and local food

B-3 Establish a formal farmers market management collaborative serving the City of Columbus and Franklin County

B-4 Expand consumer access to local healthy food purchasing incentives

B-5 Grow capacity and enhance viability of civic agriculture to allow more residents to grow food for themselves and their neighbors

B-6 Support grocery store and healthy food retail location and expansion in neighborhoods with low access

B-7 Identify and implement mobile strategies that bring healthy, affordable and local food to residents

B-8 Public and institutional buyers adopt and implement food purchasing policies to support increased purchases of healthy and local food

B-9 Support the development of a comprehensive network of educational resources and infrastructure that connects residents with healthy, affordable and local food

B-10 Engage those most impacted by health disparities, including low-income, African American, Hispanic, New American and other underrepresented communities, in developing and implementing culturally appropriate food assistance, education, nutrition, gardening and cooking programs

B-11 Incorporate onsite nutrition education and counseling, shopping strategies and healthy food purchasing incentives at food retail

B-12 Support the expansion of nutrition and food system education in Pre-K-12 curricula

Support to-date

- Broad Street Presbyterian Church
 - OSU Medical Center
 - Fifth Third Bank /PACT
- City of Columbus/Dept of Development → Neighborhood Design Center
 - Kelley Companies
- City of Columbus / Councilmember Wyche

Other funding opportunities

- Support from The Columbus Foundation
- Grants: CDBG, Healthy Food Financing Initiative
 - Membership sales
 - New Market Tax Credits
 - Capital Campaign

Future partnerships

- One Linden Cooperative, FoodLeads, Hunger Helper, Aveneu, Neighborhood House

Timeline

- Community leaders advocated for food access on the Near East Side - met with residents and partners to rally around the cause and build momentum

2018-2022

- Established a business entity, continued outreach with the community, began fundraising, developed pro forma financial analysis

2025

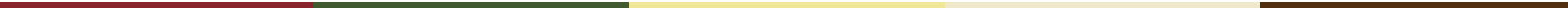


2023- 2024

- Launch of Steering Committee
- Columbus Public Health Undesign the Redline project - created food desert map
- Co-op grocery store identified as the preferred business model
- Concluded a community survey with 956 responses

2026

- Next steps: Continue planning and predevelopment activities, including site selection and business plan development

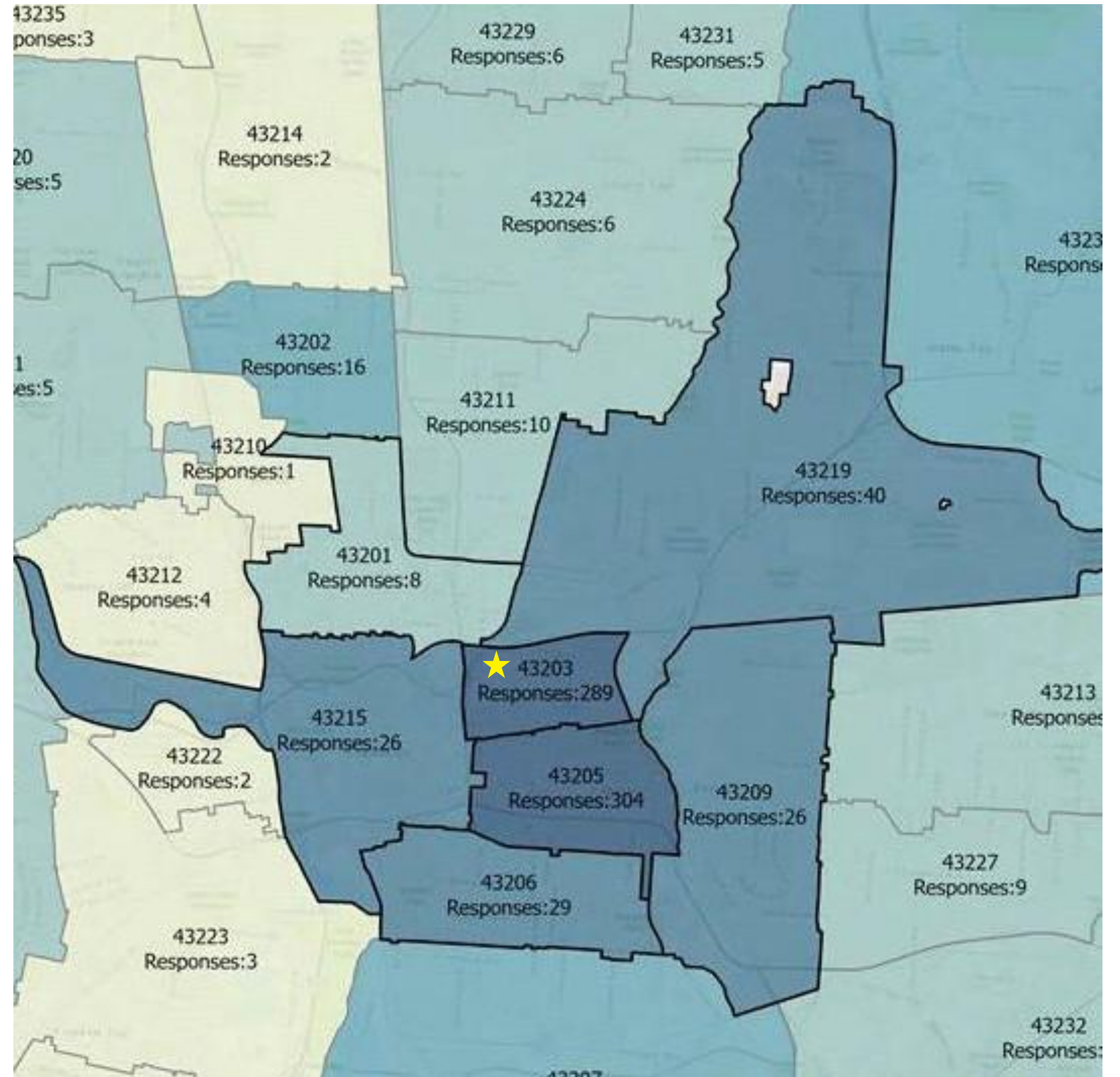


*Community
Outreach &
Interest*



The Survey

- 956 responses to the survey from 53 zip codes across Columbus
- Responses were separated into three categories to better understand how survey participants answered questions based on where they live
- Much of the following analysis will focus on responses from NES Service Area respondents as, given their geographic proximity, are most likely to utilize a Bronzeville co-op

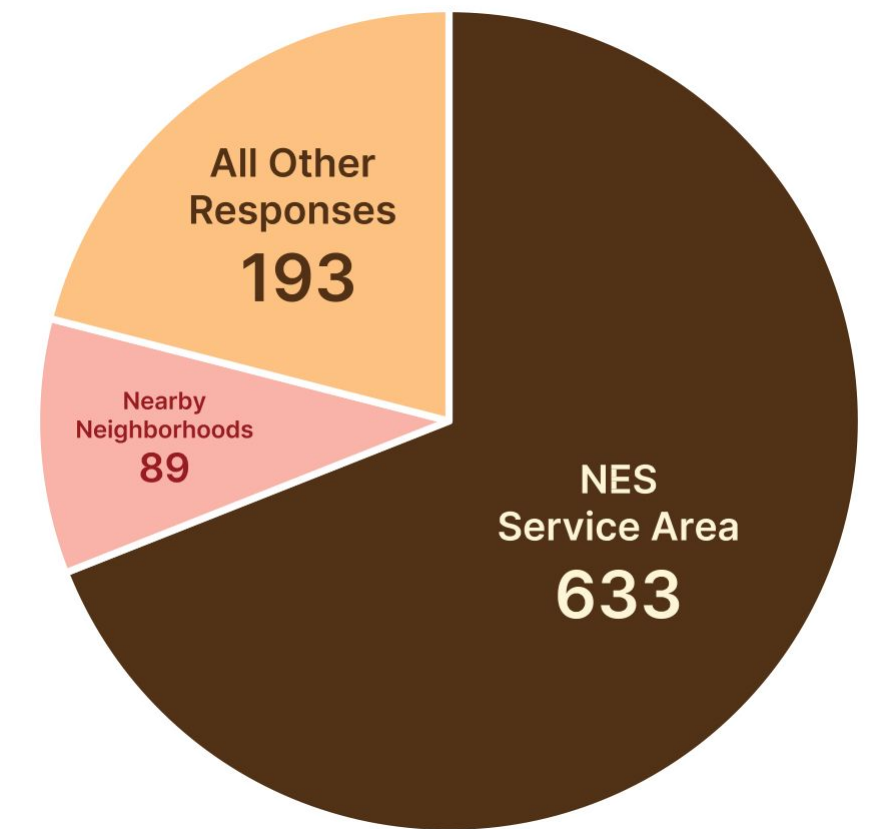


Who Participated?

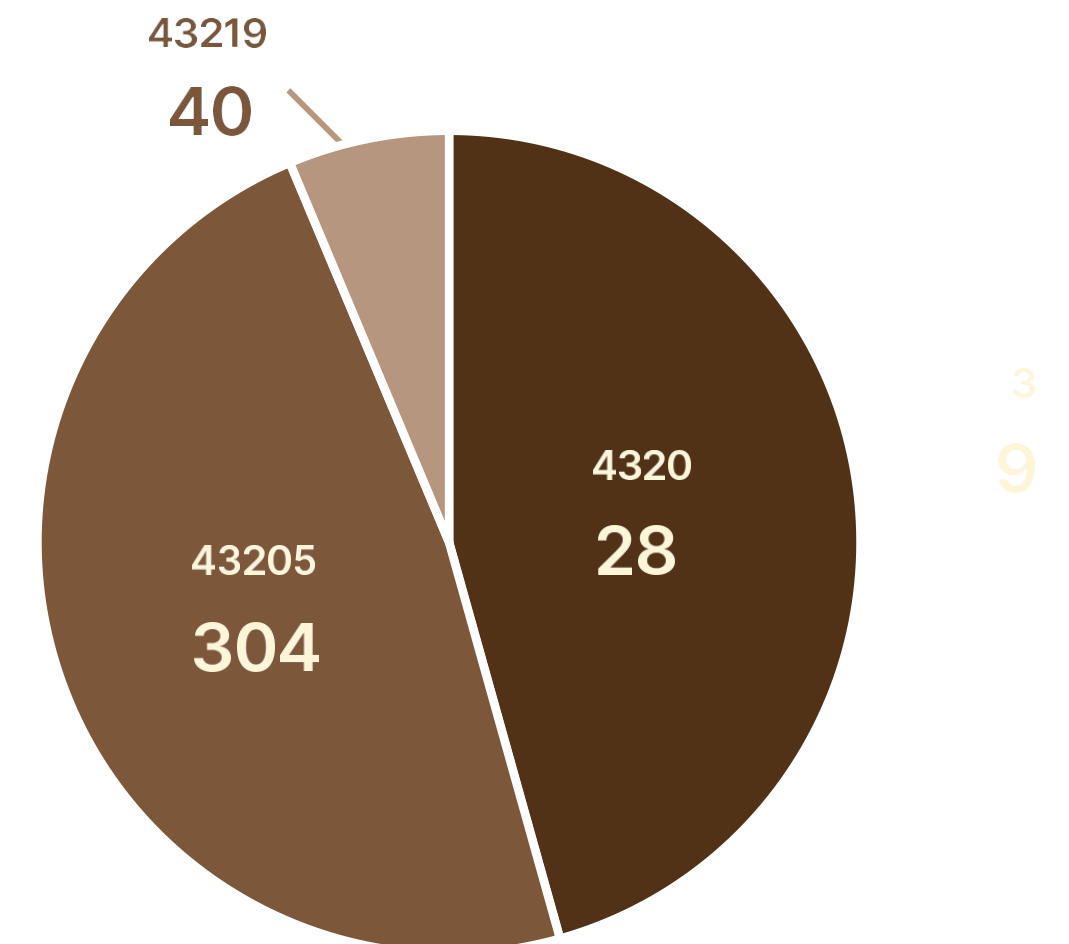
- The majority (66%) of the responses were received from the NES Service Area
- The NES Service Area zip codes (43203, 43205, and 43219) received the most responses as shown below
- No other zip code received more than 30 responses.

NES Service Area	Nearby Neighborhoods	Additional Neighborhoods
43203 (Bronzeville / Woodland Park)	43201 (Short North / Milo-Grogan)	All other zip codes
43205 (Olde Towne East / Franklin Park / South of Main)	43206 (South Side / Driving Park)	
43219 (Eastgate)	43209 (Bexley)	
	43215 (Downtown)	

ALL RESPONSES



NEAR EAST SIDE RESPONSES

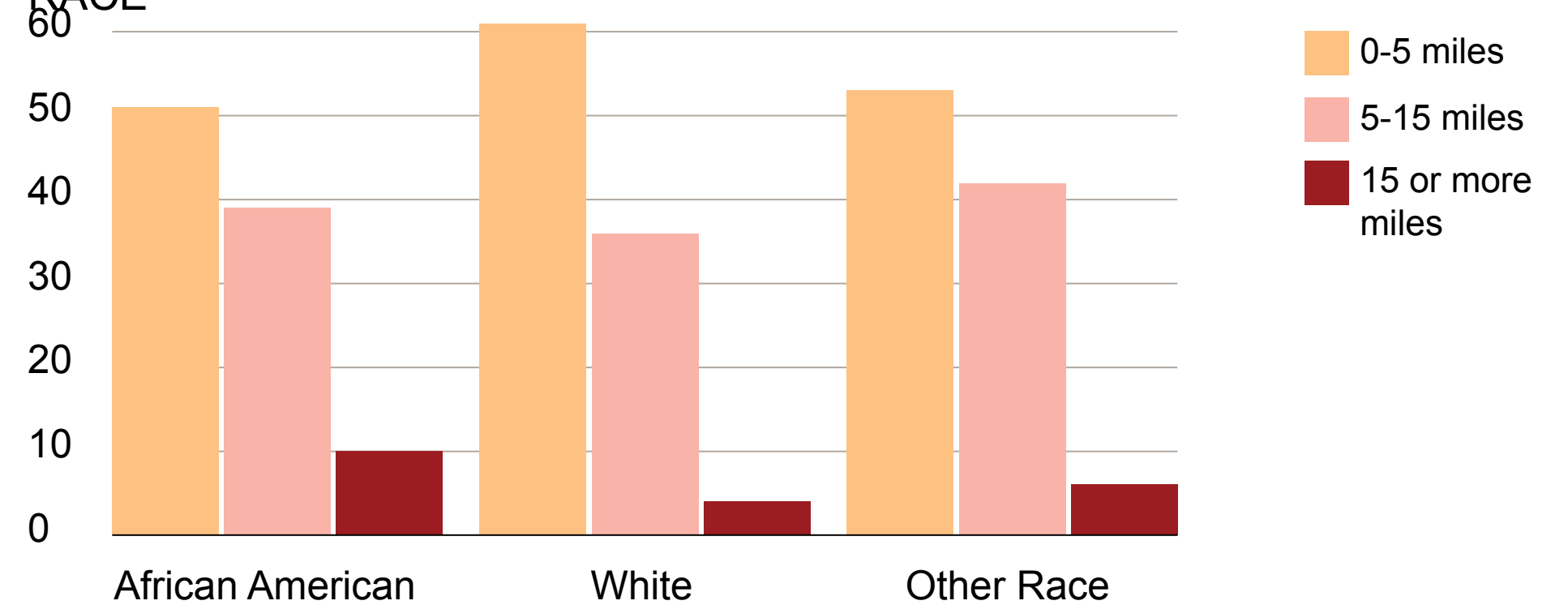


Survey insights

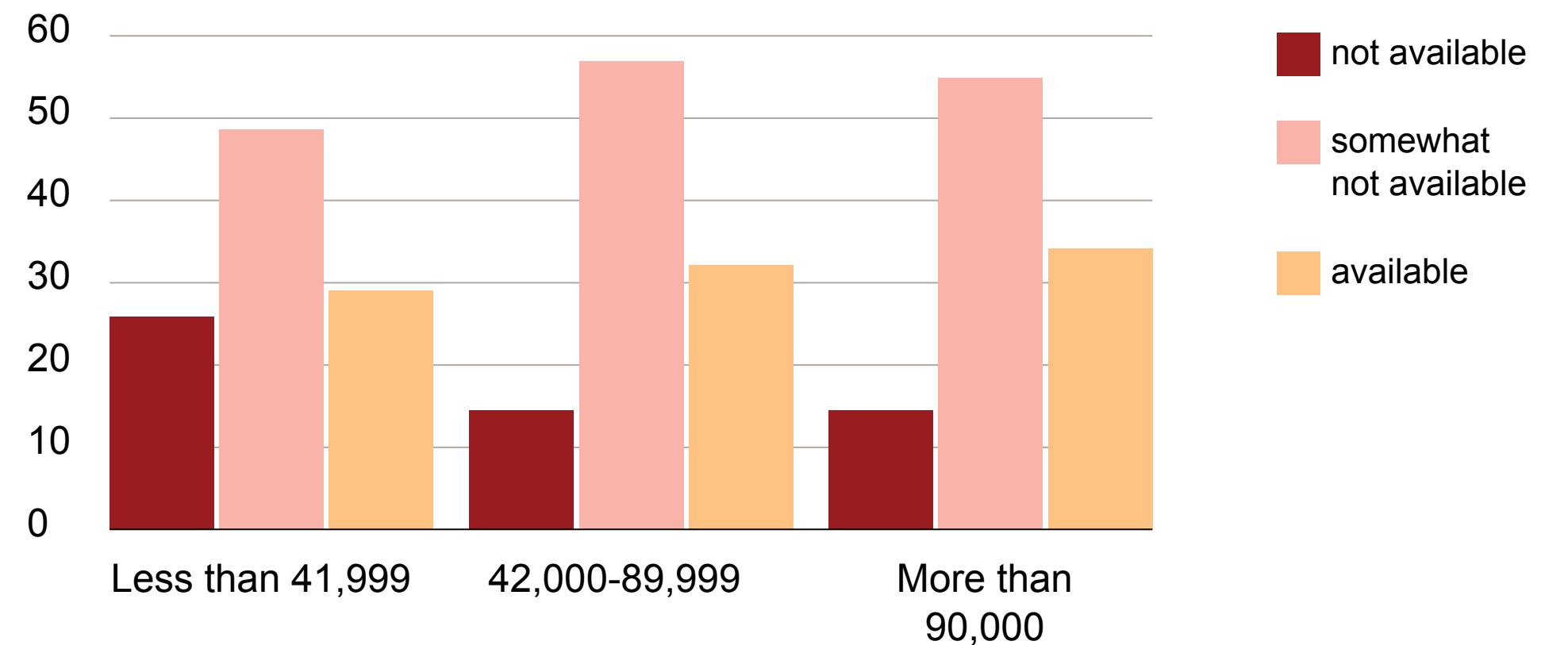
Key findings include:

- **79%** reported low or no availability of fresh produce
- **76%** travel more than 3 miles to shop for groceries
- **67%** are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with current grocery options
- **94%** are interested in shopping at the co-op; **81%** want to become members
- **97%** want the co-op to support local farmers and growers; **96%** want it to support the broader community

ACCESS TO FRESH PRODUCE BY RACE

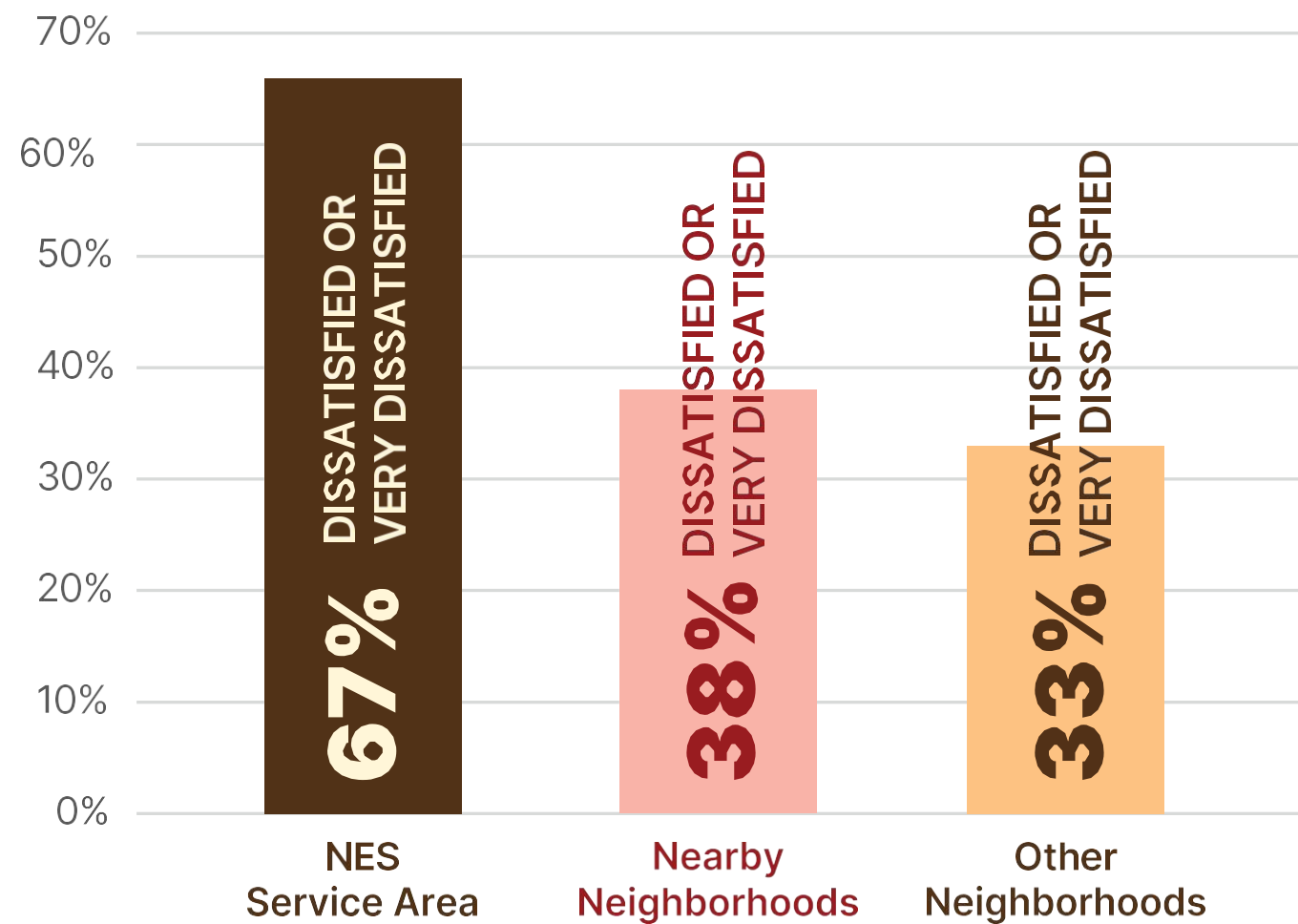


ACCESS TO FRESH PRODUCE BY INCOME

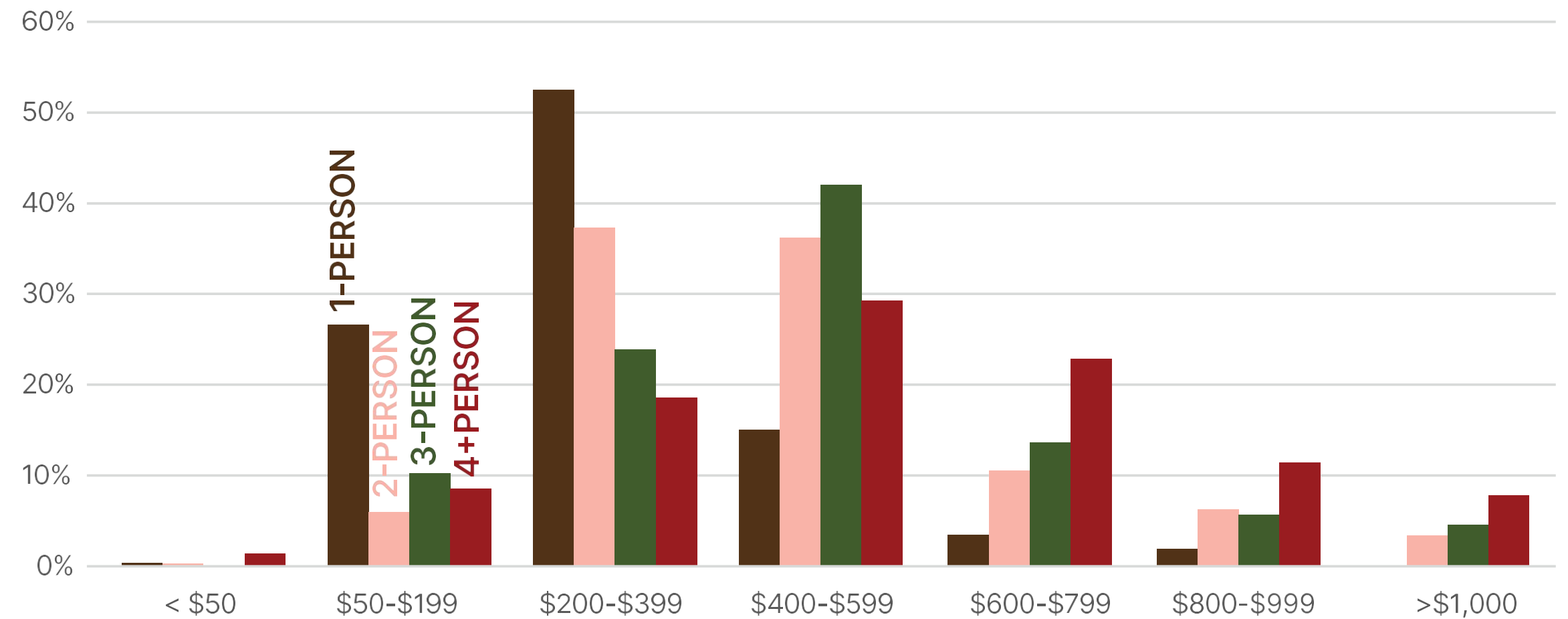


Satisfaction with Current Grocery Options

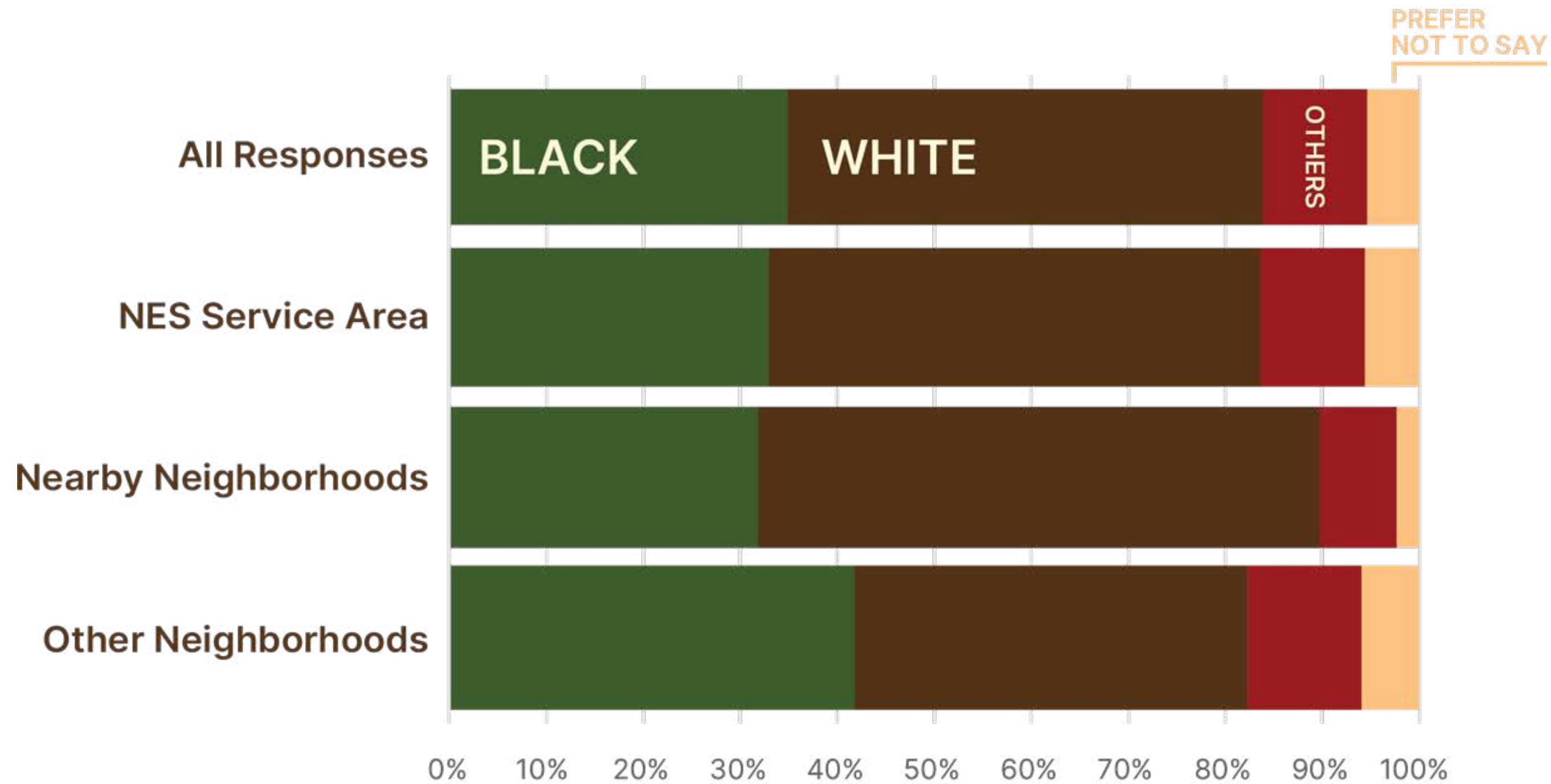
- 67% of NES Service Area respondents indicated dissatisfaction with their current grocery options while only 10% indicated satisfaction.



MONTHLY SPENDING ON GROCERIES



Response by race and ethnicity



“It would aid in healthy revitalization of the area, involving that community and being done with the community in mind. It helps support local & small brands and brings unification and hopefully a lifelong resource to that area”

- Resident

“Every co - op is unique if it is based on community. This is a Black Community that needs healthy foods. It would be the first of its kinds in Columbus which would be a powerful statement for the city.”

- Resident

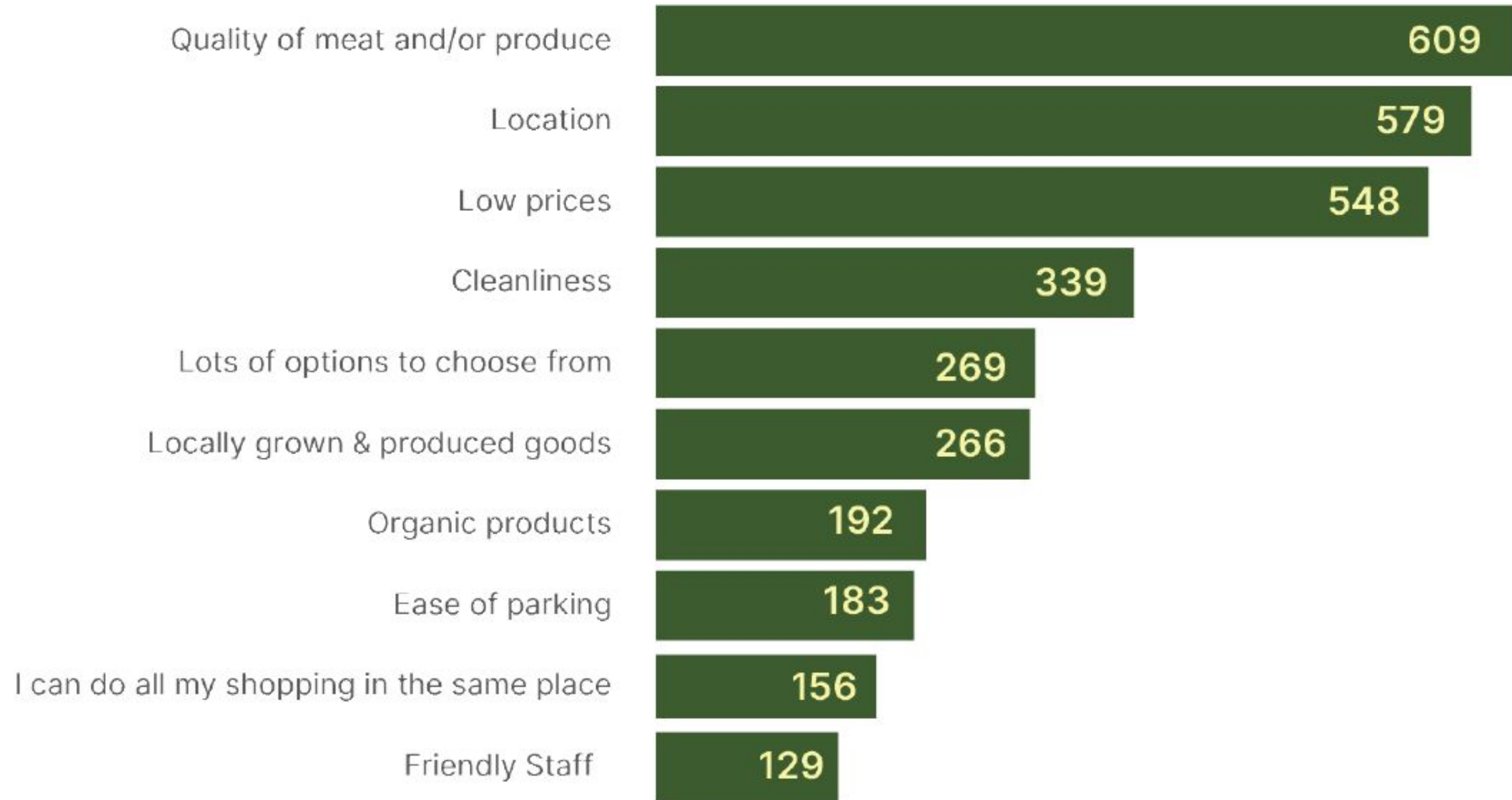
“Cultural references, owned and operated by community members, ability to offer internships or jobs to local students and community members.”

- Resident

Grocery Preference



Top 10 Responses for all responses

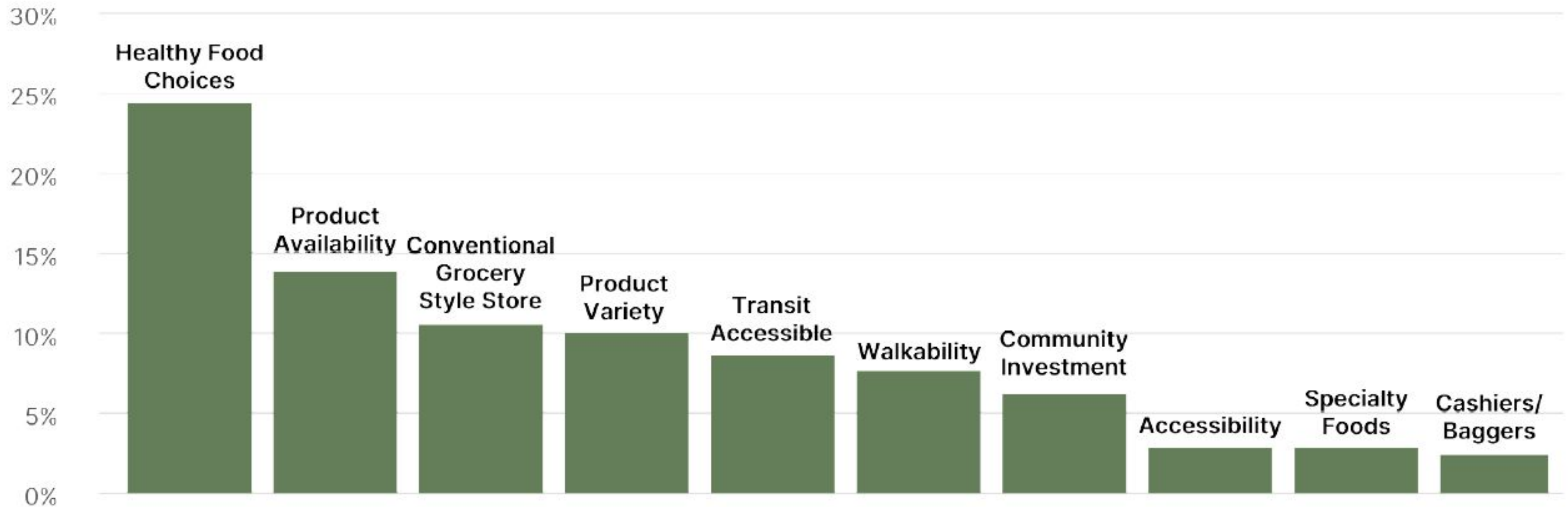


Grocery Preference



Almost one in four respondents consider healthy food choices to be a top shopping need.

Is there anything else we should keep in mind when planning our grocery co-op?



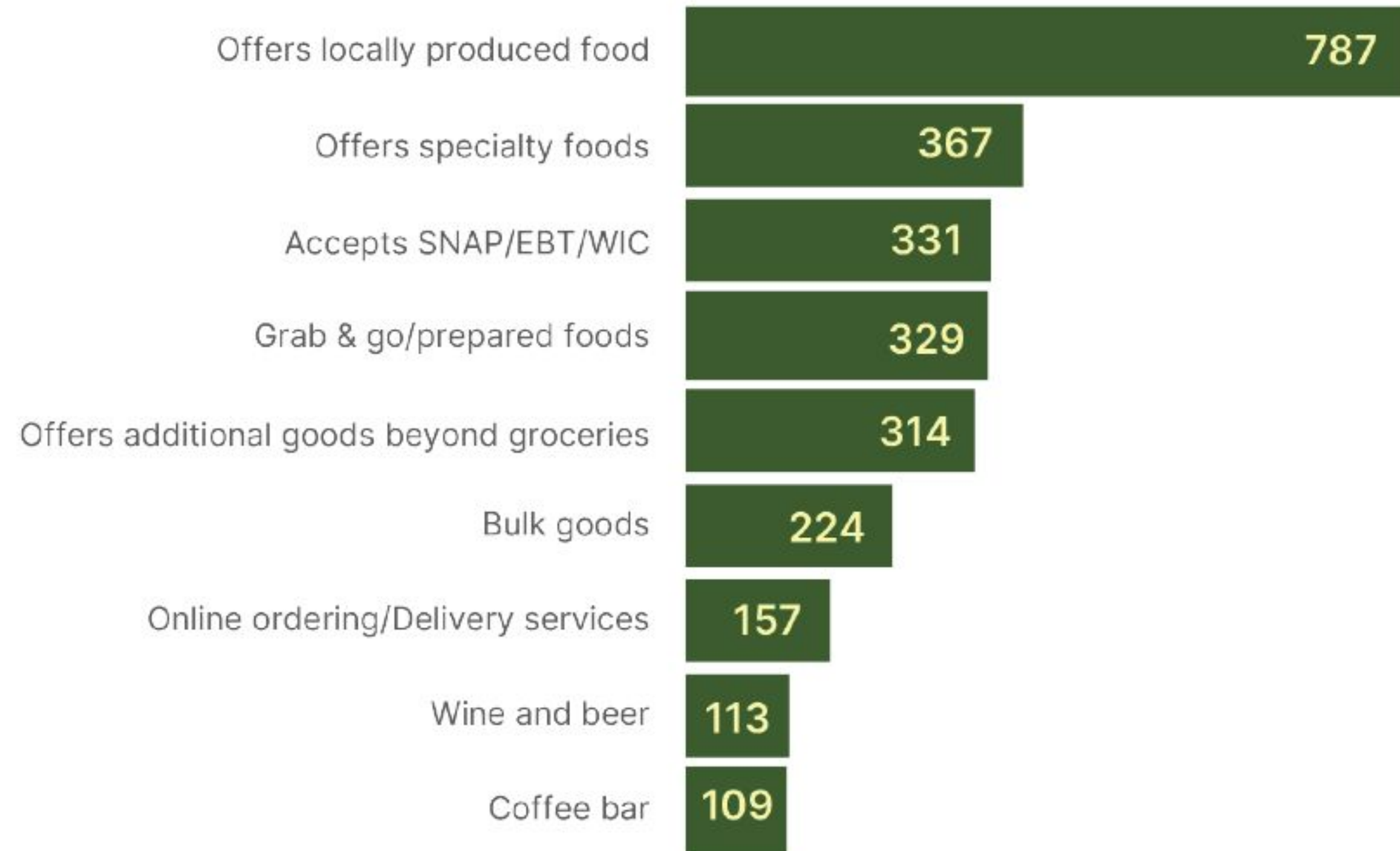
Grocery Preference

26% of respondents want a Bronzeville grocery co-op to offer locally produced food

Responses were generally consistent across demographics. The only major variation is by demographics for accepting SNAP/EBT/WIC, with 21% of respondents with incomes less than \$30,000 in favor compared to 7% for incomes of \$150,000 or more.



Rank for all responses



Grocery Preference



Affordability and community investment are a top concern for respondents

Things to keep in mind when planning the co-op

Rank	Theme	Percent
1	Affordability	16%
2	Representative of Community	8%
3	Clean/Safe Environment	7%
4	Accessibility	5%
4	Parking	5%
5	Accessible Hours	4%
5	Central Location	4%
6	Bike/Ped/Transit Friendly	4%
7	Community Resources/Services	3%
8	Community Gathering Space	3%

What else would make the food co-op unique?

Rank	Theme	Count
1	Community Investment	87
2	Location	70
3	Affordable	59
4	Local Products	59
5	Highlight Neighborhood History and Culture	38
6	Addresses Food Inequality	27
7	Events/Programs	26
8	Accessible Location	21
9	Product Variety	20
10	Community Gathering Space	18%



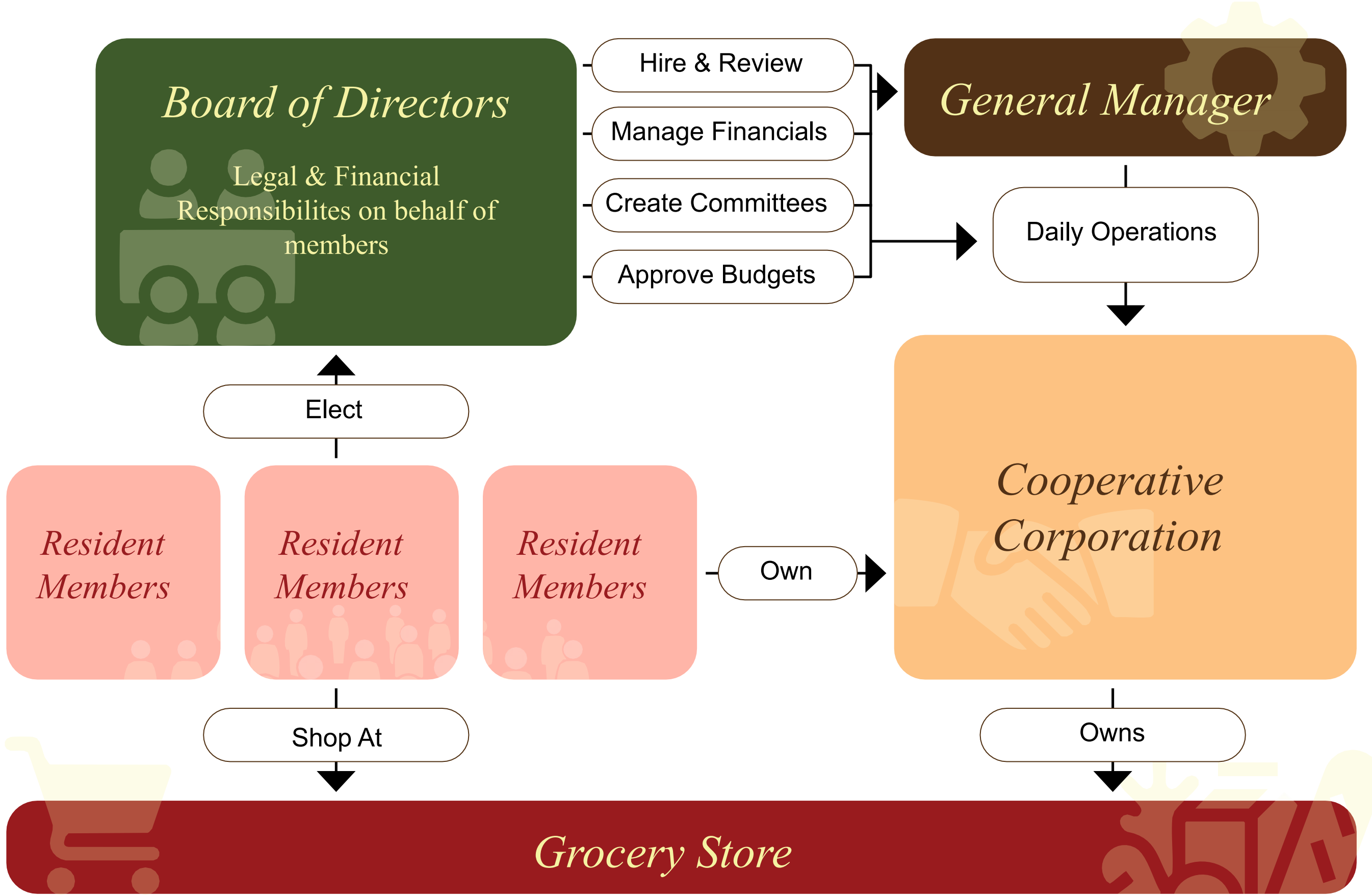
*Co-op Model &
Vision*



Bronzeville Co-op Mission

Empower the community through a cooperative model that offers affordable, nutritious food while enhancing community interaction and ownership.

Co-op Organizational Chart



Key Goals

The co-op's key goals are to:

- Offer affordable, wholesome food
- Design an inviting full-service grocery store layout
- Create a local food economy supporting local farmers and producers
- Develop the store as a community gathering place
- Establish a welcoming environment that fosters community
- Provide educational opportunities on nutrition and cooperative principles
- Celebrate Bronzeville's culture and history
- Serve as a platform for broader community collaborations



Why a grocery co-op?

1.	Affordable, Nutritious Food: Consistent options accepting SNAP/EBT and WIC benefits.
2.	Local Economic Growth: Community-owned business creating jobs and supporting local farmers.
3.	Healthier, Sustainable Choices: Focus on healthier food and sustainable practices.
4.	Community Empowerment: Residents have a direct stake in their local food system.

Key features of the proposed co-op

Locally Sourced Foods	Fresh, organic produce, dairy, and meats from local farms. 97% of survey respondents want to support local farmers.
Affordable and Accessible	Co-op offers competitive prices and accepts SNAP and WIC. 14% of survey respondents use SNAP/EBT and/or WIC.
Community Ownership and Governance	Member-owners participate in co-op operations. 40% of survey respondents interested in governance.
Volunteer Opportunities	Community members volunteer, fostering ownership and investment. 58% of survey respondents want to volunteer.
Public Transportation and Local Access	Easily accessible via public transportation. 20% of survey respondents do not own a car.

Updates



Key Achievements

- Received the *Cooperative Force Award* at the Up & Coming Food Co-op Conference.
 - Completed survey and analysis.
 - Asked by FCI to lead 3 sessions helping other co-ops learn from our engagement.
 - Over 500 volunteers interested.
 - Launched the official website, social media, and newsletter.
 - Tabled over 20 local events.
 - Grew our subscriptions to the newsletter to over 1300.
 - Onboarded over 30 volunteers.
 - Completed 2 market studies and an initial proforma to inform financial feasibility.
 - Officially incorporated the business with the State of Ohio and secured a fiscal sponsor to support financial stewardship.
 - Raised over \$5000 in 2 months to support early development cost.
 - Received \$100,000 grant from CM Wyche and Columbus City Council.
 - Retreat
-



Current Co-op Committee Structure

****Bronzeville Co-op Board****
- Meets monthly

(STEERING) CO-OP COMMITTEE:
- Meets quarterly

Outreach

Governance

Development

Survey Taskforce

Bylaws/Board Taskforce

Market Study Taskforce

**** Advisory Council****

Project Management and Coordination
~ **Planning Team** ~

Bronzeville Food Co-op: Profit & Loss Statement

Revenue	Amount	Notes
In-Kind Donations - Labor	\$105,000.00	Steering Committee, NDC
Cash Contribution - PACT	\$15,000.00	
Cash Contribution - Kelley Cos	\$15,000.00	
Cash Contribution - OSU	\$11,500.00	
Cash Contribution - Broadstreet Presbyte	\$2,200.00	
Fundraising - Gratitude Gathering, GiveM	\$6,335.00	
Grant - Neighborhood Community Revita	\$7,500.00	Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) Services
Total Revenue & Gains	\$162,535.00	

Expenses	Amount	Notes
Market Studies	\$11,000.00	AWG, Keith Wicks
Pro Forma	\$7,500.00	Columinate
Architecture, Design and Land Planning	\$15,500.00	Realm Collaborative, Paul Kelley Design Co., NDC
Graphic Design	\$12,500.00	NDC- survey and pitch package
Outreach Materials	\$7,500.00	Postcards, hotcards, tabling supplies
Labor - In Kind (all)	\$100,000.00	Steering Committee labor
Food Coop Initiative Conference	\$500.00	Travel
Total Expenses	\$154,500.00	

Upcoming Expenses (Anticipated)

DEVELOPMENT WORKGROUP

- **Development Consultant (MK Lindsey, Winter Wheat)**
 - **\$2250 for Project Management**
 - **\$5000 (Site & Project President Research + Business Planning)**

OUTREACH WORKGROUP

- **\$1000 T-shirts for volunteers and sales**
- **\$1000 Website Maintenance**
- **\$600 tabling supplies**

GOVERNANCE WORKGROUP

- **Governance Consultant (Leslie Watson, CDS)**
 - **\$85/hr (1-2hrs per month)**
 - **as needed**

2025-2026 Fundraising Goal

Category	Item	Estimated Cost
Personnel	Project Manager	\$100,000
Contracted Services		\$130,000
	Co-op training & technical assistance	\$10,000
	Business planning & financial modeling	\$25,000
	Architectural site design	\$50,000
	Marketing & graphic design	\$15,000
	Legal fees	\$30,000
Direct Costs		\$30,000
Total		\$260,000

of owners needed

Steps to Opening our Store

When will the co-op finally open?

Well, that depends on you!
Every stage requires a minimum number of owners to move forward. **Without owners, there will be no co-op.**

Make [Co-op Name Here] a reality:
Become an owner today and tell your friends, too!

2000
1900
1800
1700
1600
1500
1400
1300
1200
1100
1000
900
800
700
600

Stage 2(a) Feasibility

- Financial proforma created
- Assess community capacity
- Double ownership from stage 1
- Board votes on store feasibility

Stage 2(b) Planning

- Announce selected site
- Conduct owner loan drive
- Select contractor
- Secure all financing
- Finalize store design
- Setup vendor relationships

Stage 3(a) Pre-Construction

- Evaluate potential sites/update market study
- Secure selected site with contingencies
- Apply for grants and secure any bank lending needed
- Complete plans for Owner Loan drive
- General Manager search

- Kick off and complete construction
- GM to hire/train staff
- Install equipment
- Order and stock inventory
- Celebrate store opening!

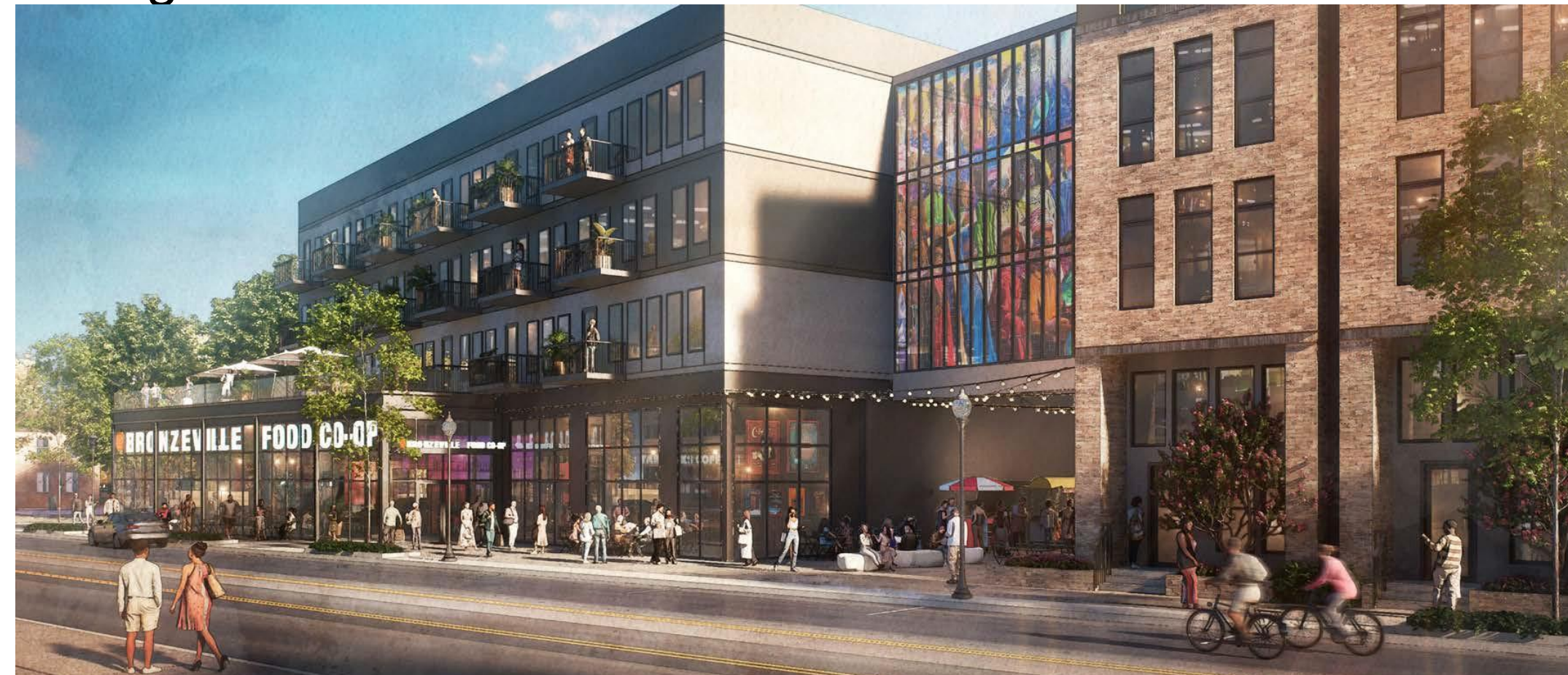
Stage 3(b & c) Construction & prep for open

Future Work



Looking Ahead

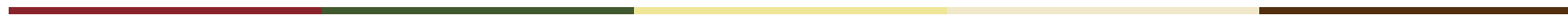
- Applied for The Columbus Foundation Neighborhood Grant.
- Finalize bylaws and establish the Founding Board of Directors.
- Hire a part-time project manager to coordinate daily operations and planning.
- Conduct a feasibility study and site analysis to identify a viable store location.
- Develop a comprehensive business plan, including planning and build-out cost.
- Build partnerships with local farmers and vendors.
- Expand community education and outreach, ensuring ongoing resident input and ownership.



Potential “Farm Stop” Model

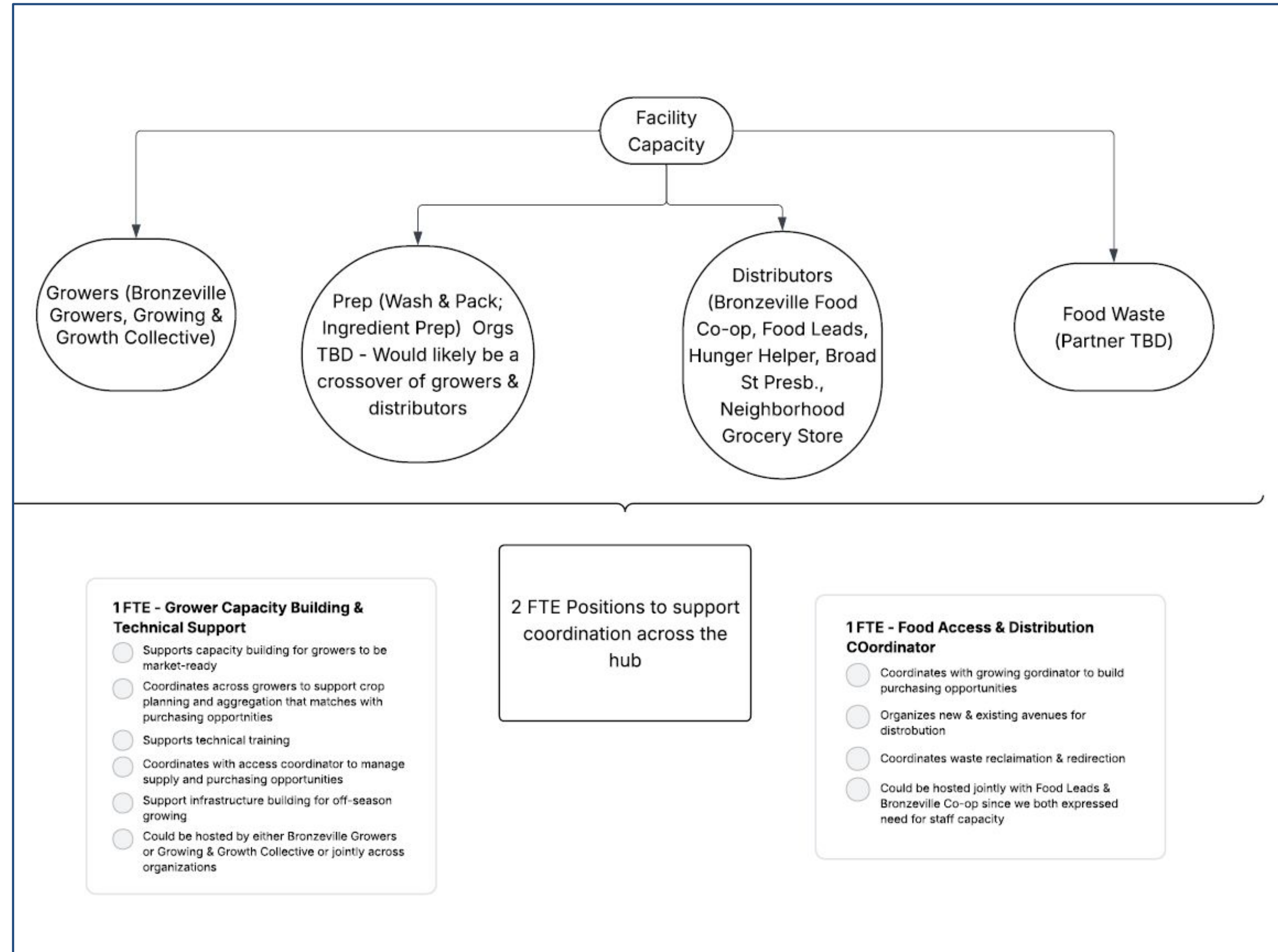
“Farm Stops are year-round every-day markets that support small-scale farmers and strengthen local and regional food systems. They do so more often by operating on a consignment model, which gives producers a fair price, flexibility with their time and products, and provides more direct connections with consumers.”

Kathryn Barr , author of “How to Start a Farm Stop”



Potential “Food Hub” Model

Bringing together partners across the Near East Side community, and connecting the food access dots:



Thank you!!

