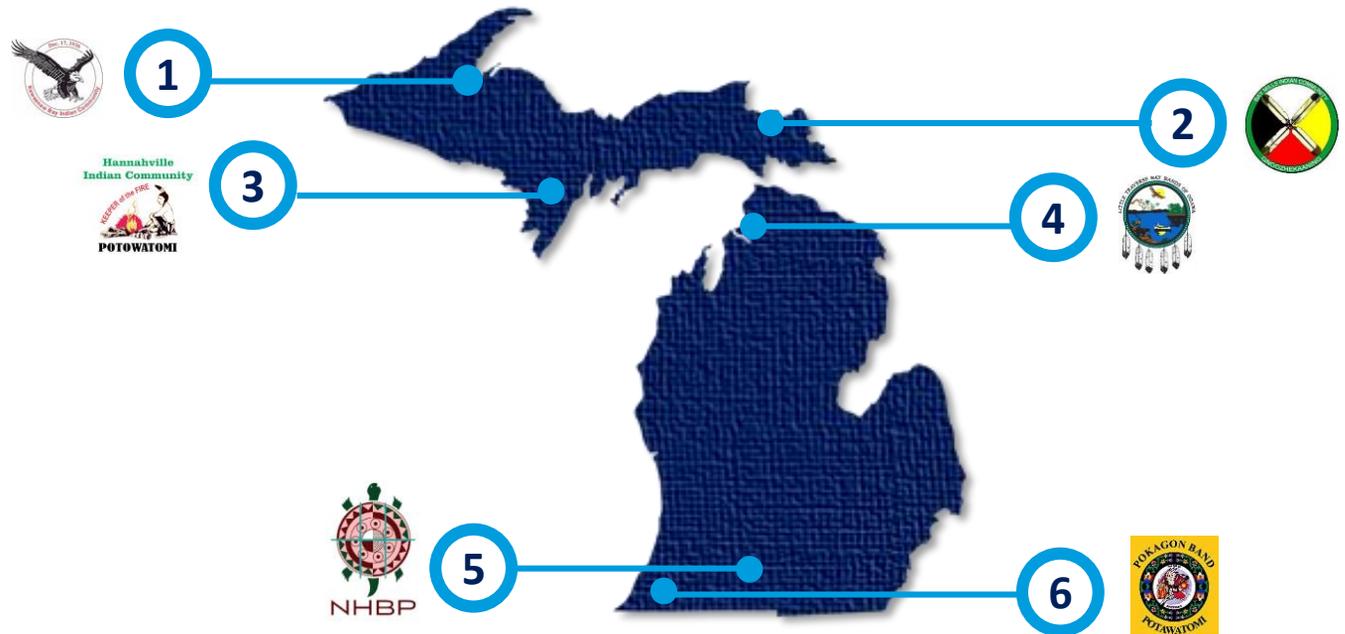


Community Food Resource Assessments

Michigan Tribal Food Access Collaborative

In October 2017, six tribes in Michigan completed Community Food Resource Assessments to identify resources and access points for healthy food in their community. This analysis reflects the resources and access points communities identified and may not represent every resource in these locations. The assessment and the analysis in this report are designed to help the Michigan Tribal Food Access Collaborative better understand the variety, availability, and accessibility of healthy foods where community members most often shop, grow, or receive food.



1

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, a federally recognized tribe, is located in two sections on either side of the Keweenaw Bay in Baraga County, Michigan. The community is home to 1,107 members.

2

Bay Mills Indian Community

Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC), a federally recognized tribe, located along the Lake Superior shoreline in Michigan's eastern Upper Peninsula. The community is home to 2,057 people, around 195 individuals live in the community.

3

Hannahville Indian Community

The Hannahville Indian Community (HIC), a federally recognized Potawatomi Indian Tribe, is located in Michigan's western Upper Peninsula. Currently, HIC is home to 1,095 people, approximately 600 of whom reside on the reservation.

4

Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians

Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians (LTBBOI), is a federally recognized tribe in Emmet and Charlevoix Counties in northwest Michigan on Lake Michigan. Currently, LTBBOI is home to 4,000 members.

5

Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi tribe has a seven-county service area in southwest Michigan. Many community members live on the 129 acre reservation.

6

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi is home to 2,387 community members in southwest Michigan and northern Indiana.

SECTION 1: FOOD ACCESS AT A GLANCE

Through the Community Food Resource Assessment, the six participating communities identified a variety of food access points, resources, and services in their communities as important parts of their community food system. These access points and resources have been categorized as distributing, retail, growing, and eating. Some resources can be considered to be a part of multiple categories. The table below shows an overview of these reported parts of each community food system. As part of the assessment, tribes identified the intended recipient or customer for each resource, the number of people reached by the resource, the services offered by the resources, annual budget, and other details that may be helpful in planning future healthy food access related programs and services for the communities.

		BMIC	HIC	LTBBOI	PBP	NHBP	KBIC
Distributing	Commodities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Food Bank/Pantry	✓	✓				✓
Eating	Meal Distribution	✓			✓		✓
Retail	Grocer (chain)	✓			✓	✓	
	Grocer (local)						✓
	Convenience store			✓	✓	✓	
Growing	Farms/Gardens	✓		✓		✓	✓
	Farmer's Market	✓	✓	✓			✓
	Nutrition Prescription					✓	

Sector Definitions

Growing

Resources and access points in the growing sector connect community members with agriculture- either they have the opportunity to grow food themselves, or receive fresh foods directly from the source.

Distributing

Resources and access points in the distributing sector provide supplemental groceries to community members.

Eating

Resources and access points in the eating sector provide prepared meals to community members.

Retail

Resources and access points in the retail sector are locations where community members can buy food and groceries.

SECTION 2: ATMOSPHERE OF FOOD VENUES & FOOD ACCESS

To take a more in depth look at the main access points for food in their communities, collaborative members completed a profile for a selection of resources. These profiles help the Michigan Tribal Food Access Collaborative better understand the variety, availability, and accessibility of healthy foods where community members most often shop, and the environment of the venue. As part of these assessments, managers shared their experiences selling healthy and fresh food products. Among the eighteen sites, the following things were sold, advertised, or promoted:



Sell alcohol



Had ads for alcohol



Sell tobacco products



Had ads for tobacco



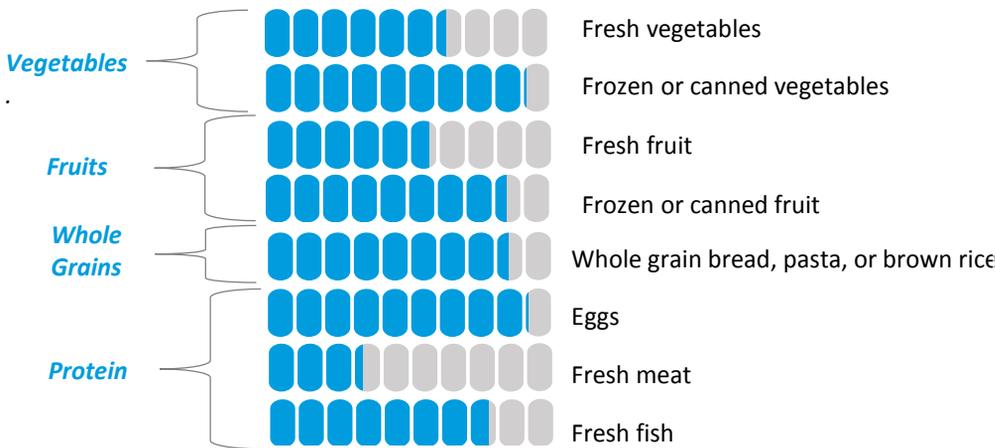
Promote healthy eating



Promote other healthy things

Availability of Food

Proportion of sites with **available** or **not available** food items



Selling Healthy Foods and Possible Partnership

In their interviews with collaborative members, the majority of store managers indicated they were interested in selling local foods. In fact, half of these locations already sell local foods. Healthy and fresh foods present a unique set of retail challenges though. Most managers felt frustrated storing or displaying fresh foods due to fast approaching expiration dates, limited retail space, limited storage equipment, and some cases perceived low interest from their clientele. Some managers expressed a need for more awareness, education, and resources for their customers about healthy and local foods and how to prepare them. Managers in charge of commodity distribution and food banks felt limited in their ability to sell local or fresh food due to policies and restrictions for their type of establishment.

These venues, identified as primary food access points for the community, are important parts of the community food systems involved in the collaborative. While many locations face challenges selling local, healthy food, managers of these locations are open to solutions. There may be opportunities for collaboration between the Michigan Tribal Food Access Collaborative and these access points in the future.

ABOUT THE MICHIGAN TRIBAL FOOD ACCESS COLLABORATIVE

In April 2017, six tribes came together, with funding from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, to form the Michigan Tribal Food Access Collaborative (MTFAC). The collaborative seeks to address nutrition related health disparities in tribal communities throughout the state, such as diabetes, heart disease, obesity and overweight. MTFAC focuses it's efforts on the needs of children ages 3-11, their families, and the nutrition resources they use. Through this two year grant, the collaborative aims to...

1. **Create a statewide Tribal Food Access Community of Learning**
2. **Increase the number of children ages 3-11 who are screened for BMI**
3. **Learn more about available community food resources and how community members use them**
4. **Increase food resources for community members**
5. **Increase availability of educational resources about child nutrition that include Native American Culture and Traditional Foods**

To reach these goals, MTFAC members completed a variety of activities in the first year of the collaborative:

- **Conducted community food resource assessments**
- **Participated in a social network analysis of community food systems**
- **Reviewed currently available BMI screening tools**
- **Reviewed currently available culturally tailored nutrition information**
- **Attended networking sessions about resources that can support healthy food access and use in their communities**

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