Social Justice in Sustainable Food Systems:
An Exploratory Analysis of Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

by

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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This thesis is dedicated to those who have found their voice and power in advancing a just and sustainable food system as well as those who have yet to claim it. May our collective work ignite imaginations, hearts, and minds to bring down the barriers of oppression and uplift just structures, processes, and institutions throughout the world we share together.

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ABSTRACT

Although poverty continues to escalate in the United States, funding to address structural inequalities in our food system remains limited in relation to efforts to address production, marketing and consumption, as well as individual diet and nutrition education. To date, there is insufficient analysis on why this is so. At best, reports on funding food systems have measured how there has been a general increase in supporting sustainable food and agriculture, however the intersections of justice within sustainable food systems is not entirely clear. This exploratory thesis examines social justice definitions and priorities as well as the role of funding across private and public sources in food and agriculture. I utilize mixed methods, including content analysis, literature reviews, and surveys with a handful of key thought leaders to better understand the discourse and practices of social justice in the food system. Lastly, this project explores opportunities to shift funding mechanisms and organizational efforts toward advancing social justice programming and research within our food system.

Keywords: food justice, food security, food sovereignty, philanthropy, social justice, sustainable agriculture, sustainable food, and social change.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Today we are at a critical juncture where historically excluded and vulnerable communities continue to experience exploitation alongside counter efforts to build just and alternative structures within the US food and agriculture system. From conventional fields of labor to communities barely treading above a backdrop of multi-generational poverty, advocacy organizations, allied academics and some funders are examining what type of solutions can serve to increase justice for those most adversely impact by our contemporary food system and society. With the need for increased funding to undertake practical social justice projects as well as academic inquiry to advance critical reflection increasing advocates and researchers have a central role in shaping the future of a more just and sustainable food system for all. Within both public and private funding there exist forces that shape priorities and limit others. From how private capital flows and is governed for grant making to historic forces that influence USDA funded research and education projects social justice inquiry has faced a struggle to persevere amidst technological and economic projects. While both private and public funding sources have introduced social justice oriented grant making opportunities, the resources remain relatively scarce considering the degree of need and interest.

This thesis illustrates how practitioners and funders pursue social justice efforts in our domestic food system. For more than a decade I have worked on food-systems projects, primarily funded by public and private grants. Part of this work has involved participating in funder and practitioner directed gatherings exploring the intersections of food, justice, and community. Through the development, management, and reporting of grants as well as program coordination, I draw from this experience and look to better understand the issues that have challenged efforts to increase a just food system for all.

While government funding and philanthropy has increased support for food system projects addressing food insecurity, organic farming systems, urban gardening, and food literacy, the degree to which these efforts intersect and advance social justice requires further examination. The reason for this is that efforts to enact social justice fall across a continuum of change. At the most conservative end of the spectrum there are a multitude of charity based projects serving to fill the shelves of food banks as well as provide mini garden grants for underserved urban environments to encourage vulnerable communities to eat healthy food. Conversely, on the other end of the spectrum there are fewer examples of progressive and transformative efforts that contest the foundational structures of oppression and introduce new forms of policy, governance, and economics. While some sustainable food system projects such as buy local campaigns, urban agriculture, and farmers markets may address issues of social justice in some measure they may also reinforce inequalities and problems inherent in our current food system rather then addressing underlying structural issues. This research will include an examination of the types of food system frameworks employed in non-profit organizational coalitions and projects that are working toward advancing social justice. Further, this inquiry will provide further understanding of the discursive elements that contribute to a deeper shade of social justice in practice.

At present, regional to large-scale efforts are being led and supported by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) attempting to tackle problems from the field to the fork. Contrary to food system romantic imaginaries of small farmers nestled in tranquil rural landscapes of abundance as well as notions of vibrant urban fresh markets, the reality is far less promising for those living in poverty, harvesting food for the American table. In the tomato fields of Immokalee, Florida seven modern day abject slavery cases were prosecuted as workers rise to challenge conditions reminiscent of nineteenth century servitudes of the south with a national movement for fair food through the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (Estabrook, 2011). In the heartland of America, the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network cultivates an alliance of women of color led urban farmers to challenge the fringe corner store market environment that pervades their communities with unhealthy food options. In addition to growing healthy food, these urban farmer educators are simultaneously raising attention to ownership and the built environment as current corner store proprietorship lacks representation of the demographics of those living within neighborhoods in Detroit (White, 2011). In addition to private philanthropy national sustainable food system initiatives look in part, to funding and resources from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to advance efforts from research to program implementation. While the USDA may serve as the seminal agency to fund research and practice to improve our agrifood system, resources for projects centered on social justice are limited.

The history of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has supported policy and funding toward large-scale industry growth, financing technologically driven projects and infrastructure. The benefits of consolidation and increased capital investment in agriculture facilitated through USDA support reflects a priority of agricultural advancement catering to the concentration in ownership and agriculture businesses above the welfare of labor, landscapes, and communities (Allen, 2004, Heffernan, 2000). As social justice needs extend beyond farmer and enterprise priorities in USDA to the needs of labor and vulnerable populations several private foundations have increased their role in supporting non-profit organizational efforts pursuing a range of justice related projects.

While some progressive foundations priorities dimensions of social justice in the food system private philanthropy in America continues to more broadly advance conservative and neoliberal based grant making over more transformative efforts. With successful titans of industry establishing massive foundations further understanding the complementary relationship of capitalism to philanthropy serves to situate why barriers to increased social justice funding persist.

This thesis combines critical food studies scholars' textual contributions and NGO leaders' perspectives on social justice definitions, priorities, and projects. It also discusses the ways in which social justice work in the food system is both enabled and constrained by funding availability, given the centrality of funders to vary resources across different entities undertaking social justice work. My exploratory research investigates the conceptualization of social justice within NGOs and funding agencies in order to understand their priorities so that their role in transforming the food system is better understood. My primary questions are:

- How do US government, private philanthropy, and movement actors define social justice in our food system; and,
- In what ways are social justice efforts in our food system *enabled and constrained through funding?*

This research calls attention to the conceptual spectrum of approaching social justice in our food system. The social intent of my scholarship is to better understand the ways that social justice is defined in the food system across stakeholders and further, how current funding sources are advancing social justice in order to help practitioners and philanthropists consider effective strategies to advance a praxis of change grounded in social justice. My thesis will begin with a review of current food system and alternative food projects as well as how philanthropic channels have emerged and their role in supporting food system change. I will then utilize content analysis through a review of online website materials and literature across publications to assess what ways funding programs limit, reinforce, and/or advance certain aspects of social justice. My research questions will draw from the literature review and a survey of NGO leaders to serve as the basis of my results and analysis. In the discussion I will explore three key areas for advancing social justice through developing a shared lexicon engaging multiple food system frameworks, inroads toward creating more responsive foundation environment, and future research questions and directions.

Chapter 2

Background and Significance

With concentration of power, hunger, and inequality growing domestically and globally within our agrifood system, the paradox of wealth for some and poverty for many is evident. Further, we are in a unique period to raise critical questions regarding social justice within the alternative agrifood movement and understand the role funders may have to contribute toward advancing equitable policy, practice, and governance. In order to appreciate our contemporary situation familiarizing ourselves with historical forces and recent social issue concerns in the food system is necessary. Issues of hunger, inequality, and oppression are germane to how our food system has historically operated and its no surprise that social justice has been a struggle between those holding power and authority with those subjected and oppressed by those in power. This section will move from the origins of our modern food system toward examining the role of social movements and non-profit organizations play in advancing social justice. Further, government funding programs and private philanthropy's recent interest over the last few decades in supporting sustainable food systems also provides a basis for exploring the type of issues that drive change in our food system and in what ways they intersect with social justice.

To begin to understand our current food system, it is imperative that we delve into the origins of capital's infusion into agriculture with the underlying ideologies and discourse in which it sprung. The notion that our food system is born from farmers struggling against the unpredictability of the elements masks the systematized forms of land ownership, power relations, technology, and slavery that sprouted from western agriculture. To this day there are pervasive ideologies that continue to valorize the role of the farmer that corporate food companies can brand while failing to address social equity for labor and the impacts of agricultural practices upon the environment. Moving from actions and events in history toward underlying thought processes that guided the past and shape the future entails exploring ideologies. Marx re-anchored the intellectual sense of ideologies or ‘ideologues’ from French Enlightenment philosophers to focus on origins in history and social life versus some abstract knowledge base (Bennett, et al., 2005, p. 175). It is by way of an embodied history and understanding of ideologies that we can better understand how exploitation persists both implicitly and explicitly in our food system. As Allen (2004) notes these cultural understandings affect the social and material structure of society as “culture shapes power and power shape culture” (p.118).

In examining the agrarian roots of capitalism, Woods (2005) outlines how profit maximization and productivity emerged in the countryside of England. English landlords planted the seed of potential for the modern global agrifood system. As land concentration intensified, landlords focused their “extra-economic powers” (pg. 28) on extracting surplus labor through competitive productivity standards. Those able to maintain market sales could sustain their rents as tenants, while those who could not became landless. These early systemic methods to exploit labor for increased production and capital jumped landscapes into the colonies and post-independent American expansion establishing a westward drive for land conquest and power under similar tenets. Woods insightfully noted how, as distribution in the United States unfolded, early agrarian capitalist policies shaped self-exploitation for the farmer under the threatening blade of displacement and land dispossession for more productive agrifood enterprises. The insight Wood’s identified speaks to the implicit push for efficiency, productivity, and future concentration and power in the agricultural system. From the origins of tenant farming to contract farming in the US the burden and risk is upon the backs of those working the land as modern boardrooms dictate profit and payments similar to an English landlord.

From these rural origins leapt an agile food regime, moving into the modern corporation's ability to integrate power horizontally and vertically. A food regime is a "rule-governed structure of production and consumption of food on a world scale" (McMichael, 2009). Horizontal integration occurs when few companies control a dominant share of the market, such as in the beef and sheep industries, which reflect eighty-seven percent of beef and seventy-three percent of sheep being slaughtered by just four companies (Heffernan, 2005). Vertical integration takes place when companies such as ConAgra can own the poultry feed, hatcheries, distribution (barges, railroad cars, etc…), and packaging to branding while contracting out the growing/raising to squeeze the farmer and control the production and supply chain. This form of absentee corporate ownership in the food chain, where costs, including labor, are externalized, presents a formative challenge for advancing social justice. In Heffernan's (2005) chapter, from *Hungry for Profit,* he points out that the "ultimate political power these food giant firms have is that…they're perceived to be so vital to this country that their bankruptcy would lead to major social disorganization" (p.74). While the concept of the "family farmer" holds sentimental value for many Americans, this nostalgia is misplaced. Farming from England to the modern United States has rarely occurred with freedom from tyranny and capital, as the economic model of efficiency pushed a steady vision toward increasing power and concentration. This model situates labor and the environment as exploitable means toward profitable ends.

2.1 Social Movements and the Emergence of Alternative Food Systems Efforts

In response to the dominant food regime's model of market concentration and increased scale through capital, chemicals, and mechanization, producers and consumers questioned where this titanic of a ship is actually headed. Drawing from the struggle for civil rights to gender based critiques of oppressive patriarchal structures through feminism and the need to protect natural resources for future generations previous social movements have influenced food system advocates. Alternative food efforts to reform and contest aspects of our dominant food and agriculture system sprung forth. Within food and agriculture there is a wide range of contemporary history reflecting labor uprisings, environmental and public health concerns over pesticides, and regulatory reform in government. Throughout these themes advocates encountered resistance to their demands and undertook complex organizing, research, and advocacy. For example, seminal California uprisings of Filipino and Mexican farmworkers demonstrated their power socially, economically, and politically in the 1960s and 1970s through the formation of the UFW. The campaign engaged consumers, clergy, state and federal elected leadership, and paved the way for Americans to hold the field laborer with greater respect and dignity while facing state sanctioned racism (Mooney & Majka, 1995; Pulido, 1996). Courtrooms have also served as a battleground for social justice with the successful case of Pigford vs. Glickman (1999) that brought legal settlement to structural USDA loan discrimination against African American farmers decades after the case was introduced (Tyler & Moore, 2013). In both cases the struggle for justice is ever present and the tactics employed from building effective economic and political allies to research and judicial precedent still serve to inform movement efforts today. However, in reviewing historic wins for justice in the food system with today's broader alternative food movement there is an opportunity to deepen justice based efforts. When we examine the composition of the alternative agrifood movement today in terms of activities, goals, and priorities there is a diverse and loosely grounded group of actors and initiatives. The melting pot challenge of determining priority issues considering the variance of race, class, and gender within the many organizations operating at local to national scale present a considerable challenge for ensuring social justice issues remain a prominent component.

In the past two decades, through the alternative food movement's broad range of issues calling for more direct connections to the food we eat and supporting marginalized and small-scale growers, we have seen Alternative Food Institutions (AFIs) rapidly growing. AFI's include "farmers' markets, urban agriculture projects, community gardens, community-supported agriculture, food policy councils, school gardens, food cooperatives, and food-based education" (Allen, 2004, p. 65). AFIs represent efforts that include prioritizing regional small to mid scale farming, reducing intermediary supply chain actors to increase the farm dollar, as well as consumer education and civic engagement in participatory local governance and policy structures. As the organic and sustainable food sector's economic success booms alongside farm to institutional procurement efforts in schools, hospitals, and colleges sustainable food producers are perceived to be gaining greater market share. This is further evidenced through the rise of farmers markets, increasing fourfold from approximately 1,700 in 1994 to over 8,000 in 2013 (USDA, 2013), overlapping the same dramatic rise in the organic food sector as the industry recorded over thirty one billion in annual sales as of 2011 (Dimartino, 2013). While trending growth in these areas highlights the budding potential for fully integrating alternative agrifood systems into market place environments, larger hegemonic forces threaten co-optation and absorption through market forces that seek to concentrate ownership and control within the food industry. For example, conventional food companies are buying organic and sustainable brands and food companies and engaging in stealth marketing whereby consumers do not even know the parent company ownership (Howard, 2009). To that end, the vision of the small farmer feeding America masks corporate business driven forces that limit profit sharing moving into sustainable food brands and production systems.

In the midst of corporate acquisitions and the encroachment of capital into the alternative food marketplace, there are a wide range of practitioners who identify with the work of AFIs. Given the range of stakeholders, this new social movement operates across many causes and campaigns that present innate challenges on whose voices are heard most and what issues take precedence. As the movement attempts to encapsulate food security, anti-hunger, sustainable agriculture, food justice, and food sovereignty, these pursuits are not always aligned with a shared sense of actions, goals, or outcomes. In fact, as scholars look more closely, sustainable agriculture and community food systems have contributed to advancing viable alternative economic agricultural models and scaling visions of alternative markets while neglecting to also achieve greater justice for wage labor and leaving key concerns of race, class, and gender relatively unaddressed (Allen, 1993; Allen, 2004; Allen and Sachs, 2007; Guthman, 2008b & 2008c; Slocum, 2007). .

With uneven impacts across race, class, and gender in both the dominant and alternative food system, particular attention to who is leading social justice identified efforts and research inquiry is significant. Allen and Melcarek (2013) note the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2009 cited between 2006 through 2008, U.S. workers of color in the food system outnumbered white workers in most low-earning, low-level food processing positions, while whites—especially men—held most managerial positions in food processing plants. Across the entire food system, three out of every four managers were white and half of all white men who worked in food system jobs were employed as managers, while only a quarter of all white women performed managerial roles with 18 percent making up farm, ranch, and agricultural manager roles. For agricultural scientists, women comprised only 17 percent of the total, while 12 percent of agriculture and food scientists in the U.S. labor force in 2006 were American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black, or Hispanic. In California research has shown that between conventional and organic operations there is little variance in wage structure (Shrek, et al., 2005). Considering the politics of identity in who is facing injustice in our food system understanding how contemporary food system frameworks shape priorities and language will provide insight into how social justice is approached.

Food and agriculture stakeholders who engage in research and programs that include social justice draw from different frameworks on how to develop questions and approach solving problems. This is in part due to the many food systems frameworks that practitioners can utilize to carry out their endeavors. For the purposes of this study I will primarily be introducing the approaches used through food security, public health, food justice, and food sovereignty based frameworks in order to deepen the understanding of the social justice spectrum of priorities undertaken and funded. Interrogating how frameworks differ and align can inform how practitioners and funding programs may select a particular framework to approach problem definitions and prioritize strategies toward engaging with social justice while deprioritizing factors that could lessen the overall impact toward advancing social justice.

2.2 Funding Food System Efforts

Public Funding through the USDA.

Food and agriculture has had a role in federal government programming since the enactment of the United States Department of Agriculture in 1862 under the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. That same year the federal government also established the Land Grant University (LGU) with the Morrill Act. While Justin Morrill of Vermont was given the credit for the naming of the Act historians attribute Justin Turner from Illinois with calling for the state based architecture of a university for the "industrial class" (Herren and Hillison, 1996, p. 27). Turner called for a focused curriculum within LGUs focusing on the sciences of anatomy, physiology, and the study of habits of animals, soils, and bookkeeping. Federal investments in agriculture have maintained the agronomic and economic approach to serving society through reinforcing the growth of capitalism in the food and farming sector. By the very nature of encouraging agronomic and economic growth corporate food businesses that model concentration across the supply chain benefit far more from the USDA. While other federal funding sources from the Department of Labor to the Centers For Disease Control provide food systems related funding sources I am intentionally selected the USDA as a public funding entity given its central nature to food and agriculture.

Recently, the USDA has devoted an interconnected set of funding programs to advance community food security and efforts to Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food (KYF2). KYF2 is encouraging consumers to reconnect to the source of their food and support alternative food institutions (AFIs) such as farmers markets and farms at varying scales. Within emergent USDA programs that seek to build stronger relationships between the farmer and the consumer, it's important to gauge how labor, race, class, and gender fit into the government's framework for advancing community food systems.

Private Funding in the Food System.

Understanding how the origins and design of philanthropy establishes the implicit rules of giving can inform the limits and possible ways to advance funding social justice. With that said the same scope of dominant discourse and focus evident in food and agriculture program funding within the USDA also contributes to shaping how philanthropy operates and invests capital within agrifood efforts. In Oliver Zunz's recent publication on the history of American philanthropy he expounds on the evolution of philanthropic dollars serving as another form of investment drawn from the marketplace to serve a set of common laws defined by a broadening realm of self-interest (Zunz, 2012). Whether in the marketplace or in government neoliberal dimensions are at play shaping the direction of resources in food and agriculture. While government-funding programs have public oversight and management as well as legislation and policy to serve as in-roads to hold greater accountability through advocacy and social change, private philanthropy can operate with its own self-defined ethics and enterprise-derived values with less possibility for public accountability.

While some research and organizational programs within the alternative food movement attempt to advance transformative action and research, the channel where money foreseeably is coming from through the philanthropic sector often reinforces existing power and privileges. This in part is directly related to the nature of capital itself. It is important to understand the process of how philanthropy operates. Chiefly, money is made in business and the marketplace and as an investment strategy in which a tax shelter is established (i.e., philanthropic entity) to limit the taxes and government claim on that profit. In turn, the charitable entity elects family and friends to steward the giving to all types of worthwhile social causes with a few topics getting the lion's share of philanthropic dollars available. In a sense philanthropy operates as a neoliberal charity funding system where the tax burden is substantially reduced for the individual or business that has succeeded in the marketplace and the resulting entity is only mandated by federal law to spend five percent of its principle base annually (Ahn, 2009). Not only can this be offset by financial returns on the money sitting in the bank but also the five percent of mandated spending does not actually have to be through the act of giving. Rather, this amount includes the foundation's own expenses, payroll, and non-giving expenditures so the actual giving may even be less. This is not to suggest all foundation boards are pocketing enormous sums for their involvement at the expense to giving, rather, the very nature of this model introduces contradictions and loose accountability to the public good.

Within food and agriculture the successful marketplace entities have also established strategic foundations and giving programs that introduce tensions for non-profit programming and researchers to pursue funding from. It is useful to reflect on the history and emergence of our current corporate dominated food system to understand its ongoing role in philanthropy today. The modern corporate driven agrifood economy has evolved from historical forms of slavery and exploitative labor conditions to intensive resource extraction and abuse in the guise of economic growth. Current corporate agrifood conglomerates such as ConAgra that dominate supply chains and exert substantial control serve as the current lords of our modern agrarian landscape. ConAgra's horizontal and vertical integration allows them to control imports, define the terms of production through contract farming, and set the pricing to their contracted growers prior to their shipping and distribution business chains move the product to the marketplace across multiple brand names they also own (Heffernan, 2000). Successful corporate food companies are emblematic of how wealth and capital operate in our economic system. While ConAgra extracts capital and labor globally, it also values its image through marketing and demonstrations of corporate responsibility in the food sector. According to ConAgra's website, over the last twenty years the company has pumped over sixty million into food security and community impact grants domestically (http://www.conagrafoods.com/our-company/our-commitment/foundation). In fact, most corporate agribusiness companies, have a charitable philanthropic arm that serves as part of their business model. By moving capital into a charitable entity the company can stretch their marketing and further contribute to a company image highlighting concern for the common good while making a profit.

The functioning of corporate philanthropy is also illustrated through success gained in the food retail sector. The American tale of Wal-Mart and Walton Enterprises serves as the largest example in the world for concentration and power in retail. Walmart's ownership is driven by Sam Walton's family holding's with an estimated value of ninety billion (Feng & Krehely, 2005). The establishment of Walton Enterprises allowed Sam Walton to evade most estate taxes and the family now runs some of the largest giving foundations in the United States, the Walton Family Foundation (WFF) and the Wal-Mart Foundation (WMF). Their strategic giving includes contributions to conservative Political Action Committees (PACs) as well as targeting urban NGOs and charitable causes to buy political will where Wal-Mart is looking to introduce new big box enterprises (Feng & Krehely, 2005). The fundamental pursuits of profit actually include the neoliberal charity model as an appendage for strategic philanthropic giving. While a tale of the success of capital accumulation with shareholder revenue on one hand is evident with Walmart the less romantic reality of labor exploitation, resource extraction, and a global supply chain where communities are adversely impacted is not so widely shared. Thus a game of smoke and mirrors is evident as domestic charities affiliated with these corporate enterprises maintain political good while the company continues to bury its competitors and expand its global reach abroad in extractive practices and undercuts labor at home. Given the Janus-faced nature of capitalism and its noted influence across government and private philanthropic funding, social justice advocates and aligned researchers need to continue to contest, struggle, and raise attention on issues of oppression and opportunities to intervene and shift exploitative elements that are found across our food and agriculture system. As a contribution to that process my exploratory research investigates the conceptualization of social justice within NGOs and funding agencies in order to understand their priorities so that their role in transforming the food system is better understood.

Chapter 3

Methodology & Method

With my research exploring social justice language, definitions, and funding processes in the food system, this section will be providing an overview of my research orientation and approach as well as what type of methods I employ for exploring my research questions. Both my orientation and methods provide a sense of my interest in advancing transformative research that integrates multiple methods. While certain methods that are situated employ participant expertise that helps shape the research design this research thesis did not entail situated participant engagement, rather, I introduce my orientation and process for this project with relevant methods to answer my research questions. Drawing from anecdotal feedback over the last ten years stemming from both the practitioner and research community I consistently hear of inherent difficulties in funding to examine the difficult social justice questions as well as adequate resources to respond with scalable models to foster a just and equitable food system.

3.1 Epistemological Orientation

My inquiry is problem driven and applied in pursuing questions that serve to inform different stakeholders from practitioners and funders to academics that pursue intersectional inquiry within food and agriculture. (define intersectional--cite) My past experience helps situate my research as Jensen & Glasmeier (2010) observe, “people who learn from what they see and experience can usually contribute more to problem-solving than those who are told what to think about it” (p. 85). Though by no means is my experience a high standard for expertise, rather, my own lived experience and those whom I’ve had the privilege to work and learn from across the

United States implicitly helped shape the type of questions I am focused on for this research project.

The intent of my research is to co-create knowledge that challenges inequalities and advances understanding of how to foster resources and deeper impact efforts toward social justice in our food and agricultural system. The co-creation of knowledge as an outcome of this project will take place through professional forums, presentations, and publications as well as informal peer discussions. This research utilizes multiple data sources and methods to approach understanding the problem of defining and funding social justice in food and agriculture. The mixed method approach to inquiry involves collecting qualitative and quantitative data. As Creswell (2014) notes the core assumption of this type of inquiry is that it “provides a more complete understanding of a research problem than either approach alone” (p. 4). This study explores social justice conceptualizations and practices in philanthropic and government food system project and research funding. Given the intersectionality of race, class, and gender as key dimensions of social justice inquiry in food and agriculture, I utilize feminist and critical race theories to draw attention to these dimensions in my literature review and content analysis. A feminist research approach involves “a critique of unexamined assumptions about women and dominant forms of knowing and doing” (Burns & Walker, 2005, p. 66). It is concerned with equity, inclusiveness, and is “critical, political, and praxis oriented” (ibid). The complementary approach of Critical Race Theory (CRT) to feminist theory centers race in the research; however, it also seeks to examine the relationships to class, gender, and other intersections of identity and oppression (Parker & Roberts, 2005). Integrating both theories serves to strengthen the analysis to ensure gender, race, and class are significant dimensions of addressing social justice in food system projects and research.

3.2 Research Approach

With an exploratory approach I reviewed textual discourse in non-governmental coalitions as well as philanthropy and government funding that guides resource allocation toward sustainable food systems. When I speak of discourse I refer to the “production of knowledge through language” (Hall, 2004, p.346). Hall (2004) discusses how Foucault’s ability to illuminate the power of discourse can help shape our understanding through analysis to determine how institutions situate knowledge as a form of ‘truth’ and reinforce it in a regime-like fashion. In that sense, the production of knowledge through language and reinforcement through institutions and power prioritizes and gives meaning to what we undertake in practice and research. Examining what language, if any, regarding social justice is prioritized within sustainable food and agriculture efforts reveals the degree to which dominant discourse continues its knowledge production and shaping of practice in the alternative food movement. Fairclough and Wodak (2004) describe critical discourse analysis (CDA) as a dialectical relationship between language and situational structures that create “discursive events” (p. 357). Discursive events can reinforce unequal power and oppression or, conversely, work to reshape and transform it. In that sense “discourse constitutes society and culture, as well as being constituted by them” (ibid, p. 362). Utilizing critical discourse analysis I seek to draw out underlying normative functions of discourse that shape frameworks directing funding as well as situate the priorities of organizational networks in food and agriculture (Fairclough & Wodak, 2004; Blackmore & Lauder, 2005). From the primary analysis of qualitative survey data as well as textual review of non-governmental coalition websites as well as philanthropic and government program funding my research builds upon existing scholarly engagement and introduces new questions for consideration of deepening social justice inquiry within our agrifood system.

As a researcher, I remain cognizant of my social positionality, reflexivity in research methods, and interest in cultivating social change. I see my social location as someone who manages alternative agrifood systems education and research projects, engaging non-governmental organizations both in California and nationally as well as public and private funders bearing on my position as a food systems scholar. I have first-hand experience of the lack of funding available when pursuing social justice efforts. In addition, I have had to significantly revise proposal goals and activities from original grant partnership brainstorms and development sessions to meet funder's priorities and frameworks. Further, working at a university I have also observed what projects are prioritized and continue to generate the greatest institutional interest based on faculty interests and funding sources that define the possibilities of projects we can undertake. By acknowledging and maintaining awareness of my social location and life experience I can pursue inquiry and acknowledge how my identity influences my research outcomes for ensuring transparency. For the purposes of this study the interaction of my role as a researcher with my social position is less of an influence due to the online survey based methods with stakeholders as well as the literature review process and analysis. However, I would agree with McNiff and Whitehead (2009) that context influences how values and the logic of practice manifest. I approach my research with mixed methods that couple qualitative methods, including an online survey and literature-based discourse analysis, with quantitative methods, including funding data to inform how philanthropy and government invest in social justice based agrifood efforts.

3.3 Methods for Addressing My Research Questions

My exploratory research investigates how food systems NGOs and funders conceptualize social justice in order to understand their priorities so that their influence in transforming the food system is better understood. My primary questions are:

- *How do US government, private philanthropy, scholars, and movement actors define social justice in food and agriculture; and*
- In what ways are efforts to advance social justice in our food system *enabled and constrained through funding?*

To address the first question of *how do the US government, private philanthropy, scholars, and movement actors define social justice in food and agriculture* I conducted a literature analysis as well as an online survey sample of NGO leaders working across the food system. My analysis also includes defining and establishing the range of frameworks utilized in advancing social justice in our food system. I am most interested in the discourse of how organizations, foundations, and government websites are invoking elements of social justice. This includes how projects are attributed to social justice and how they prioritize social justice amidst other pressing cultural, environmental, and economic concerns. My data include agrifood journal articles that emerged from government, land-grant university, and foundation based research in sustainable agriculture and food systems. In addition to historical and contemporary scholarly publications, I accessed gray literature that commonly refers to non-peered reviewed publications and materials. The gray literature includes professional briefings as well as online articles and reports from NGO organizations and networks, USDA (ERS & NIFA), and foundations. My primary scholarly literature search was conducted using EBSCO through the Marylhurst Library. Search terms I used are: social justice in food; social justice in agriculture; funding sustainable food systems; funding social justice in food; funding social justice in agriculture; sustainable agriculture research; sustainable food systems research; USDA funding for social justice; agroecology and social justice, food security, food sovereignty, food justice, public health and social justice, and rights to food. I honed my sample of literature based on the relevance to domestic food and agriculture efforts, since my focus is the U.S. I excluded articles that had an international focus or did not directly focus on food and agriculture, such as articles that were primarily about social work, funding, or justice as an abstract concept.

To complement the textual data to answer this question, I conducted an online survey of 30 NGO leaders, foundation representatives, as well as researchers. The respondents primarily serve as NGO leaders. The survey data complements the literature review with qualitative reporting through key stakeholder conceptions of social justice and their organization/entity's role in advancing social justice. I selected Survey Monkey to administer the survey and exported data to an excel spreadsheet to reflect and include it in my results and discussion. Survey questions are listed in Appendix 1. In a similar fashion, I utilized content analysis on my literature review and recorded on an excel spreadsheet data related to the key concepts noted above. Through literature and survey data I explored how social justice was being defined and put into practice.

For the second question of in what ways are efforts to advance social justice efforts in our food system *enabled and constrained through funding* I conducted a literature analysis as well as draw data from the online survey I administered. My analysis included agrifood studies on government, land-grant university, agrifood movements as well as website materials gathered from NGOs and foundation websites. My primary scholarly literature search was conducted using EBSCO through Marylhurst Library using the same range of terms noted in pursuing my first question. I honed my sample of literature based on the relevancy to domestic food system themes in practice, philanthropy, and research. I am most interested in how journal authors and organizational/government materials are defining the current problems in the food system and how projects and efforts are enacting or being constrained in advancing social justice. I also conducted a cursory review of philanthropic funding to assess how much funding is going toward social justice in comparison to other food and agriculture funded efforts. The limited use of social justice textually in research articles, gray literature, and websites was also documented.

In addition to textual sources I drew data from the same survey that informs my previous question. The survey data includes gathering input on perceived barriers toward accessing funding as well as limits of different funding sources toward investing in social justice efforts within our agrifood system. I exported my survey data from Survey Monkey to an excel spreadsheet to track interviewee responses across the questions to reflect on the data and include in my results and discussion. In a similar fashion as my prior question, I utilized content analysis to assess how NGO leaders articulate challenges and opportunities in advancing social justice through funding. Through literature and survey data sources I documented recommendations on funding for social justice as well as current barriers encountered and defined by actors working at regional and state to national efforts.. The literature review includes coalescing quantitative funding allocations across USDA and private philanthropy to better understand the range of resources available for practice and research. This supplemental data brought together cursory detail of the baseline of funding available from private and USDA based sources. My second research question can further be elucidated by including the broader detail around food system funding figures.

Chapter 4

Results, Analysis, and Contribution

My research investigates the conceptualization of social justice within NGOs and funding agencies in order to understand their priorities so that their role in transforming the food system is better understood.

The research questions this exploratory thesis examines are:

1. *How do US government, private philanthropy, and movement actors define social justice in our food system?*
2. In what ways are efforts to advance social justice in our food system *enabled and constrained through funding?*

The significance of this exploratory inquiry is that it provides pragmatic insights into current and future funding scenarios for social justice work in the food system. In addition this project incorporates a structural understanding of the discourse of food systems frameworks and how practitioners and funders currently draw from them. In addition, the actual mechanisms of funding through philanthropy and the USDA are explored to ascertain whether practical improvements are possible in the short term as well as arcing toward deeper long-term change.

Through the analysis of literature and survey data this research addresses the problem of limited funding for social justice by advancing understanding around how social justice is defined and invested in. Further, the results advance understanding of the current limits and possibilities in funding and implementing social justice oriented programs and research in our agrifood system.

4.1 Frameworks for Defining Social Justice in Food and Agriculture

There currently is no shared government, non-profit sector, or philanthropic definition of social justice in food systems literature. Instead, there are implicit interpretations and in some cases definitions that serve a specific range of constituencies, causes, or issues. With no clear definition it is useful to review how social justice has been pursued in other fields of practice. More broadly, social justice has been more aptly defined in criminal law, philosophy, social work, and human rights. Some meanings of justice are framed in terms of individual equality; others move beyond the individual into collective rights and functioning of a social order within society (Scherlen and Robinson, 2008). Social justice posits that citizens enjoy the rights to equal liberties and opportunities. The concept further summons action to contest uneven privileges and situations that cause undue burden and harm to the individual stemming from social institutions and structures (Rawls, 2003; Miller, 2003). Social justice activities within the food system can draw from one or more underlying frameworks. These include food security, food justice, public health, food sovereignty, and the right to food. Each framework implies different types of political and social change. When these frameworks are engaging social justice its important to consider action and outcomes on a spectrum from conservative and reform-based to transformative and radical pursuits. Holtz-Gimenez and Wang (2011) introduce a framework and food movement activity analysis that provides salient examples of the type of activities each food system framework reflects (see Appendix 2). Since the rights based framework is mostly targeting international level governmental commitments, I focused my attention on the prior frameworks. In general the first four noted frameworks reflect a range of domestic efforts currently being employed in food systems NGO efforts and research with food sovereignty being more recently integrated into domestic efforts from the international community.

Food security framework. In response to heightened concerns across the globe of limited food access that affected populations in both chronic and acute ways, the United Nations advanced a shared definition of food security coming out of the 1996 World Food Summit. Lang and Barling (2012) reference the World Food Summit definition of food security as the most commonly used: ‘a situation that exists when people at all times have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life’ (p. 313). Within the USDA, the US government defines food security in similar terms as “having access to enough food for all household members, at all times, to lead active, healthy lives” (Nord, M., et, 2009). While the Food and Agriculture Organization and USDA’s definitions provide a framework to enact efforts to support populations, the solutions introduced are not fully endorsed by alternative agrifood scholars and practitioners as an effective means of uplifting those most deeply affected by food insecurity and poverty. Scholars identify the response by government agencies to increase food production as a response to food insecurity as inadequate for addressing hunger and access (Maye and Kirwan, 2013; and, Lang and Barling, 2012). This productivist framework supports dominant food business partnerships with government, but does not acknowledge or address the complexity inherent in food insecurity and deeper structural inequalities. In addition to problems of intensification as a response to food insecurity, the 2006-2008 food price spike and volatility in the global market (resulting from increases in oil and agricultural commodities) generated rampant malnourishment and food riots internationally. Lang and Barling (2012) call attention to the nature of the corporate finance nexus with price speculation and high-risk ventures in the food system as a key problem in understanding how food insecurity can lead to even further disorder and protracted scenarios of suffering. The authors also note policy makers have difficulty entertaining complex food chain 'interrelatedness' (p. 318) and prefer single-issue problems that limit their ability to make a substantive impact. With a narrow problem definition for food insecurity policy makers and agrifood businesses continue to introduce solutions that serve as a band aid, channeling emergency food and supplemental assistance upon a larger interconnected set of problems that continually erupt.

Within the U.S., a community food security (CFS) movement emerged in the mid 1990s to work across multiple levels linking community food activists, farmers, and anti-hunger advocates. Allen (2007) cites the emergence of this movement and formalization of federal farm bill policy in 1996 of the Community Food Projects as opening new avenues to advance food system problem solving. The farm bill program was a driving target that rallied organizations across the country and set the stage for the formalization of the national Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC). CFSC's ability to intersect issues ranging from establishing food policy councils and targeting policy to addressing the loss of farmland and integrating both urban and rural community development deepened the practice of food security efforts through extending the discourse beyond ensuring people are fed. Since the late 1990s CFSC has helped convene government leadership, foundations, and practitioners to advance effective cross-sector partnerships. The CFSC's definition of community food security (CFS) is 'the ability for all persons, obtaining, at all times, a culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through local, non-emergency sources' (Gottlieb & Fisher, 1996). The organization's approach to CFS took the international context of food security and grounded it in supporting local and regional food systems. Target constituencies built a membership base of over three hundred organizations across the United States committed to contesting the oppressive and unjust practices within our dominant food and agriculture system through creating alternatives. Holtz-Gimenez and Wang (2009) situate CFS as a reform based framework as it works actively to shift practices in government and industry partnerships to improve food purchased and consumed by limited resource and marginalized communities.

In 2006 USDA revised their official assessment for evaluating food security in America, including removing the term hunger and replacing it with the term “very low food security.” The USDA cited hunger as a unit of analysis would require further data and detail then current federal measurements will allow (USDA ERS, N.D.). The new assessment spectrum ranges from high food security and marginal food security to low food security and very low food security. While the USDA measurements allow for data on families, the qualitative experience of food insecurity on an individual or community level are not as easily measured. In fact the official assessment tool for food insecurity lacks questions to gather qualitative data of food insecurity at the individual, household, or larger community level. In some sense the data may invisiblize the struggles, challenges, and impacts that link food security to poverty and other related factors. If the USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS) included qualitative questions it could strengthen the role of narrative data in informing policy and practices that seek to address food security. The opportunity to include open ended or short response based questions would also improve social science research projects that value the richness of narrative data.

Scholars have also questioned the extent that food security efforts can move beyond modest reforms of corporate capitalism denoted by special interest food and agriculture policy and production oriented approaches to food security. The recognition that food security as an institutional approach may in fact be to narrow of a framework to adequately address food system problems that inherently exist beyond the simple issue of a lack of food production (Maye & Kirwan, 2013; Lang and Barling, 2012). Allen (2013) further questions the USDA decision to remove hunger from their lexicon due to research limitations, thereby wiping hunger off the discursive map for analysis and understanding. While CFS has successfully grown through the national network with support from foundations and USDA, the organization, CFSC, closed their doors as a national umbrella organization for civic and policy engagement in 2012. Building on years of linking practitioner and researcher efforts focused on food security and justice in communities across the country, more recent networks have undertaken to carry on this work through additional frameworks. Growing Food and Justice Initiative (GFJI) emerged out of CFSC's sunset to further focus on dismantling racism and advancing food justice efforts in the US.

Food justice framework. Whereas food security focuses on a lack of access to food, food justice has focused on how geographic and economic access limit and shape the quality of food available for vulnerable communities, including people of color and indigenous people. Alkon and Norgaard (2009) further envelope the attention to geography and economics as part of the history of institutionalized racism that persists today, perpetuating inequalities and disproportionate access to resources across communities. Uneven access to resources and power can be reinforced by government policy. For example state and federal oversight over natural resources can privilege water flow diversion for farmers over the impact on salmon populations and survival of indigenous northwest tribal sustenance and cultural practices. Further, dominant race and class based food assumptions for supporting a more just and sustainable food system focus on consumer (individual) choice and paying the 'true' cost of food. Such proposed solutions exclude those who are not economically positioned to buy into the food movement (Sbicca, 2012). Moving beyond ensuring access to food through food security, food justice focuses on the rights of historically excluded and vulnerable communities to have healthy, culturally appropriate food, which is also justly and sustainably grown. Sbicca (2012) contends that the Alternative Food Movement (AFM) fails to address the racial and economic inequality that is fundamental for a food justice approach. Thus, stakeholders in the broader U.S.-based food movement may unintentionally perpetuate inequality and racism by neglecting to confront and address these issues within the core program foci of their efforts.

During the last few year of CFSC's existence, the Growing Food and Justice for All Initiative (GFJI) formalized connecting organizations formerly connected through CFSC as well as new entities and funders who sought to address racial equity and community empowerment to advance social justice. GFJI defines itself as "an initiative aimed at dismantling racism and empowering low-income and communities of color through sustainable and local agriculture. This justice-based emergent network views dismantling racism as a core principle that brings together social change agents from diverse sectors. While this network continues to focus on advancing healthy and sustainable food systems there is a deeper commitment to not import external actors and advisors, rather to support and build multicultural leadership coming from impoverished communities seeking to change their environment and build collective power (http://www.growingfoodandjustice.org/About_Us.html). Alkon and Norgaard (2009) argue that the concept of food justice (FJ) may allow the underlying discursive power of environmental justice (EJ) to be leveraged and reinforced through attending to inequalities to accessing healthy food. Through emphasizing race and power analysis in the FJ framework it may help embolden race and class issues within sustainable agriculture and food systems. At the same time the formation of GFJI is in direct response to the lack of commitment and priority to FJ issues within the larger alternative food movement.

With a large base of deprioritized social justice issues with the alternative food movement at large ,determining the scope of priorities within social justice can still be a considerable challenge. Sbicca (2012) raises the concern that within diverse racialized geographies and spatial locations when FJ is used as a catch all for transformative social change the clarity of purpose can be blurred across stakeholders leading to mixed outcomes. Trying to weave multiple issues such as toxicological environmental impacts, economic oppression, and homelessness, together, for example, may lead to difficulty in creating a coherent course of action as there are situated variables and priorities that reflect varying needs across spaces. To that end FJ may require a place based approach on one level while not ignoring how state and national politics and power require the need to challenge structural forms of oppression that impact and play out across localities. Further, in order to strengthen the FJ movement, Sbicca (2012) contends that participatory systems need to be established for diverse activists to foster critiques and introduce solutions premised on an open understanding of FJ. An open understanding of FJ points to the importance of being reflexive in how FJ efforts vary across spaces and leaders in order that one community does not represent the multiple realities and lived experiences that contribute to FJ across the country. These conversations and ideas then need clear channels in order to be integrated into movement building, as well as inform funders of the advancing landscape of discourse and problem solving through FJ.

Public health framework. Over the last decade, practitioners and foundations have turned attention to the intersections of food and nutrition as the public interest and concerns over diet related diseases have risen dramatically. While US health care as a concept focuses primarily on the individual to advance wellbeing and life expectancy through preventative measures and specific treatments, public health practitioners focus on structural elements that contribute to poor health and living. A public health framework intersects the health of the individual with environmental and social determinants that shape health outcomes for society as a whole. While Kickbusch (2003) notes the United States attention to the individual supersedes a more social and progressive approach that has been more broadly adopted through World Health Organization directed partnerships, efforts are shifting in public health to advance a systems approach. International commitments from European countries as well as through the Americas have advanced policies and commitments that attempt to hold a cross-sector approach where business, NGOS, elected leadership, and varying levels of government work together around key principles to advance healthy communities and individuals. With the development of the US based Healthy People 2020 framework built upon Leading Health Indicators (LHIs), our domestic focus through government has drawn from international systems oriented frameworks. LHIs were selected and organized using a "health determinants and health outcomes by life stages conceptual framework" (http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/leading-health-indicators/Leading-Health-Indicators-Development-and-Framework). This approach is intended to draw attention to both individual and societal determinants that affect the public's health and contribute to health disparities from infancy through old age.

In order for the public health framework to gain traction, the concepts need a practitioner-based network to uplift and advance it. The American Public Health Association (APHA) serves as the national policy advocacy, research, and education association for over thirty thousand health professionals addressing issues as wide ranging as gun control and climate change to health equity and sustainable food systems (https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues). A public health framework intersects with food and agriculture advocacy and research in ways that may draw new partnerships. While a different lexicon is used social justice pursuits are part and parcel of public health advocates. For example, to address chemical inputs and their impacts on farmworkers, public health advocates situate epidemiological research of synthetic chemical exposure and the chronic effects of body burden to inform prevention and policy. Further, the interplay of social and physical determinants of health are the most salient in connecting with food system advocates who are looking to reform the built environment and contest industry and business practices that are adversely affecting workers across the food system as well as consumers.

Through the APHA network and associate organizations, foundations have recognized the public health sector as a significant partner for supporting work within food system. Some of the largest private food system funders, including the WK Kellogg Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, have invested substantial grant resources and nested their program outcome strategies in part through the engagement of public health. The WK Kellogg Foundation efforts include convening health practitioners to establish principles for a healthy, sustainable food system. The foundation funded public health framework for a healthy, sustainable food system "emphasizes, strengthens, and makes visible the interdependent and inseparable relationships between individual sectors (from production to waste disposal) and characteristics (health-promoting, sustainable, resilient, diverse, fair, economically balanced, and transparent) of the system" (https://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health/foodprinciples.htm). Building on a public health praxis for addressing food system impacts the realm of policy is not left unaddressed. APHA has served as an entity that can mobilize their national membership toward policy advocacy and reform. APHA has demonstrated interest in federal food systems advocacy through situating their lexicon of health equity and social and physical determinants of health with food justice concerns. In the previous farm bill cycle, APHA produced an issue brief, "The Farm Bill and Public Health: A Primer for Public Health Professionals," that galvanized members to consider how the omnibus piece of legislation intersects with their work and health outcomes (Elliot & Raziono, 2012). The primer initially provides an overview for supplemental nutrition assistance programs (SNAP), however, it also attends to issues of affordability, access, and retail concentration and power, as well as ecological and social dimensions of sustainable agriculture. While APHA has made significant strides in introducing FJ issues through their field the farm bill primer stops short of raising attention to how people beyond the consumer and the farmer require greater sustenance. With the use of a different lexicon representing a professional class of advocates and actors terms such as justice, oppression, and structural racism and poverty are absent. With respect to the farm bill, APHA has utilized a food security framework of concerns in positioning themselves to improve the food system for consumers as well as challenging non-therapeutic use of antibiotics with the larger critique of concentrated animal feeding operations as a public health risk. With a lack of attention to workers within the system as a means to reduce support for chemical agriculture and increase food safety further intersectional work with FJ advocates may enhance their role for justice serving ends. This may also require honoring expertise beyond the professional by integrating the people in the communities they seek to serve and protect for a healthy, thriving future.

Food sovereignty framework. While a global response to address hunger and poverty through food security emerged out of the 1996 World Food Summit engaging nation states and political leadership, a farmer and land based movement arose to deepen the role of the subjugated peasant and indigenous farmers and communities in their rights to preserving agriculture and traditional food ways. In 1993 an organization linking peasant farmers across four continents known as La Via Campesina. La Via Campesina proposed a framework and praxis of engagement entitled food sovereignty (FS) as a way forward (Hospes, 2014). The organization defined FS as "the right of people's to healthy and culturally appropriate food, produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agricultural systems" (Trauger, 2013, p. 666). La Via Campesina has grown into a global network affirming that food is gendered, political, social, and cultural and that the struggle must involve contesting patriarchy and violence against women as well as neoliberalism through the destructive practices of corporate agribusiness, and instead advance egalitarian structures of governance (Patel, 2009). The international network is composed of 150 local and national organizations in 70 countries from all the major world regions, and represents about 200 million farmers. Fairbairn (2012) notes food sovereignty holds the potential to serve as a counter-hegemonic vision. She further elucidates FS as a concept that "transforms the oppressive trade relations and corporate control through which the system is currently structured, replacing them with socially embedded markets and democratic governance" (Fairbairn, 2012, pg. 217). More simply stated, Shiavoni (2009) defines FS as "the right of people to define their own food and agricultural policies" (pg. 682). Through the food sovereignty movement's network of educators, advocates, and farmers globally, it has introduced a deeper dimension of social justice for domestic food system efforts to address.

Within the United States the US Food Sovereignty Alliance (USFSA) emerged in 2010 following a growing international and domestic set of conversations in response to the 2008 food crisis. USFSA endorses La Via Campesina's definition and also integrates a rights-based approach to connect local, national, and international struggles. Scholars have observed that domestic efforts operating within an FS framework have focused on autonomy and community based decision-making that seeks to contest government regulations that marginalize small producers and consumers (Trauger, 2013). Fairbairn (2012) argues, and I would concur, that domestic FS efforts are in response to the failure of alternative agrifood movements (AFMs) to contest dominant economic structures. The failure Fairbairn puts forth both refers to the micro level focus on changing consumer behavior by voting with your fork to the general lack of success in stemming the tide of corporate concentration in our food and agriculture systems thereby missing multiple levels of opportunity to advance social justice in the food system. At the same time there are operational stumbling blocks for domestic FS efforts. Hospes (2014) indicates that broader neoliberalizing forces and structural inequalities limit the degree to which FS can be utilized as a domestic framework to address food and agriculture in governance. Patel (2009) notes FS can further be problematic in implementing change when advocates are seeking rights through the state while simultaneously contesting the authority of the state. Hospes (2014) also notes raises the concern that there may be a general reluctance by national governments and larger intergovernmental agencies to adopt the FS discourse and concept in practice due to unclear ideas on sovereignty and a lack of deliberation on how to address different values in food. With that in mind both financial and government institutions will be unlikely to engage FS discourse and approaches in as much as they exist as a counter-hegemonic force contesting power and oppression.

Establishing a spectrum for social justice projects in the food system. Moving from conceptual frameworks into the particulars of engagement we can learn a great deal of how organizations, foundations, and government programs rely on these frameworks. Holtz-Gimenez & Wang (2011) provide an illustrative table, building on social movement theory and food regimes to explore neoliberal, reformist, progressive, and radical political orientations in the food movement (see Appendix 2). The authors' raise questions of impact and goals across food system change frameworks in order to better understand how the food movement exercises their vision of change. By developing a political-economic spectrum, to provide insight on food movement efforts and the role in which they can reinforce the status quo, reform, contest, or transform political and economic structures provides social justice advocates with filters to map the level of change implicit in proposed actions. While community food security is associated with reformist ends, food justice moves into progressive measures that begin to question underlying structures and advance efforts to alter racialized power relations. With food sovereignty, as a domestic framework, progressive actions move into a radical dimension that questions accepted forms of land and economic ownership seeking to dismantle the global food system as it currently exists. As we move into the role of capital and philanthropy it is useful to reflect on the types of frameworks employed by funders and ultimately what spectrum of change are they willing to invest in to advance social justice.

In general, foundations operate as a mechanism to provide public good while preserving income generated in the marketplace. With the history and structure of foundations based on the government backed tax shelter for capital they often seek to reinforce or reform the status quo rather then subvert or transform society. Since executive and board leadership of these entities benefiting from capitalism as it stands, the interest in fundamentally disrupting the marketplace and reducing their investment portfolio thus limiting income and the extent of their good works leaves them in a double bind. At the same time there are a select number of foundations that intentionally support progressive and radical food systems projects. While they may be a minority, they do exist and support efforts on the ground. However, there are no examples of larger foundations directly challenging capitalist structures by spending down their resources as a means to contest and shift oppressive characteristics of our food systems and its financing and governance. Similarly, government institutions, such as the USDA, reflect funding efforts that conform to reform food and agriculture, rather then a broader base support across the spectrum of change. In national food and farm policy entrenched special interests that primarily serve dominant food system actors often limit the ability for progressive advocacy to succeed in advancing structural change in policy. In consideration of philanthropic and government based funding channels, I am primarily situating this project's social justice based analysis within the opportunities to reform and advance progressive activities and inquiry to ensure opportunities to move beyond conforming become mainstream.

As evidenced in the framework overview above, coalitions of practitioners such as those working through the US Food Sovereignty Alliance (USFSA) and Growing Food and Justice for All Initiative (GFJI) have served to unite disparate organizations to uplift and connect one another into movement-based entities grounded in food justice. This includes the assertion that structural inequalities such as uneven power in ownership, governance, and income intersect with oppressions related to race, class, gender, and other social constructions of identity. These networks further efforts to coordinate policy advocacy, conferences, publications, workshops, and calls to action. In contrast to USFSA and GFJI, the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC), representing over sixty regional, state, and national organizations committed to sustainable agriculture and food systems, reflects a different value set. NSAC is "an alliance of grassroots organizations that advocates for federal policy reform to advance the sustainability of agriculture, food systems, natural resources, and rural communities" (http://sustainableagriculture.net/about-us/). While NSAC does focus on food systems and rural communities its representation of small and mid-size farmers needs coupled with efforts to improve access to healthy and organic foods places it works within a reform dimension of change targeting federal policy. NSAC serves as the only federal legislative entity on behalf of organic and sustainable farmers.

In reviewing USFSA (which includes GFJI) membership and NSAC, I include Figures 1 and 2 below to offer a visual impression of the language organizations use across their membership bases. This was established through taking the title and key words located in the mission of each organization within USFSA and NSAC to produce a word cloud. A word cloud, otherwise referred to as tag clouds, are visual presentations of a set of words, typically a set of "tags" selected by some rationale, in which attributes of the text such as size, weight, or color are used to represent features, such as frequency, of the associated terms. The word clouds below will highlight the frequency of words used as a measure of how specific discourse and frameworks emerge in practitioner content and communication.

Figure 1: Word Cloud from National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC)

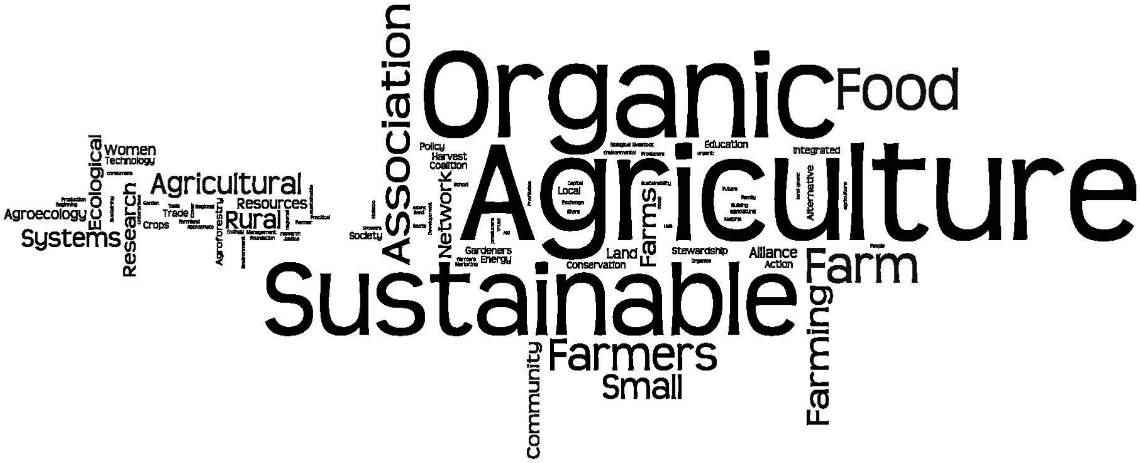
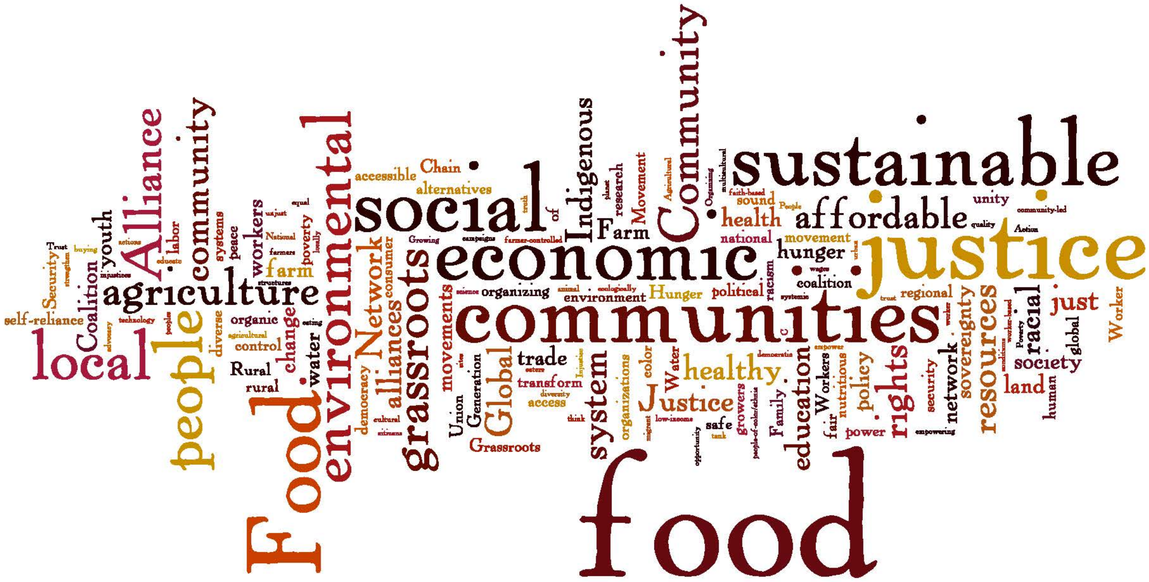


Figure 2: Word Cloud from the US Food Sovereignty Alliance (USFSA)



The visual representation of organizational membership keywords reveals underlying concepts that create a sense of agreement in action and thought for these groups. While NSAC includes values of organic, small farmers, and sustainable, the priorities for engaging labor and workers is absent. Given the farmer oriented base of affiliates groups focused on conservation and small and mid-size farm viability tackling labor abuse and economic models that share profit and power across owner-labor relations is not readily present. Conversely when reviewing USFSA member keywords there is a broader social issue set anchoring the role of communities, justice, and economic change. Surprisingly, key terms for women and gender based concerns for USFSA affiliates do not feature prominently in affiliate mission statements or the names of the organizations within domestic FS efforts. While its clear in USFSA's vision and operating principles seek to "recognize and prioritize the leadership of women, Indigenous Peoples, people of color, migrant workers, and other food providers and workers marginalized by the global food system" it could further engage its membership on how to strategically situate language to reference gender based empowerment within mission and vision statements (http://usfoodsovereigntyalliance.org/visions-and-operating-principles/).

For the purposes of building common ground toward advancing social justice, both NSAC and USFSA appear to share concern for corporate ownership and power along the food chain. Corporate consolidation and its threat to resilient agriculture and food systems may serve as a bridge connecting NSAC with more progressive and radical efforts undertaken through USFSA. Further, both organizations have a rooted concern in sustainable agriculture as well as land ownership and access for the means of production and empowerment.

Survey data. The research survey data results included eight completed surveys out of thirty invited respondents who were identified through national sustainable food system networks as leaders in their organization and broader movement efforts. While integrating responses from eight participants is not enough to discern deeper patterns, it is sufficient to illustrate perspectives and approaches. Of the eight respondents, seven worked through NGO efforts targeting national efforts through state and federal engagement while one worked through an academic research approach. Two of the eight respondents stated that their organizations have an explicit or working definition of social justice. The two definitions shared varied considerably with one focused on the role of local food systems as a focal point for advancing economic opportunity and health while the other focused more on the rights of people and equity in economic and resource terms. The first definition for social justice reflects a modest reform approach with an underlying assumption that local food systems serve as a lever to advance justice. The second shared definition emphasizes more of a progressive to radical dimension with the introduction of social equity and a vision of equal rights and fairness. While both organizations introduce social justice as an organizational concept there is a clear distinction on where on a spectrum of change they fall.

While two organizations shared their definition of social justice four respondents noted they do not have an existing definition of social justice. While an absence of a definition does not preclude action and emphasis on social justice by any means, it reflects a long standing issue of how to make the invisible visible when there is little to no shared understanding of what it is that has to change to advance social justice in the food system. Responses ranged from noting the irrelevancy of defining it based on collective working experience to assumptions that organizational staff have an implicitly understood definition and being called to social justice through internal staff priorities and undefined pressures from the field. The different emphases in the two organization's definitions of social justice along with four organizations stating that they do not yet have or will not intentionally develop definitions, indicates the problematic nature of defining such a term. This is especially difficult when the meaning reflects a diverse range of interpretation to those working across the food system. Such variance limits the ability for advocates and funders to understand how each other's orientation to social justice work advances and constrains opportunities for transformative impact. Yet at the same time, looking into organizational goals may reveal that there is common ground.

For those who did not state a working or explicit definition they were then asked if they would like to share any implicit social justice based goals of their organizations. By moving past definitions into how organizations apply implicit meaning into guiding goals we can reflect how Gimenez and Wang's (2011) spectrum situates respondents social justice efforts. The four respondent organizations noted:

- “Increasing access to fresh, healthy, affordable food for vulnerable communities.”
- “We refer to equitable application of laws and investment of public resources. Public policy should result in public good. We see this as important when contrasted to the documented reality of public investment resulting in private good and public detriment, disproportionality affecting the nation's people of color.”
- “Living wages; a voice for workers in their workplaces and communities; more cooperative ownership in the food system; sustainable food production; equitable access to affordable, healthy food for all.”
- “Supporting environmental justice groups; prioritizing specific constituents who are the most directly affected by the problems we work on; increasingly naming race, class and other oppressions as root causes of the problems we address.”

The responses fell within the reform to radical political spectrum of food system frameworks ranging from community food security to food justice oriented goals. Goals that integrate racial and economic equity were noted alongside efforts to change how vulnerable communities access their food. Though they did not have explicit social justice definitions, the work of these organizations clearly reflect domestic food system frameworks pursuing a range of social justice efforts from reform to progressive and radical.

In a follow-up open-ended question to all respondents, five out of eight reported their top three social justice issues in the food system from their professional experience and perspective (Table 1). Overall, emergent topics regarding social justice in the food system today ranged from structural forms of oppression across race, class, and gender to the concern of corporate power and chemical exposure to inputs for those toiling in conventional agriculture. The responses further raise attention to the inherent complexity in addressing social justice as it is reflected through many needs. Organizations engaged in social justice work could benefit from developing common ground through identifying the range of issues and prioritizing them as a process to develop strategies that broader coalitions and networks can advance and funders could learn from. Further drawing constituents together from both NSAC and USFSA could broaden the base of stakeholders that could support each other's advocacy and justice based goals.

Table. 1: Top Three Social Justice Issues in the US Agrifood System

Participant Survey Responses	Related Food System Framework(s)
"Access, affordability, and financing opportunities."	Food Security, Public Health
"Uniformity of labor rights, fair wages, challenging the manifestations of poverty—poor housing, poor health, etc."	Food Justice, Public Health, and Food Sovereignty
"Appropriation of land, labor and capital."	Food Justice and Food Sovereignty
"Food workers exploitation; structural racism, classism, and gender discrimination; inordinate corporate power over the agrifood system."	Food Justice and Food Sovereignty
"The undue power and influence of a handful of agrichemical multinationals; the weak regulatory system, which puts our health and environment at risk; the impact of the overuse of hazardous chemicals on the health and well-being of farmworkers and residents of farm communities."	Food Justice, Public Health, and Food Sovereignty

Having an explicit definition of social justice woven into vision and mission language could benefit food systems organizations by simultaneously introducing greater internal reflection and evaluation as well as increasing the discussion and concerns more broadly through such a focused endeavor. While acknowledging the range of definitions emerging from influential organizational factors that include geographic scale of focus, capacity, and demographics of leadership it would provide researchers and coalitions further material to inform research questions and advance practice. Further, through explicitly documenting such an important concept respondent organizations can better communicate their social justice impact and outcomes. With a greater ability for coalitions to articulate the social justice concerns of our food system advocates and funders can better determine key social justice issues that serve as a strategic priority set for interventions in changing the food system.

As larger funders indicate interest in increasing social justice support larger, more established non-governmental organizations, will be seeking to plant a flag in social justice through reform-based goals. In that way the mainstreaming effect observed in corporate capture of organic food production and processing emerges in social justice efforts. In order to safe guard against history repeating itself organizations not only have to consider developing their own nuanced definition and guiding language but also introduce a bold, transformative vision and roadmap for social justice efforts in the food system.

Foundation efforts to articulate social justice.

The role of philanthropy in attending to underlying social justice needs in the U.S. within the food system is generally absent. Recent data confirms that philanthropic funding for social justice inquiry and programs has been relatively limited. The National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy's 2008-2010 data analysis and report that included 960 major domestic funders noted the median foundation giving for social justice giving was three percent (Jagpal & Laskowski, 2013). While this figure is representative of domestic funding overall rather than just within the food system, it helps shed light on relative scarcity of funding allocated to social justice efforts. Within food system efforts, a few notable foundations at a national scale have begun to invest in research, programs, and analysis to unpack social justice in our food system. However, in general the funding remains limited and at times difficult to access due to geographic specificity and other designated prerequisites.

The limited interest by funders to go deeper in transforming structural issues in the food system that create poverty and oppression are, in part, shaped through the underlying wealth and industry that contribute to defining priorities for progress. In further reflecting on Holtz-Gimenez and Wang's (2011) political spectrum for food systems change philanthropic giving prefers conservative approaches to giving that generally does not threaten the structure of the economy or dominance of corporate food systems. At present the U.S. census indicates approximately 146 million Americans, or one in two, are living just above, at, and below the federal poverty threshold (Yen, 2011). With limited resources directed to examining the structural factors leading to poverty and social injustice, its imperative that those most impacted by our food system can contribute to research and practice that seeks to change the conditions to reinforce oppression. This would include focusing input and leadership from women, children, and seniors who statistically experience more severe impacts from how our contemporary food system is structured. With uneven impacts across race, class, and gender, in both the dominant and alternative food system, particular attention to who is leading social justice objectives and research inquiry is significant.

Across my literature review it is clear that there are limited studies that specifically undertake an analysis to respond to broad sweeping conditions of injustice in our food system. From wage earnings and theft to gender, racial, and class-based oppression there is an opportunity for social scientists and NGOs to increase applied research in order to inform policy and mobilize impacted communities. In particular there is an opportunity for foundations that focus geographically within a state or region to fund research and analysis toward mapping social justice dimensions of labor and power in their regional food systems to enrich existing national analysis. Funders at a national level may consider investing in critical analysis at the federal level to compare with projects undertaken in state based and local geographies. Such a comparative analysis could better inform philanthropic social justice priorities. In addition, such analysis could be incredibly useful for informing social justice strategies for organizations and coalitions.

One particular dimension of social justice that has been raised by academics as a concern and critique within the alternative food movement is how race and class privileges continue to be an elephant in the room, left largely unattended with noticeable effects. Critical food scholars, such as Julie Guthman (2008b; 2008c) have drawn attention to concerns that whiteness and middle to upper class values have dominated alternative food movements and thereby reinforce exclusiveness by the very nature of how individuals and groups within more privileged social locations serve as the primary architects of the social construction of AFIs and movement efforts. Thus, the alternative agrifood movement's relative inattention to social justice issues, such as worker rights, as compared to buying local and cooking with whole foods from higher end retail chains may be symptomatic of who is leading the charge. On a discursive level the invisible veil of oppression likely persists and is reinforced within alternative agrifood systems. As Young (1990) notes "oppression in this sense is structural, rather than the result of a few people's choices or policies. Its causes are embedded in unquestioned norms, habits, and symbols, in the assumptions underlying institutional rules and the collective consequence of following those rules" (p.56). These rules and assumptions have also played into limiting the range of issues examined and possible solutions that focus on social justice in research funding toward sustainable agriculture and food systems.

To shift a dominant discourse that creates limited interest in social justice among food system funders its imperative that social justice questions and content become a priority in influential network gatherings and communication tools. At present foundations interested in supporting sustainable food systems are growing both regional and across the United States. One national organization that serves as a hub for private funders is the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders (SAFSF) network launched in 1991 as a loose group of private funders that share commons interests. Their mission is to "create networking, educational, and collaboration opportunities for the philanthropic community working to support vibrant, healthy, and just food and farm systems" with key words that represent their values: "collaboration, equity, respect, stewardship, and integrity" (http://www.safsf.org/who/). Their current mission and vision emerged from a strategic planning process in 2013-2014 where a greater emphasis on equity, inclusion, and diversity was focused on in addition to developing a policy focused annual convening for funders in Washington D.C. based a greater desire from member foundations to impact public policy (Clarke, 2015). SASF currently consists of over ninety member foundations and partners who convene annually through conferences, online webinars, and programming coordinated by network staff. The mission and vision revisions are reflective of member foundations such as Jessie Smith Noyes and W.K. Kellogg Foundation calling sustainable agriculture and food systems funders to the table to further engage with racial equity as a priority for advancing justice in the food system.

The WK Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) is one of the largest private foundations invested in food, health, and community. More recently it has taken a place-based approach, focusing on Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico, and New Orleans (as well as providing some national support) for investing their substantial grant-making dollars into strategies to better the lives of prenatal to eight year olds. Their food systems based funding largely falls within the Healthy Kids initiative area in addition to a food systems based fellowship program woven into a larger base of one hundred and thirty seven Community Leadership Network Fellows under their Community and Civic Engagement initiative. WKKF's mission is to "support children, families, and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society" (https://www.wkkf.org/who-we-are/history-legacy). Their strategies to advance healthy and educated kids as well as secure families focus on civic engagement and racial equity. Within the Healthy Kids initiative there is the Food and Community program that invests in community food systems efforts, farm to school, and operates six Food and Fitness Collaboratives across the U.S. Their program efforts include attention to structural issues of food production and distribution, in terms of how to ensure healthy and culturally appropriate food is available for children at all times. This goal aligns with reform measures within community food security efforts, both in increasing access and also empowering community leadership in the process. The progressive dimension of WKKF that incorporates a food justice element is their prioritization of racial equity within their funding programs. This is evident in part, through their geographic selections of communities to invest within as well as evaluation expectations for how these organizations are led and governed. WKKF's overarching progressive goal for investing in leadership and organizations led by people of color as a strategy to dismantle institutionalized racial inequity is evident in other leading social justice related funders of sustainable food systems.

The Jesse Smith Noyes Foundation is committed toward environmental and social justice efforts through their NGO partnerships across the US. The Noyes Foundation mission is to "support grassroots organizations and movements in the United States working to change environmental, social, economic and political conditions to bring about a more just, equitable and sustainable world" (http://www.noyes.org/about-us/history). Noyes has served as a funding organization deeply committed to social justice, evident from their selection of grant recipients as well as their internal investment policy for how they manage their assets. Both Noyes and WKKF in 2009 launched a Diversifying Leadership for Sustainable Food Policy (DLSFP) grant program selecting ten organizations to receive one hundred thousand dollar grants to internally advance their People of Color (POC) leadership and staffing structures to match the communities they serve. In part, the initiative was born out of an awareness of uneven distribution of philanthropic dollars to organizations led by POC (Pittz & Sen, 2004). Figure 3 highlights the conceptual strategy of DLSFP in increasing agency and influence from POC led organizations. The results of DLSFP also helped shape further grant making strategies for Noyes and WKKF, which includes increasing funding for POC led organizations, as well as influencing the philanthropic community toward further engagement in racial equity and highlighting ways to more equitably invest in the communities they serve (Lee, K. et al., 2009).

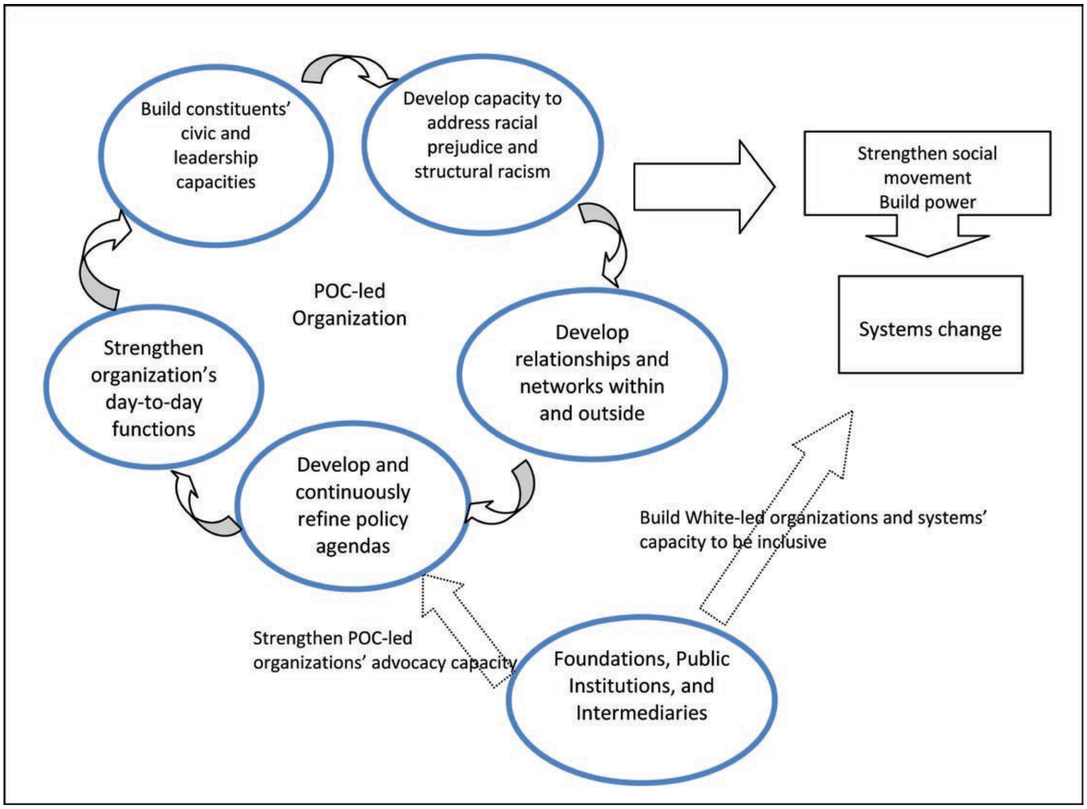

Build constituents' civic and leadership capacities
Develop capacity to address racial prejudice and structural racism
Strengthen social movement
Build power
Systems change
POC-led Organization
Develop relationships and networks within and outside
Strengthen organization's day-to-day functions
Develop and continuously refine policy agendas
Build White-led organizations and systems' capacity to be inclusive
Strengthen POC-led organizations' advocacy capacity
Foundations, Public Institutions, and Intermediaries

Figure 3: Working Model for Building the Advocacy Capacity of POC-led Organizations Source: Lee, k., et al. (2009).

As examples of advancing social justice in food system funding, the WK Kellogg and Jesse Smith Noyes Foundations are integrating health and racial equity frameworks as a model for their peer foundations. While these two foundations may focus on different geographic and organizational entities, they are building a stronger vision for philanthropy in articulating social justice concerns through their inclusion and prioritization of racial equity.

While social justice includes intersecting factors across race, class, gender, violence, and authority, foundations have honed in on contesting structural racism and increasing racial equity as a key strategy for increasing social justice. Organizations that include racial equity amidst class and other foci such as the Applied Research Center have "rebranded" from racial and economic equity to racial justice in their revised mission, vision, and goals (https://www.raceforward.org). The Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity (PRE) has further networked funders to strategize how they internally and through their grant making increase the effectiveness of resources that combat institutional and structural racism (http://www.racialequity.org). As Alkon and Agyeman (2011) advise, "a move beyond color blindedness is necessary if the food movement is to create alliances with low-income people and people of color in pursuit of just sustainability" (p. 334). At the same time, it is important to simultaneously addresses racial, class, and gender oppressions in order to strengthen the ability to contest the growing power of the current global food regime in its myriad forms.

Public Funding Through the USDA.

Reflecting upon the history of how problem definitions have remained focused on economic and production-based goals within the United States Department of Food and Agriculture (USDA) helps us understand why there is persistence in certain types of funding priorities in food and agriculture programs and research today. Historically, USDA funding for programs and applied research has upheld the realm of natural science inquiry as the key to addressing agricultural sustenance and longevity. The underlying discourse within USDA has traversed over one hundred and fifty years in practice. Yet within that time it has maintained core priorities that continue to reinforce dominant growth models with limited support and commitment to a more just food and agricultural system. Allen (2004) notes Hajer's 1995 publication where he introduces the notion that "discursive frames" (p. 89) establish problem set boundaries with convictions of a shared sense of meaning. While finding common ground is important in networked societies it may limit activists and institutions from language and seeing ways to structurally transform and change when boundaries are reinforced by dominant discourse. To this end, the emphasis on productivity, land usage, farming techniques and technology—as well as economic models for reducing labor costs through mechanization and inputs—have been the funding priorities in food and agriculture research.

Within sustainable food and agriculture funding, government based program grants and resources continue to lean heavily on targeting resources to support productivity and efficiency on the farm to market promotion more broadly in the supply chain. The focus on the land and the enterprise of the farmer in lieu of social issues such as the treatment and welfare of labor, the role of gender in ownership and employment, or structural dimensions of consumer poverty is of no great surprise. Rather, social justice advocates have to examine in what ways funding sources available may serve their goals amidst other applicant proposals. Through the expansion of cross-department efforts the USDA has been trying to promote its resources for advancing food and farming however the ability to increase resources to address social justice remains largely through food security on the consumer side and market promotion and economic loan and financing support for the farmer and food business owners on the other. The very language and focus in the USDA promotion efforts situate citizens as farm or food business owners and consumers as the key stakeholders to bridge and support leaves little room to situate other stakeholders in the food chain such as laborers that serve agriculture day in and day out.

At present there are over seventeen agencies and seventeen distinct offices operating within the USDA http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navtype=MA&navid=AGENCIES_OFFICES). To navigate and understand how best to access resources and funding can be extremely difficult for non-profit organizations. During the current tenure of USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, senior administration has aligned programs and funding so that the public can better understand how the federal government is supporting food and agriculture. The launching of the Know Your Famer, Know Your Food (KYF2) initiative in 2009 has built a cross-sector initiative in USDA to revitalize regional food and farming economies largely focused on many aspects of sustainability, social, economic, and environmental. KYF2 encompasses the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) that includes SARE and other research oriented funding bases in addition to applied programming funding for the Community Food Projects. The initiative includes efforts such as increasing agrifood literacy, regional food and farming developments, and increasing healthy consumer eating habits. As one would expect, there continues to be little attention given to social justice efforts such as worker issues/abuse and regulatory accountability for chemical pesticides watershed and drift impacts. Table 2 provides an overview of current funding and programs dedicated to KYF2 that highlight the extent of neoliberal and reform based dimensions of USDA funding programs toward food systems engagement. Using Holtz-Gimenez and Wang's (2011) spectrum analysis for food movement efforts, the underlying funding through the USDA as an institution comes as little surprise. Like private funders, USDA requires targeted assessments to determine what funding programs may be more strategic to increase progressive funding through for researchers and practitioners in the food system.

Table 2. USDA Know Your Farmer Know Your Food Funding Programs

Funding Program	USDA Agency	Foci	Dimension of Change
Farmers Market Promotion Program	Agricultural Marketing Services	• Increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets • Assist in the development, improvement, and expansion of, domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported	Neoliberal to Reformist

		agriculture programs, agri-tourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities.	
Local Food Promotion Program	Agricultural Marketing Services	• To support the development and expansion of local and regional food business enterprises to increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products. • Develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets.	Neoliberal to Reformist
Federal-State Marketing Improvement	Agricultural Marketing Services	• Determine market demand for local product • Build online marketing tools • Develop protocols for harvesting excess crops for local food banks; • Develop business for food hubs	Neoliberal to Reformist
Specialty Crop Block Grant	Agricultural Marketing Services	• Enhance the competiveness of specialty crops (fruits, vegetables. Tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops. Floriculture) including locally grown and consumed specialty crops	Neoliberal to Reformist
Farm Loan Programs	Farm Service Agency	• Provide loans to farmers and ranchers through local Farm Service Agency county offices, • Work with local banks to provide government guarantee for farm loans made by those financial institutions to farmers and ranchers.	Neoliberal to Reformist
Farm Storage Facility Program	Farm Service Agency	• Finance the purchase, construction, or refurbishment of farm storage facilities; • Finance new cold storage buildings, which can be particularly important to those growing fruits and vegetables for the fresh market	Neoliberal to Reformist
Farm to School Grants Program	Food and Nutrition Service	• Help schools source more foods locally • Provide complementary educational activities to students that emphasize food farming and nutrition	Neoliberal to Reformist
Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program	Food and Nutrition Service	• Provide low-income seniors with coupons that can be exchanged for fruits, vegetables, herbs and honey at farmers' markets, roadside stands and community supported and agriculture (CSA) programs • Promote the use and expansion of farmers' markets roadside stands, and CSA programs throughout the country	Reformist
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	Food and Nutrition Service	• Help low income households put food on the table by providing electronic benefits that are redeemed for food at authorized stores	Reformist
WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program	Food and Nutrition Service	• Provide locally grown fruits and vegetables through farmers' markets to WIC participants, and to expand the awareness and use of farmers' markets	Reformist
Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance	Food and Nutrition Service	• Provide healthy food, nutrition education, and appropriate care and other program referrals fro pregnant and nursing mothers, infants, and	Reformist

Program for Women, Infants, and Children		young children.	
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities	National Institute for Food and Agriculture	- Support research, education, and/or extension projects that address the long-term viability of small and medium-sized farms, entrepreneurship and small business development, markets and trade, and support rural communities.	Neoliberal to Reformist
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program	National Institute for Food and Agriculture	- Train, educate, and provide outreach and technical assistance to new and beginning farmers on production, marketing, business management, legal strategies and other topics critical to running a successful operation	Reformist
Community Food Projects	National Institute for Food and Agriculture	- Increase food security in communities by bringing the whole food system together to assess strengths, establish linkages, and create systems that improve the self-reliance of community members over their food needs	Reformist to progressive
Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives Program (FINI)	National Institute for Food and Agriculture	- Supports projects to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables among low-income consumers participating in SNAP by providing incentives at the point of purchase.	Reformist
Small Business Innovation Research	National Institute for Food and Agriculture	- Helps small businesses conduct high quality research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture. - Research is intended to increase the commercialization of innovations and foster participation by women-owned and socially and economically disadvantaged small business in technological innovation	Neoliberal to Reformist
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education	National Institute for Food and Agriculture	- Advance sustainable innovations in American agriculture.	Reformist to progressive
Risk Management Education and Outreach	Risk Management Agency	- Provide farmers and ranchers (especially minority, limited resource, and traditionally underserved farmers and ranchers) with information on new ways to manage risk. - This program funds risk management strategies related to production (including crop insurance) marketing, legal, human, and financial issues	Reformist to progressive
Whole Farm Revenue Protection	Risk Management Agency	- Risk management safety net for all commodities on the farm under an insurance policy	Neoliberal
Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program	Rural Development	- Help new and existing businesses based in rural areas gain access to affordable capital, USDA provides guarantees on loans made by private lenders	Neoliberal
Community Facilities	Rural Development	- Support rural communities by providing loans and grants for the construction, acquisition, or renovation of community facilities or for the	Neoliberal to Reformist

		purchase of equipment for community facilities	
Rural Business Development Grants	Rural Development	- Facilitate the development of small and emerging rural businesses, distance learning networks, and employment-related adult education programs; training and technical assistance for business development and the assist with regional economic development planning	Neoliberal to Reformist
Rural Cooperative Development Grants	Rural Development	- Rural economic development through the creation or improvement of cooperative development centers, these centers in turn provide assistance for starting up, improving, or expanding rural business, especially cooperatives.	Neoliberal to Reformist
Value Added Producer Grants	Rural Development	- Helps farmers and ranchers receive a higher portion of the retail dollar. Value-Added Producer Grants support planning activities, such as developing a business plan, as well as working capital.	Neoliberal to Reformist

Source: N.A. (N.D.). Grants, loans, and support. *USDA KYF2*. Retrieved from http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=KYF_GRANTS

Discursive formation has also transferred conventional determinants for inquiry into alternative agrifood research within USDA programs. As an example we can look at the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program (SARE) as part of National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and its California based counterpart program, UC Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program (UC SAREP). These are two funding programs that continue to focus on production and farmer based technological needs with a limited interest in the social science elements food and agriculture. Allen (2004) notes that from 1987 through 2001 SARE and UC SAREP expended 85 percent and 76 percent of existing funding, respectively, toward agricultural production related research and education programs with only 6 percent invested in projects emphasizing community development and food systems (p. 97). Considering the role of epistemology in shaping how people come to understand the world, Allen cautions that it can limit how solutions are developed, options are considered, and how changes take place. An epistemology that is grounded in biophysical sciences, production, and economics limits the horizon for proposal reviewers to consider social science based inquiry that engages dimensions of justice in the food system. Further, with little to no guidance on social science and justice-based inquiry, reviewers of proposals may be cautious in engaging social-justice-driven funding submittals through federal and state channels of SARE.

Advancing social justice through an intersectional engagement of frameworks. The literature and survey responses reflect a range of emphases within the broader concept of social justice. Across the frameworks presented there is universal interest in pursuing social justice relative goals that reinforce to contest the status quo of our agrifood system. While it is important to approach a problem solving from multiple directions not having a shared agreement on the problem of perpetual injustice and how to approach it leaves much room for improvement. As social justice efforts begins to move from reforming, to re-envisioning and redefining the problem set and possibilities for progressive and radical actions, opportunities arise where oppressive structures can be dismantled such as when the UFW contested the rights and dignity of farm workers and more recently the mobilizations of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers market place strategies to change the exploitative environments of larger Florida grower operations. public health, food justice, and food security efforts primarily focus on local to domestic efforts, food sovereignty advances an internationally aligned context toward healthy, equitable food access and empowerment.

While there is no shared definition of social justice in sustainable food and agriculture, we can begin to see how food system frameworks intersect with social justice efforts. One particular difficulty in linking food justice (FJ) movement efforts with professional initiatives, such as public health, is the gap in shared language and discourse. Public health professionals and food justice based movement stakeholders could strengthen social justice through establishing shared frameworks that align and build solidarity. For example, a decade ago public health officials began to consider how to address sustainable food systems through examining the intersections of public health and sustainable agriculture. Cohen et al. (2004) provides a model of intersecting frameworks with their report, “Cultivating Common Ground: Linking Health and Sustainable Agriculture.” The report introduces insights in how sustainable agriculture and the health profession approach problems and solutions. Results recognized that language was one barrier that would need to be bridged in order to strengthen the role of public health in advocating for sustainable food systems. In order to introduce stronger dimensions of social justice within public health and their specific focus in sustainable food systems a similar analysis could be undertaken with intersectional convenings that link FJ and public health practitioners.

Further, the literature reflects a range of emphases applying social justice within alternative food systems (Gimenez-Holtz & Wang, 2011; Treager, 2011). Coordinated approaches within the philanthropic community to introduce sustainable food funders prioritize social justice can also hasten the level of understanding and activate greater foundational interest. For example, Noyes and WKKF’s joint Diversifying Leadership for Sustainable Food Policy Program, discussed earlier, identified measures drawn from ten organizations who took on racial equity changes internally to increase leadership representative of the communities and work being undertaken. Providing such models can invite a diverse range of organizations drawing from one or more conceptual frameworks to undergo internal structural changes that may alter how they develop social justice based goals and priorities to more accurately reflect needs and challenges. However, a sole focus on racial equity as the *sine qua non* lever for social change in sustainable food systems may have an unintended effect of limiting attention to issues of gender and class. Without including gender and class dimensions as key factors in structural oppression, efforts to advance social justice in sustainable food systems will be limited in its transformational outcomes.

As a means to increase social justice practices across the food system multi-stakeholder spaces should convene to better define and articulate a shared framework for the multiple dimensions of social justice efforts. Including funders, NGOs, and scholars through existing national convenings and conversations will serve to forward the understanding and usage of social justice. This is especially pertinent as community organizations and funders have uneven priorities and understandings of how social justice is applied. Documenting the range of efforts underway and identifying the degree to which proposed concepts and/or activities fall across Holtz-Gimenez and Wang's (2011) political spectrum encapsulating neoliberal and reform, to progressive and radical dimensions provides a stronger foundation for future social justice discussions and analysis.

Coalitions in sustainable food systems can also illustrate the range and reality of what is prioritized in advocacy based efforts with regard to social justice. At present there is a growing base of coalition and cross-sector partnerships in food and agriculture. Some networks target policy and government reform, while others mobilize across sectors to support community level interventions to foster greater sustainability in the food system. Creating spaces for inter-coalition conversations and discussions on specifically advancing social justice within sustainable food system can improve the ability for these networks to relate, respond, and transform our food system with just measures. From the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition and Pesticide Action Network of North America to Growing Food and Justice Initiative and US Food Sovereignty Alliance, integrated spaces for reflecting on discourse and establishing agreements on social justice work in the food system is essential. Further interconnected dialogue that engages practitioners and scholars would also help address critiques from researchers. This is especially pertinent given current scholars' concerns that the alternative agrifood movement today has been unable to prioritize social justice amidst other competing priorities (Cadiuex & Slocum, 2015; Guthman, 2008; Hotlz-Gimenez & Wang, 2011; Inouye & Warner, 2001; Shrek et al., 2006).

4.3 Limits and Constraints Toward Funding Social Justice

The role of philanthropy in advancing social change is fraught with contradictory challenges that raise concern for their net impact in the short and long term. In 2013 the Senate Finance Committee report notes there are over 1.5 million tax-exempt organizations with assets of $2.7 trillion and 81,000 foundations in the US philanthropic sector (Bartlett, 2013). Although the top twelve progressive based foundations give nearly $8 billion annually compared with less then $1.5 billion from the top twelve conservative foundations, their money falls disproportionately short in its impact to structural and societal change (Shuman, 1998). Part of the issue with progressive funding raised by Shuman (1998) entails the wide based of issue interest versus more focused issue funding in conservative philanthropy. In that sense the multi-issue advocacy may cover more ground and at the same time not provide substantive funding to create longer-term impact. Other facts that have challenge the role of philanthropic giving to advance social justice include a general interest in having an apolitical orientation that may scrutinize advocacy efforts that appear too politicized. Other restrictive factors include a reluctance to provide general support grants as well as funding one year or short cycle efforts over long-term investment. To foster social change and advance justice based efforts, foundations will need to consider investing in long term funding cycles as well as responsive funding for justice-based issues that require swift analysis and action. Through a dual pronged funding approach foundations committed to social justice can serve to be more agile and able to respond timely as well as with greater depth of commitment to advancing social justice.

Diverting from a conservative approach to philanthropic analysis and reporting the National Committee for Responsible Philanthropy (NCRP) pursues critical reports, strategic convening, and trainings for funders. Their approach focuses on models that foundations can draw from and incorporate to transform their directed and conservative giving practices into more democratic and transformative methods. Food system funders that have an interest in improving their internal practices for increased transparency or seek to consider now guiding processes for their grant making could benefit from NCRP resources. NCRP's Fall 2013 Responsive Philanthropy quarterly journal introduces examples of how to increase the democratic process for funding that includes cautions about how funders can unintentionally reinforce victimization and paternalism as well as provide guiding questions with further resources on steps forward in changing undemocratic practices (McGraw & Reeves, 2013). Reformist efforts to provide more meals at food banks and through school lunches might be simple to measure and suggest a socially just charitable act for corporate, government, and private foundations alike yet fall far from serving to empower those in chronic poverty through feeding programs. Introducing a social justice evaluation rubric and tool for foundations to utilize in mapping their giving practices and resultant impact may draw fresh perspective on the conservative to reformist nature of such investments. It would further inform funders of the less than transformational impact of their current strategies with the resultant opportunity to increase interest in progressive and radical approaches to addressing hunger and inequality. The authors of the NRCP article further recommend foundations support rather than shy away the taboo subject of community organizing and public policy. Both the role of community organizing and shaping public policy are prongs of historical social justice efforts and continue to serve as important processes for justice goals today in the food system. However, funders have not prioritized public policy due, in part, to concerns of how grantees and the foundation themselves document and report lobbying activities. The legal status of a foundation limit their role in direct advocacy activities that include direct lobbying and grantees are also mandated to report and document such activities through the IRS. While there have been small factions looking to alter the philanthropic model of charity both the ongoing professionalization of the field and its origins of practice continue to more conservative to reformist approaches to giving.

To date, little analysis has been done on the relationship of philanthropic based program and research funding for social justice within food and agriculture related efforts. Nor has an analysis provided detail of the ratio of program to research based funding available. When funding is drawn from profits in the marketplace, the implications for how charitable giving values social justice above other issues requires examination. As of 2005, foundations accounted for $30 billion while individual giving accounted for over seventy-six percent of the $260 billion of charitable giving in philanthropy. Due to tax laws and campaign finance reform political contributions are not considered tax deductible or counted as part of annual charitable giving statistics. With the majority of individual contributions coming from citizens who make over $200,000 a year, the $197.6 billion in annual charitable giving leans toward education, health, and arts, neglecting many critical causes while providing up to a 40 percent tax subsidy for those in the top income bracket (Ahn, 2009; Bartlett, 2013). It is important to realize that philanthropy is founded and persists due to capital accumulation and business profit being re-invested, with a significant reduction in tax burden, into a charitable giving entity. Foundations are only required by law to spend five percent of its holdings annually which in good years can equate to the investment earnings of the foundation (Bartlett, 2013). Further, foundations can spend that five percent on their own board officers and staff salaries and give only one or two percent out in actual giving. In some sense philanthropy and capitalism are part of the same corporate system that further empowers successful individuals in business to shape society in ways they are personally compelled to support.

In addition to family and individual foundations, corporations have separate foundation entities that serve to promote the good will of the business through social giving. While there may be inherent contradictions in funding social justice work with funding derived from corporate success in the marketplace, some leading food justice organization do not see it this way. For example, a recent debate emerged within the food security and food justice realm when Growing Power Inc, and founder, Will Allen, accepted one million dollars from the Wal-Mart foundation. Will Allen noted: '"We, as a society, can no longer refuse to invite big corporations to the table of the Good Food Revolution… We can no longer be so idealistic that we hurt the very people we're trying to help. Keeping groups that have the money and the power to be a significant part of the solution away from the Good Food Revolution will not serve us" (Fisher, 2011). The question of whether program and research needs of non-profit organizations and institutions should be funded from companies that harm the planet and exploit people remains open. However, from a pragmatic point of view there are few if any sources of funding other than those accrued through the capitalist economic system.

Survey Data on NGO Funding. Seven of eight survey respondents indicated that their funding primarily comes from private foundations and individual donors. As *Figure 4* indicates, over eighty percent of operating dollars across six national participating organizations consist of private foundation and individual donor funding sources. The ongoing dependence of advocate organizations on the philanthropic sector requires enormous energy to pursue, document, and report outcomes to grant makers. Further, with thirty percent coming from private donors the ongoing management of each donor relationship can require little to significant investment of organizational leadership and administrative time.

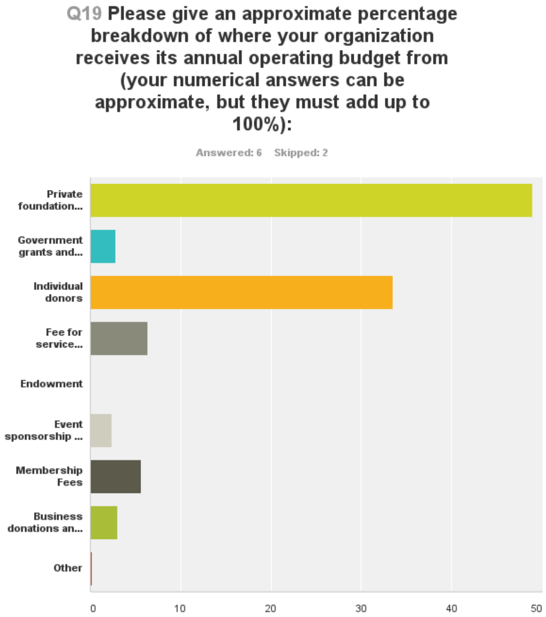


Figure 4: Funding Sources for Survey Respondents

Foundations noted as key supporters of respondents social justice based programming include: the CA Endowment, CERES Trust, Ford Foundation, Jesse Smith Noyes Foundation, Kresge Foundation, Marisla Foundation, New York Community Trust, Norman Foundation, Patridge Foundation, and WK Kellogg Foundation. When respondents were asked to share what excites them about social justice activities modeled by their most progressive funders they noted a few helpful roles. Firstly, funders are able to influence the field of NGOs to prioritize and advance social justice. Specifically, one respondent's funder has elevated the concept of racial equity through their grant making and thereby influenced NGOs more broadly who pursue them for funding to self assess their own practices. Secondly, one respondent recognized their funder's model and influence amidst peer philanthropists has already begun to increase attention to social justice to other funders and the peer-to-peer concept holds promise. Lastly, one respondent noted that their funder has helped them and other funded organizations find the right fit for their work in the movement and actually has helped them better define their niche. This latter comment suggests the role of the funder goes much farther then passive investment in a grantee's project. Rather, funders can co-create and advance grantees social location in a larger conceptual field of practice. Foundations that are less responsive and focused on social justice would equally situate their grantee's projects in more conservative conceptual spaces limiting the potential program arc and foci of those entities.

While respondents stated that foundations and individual donors serve as the primary source of their ongoing funding, all seven NGO respondents and one academic respondent were in agreement that there is insufficient funding for social justice in the food system. As a follow-up question, respondents were invited to share details of existing barriers they encounter working with food system funders. Through documenting barriers funders can consider new ways to improve the process of funding for grantees. Foundation barriers for respondents included noting difficulties with proposal submittal timelines, limited funding available amidst an environment of peer competition, limited transparency and process for approaching and being funded by larger foundations, and that only a small set of foundations explicitly fund social justice work. An additional concern raised by one respondent was the relative power of the foundation to drive the NGO's work. They wrote, "One challenge working with private foundations can be when the foundation's agenda is so strong and the power dynamic of foundation versus grantee, creates a situation where the grantee feels like their actions are being driven by the funder and not the integrity of the program or the agency's mission." This illustrates an uneven power relationship that can emerge between NGOs trying to sustain budgets and livelihoods and funders who carry a significant degree of power wielding the purse. Given the role individual donors and foundations play in funding social justice efforts in the food system there are opportunities to address noted barriers to improve conditions for grantees and even for the funders themselves.

4.3 Advancing Social Justice Funding and Inquiry in the Food System

Without greater attention to social justice issues in sustainable food systems, alternative agrifood movement and research efforts can reinforce existing structures of oppression and power rather than transform them. Future inquiry can consider further documentation and attention toward bridging social justice advocates and researchers needs. For example, NGO advocate efforts to respond and develop community programs or a swift response to public policy may operate on a much shorter timeline then traditional research endeavors requiring greater time to analyze data and publish peer-reviewed results.

Within the USDA, greater attention is needed to determine how existing funding programs can work to advance social justice beyond incremental reforms. In part this will require public policy and legislative engagement to shift priorities to focus on non-traditional justice based dimensions within the food system. While longer term and potentially deflating, advocates can press forward with federal and state policy engagement to refine RFPs to include social justice dimensions. An initial step could include funding a research project to map the strategic food system related government RFPs in order to identify where social justice revisions can be inserted. Such an analysis can then inform existing policy focused advocacy organizations and coalitions on achievable impacts to work toward to increase the scope of funding available.

In addition, the underlying structures of philanthropy may need additional accountability and public engagement in order to comprehensively engage social justice. To date, there is limited literature mapping public opinion on the role of philanthropy as well as assessing public understanding of how it operates. Increasing fiscal responsibility of foundations can go a long way in changing traditional practices of conservative funders. Initially adding tax code language that stipulates the 5% spending mandate should be strictly grantee-based excluding operating costs, board and staff salaries, and activities of the entity itself would be an enormous impact. This can further include mandating giving to equal their investment revenue rather than the federal 5% mandate if the federal government wanted to ensure their loss in taxes is still transferred to the public good. This lost tax revenue going into foundations has been noted to exceed $225 billion (Ahn, 2009) reflecting a substantial sum that is being held and released through an annual trickle of giving. By revising the tax law and placing greater expectation on foundation based giving the government could increase the total funding made available for grantees.

As the data gathered through this exploratory research project confirms, there are uneven investments in funding, from both private and public sources, in sustainable food and agriculture across economic, environmental, and social dimensions. While social justice funding receives the least support there are opportunities to increase interest and resources for social justice in the food system. Recommendations to improve the role of funders require both internal and external directed efforts. Internal efforts could include defining social justice and conducting an analysis of program funding impact. An analysis that incorporates Holtz-Gimenez & Wang's (2011) framework to measure the political spectrum of social change could serve to identify the spectrum of change each foundation is focused on. It further could provide useful material for strategic planning for foundations interested in examining their impact to date as well as assist in better defining how to advance progressive to radical grantee support in their funding portfolio. Secondly, building on a social change analysis, foundations could revise existing assessment tools for program funding to prioritize organizations that are lead and serve vulnerable and historically excluded communities as part of their increased efforts to support social justice. Taking into consideration class, gender, and race through the RFP and grant making process sends a strong signal into the practitioner community as well as among peers. Thirdly, turning the mirror on themselves, foundations should communicate what structural measures they can commit to address racial and gender equity that can include the composition of their staff and board leadership to how they develop social justice priorities to fund.

There are several external grantee focused efforts funders can integrate into their ability to strengthen social justice goals in both the foci and process of funding food system efforts. Firstly, social justice organizations often are responding to both acute and chronic experiences of oppression and exploitation. Introducing multiple Request For Proposals (RFPs) that support long-term efforts that may include policy and alternative economic development models while also attending to more short-term needs such as community organizing and urgent mobilizations can meet a more diverse range of grantee needs. This could be accomplished through establishing an “urgent action” rolling RFP process to respond to emerging needs in addition to existing RFP processes that have standard deadlines for submittal and allocation. Often funding allocations coincide with annual board meetings in order for program officers to present recommendations for approval. With urgent funding RFP processes additional decision-making protocol can be introduced that includes remote based review and approval system for the board as well as delegation to program directors for smaller urgent allocations in order to not delay funding awards and transfers based on imminent needs. Secondly, grantees experience recurring budget periods where cash flow is limited to unavailable as organizations subsist on incoming grant dollars when reserves are tapped. In such cases establishing a small loan and credit partnership with their grantees to provide low-to-zero interest loans can make a significant difference between reducing scope and impact and sustaining momentum. The benefit of such a loan arrangement for grantees includes low to no interest repayment terms as well as ensuring staff can focus on program outcomes rather then chasing money, leading to potential greater impact overall. In addition, foundations should re-evaluate why research funding is specifically limited while actions for developing working models and programs draw greater appeal.

Researchers and the role of research should be made more prominent as a priority. Both academic and non-profit affiliated researchers are critical to examining the motives, methods, processes, and outcomes of food system based social change efforts.

As more foundations develop an interest in supporting social justice based food systems efforts, funders will need to be mindful of who they fund to carry out justice based work. Specifically, they will need to consider increasing investment in efforts working with limited resource people of color and marginalized communities along gender and class lines as a baseline for ensuring funding dollars translate into empowering programs. Overall, foundations have not provided much support for people who suffer from social injustice. Ahn (2009) documents how in 2002 only 7% of foundation grant dollars went to efforts working with people of color, the homeless, gay/lesbian/transgender, or single parents. Further, less than 1.7% of grant dollars went to fund civil rights or social action efforts. One option would be to build upon tax law reform to also introduce a values-based federal review/accreditation process for foundations. I would envision this to build on the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy's efforts to review and introduce reports on social justice.

More broadly, greater accountability is needed within the 101,558 foundations currently registered in the United States as of 2015 (http://foundationcenter.org/findfunders/foundfinder). It is important to consider philanthropy as another mechanism for accumulating and managing wealth that includes tax shelter subsidies for charitable giving. Registering and running a foundation requires little accountability aside from tax filing budget materials and having a board of two or more people. Introducing greater rigor into the accreditation and review process would strengthen accountability and serve funders who are already going above the basic requirement.

Further examining the feasibility of linking federally sanctioned criteria to third party certification with an annual assessment and review process that includes metrics on equity, fairness, and transparency could ensure practices are upheld, both in operations and grant making. Those that are unable to meet standards to improve their operations and distribution of funding process should face repercussions, including losing their status and ability to operate. This would then transfer additional tax revenue back to a public process rather than a private one that may simply provide tax shelters for the wealthy.

While this exploratory inquiry has introduced examples of model efforts in philanthropy from the WK Kellogg and Jesse Smith Noyes Foundations to the Sustainable Agriculture and Food System Funders Network, this represents a small fraction of the potential funds that could be directed toward more progressive social justice ends. Including individual philanthropy with foundation giving can vastly increase resources available. According to the National Center for Charitable Statistics, more than $228,000,000,000 was given in 2013 from individual donors whereas only fifty billion through foundations (http://nccs.urban.org/statistics/quickfacts.cfm). Therefore there should also be an effort to focus on transparency and accountability for wealthy individual contributors who also benefit from tax breaks in advancing their own social change agenda with no accountability. With those most privileged celebrated as the primary drivers of the social good (Smith and Davidson, 2014) there is little room to acknowledge the multi-stakeholder efforts of those with less resources working on the ground across this country. The ongoing assumption that wealthy people are the generous benefactors of society obscures the ways in that income distribution and generational poverty are inextricably bound to wealth. Without greater attention to structural inequality, social justice will continue to be submerged within unaccountable funding systems of donors and foundations that primarily fund reform efforts. Foundations can also play a more active role in educating individual donors through webinars and national convenings in order build a broader base of funders anchored in a shared sense of social justice and priorities in changing the food system.

While alternative food movement and food justice organizations wrestle with how deep dismantling racism can go to affect change, the channels of money coming into these efforts reinforce an uneven playing field of power, race, and politics. Movements should direct public pressure to strategic channels to reforming policy and government oversight of charitable organizations and individual donor tax benefits to advance social equity in an age of ever growing poverty and capital concentration. By exploring grass roots movement building and pushing the agenda beyond neoliberal and modest reform based philanthropy, funders can improve their collective impact and look to new ways to build emergent thought leaders and invest in multi-stakeholder strategies that build agency within historically excluded communities. Rather than have prospective grantees over invest time in mapping their social capital network to determine how to further leverage their proposal to managing and tracking logic models and external metrics for abstract funder data needs, the realm of philanthropy can be responsive. Funders need to re-envision how they work to empower their grantees through new funding mechanisms alongside improving the tools and tactics to help community leaders deepen their social justice efforts. The fact that funders are uncomfortable transferring large sums to community organization based projects without clearly defined and measurable uses denotes an expectation that grantees have all the answers at the start of a process of change. In reality, most social justice efforts require basic processes to empower and let communities define needs, propose solutions through emergent discussions, and develop ownership of the entire process. This would be a far better use of grantee time, especially if funders consider race, class, and gender dimensions of their grantees a more reflexive funding environment may contribute to leveling the playing field of uneven access to funding for vulnerable communities impacted the most by our food system.

In consideration of USDA funding approaches further analysis should be undertaken to map government funded food system research opportunities. Further, private funders may been keen to map federal funding programs to determine how they define and support social justice. Key intersecting factors such as gender, race, class, labor, health, and land ownership can serve to better situate social justice practices within our current food system and should be reflected in federal social science based research RFPS. Social justice based researchers require funding to advance what has historically been a marginalized realm of resources and support through USDA and state agencies (Allen, 2004). As evidenced above SARE and projects within NIFA and AFRI intersect with social justice; however, there is less attention to critical social science inquiry. Through the last Farm Bill, the USDA has announced a new Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) allocating two hundred million. The board consists of leading scientists with a focus on issues including plant and animal health; food safety, nutrition and health; renewable energy, natural resources, and environment; agricultural and food security; and agriculture systems and technology (http://www.ncfar.org/ffar_overview3.22.12.pdf). FFAR represents the latest USDA thinking as they are calling for matching funds from the private sector as a nod to neoliberal thinking to increase research partnerships that at best are pragmatic to reform inquiry based projects. While the USDA's budget provides up to three billion, or ten percent through their Research, Education, & Economics mission (i.e., this includes NIFA & ARS) in allocation to research, the amount directly being invested in social justice continues to be a paltry sum (http://www.obpa.usda.gov/budsum/FY15budsum.pdf).

While the USDA provides research and program funding opportunities, the agency also internally manages the collection, analysis, and review of food and agriculture data to release reports and briefings. The research foci include community food security, farm labor, and supplemental food and nutrition program that are all managed through the Economic Research Service (ERS) (http://ers.usda.gov/topics.aspx#.U3AuIq1dVfI). ERS has primary access to existing government data and census material as a main engine of federal research that researchers and non-profit organizations have limited capacity and ability to utilize. ERS serves public and private based analysis needs to inform industry as well as government and society. Though this project is examining funding and research constraints around social justice it is important to make note of USDA‘s ERS to better understand how their in-house services could be further directed toward social justice ends within the discussion. This is especially important since ERS not only provides guidance to public efforts but to private enterprise in advancing food and agriculture. Including ERS and their role in social justice research will inform how internal research topics of the USDA contributes to scholarly and public social justice discourse or the absence thereof.

The thesis explores how and why social justice inquiry is critical toward improving the way in which practitioners and funders in our food system can increase their engagement in social justice. Contemporary agrifood studies scholars have noted that there is little research funding and attention to social justice within sustainable food systems suggesting that little have changed since the founding of the USDA and its mission of productivity and efficiency to serve the form and function of the agency (Allen, 2004; 2008; Dupuis et al., 2011; Guthman, 2008a, 2008b, Tregear, 2011). Future research should elaborate on these studies while also exploring ways in which limited social justice funding in philanthropy and government reinforce neoliberal and reform based alternative agrifood movement efforts. This research inquiry has explored the limited funding environment of social justice as well as the frameworks that underly practitioner efforts. With a domestic funding environment generally prioritizing conservative and reform based efforts rather than addressing root causes of social injustice, they is ample opportunity to improve upon current practices. While agrifood researchers have identified the problems of limited social justice inquiry further exploration is needed to document the barriers and mechanisms that perpetuate limited funding for social justice projects and research. Practitioners and scholars could benefit from advancing conversations and deeper analysis about what types of research and projects are typically funded around social justice issues. Additionally, clarifying how different stakeholders perceive social justice and enact projects to advance social justice may point to new ways to create synergies in advancing resources for further research and practice.

Chapter 5

Conclusion

Fundamentally, if we cannot investigate, research, and raise the attention to issues of social justice in food and agriculture due to limits in shared discourse and funding, our agrifood system will foster even greater divergences in who benefits and who does not. It is clear organizations and foundations can take additional steps to developing explicit social justice definitions and goals that can better guide programs and allow staff to articulate implicit concepts of social justice in a shared sense. Further, larger coalitions and networks should examine definitions and goals of social justice of their constituents and convene leadership during national convenings to determine systemic strategies to mobilize progressive and radical dimensions of social change.

Given the scant amount of funding to address critical issues of race, class, and gender inequalities, the limits to inquiry and practice have to shift in order that oppressive conditions in our food system are dismantled and not passed down to future generations. Currently, progressive foundations are primarily directing their giving toward one crucial element of social justice, racial equity, calling for both philanthropic and practitioner analysis and changes to ensure communities most affected are also able to lead social change. However, without a strategy of engagement that includes gender and class components of identity alongside race, efforts to advance representative leadership may fall short and have unintended impacts. In addition to changing who leads philanthropic and change making efforts the underlying funding mechanisms for grantees focusing on social justice will require new practices from short and long-term RFPs to capital loans. Additional long-term measures of changing the federal spending mandates on foundations as well as introducing greater reporting on how funds are spent may improve access to data to evaluate grant making.

This research has reviewed current food systems frameworks and literature to increase attention to the challenge inherent in food systems change efforts. Both through survey respondents and the literature, there is a notable range of social justice activities taking place that can be elucidated through the introduced domestic food system frameworks. As discussed, utilizing Holtz-Gimenez & Wang's (2011) food systems social change analysis situates food systems goals on a spectrum from benefiting the corporate food regime providing neoliberal solutions and reform actions to building food movement activities that demonstrate progressive to radical impacts can serve to inform and assess the social and political endgame. Since an organization or coalition may draw from multiple frameworks it's important to recognize in what ways multi-framework efforts form to advance and restrict advance social justice. Drawing attention to the differences and opportunities for scaling deeper social justice efforts across the food system provides new research and funding opportunities to address. Through increasing the scholarly analysis of practitioner strategies future social justice efforts in food and agriculture will be strengthened. It is also important to keep the conversations active through targeted convenings that can bring practitioners and researchers together. Such spaces can lead to a better articulation of the pragmatic and far reaching social justice work to come.

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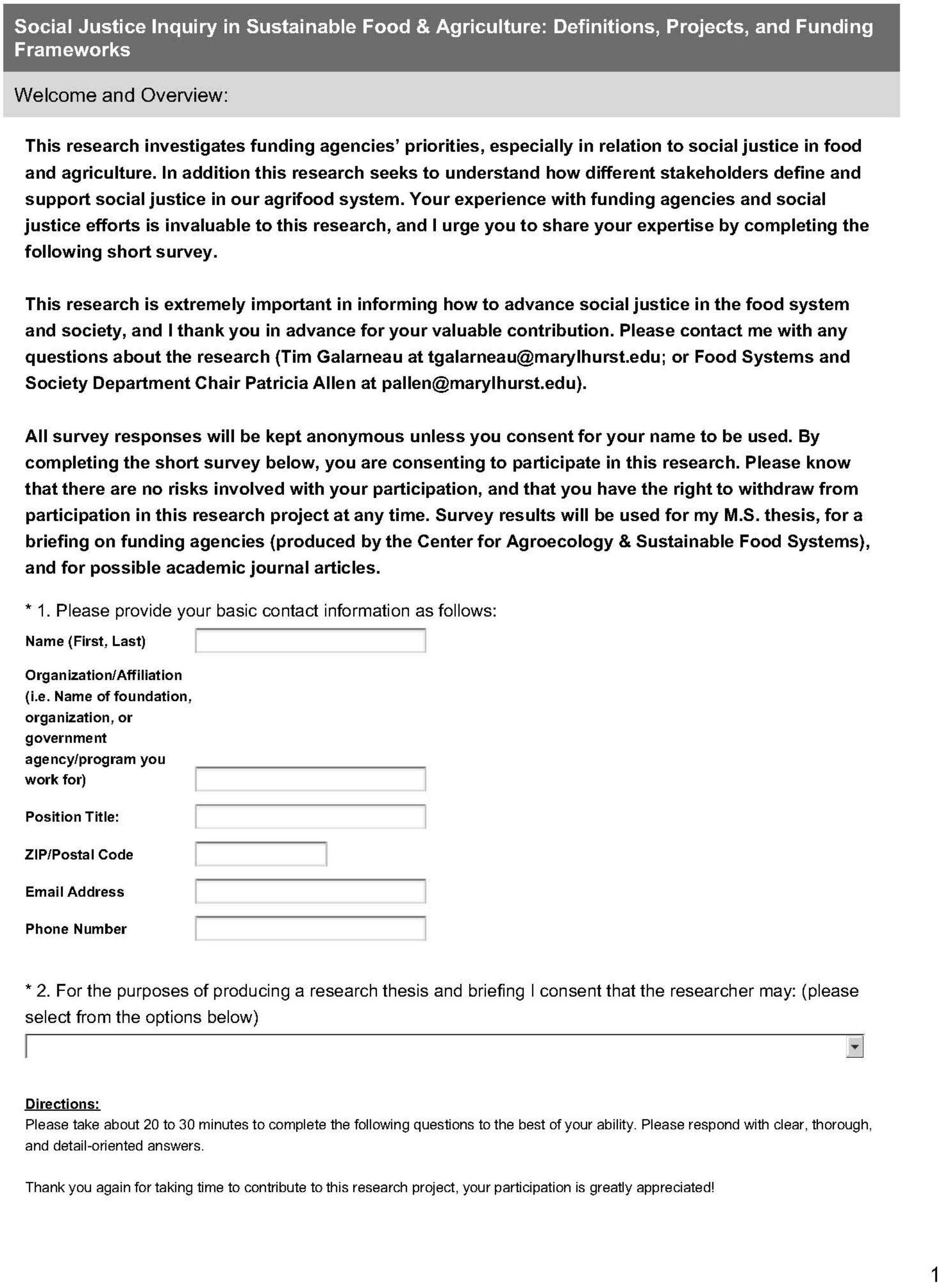
APPENDIX

Appendix 1. Survey Instrument



Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Welcome and Overview:

This research investigates funding agencies' priorities, especially in relation to social justice in food and agriculture. In addition this research seeks to understand how different stakeholders define and support social justice in our agrifood system. Your experience with funding agencies and social justice efforts is invaluable to this research, and I urge you to share your expertise by completing the following short survey.

This research is extremely important in informing how to advance social justice in the food system and society, and I thank you in advance for your valuable contribution. Please contact me with any questions about the research (Tim Galarneau at tgalarneau@marylhurst.edu; or Food Systems and Society Department Chair Patricia Allen at pallen@marylhurst.edu).

All survey responses will be kept anonymous unless you consent for your name to be used. By completing the short survey below, you are consenting to participate in this research. Please know that there are no risks involved with your participation, and that you have the right to withdraw from participation in this research project at any time. Survey results will be used for my M.S. thesis, for a briefing on funding agencies (produced by the Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems), and for possible academic journal articles.

* 1. Please provide your basic contact information as follows:

Name (First, Last)

Organization/Affiliation (i.e. Name of foundation, organization, or government agency/program you work for)

Position Title:

ZIP/Postal Code

Email Address

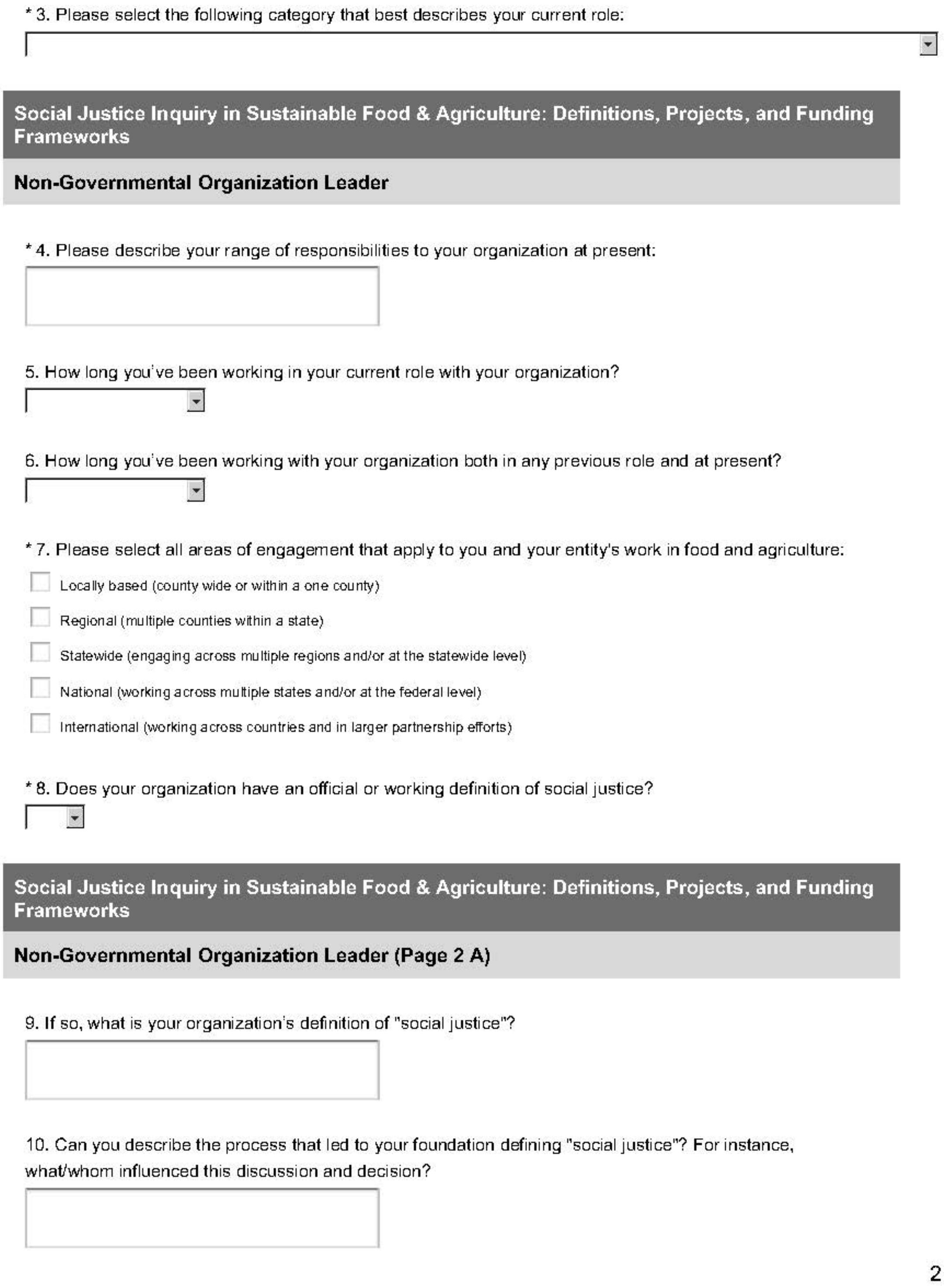
Phone Number

* 2. For the purposes of producing a research thesis and briefing I consent that the researcher may: (please select from the options below)

Directions:

Please take about 20 to 30 minutes to complete the following questions to the best of your ability. Please respond with clear, thorough, and detail-oriented answers.

Thank you again for taking time to contribute to this research project, your participation is greatly appreciated!



* 3. Please select the following category that best describes your current role:

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Non-Governmental Organization Leader

* 4. Please describe your range of responsibilities to your organization at present:

5. How long you've been working in your current role with your organization?

6. How long you've been working with your organization both in any previous role and at present?

* 7. Please select all areas of engagement that apply to you and your entity's work in food and agriculture:

- ☐ Locally based (county wide or within a one county)
- ☐ Regional (multiple counties within a state)
- ☐ Statewide (engaging across multiple regions and/or at the statewide level)
- ☐ National (working across multiple states and/or at the federal level)
- ☐ International (working across countries and in larger partnership efforts)

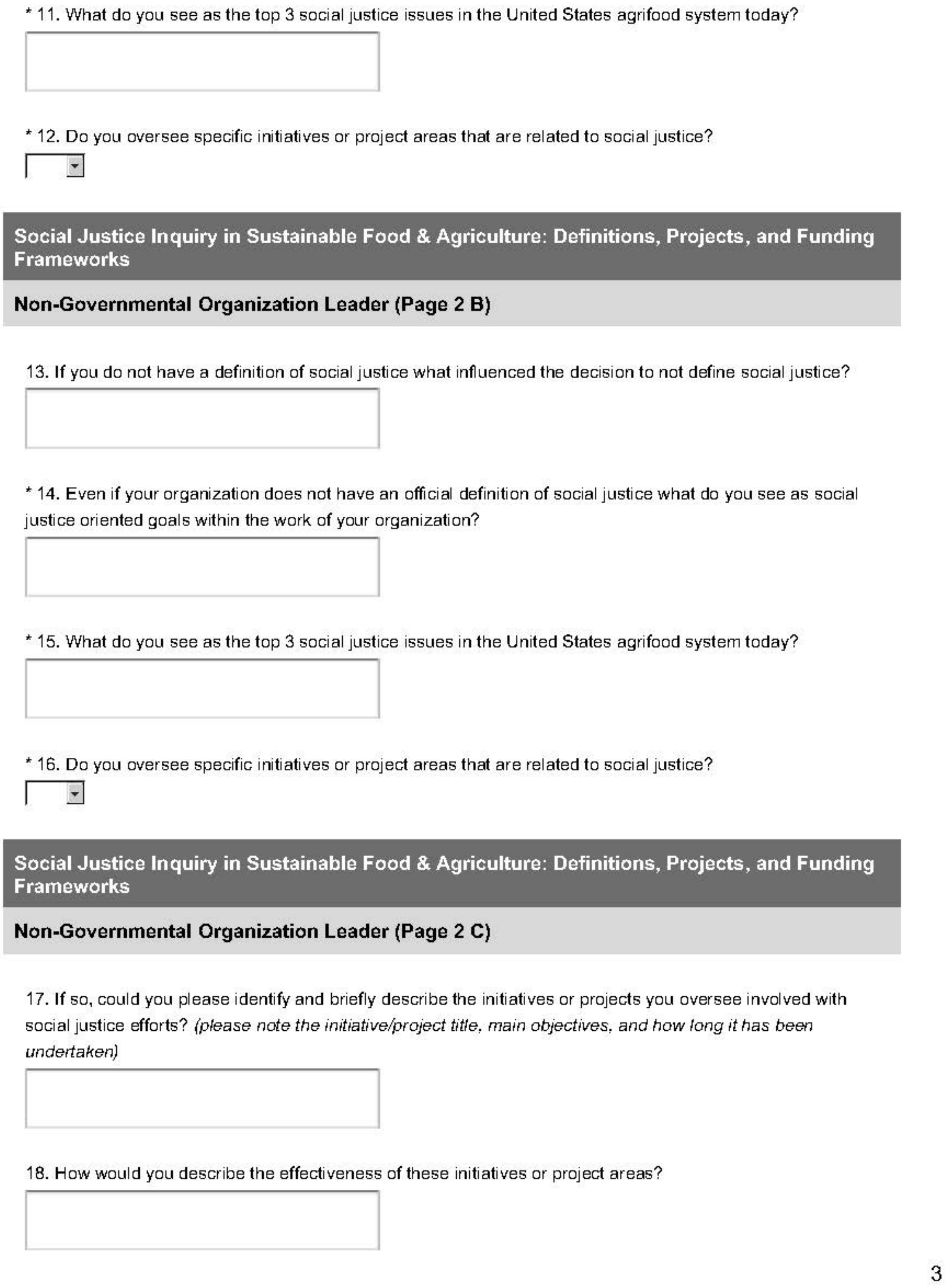
* 8. Does your organization have an official or working definition of social justice?

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Non-Governmental Organization Leader (Page 2 A)

9. If so, what is your organization's definition of "social justice"?

10. Can you describe the process that led to your foundation defining "social justice"? For instance, what/whom influenced this discussion and decision?



* 11. What do you see as the top 3 social justice issues in the United States agrifood system today?

* 12. Do you oversee specific initiatives or project areas that are related to social justice?

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Non-Governmental Organization Leader (Page 2 B)

13. If you do not have a definition of social justice what influenced the decision to not define social justice?

* 14. Even if your organization does not have an official definition of social justice what do you see as social justice oriented goals within the work of your organization?

* 15. What do you see as the top 3 social justice issues in the United States agrifood system today?

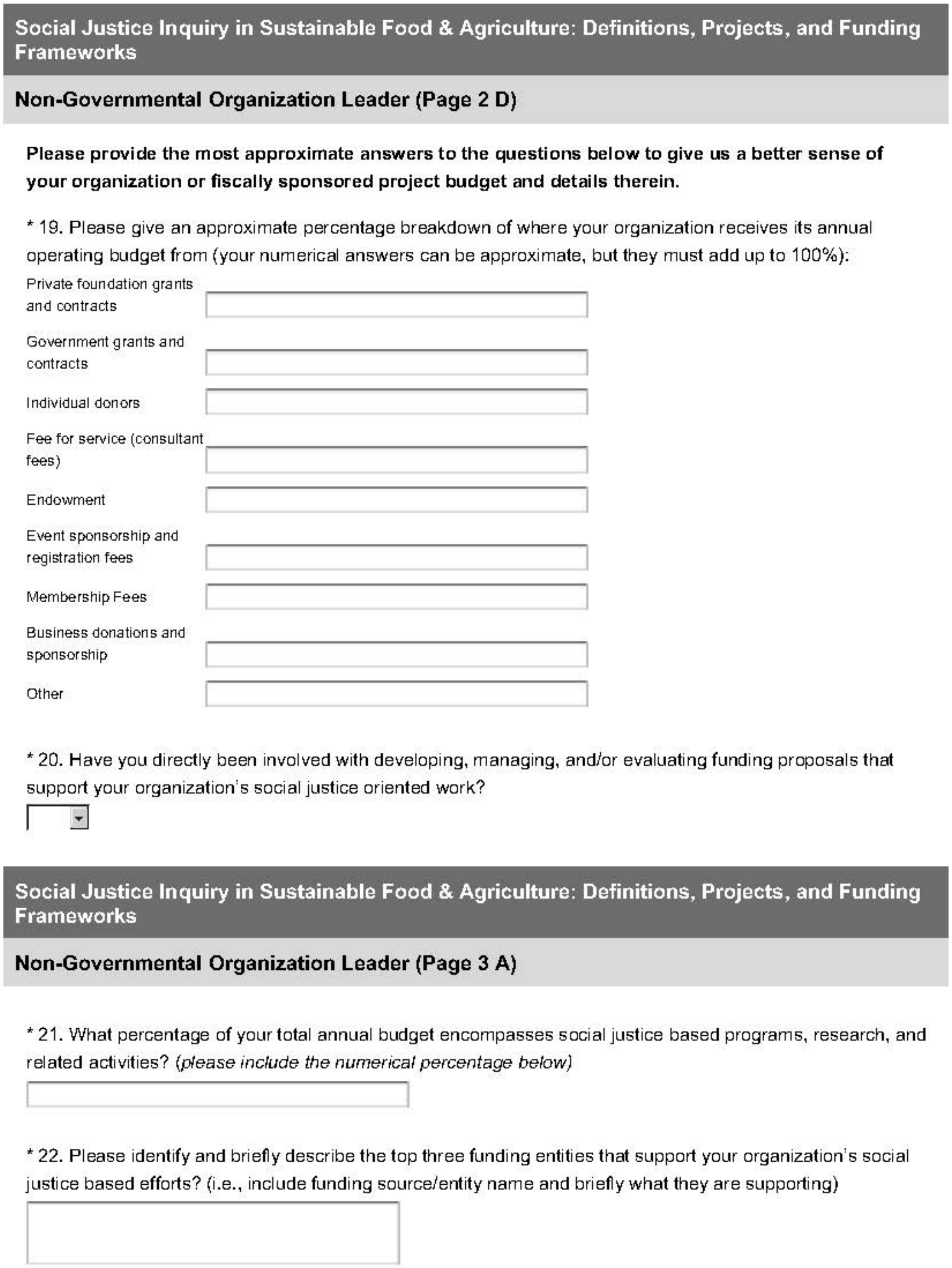
* 16. Do you oversee specific initiatives or project areas that are related to social justice?

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Non-Governmental Organization Leader (Page 2 C)

17. If so, could you please identify and briefly describe the initiatives or projects you oversee involved with social justice efforts? *(please note the initiative/project title, main objectives, and how long it has been undertaken)*

18. How would you describe the effectiveness of these initiatives or project areas?



Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Non-Governmental Organization Leader (Page 2 D)

Please provide the most approximate answers to the questions below to give us a better sense of your organization or fiscally sponsored project budget and details therein.

* 19. Please give an approximate percentage breakdown of where your organization receives its annual operating budget from (your numerical answers can be approximate, but they must add up to 100%):

Private foundation grants and contracts

Government grants and contracts

Individual donors

Fee for service (consultant fees)

Endowment

Event sponsorship and registration fees

Membership Fees

Business donations and sponsorship

Other

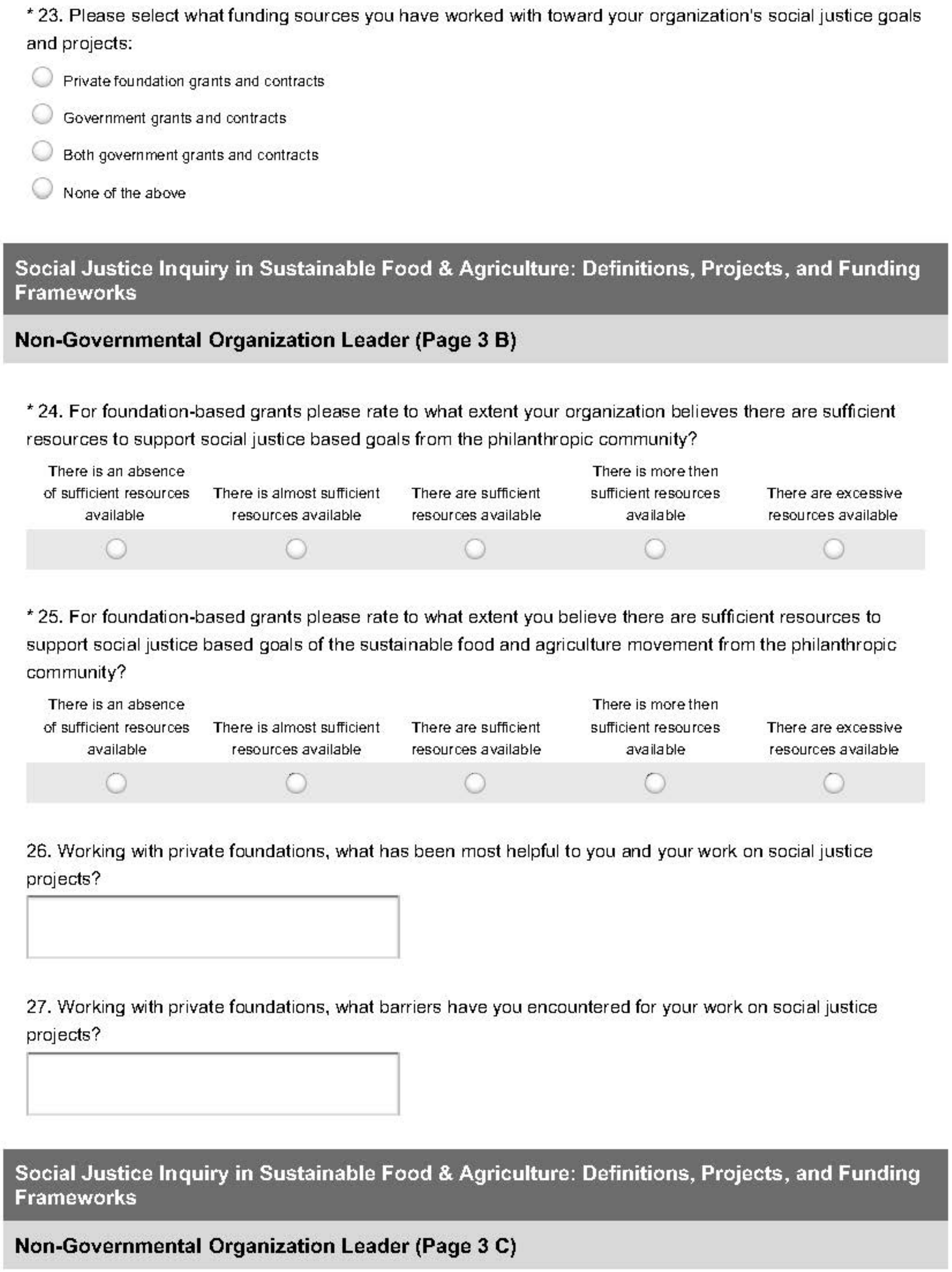
* 20. Have you directly been involved with developing, managing, and/or evaluating funding proposals that support your organization's social justice oriented work?

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Non-Governmental Organization Leader (Page 3 A)

* 21. What percentage of your total annual budget encompasses social justice based programs, research, and related activities? *(please include the numerical percentage below)*

* 22. Please identify and briefly describe the top three funding entities that support your organization's social justice based efforts? (i.e., include funding source/entity name and briefly what they are supporting)



* 23. Please select what funding sources you have worked with toward your organization's social justice goals and projects:

○ Private foundation grants and contracts
○ Government grants and contracts
○ Both government grants and contracts
○ None of the above

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Non-Governmental Organization Leader (Page 3 B)

* 24. For foundation-based grants please rate to what extent your organization believes there are sufficient resources to support social justice based goals from the philanthropic community?

There is an absence of sufficient resources available	There is almost sufficient resources available	There are sufficient resources available	There is more then sufficient resources available	There are excessive resources available
○	○	○	○	○

* 25. For foundation-based grants please rate to what extent you believe there are sufficient resources to support social justice based goals of the sustainable food and agriculture movement from the philanthropic community?

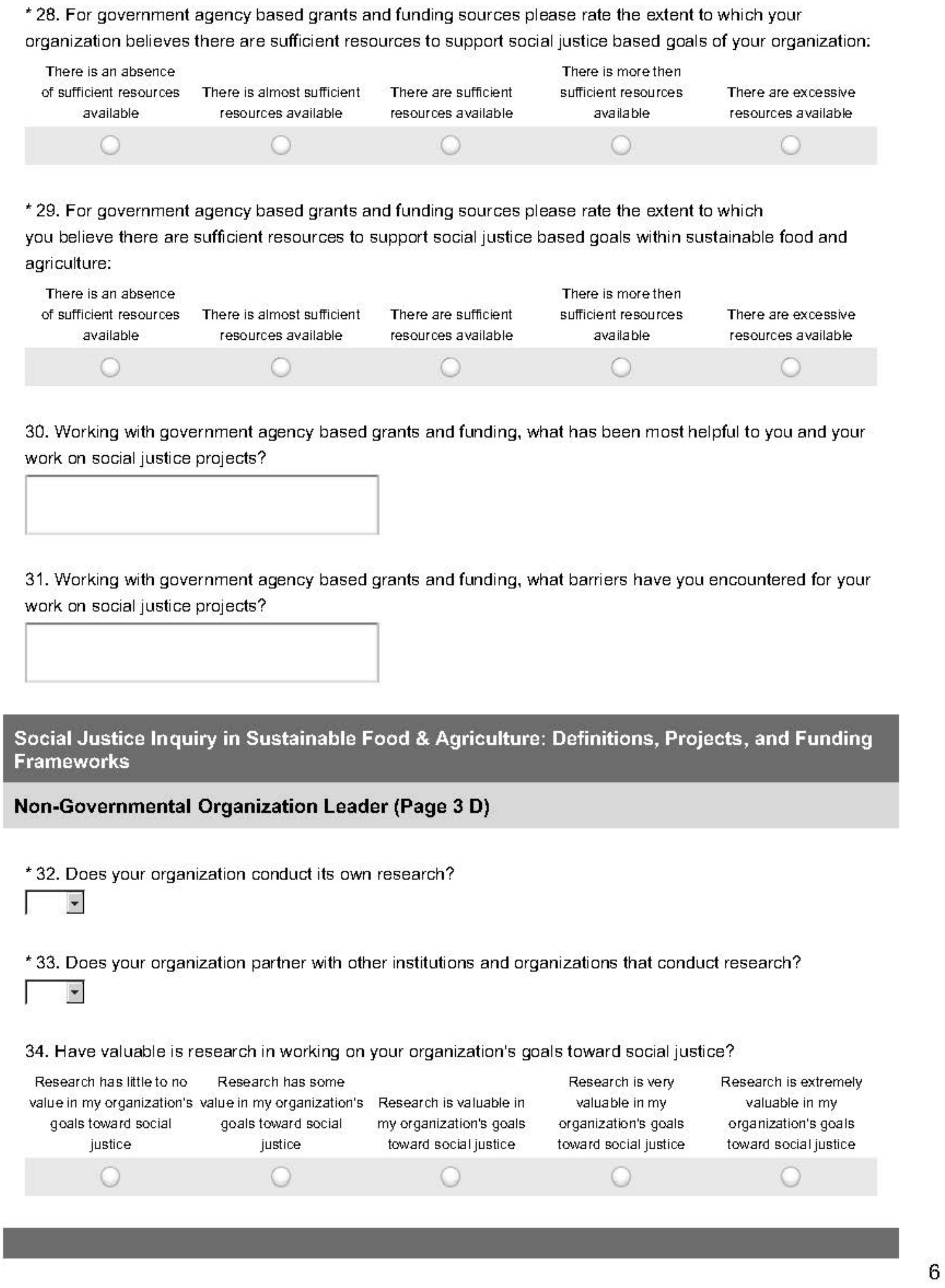
There is an absence of sufficient resources available	There is almost sufficient resources available	There are sufficient resources available	There is more then sufficient resources available	There are excessive resources available
○	○	○	○	○

26. Working with private foundations, what has been most helpful to you and your work on social justice projects?

27. Working with private foundations, what barriers have you encountered for your work on social justice projects?

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Non-Governmental Organization Leader (Page 3 C)



* 28. For government agency based grants and funding sources please rate the extent to which your organization believes there are sufficient resources to support social justice based goals of your organization:

There is an absence of sufficient resources available	There is almost sufficient resources available	There are sufficient resources available	There is more then sufficient resources available	There are excessive resources available
○	○	○	○	○

* 29. For government agency based grants and funding sources please rate the extent to which you believe there are sufficient resources to support social justice based goals within sustainable food and agriculture:

There is an absence of sufficient resources available	There is almost sufficient resources available	There are sufficient resources available	There is more then sufficient resources available	There are excessive resources available
○	○	○	○	○

30. Working with government agency based grants and funding, what has been most helpful to you and your work on social justice projects?

31. Working with government agency based grants and funding, what barriers have you encountered for your work on social justice projects?

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

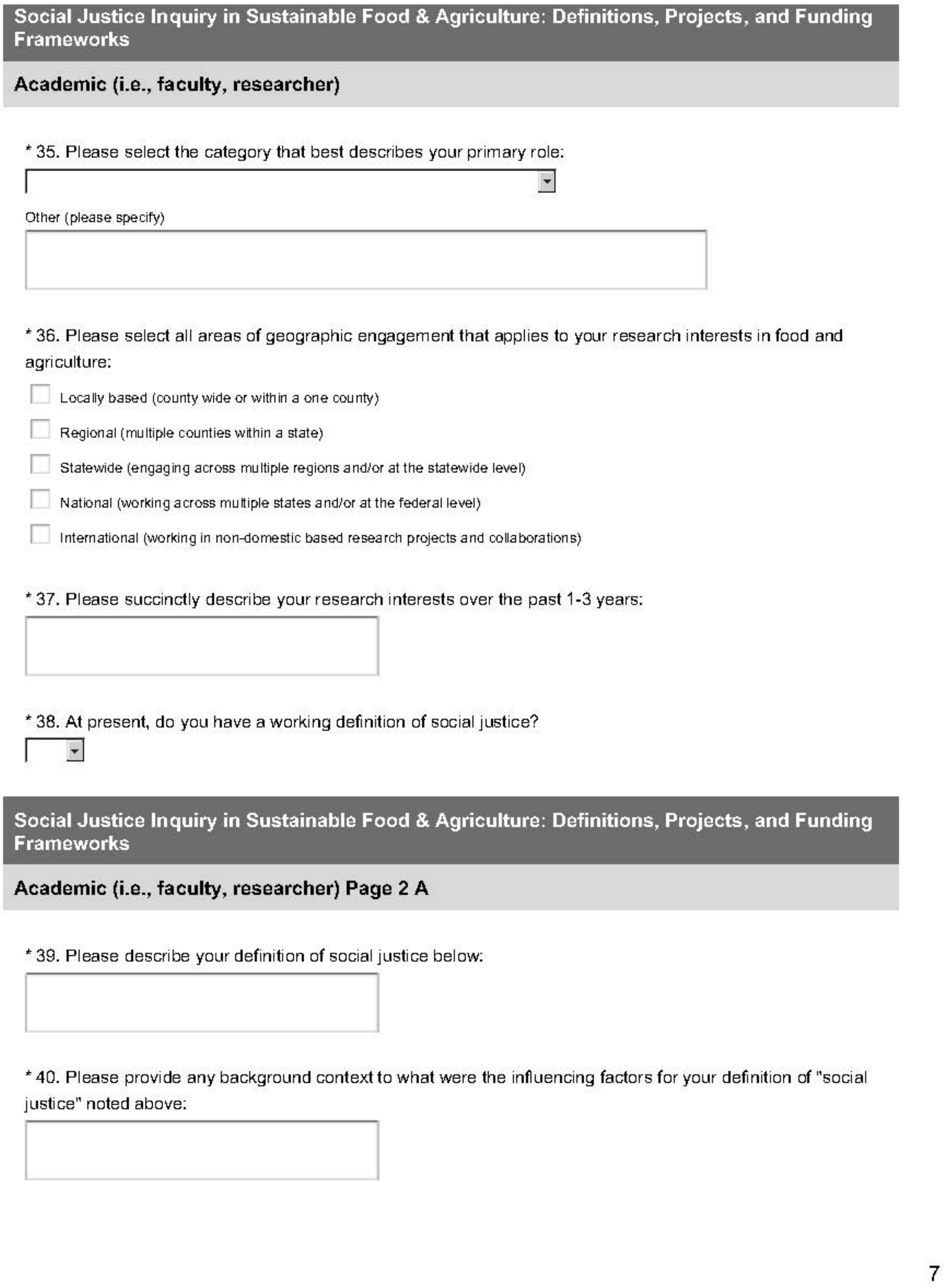
Non-Governmental Organization Leader (Page 3 D)

* 32. Does your organization conduct its own research?

* 33. Does your organization partner with other institutions and organizations that conduct research?

34. Have valuable is research in working on your organization's goals toward social justice?

Research has little to no value in my organization's goals toward social justice	Research has some value in my organization's goals toward social justice	Research is valuable in my organization's goals toward social justice	Research is very valuable in my organization's goals toward social justice	Research is extremely valuable in my organization's goals toward social justice
○	○	○	○	○



Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Academic (i.e., faculty, researcher)

* 35. Please select the category that best describes your primary role:

Other (please specify)

* 36. Please select all areas of geographic engagement that applies to your research interests in food and agriculture:

☐ Locally based (county wide or within a one county)

☐ Regional (multiple counties within a state)

☐ Statewide (engaging across multiple regions and/or at the statewide level)

☐ National (working across multiple states and/or at the federal level)

☐ International (working in non-domestic based research projects and collaborations)

* 37. Please succinctly describe your research interests over the past 1-3 years:

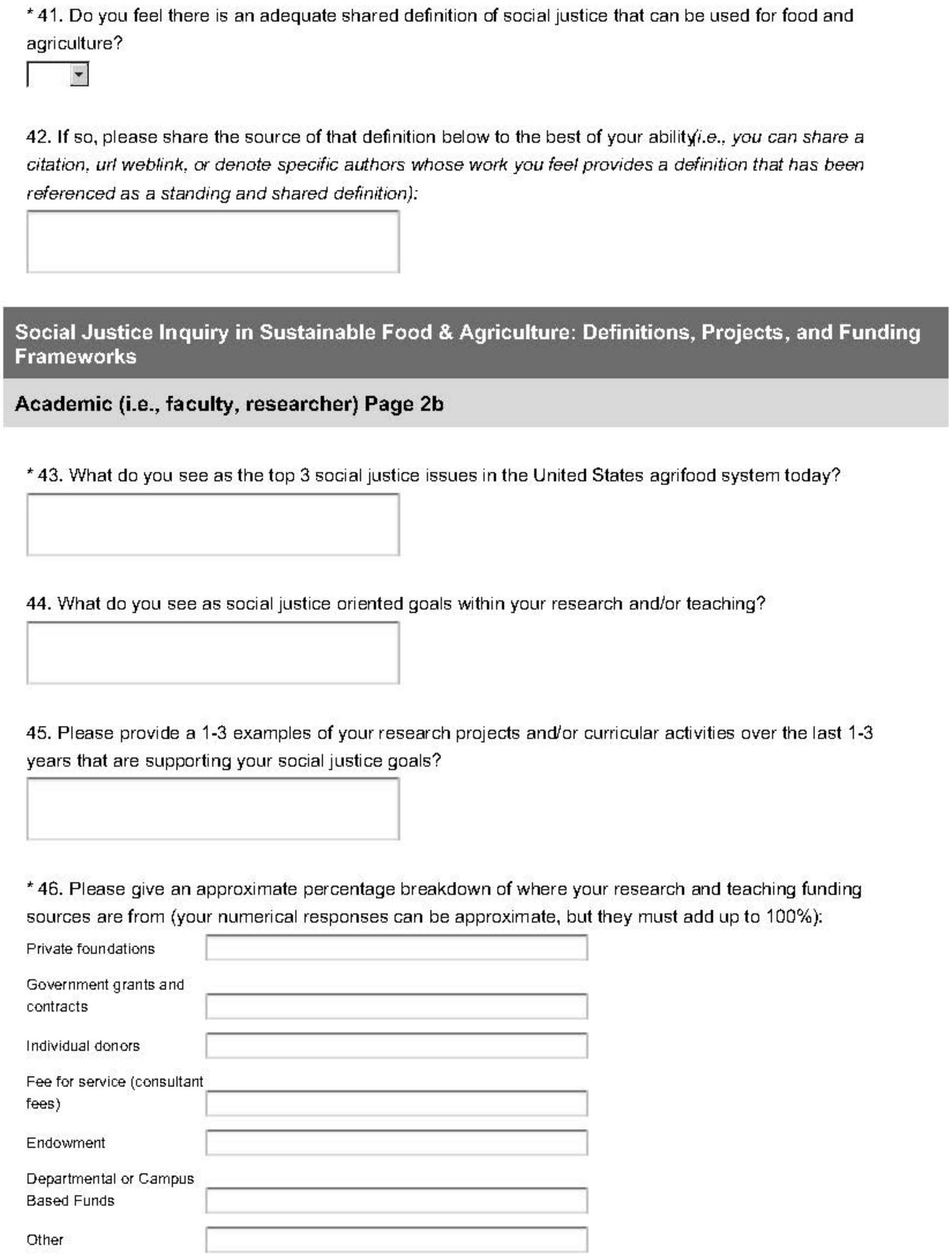
* 38. At present, do you have a working definition of social justice?

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Academic (i.e., faculty, researcher) Page 2 A

* 39. Please describe your definition of social justice below:

* 40. Please provide any background context to what were the influencing factors for your definition of "social justice" noted above:



* 41. Do you feel there is an adequate shared definition of social justice that can be used for food and agriculture?

42. If so, please share the source of that definition below to the best of your ability *(i.e., you can share a citation, url weblink, or denote specific authors whose work you feel provides a definition that has been referenced as a standing and shared definition):*

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Academic (i.e., faculty, researcher) Page 2b

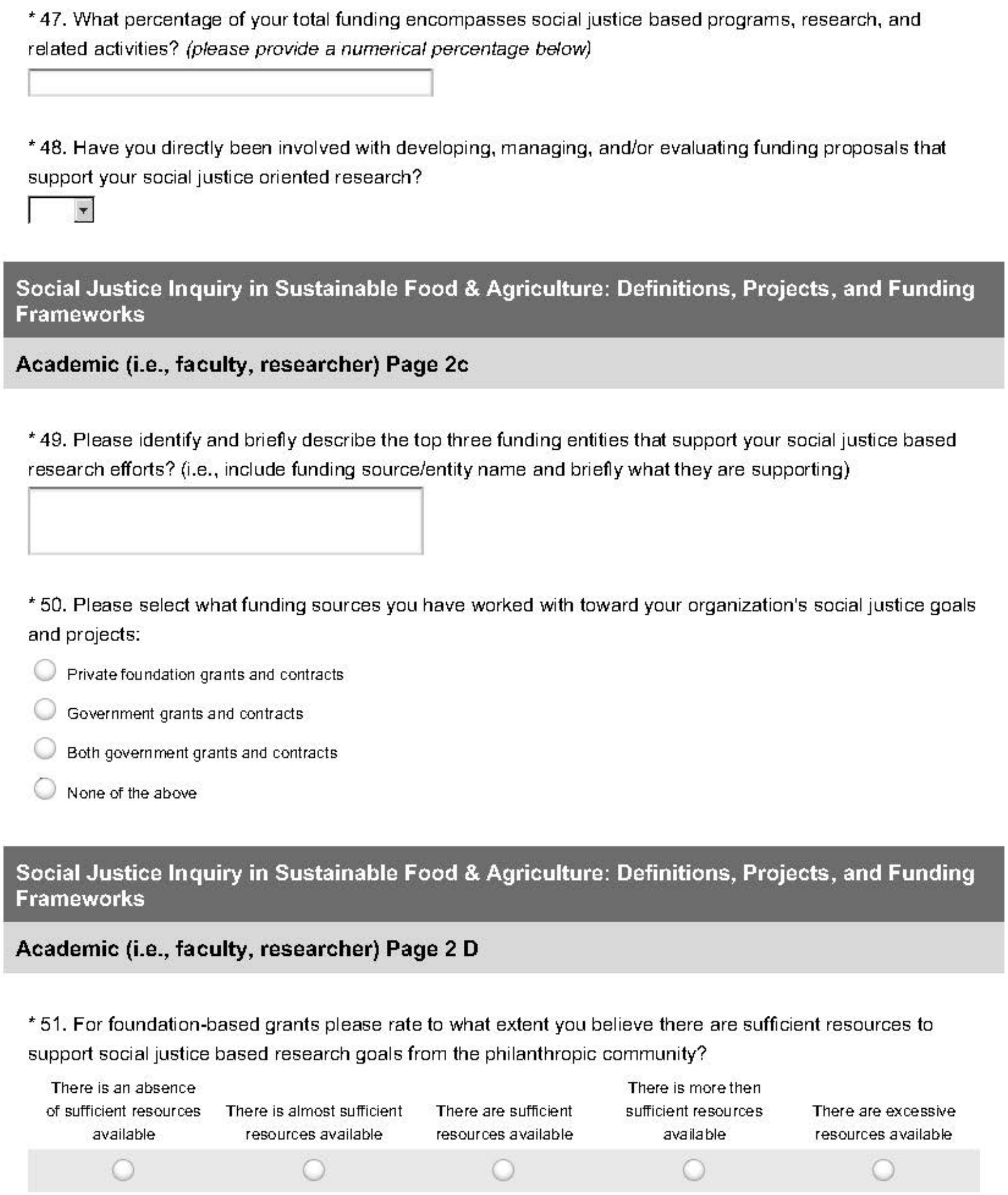
* 43. What do you see as the top 3 social justice issues in the United States agrifood system today?

44. What do you see as social justice oriented goals within your research and/or teaching?

45. Please provide a 1-3 examples of your research projects and/or curricular activities over the last 1-3 years that are supporting your social justice goals?

* 46. Please give an approximate percentage breakdown of where your research and teaching funding sources are from (your numerical responses can be approximate, but they must add up to 100%):

Private foundations	
Government grants and contracts	
Individual donors	
Fee for service (consultant fees)	
Endowment	
Departmental or Campus Based Funds	
Other	



* 47. What percentage of your total funding encompasses social justice based programs, research, and related activities? *(please provide a numerical percentage below)*

* 48. Have you directly been involved with developing, managing, and/or evaluating funding proposals that support your social justice oriented research?

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Academic (i.e., faculty, researcher) Page 2c

* 49. Please identify and briefly describe the top three funding entities that support your social justice based research efforts? (i.e., include funding source/entity name and briefly what they are supporting)

* 50. Please select what funding sources you have worked with toward your organization's social justice goals and projects:

○ Private foundation grants and contracts
○ Government grants and contracts
○ Both government grants and contracts
○ None of the above

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Academic (i.e., faculty, researcher) Page 2 D

* 51. For foundation-based grants please rate to what extent you believe there are sufficient resources to support social justice based research goals from the philanthropic community?

There is an absence of sufficient resources available	There is almost sufficient resources available	There are sufficient resources available	There is more then sufficient resources available	There are excessive resources available
○	○	○	○	○

* 52. For foundation-based grants please rate to what extent you believe there are sufficient resources to support social justice based goals of sustainable food and agriculture from the philanthropic community (i.e. this includes research and programming)?

There is an absence of sufficient resources available	There is almost sufficient resources available	There are sufficient resources available	There is more then sufficient resources available	There are excessive resources available
○	○	○	○	○

53. Working with private foundations, what has been most helpful to you and your work on social justice projects?

54. Working with private foundations, what barriers have you encountered for your work on social justice projects?

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Academic (i.e., faculty, researcher) Page 2 E

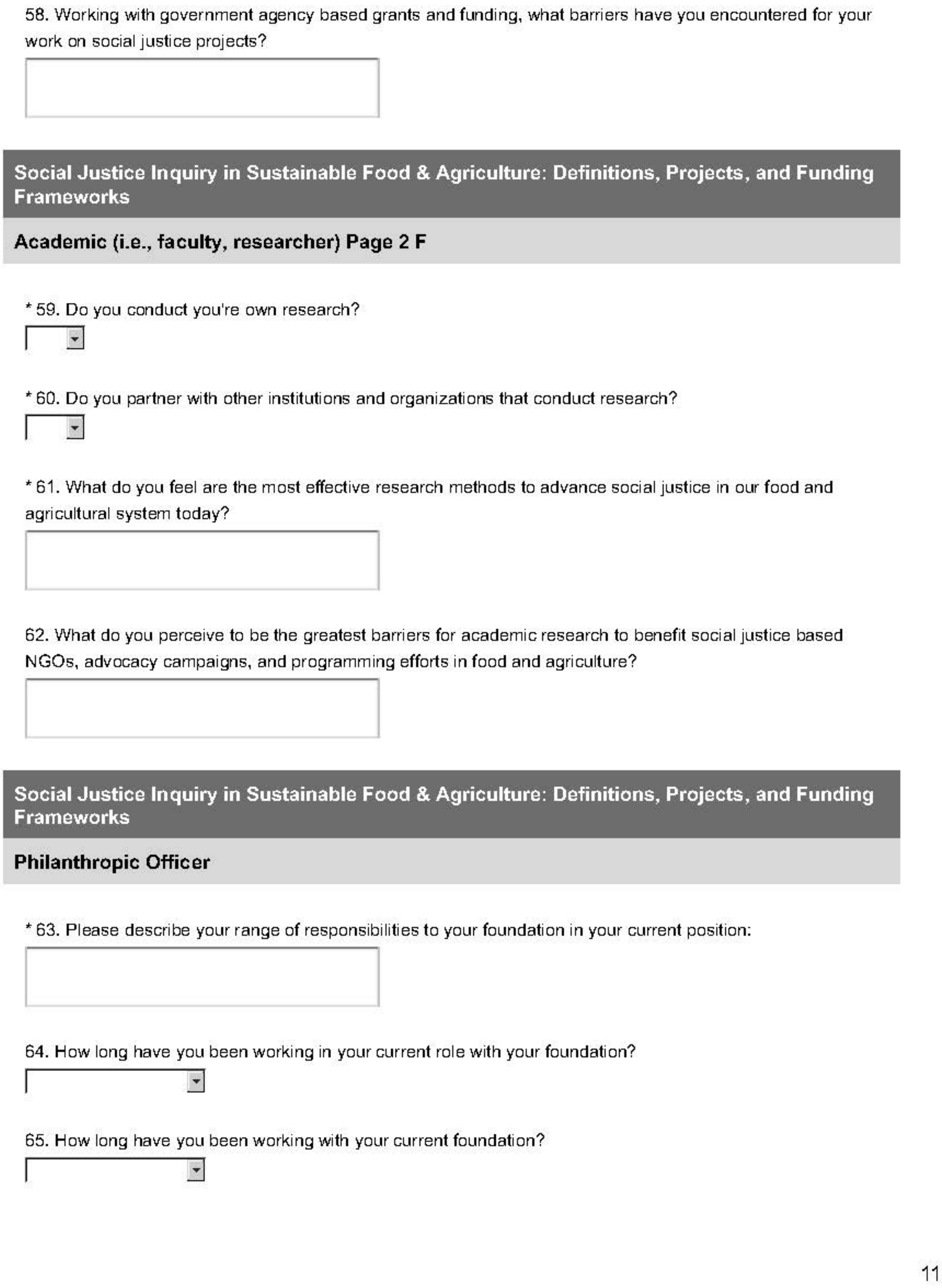
* 55. For government agency based grants and funding sources please rate the extent to which you believe there are sufficient resources to support social justice based goals of your research:

There is an absence of sufficient resources available	There is almost sufficient resources available	There are sufficient resources available	There is more then sufficient resources available	There are excessive resources available
○	○	○	○	○

* 56. For government agency based grants and funding sources please rate the extent to which you believe there are sufficient resources to support social justice based goals within sustainable food and agriculture (i.e, including research and programming):

There is an absence of sufficient resources available	There is almost sufficient resources available	There are sufficient resources available	There is more then sufficient resources available	There are excessive resources available
○	○	○	○	○

57. Working with government agency based grants and funding, what has been most helpful to you and your work on social justice projects?



58. Working with government agency based grants and funding, what barriers have you encountered for your work on social justice projects?

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Academic (i.e., faculty, researcher) Page 2 F

* 59. Do you conduct you're own research?

* 60. Do you partner with other institutions and organizations that conduct research?

* 61. What do you feel are the most effective research methods to advance social justice in our food and agricultural system today?

62. What do you perceive to be the greatest barriers for academic research to benefit social justice based NGOs, advocacy campaigns, and programming efforts in food and agriculture?

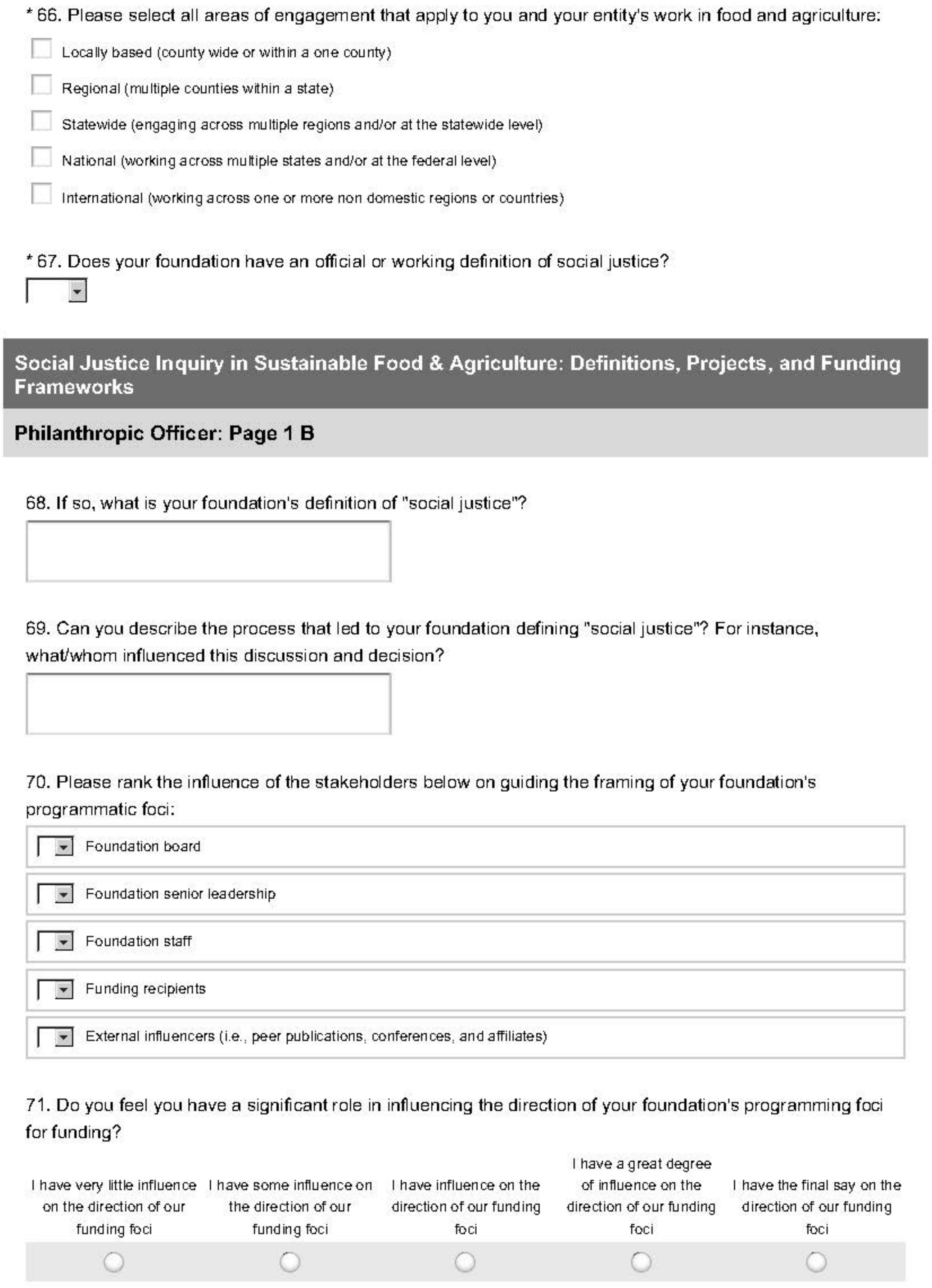
Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Philanthropic Officer

* 63. Please describe your range of responsibilities to your foundation in your current position:

64. How long have you been working in your current role with your foundation?

65. How long have you been working with your current foundation?



* 66. Please select all areas of engagement that apply to you and your entity's work in food and agriculture:

- ☐ Locally based (county wide or within a one county)
- ☐ Regional (multiple counties within a state)
- ☐ Statewide (engaging across multiple regions and/or at the statewide level)
- ☐ National (working across multiple states and/or at the federal level)
- ☐ International (working across one or more non domestic regions or countries)

* 67. Does your foundation have an official or working definition of social justice?

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Philanthropic Officer: Page 1 B

68. If so, what is your foundation's definition of "social justice"?

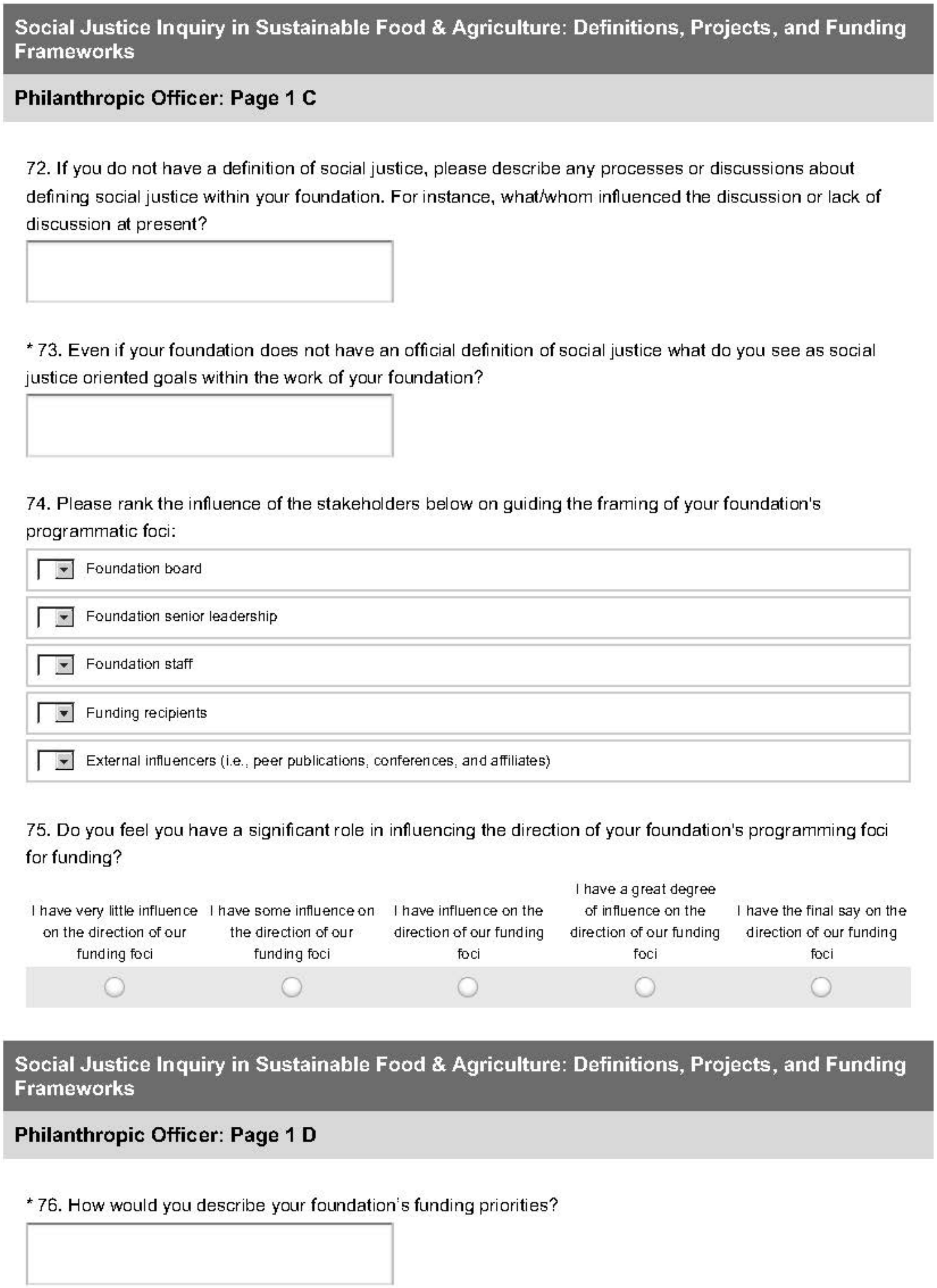
69. Can you describe the process that led to your foundation defining "social justice"? For instance, what/whom influenced this discussion and decision?

70. Please rank the influence of the stakeholders below on guiding the framing of your foundation's programmatic foci:

- Foundation board
- Foundation senior leadership
- Foundation staff
- Funding recipients
- External influencers (i.e., peer publications, conferences, and affiliates)

71. Do you feel you have a significant role in influencing the direction of your foundation's programming foci for funding?

I have very little influence on the direction of our funding foci	I have some influence on the direction of our funding foci	I have influence on the direction of our funding foci	I have a great degree of influence on the direction of our funding foci	I have the final say on the direction of our funding foci
○	○	○	○	○



Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Philanthropic Officer: Page 1 C

72. If you do not have a definition of social justice, please describe any processes or discussions about defining social justice within your foundation. For instance, what/whom influenced the discussion or lack of discussion at present?

* 73. Even if your foundation does not have an official definition of social justice what do you see as social justice oriented goals within the work of your foundation?

74. Please rank the influence of the stakeholders below on guiding the framing of your foundation's programmatic foci:

- Foundation board
- Foundation senior leadership
- Foundation staff
- Funding recipients
- External influencers (i.e., peer publications, conferences, and affiliates)

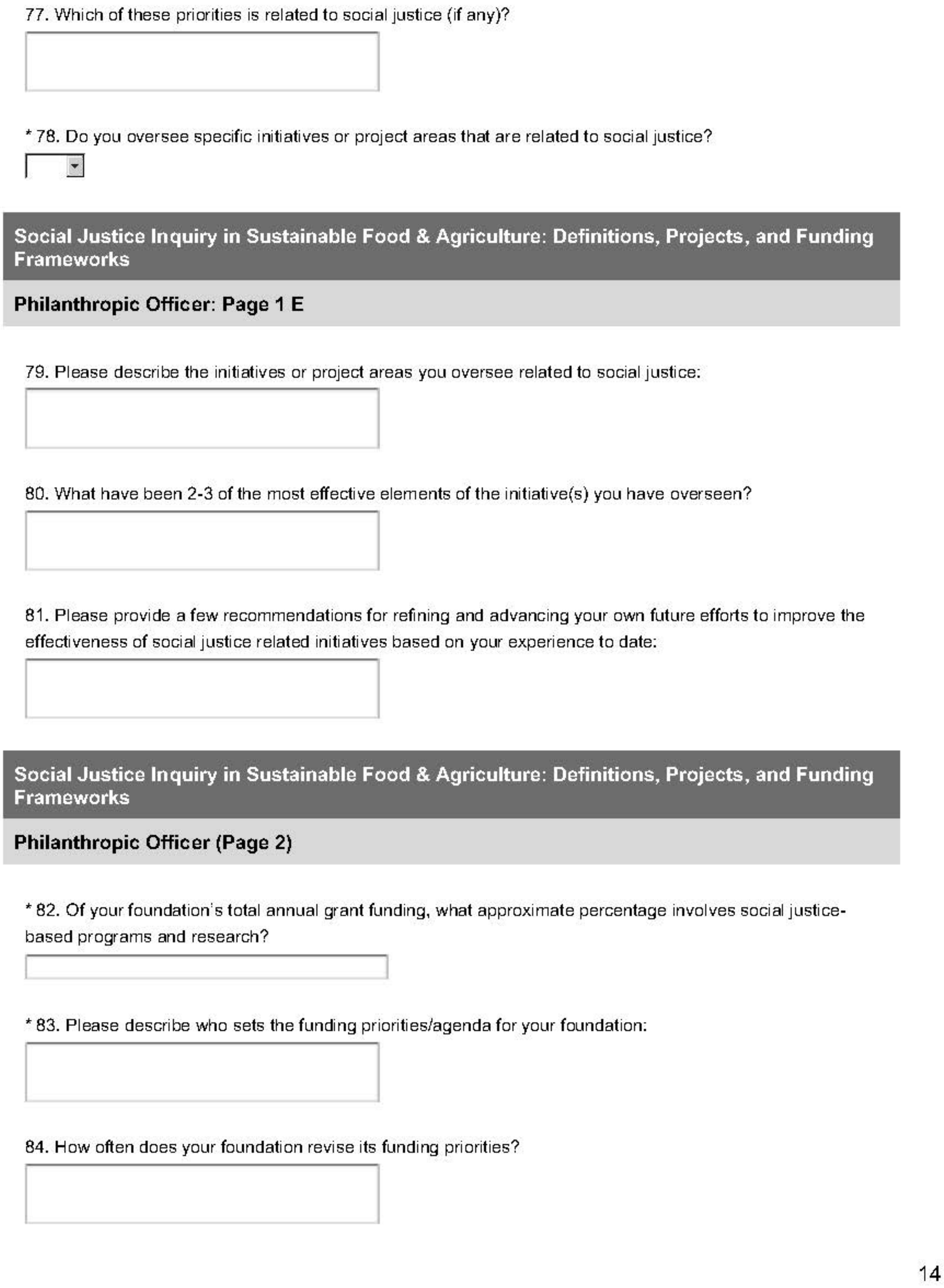
75. Do you feel you have a significant role in influencing the direction of your foundation's programming foci for funding?

I have very little influence on the direction of our funding foci	I have some influence on the direction of our funding foci	I have influence on the direction of our funding foci	I have a great degree of influence on the direction of our funding foci	I have the final say on the direction of our funding foci
○	○	○	○	○

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Philanthropic Officer: Page 1 D

* 76. How would you describe your foundation's funding priorities?



77. Which of these priorities is related to social justice (if any)?

* 78. Do you oversee specific initiatives or project areas that are related to social justice?

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Philanthropic Officer: Page 1 E

79. Please describe the initiatives or project areas you oversee related to social justice:

80. What have been 2-3 of the most effective elements of the initiative(s) you have overseen?

81. Please provide a few recommendations for refining and advancing your own future efforts to improve the effectiveness of social justice related initiatives based on your experience to date:

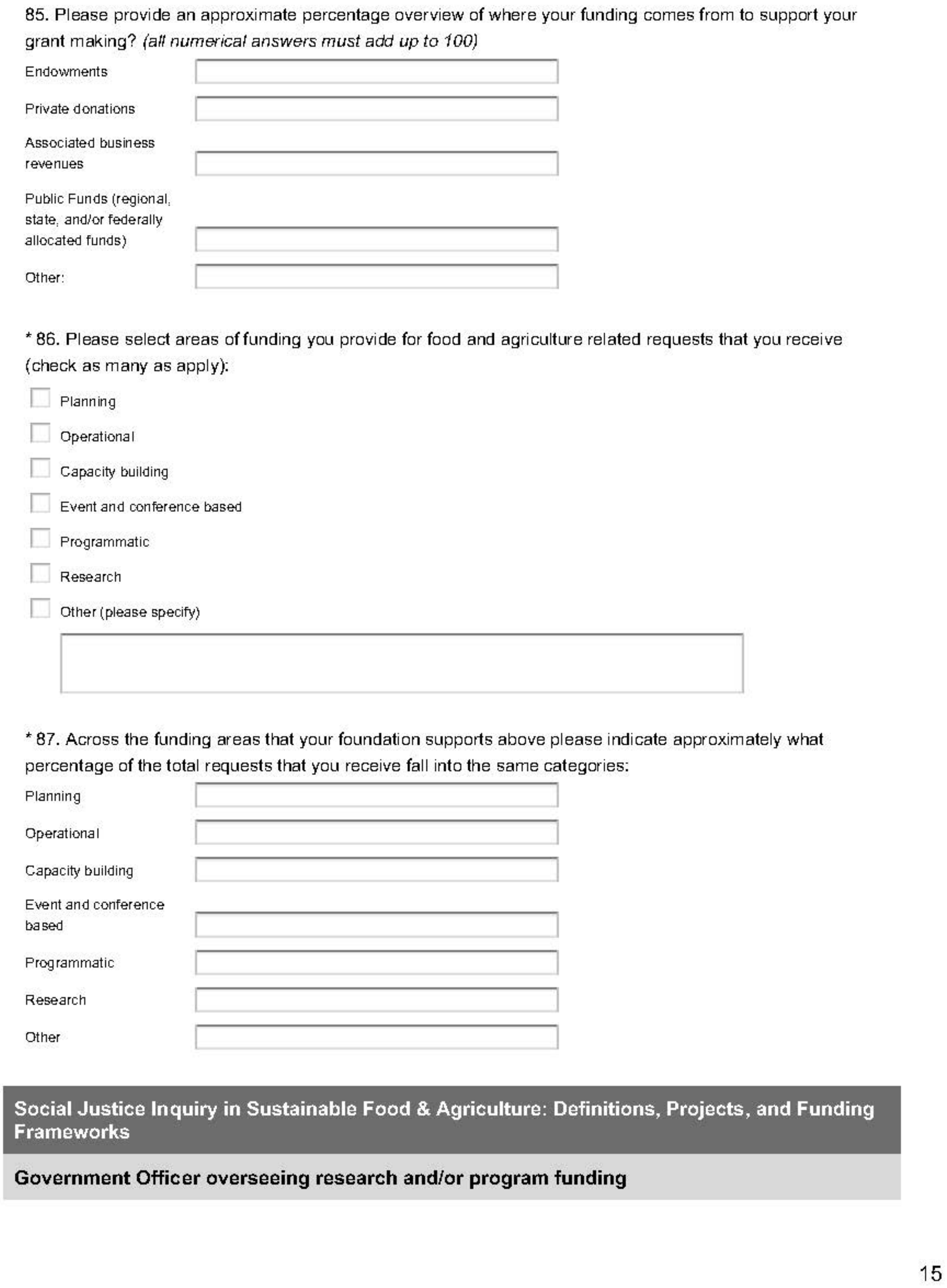
Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Philanthropic Officer (Page 2)

* 82. Of your foundation's total annual grant funding, what approximate percentage involves social justice-based programs and research?

* 83. Please describe who sets the funding priorities/agenda for your foundation:

84. How often does your foundation revise its funding priorities?



85. Please provide an approximate percentage overview of where your funding comes from to support your grant making? *(all numerical answers must add up to 100)*

Endowments

Private donations

Associated business revenues

Public Funds (regional, state, and/or federally allocated funds)

Other:

* 86. Please select areas of funding you provide for food and agriculture related requests that you receive (check as many as apply):

☐ Planning

☐ Operational

☐ Capacity building

☐ Event and conference based

☐ Programmatic

☐ Research

☐ Other (please specify)

* 87. Across the funding areas that your foundation supports above please indicate approximately what percentage of the total requests that you receive fall into the same categories:

Planning

Operational

Capacity building

Event and conference based

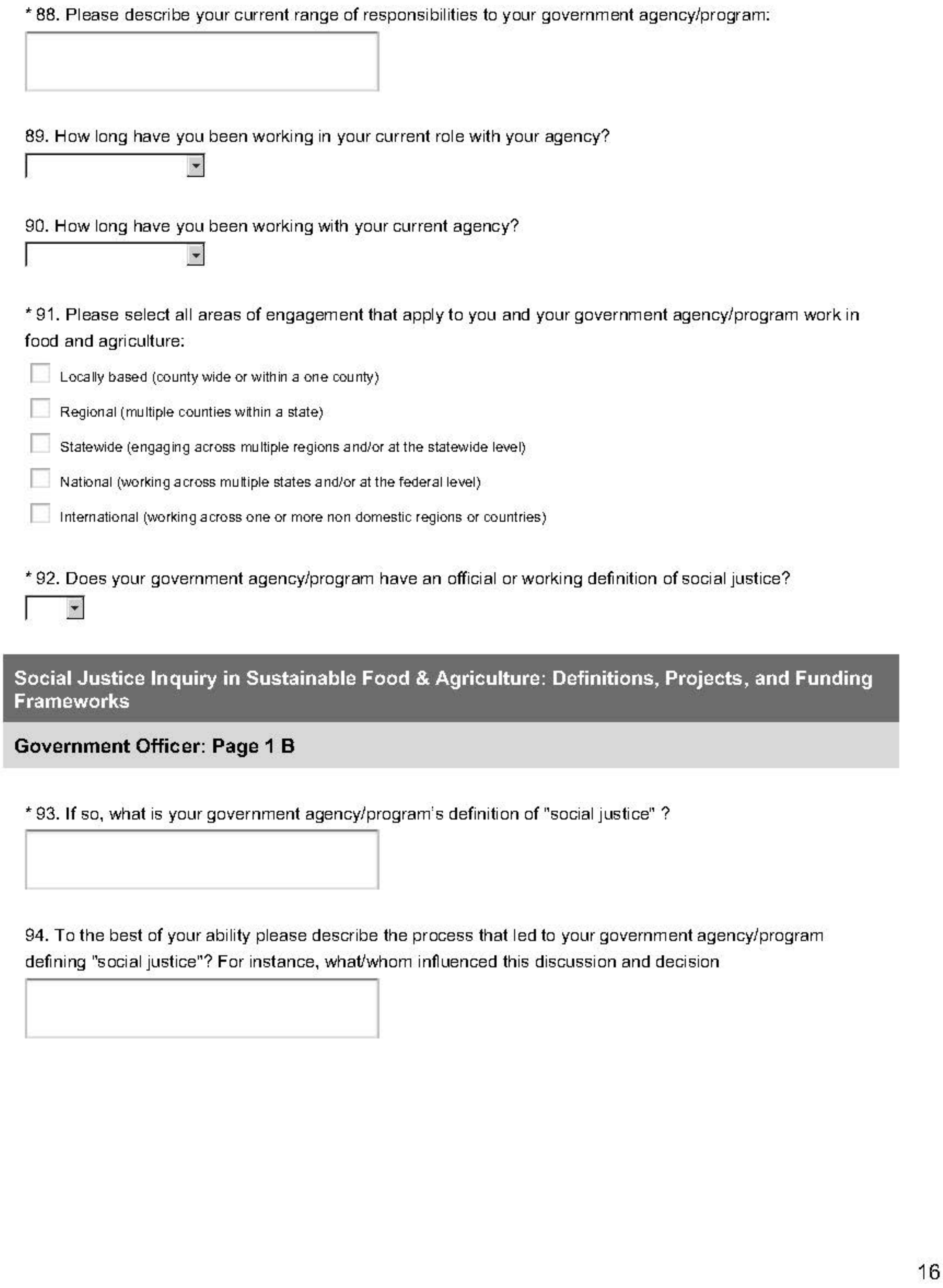
Programmatic

Research

Other

Social Justice Inquiry in Sustainable Food & Agriculture: Definitions, Projects, and Funding Frameworks

Government Officer overseeing research and/or program funding



* 88. Please describe your current range of responsibilities to your government agency/program:

89. How long have you been working in your current role with your agency?

90. How long have you been working with your current agency?

* 91. Please select all areas of engagement that apply to you and your government agency/program work in food and agriculture:

☐ Locally based (county wide or within a one county)
☐ Regional (multiple counties within a state)
☐ Statewide (engaging across multiple regions and/or at the statewide level)
☐ National (working across multiple states and/or at the federal level)
☐ International (working across one or more non domestic regions or countries)

* 92. Does your government agency/program have an official or working definition of social justice?

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* 93. If so, what is your government agency/program's definition of "social justice" ?

94. To the best of your ability please describe the process that led to your government agency/program defining "social justice"? For instance, what/whom influenced this discussion and decision

95. Please rank the influence of the stakeholders below on guiding the framing of your Agency's programmatic foci:

- ▾ Elected leadership and committees that govern the authorization and appropriation of funding
- ▾ Senior agency leadership
- ▾ Agency staff
- ▾ Funding recipients
- ▾ External influencers (i.e., peer publications, conferences, and affiliates)

96. Do you feel you have a significant role in influencing the direction of your Agency's programming foci for funding?

I have very little influence on the direction of our funding foci	I have some influence on the direction of our funding foci	I have influence on the direction of our funding foci	I have a great degree of influence on the direction of our funding foci	I have the final say on the direction of our funding foci
○	○	○	○	○

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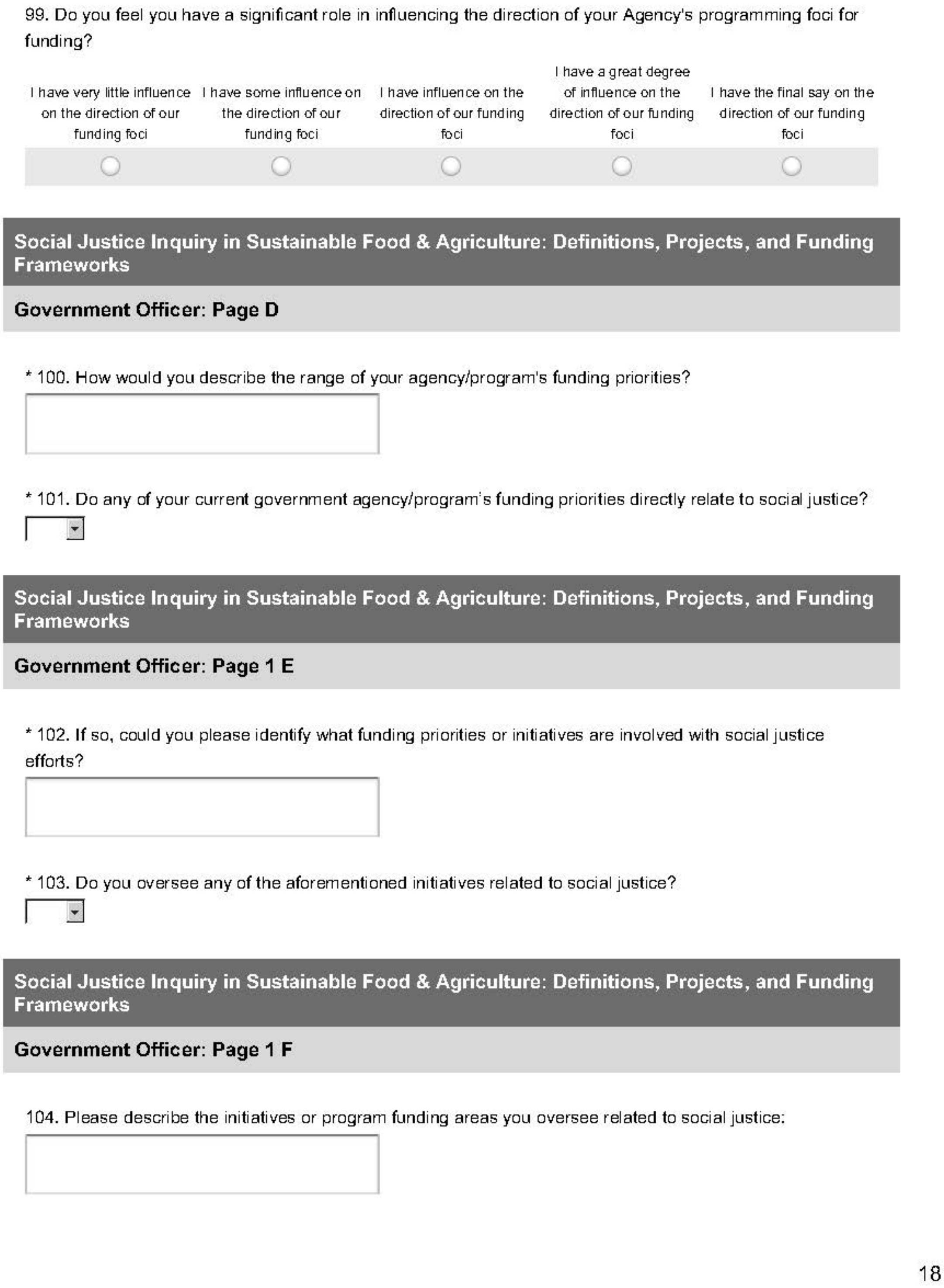
97. If you do not have a definition of social justice, please describe any processes or discussions about defining social justice within your government agency/program? For instance, what/whom influenced the discussion or lack of discussion at present?

☐

98. Please rank the influence of the stakeholders below on guiding the framing of your Agency's programmatic foci:

- ▾ Elected leadership and committees that govern the authorization and appropriation of funding
- ▾ Senior agency leadership
- ▾ Agency staff
- ▾ Funding recipients
- ▾ External influencers (i.e., peer publications, conferences, and affiliates)



99. Do you feel you have a significant role in influencing the direction of your Agency's programming foci for funding?

I have very little influence on the direction of our funding foci	I have some influence on the direction of our funding foci	I have influence on the direction of our funding foci	I have a great degree of influence on the direction of our funding foci	I have the final say on the direction of our funding foci
○	○	○	○	○

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* 100. How would you describe the range of your agency/program's funding priorities?

* 101. Do any of your current government agency/program's funding priorities directly relate to social justice?

▾

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* 102. If so, could you please identify what funding priorities or initiatives are involved with social justice efforts?

* 103. Do you oversee any of the aforementioned initiatives related to social justice?

▾

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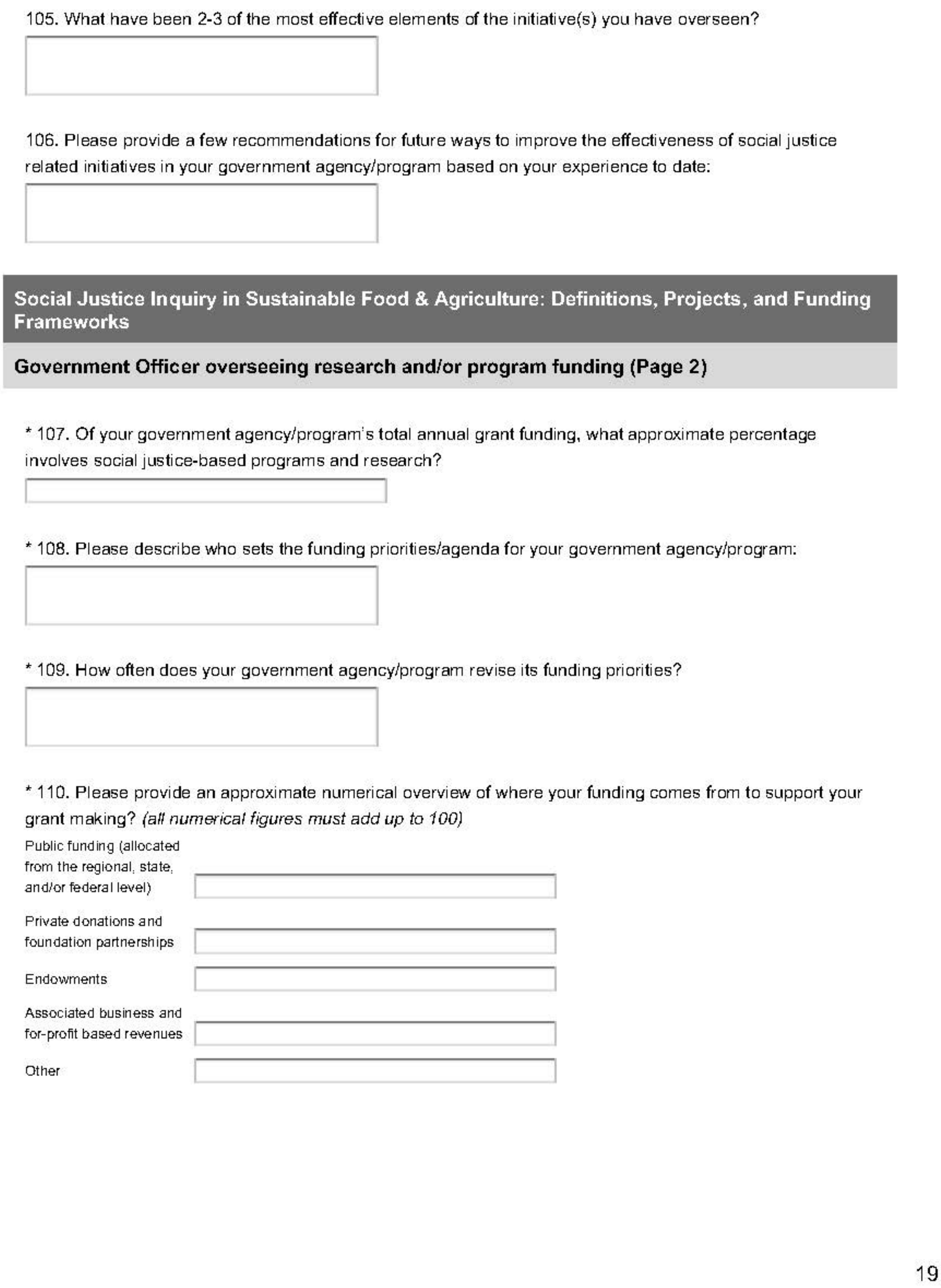
104. Please describe the initiatives or program funding areas you oversee related to social justice:



105. What have been 2-3 of the most effective elements of the initiative(s) you have overseen?

106. Please provide a few recommendations for future ways to improve the effectiveness of social justice related initiatives in your government agency/program based on your experience to date:

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Government Officer overseeing research and/or program funding (Page 2)

* 107. Of your government agency/program's total annual grant funding, what approximate percentage involves social justice-based programs and research?

* 108. Please describe who sets the funding priorities/agenda for your government agency/program:

* 109. How often does your government agency/program revise its funding priorities?

* 110. Please provide an approximate numerical overview of where your funding comes from to support your grant making? *(all numerical figures must add up to 100)*

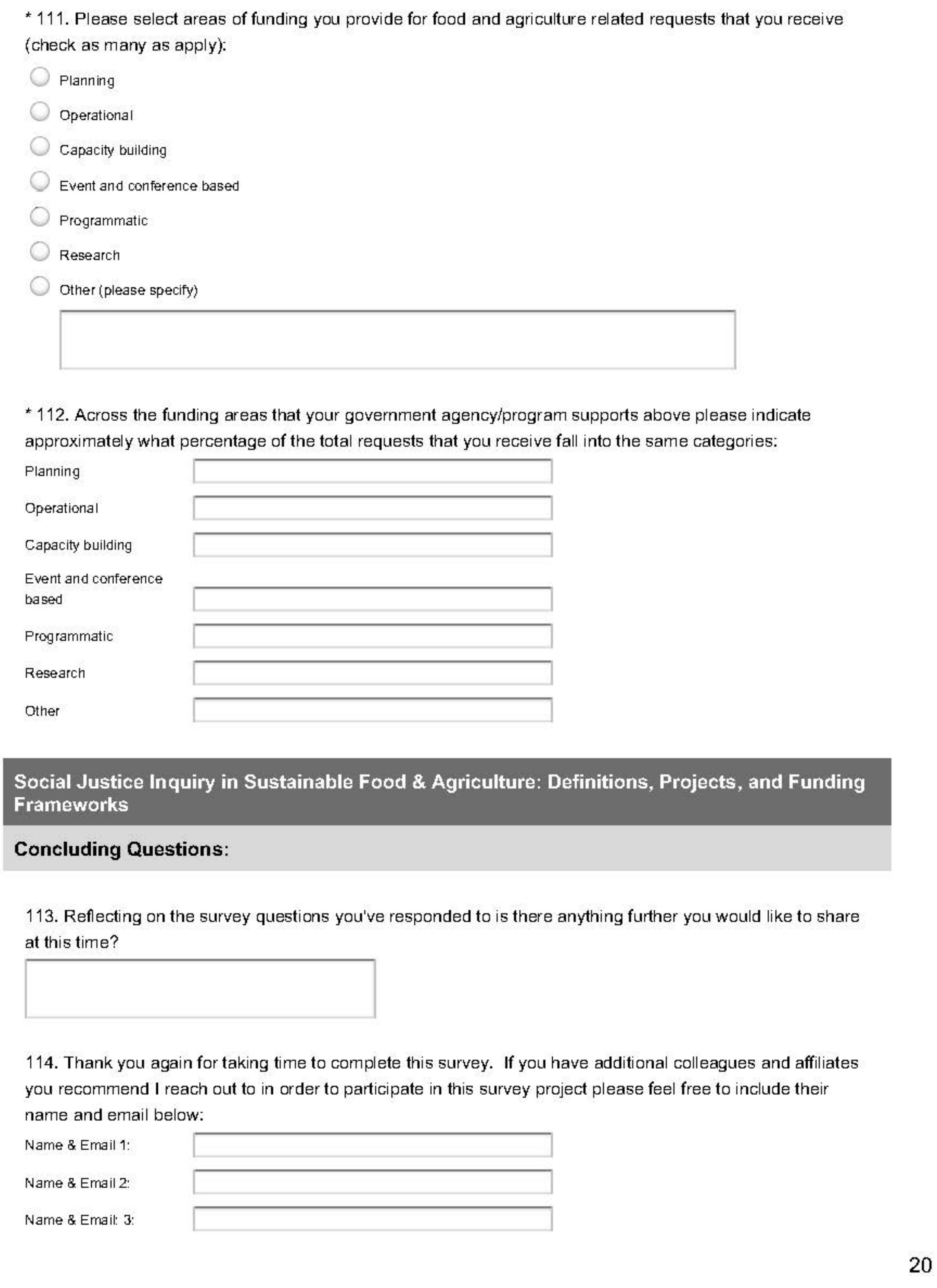
Public funding (allocated from the regional, state, and/or federal level)

Private donations and foundation partnerships

Endowments

Associated business and for-profit based revenues

Other



* 111. Please select areas of funding you provide for food and agriculture related requests that you receive (check as many as apply):

○ Planning
○ Operational
○ Capacity building
○ Event and conference based
○ Programmatic
○ Research
○ Other (please specify)

* 112. Across the funding areas that your government agency/program supports above please indicate approximately what percentage of the total requests that you receive fall into the same categories:

Planning
Operational
Capacity building
Event and conference based
Programmatic
Research
Other

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Concluding Questions:

113. Reflecting on the survey questions you've responded to is there anything further you would like to share at this time?

114. Thank you again for taking time to complete this survey. If you have additional colleagues and affiliates you recommend I reach out to in order to participate in this survey project please feel free to include their name and email below:

Name & Email 1:
Name & Email 2:
Name & Email: 3:

Appendix 2. Food Regime/Food Movement Matrix

	Corporate Food Regime		**U.S. Food Movements**	
POLITICS	**NEOLIBERAL**	**REFORMIST**	**PROGRESSIVE**	**RADICAL**
Discourse	***Food Enterprise***	***Household Food Security/Anti-hunger***	***Community Food Security/ Food Justice***	***Food Justice/ Food Sovereignty***
Main Institutions	USDA (Vilsak), Farm Bureau, Safeway, Kroger, Wal-Mart, Cargill, Monsanto, ADM, Tyson, big philanthropy capital	USDA (Merrigan), Mainstream Fair Trade, some Slow Food, some Food Policy Councils, medium-sized philanthropy, many food banks & food aid organizations	Many CFS organizations, many Food Policy Councils & youth and food justice movements, Community Supported Agriculture, some farm worker & labor organizations, Alternative Fair Trade, many Slow Food chapters.	The U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance, many Food Justice and rights-based movements, Some CFS organizations and Slow Food chapters
Orientation	***Corporate monopoly/ technological fixes/ global markets***	***Self-regulated corporate development/ food aid***	***Community empowerment/ right to food/ human rights/ labor rights/***	***Liberation/Entitlement/ Redistribution/Antiracism***
MODEL	Overproduction, Corporate consolidation, Unregulated markets and monopolies, Monocultures (including organic), GMOs, Agrofuels, mass global consumption of industrial food	Mainstreaming large, low-end retail expansion into underserved neighborhoods, using public resources to extract surplus from the local economy, channeling of commodity surpluses into food aid programs and school lunch, certification of niche markets (e.g., organic, fair, local, sustainable), maintaining northern agricultural subsidies, "sustainable" roundtables for corporate self-regulation, microcredit, conscious consumerism, dietary health education, reliance upon food stamp and food bank programs to alleviate food insecurity	Agro-ecological local food production, economic support for smallholder farms, urban agriculture, alternative business models and community benefit packages for production, processing & retail, solidarity economies	Agroecological family and community-managed agriculture and food systems, regionally-based food systems, dismantling of corporate agri-foods monopoly power, parity, redistributive land reform, community rights to water & seed, democratization of food and agricultural policy, sustainable livelihoods, protection from overproduction and corporate extraction of food dollars, radical inclusion in organizational decision-making processes

	Corporate Food Regime		**U.S Food Movements**	
POLITICS	**NEOLIBERAL**	**REFORMIST**	**PROGRESSIVE**	**RADICAL**
Discourse	***Food Enterprise***	***Household Food Security/Anti-hunger***	***Community Food Security/ Food Justice***	***Food Justice/ Food Sovereignty***
Racial/ Ethnic Dimensions	Exclusion of people of color from access to and ownership of land, credit, and public entitlements; lack of access to healthy, affordable food in "food deserts," exploitation of immigrant labor along the entire food chain, disparities in prevalence of diet-related diseases, displacement and dispossession of indigenous peoples in global south, creation of racial/ethnic tensions, creation of immigration laws in global north targeting people of color	People of color comprise a large portion of beneficiaries of food assistance programs, corporate retail expansion into food deserts provides unstable low wage employment for people of color while precluding the establishment of local minority owned-businesses, failure to address structural racism	Practitioners (predominantly white)work to improve access to healthy and affordable food within underserved communities (comprised predominantly of people of color) by providing vegetables, garden space and knowledge; practitioners often express widespread mentality of "bringing good food to others" in efforts to include non-whites in the alternative food movement and invoke essentialist constructions of race/ethnicity; reproduction of racial hegemony through domination of spaces by privileged whites; anti-racist/diversity training provided within some organizations	Development of local non-white-owned food businesses by removing barriers of structural racism such as commercial and mortgage industry redlining and exclusion of non-whites from access to public resources; transfer of organizational leadership to members of underserved communities; strengthening of economic ties between local minority-owned businesses and minority farmers; legal protection of indigenous and peasant livelihoods in global south
Class Dimensions	High concentration of oligopoly wealth within food system; marginalization of small, medium, and family farms and of locally-owned food retailers; low-wage farm and food sector jobs; destruction of peasant livelihoods in global south; maintenance of global surplus labor through concentration of wealth and of control over productive resources	Public subsidies compensate for low wages in the corporate agrifood sector through food assistance programs like SNAP, EBT, & WIC; differentiated ability to consume certified organic and fair trade products on the basis of income; failure to address class inequities and skewed distribution of wealth	Higher wages and more stable employment for agricultural and food workers; cooperative ownership structures; ability to participate in and engage in leadership roles dependent on possession of cultural and social capital associated with class privilege	Progressive redistribution of wealth and control over resources; restoration of economic viability of small and medium-sized farms and food businesses through restructuring of agricultural and food policies; strong labor rights

Source: Holt-Giménez, G., & Wang, Y. Reform or transformation? The pivotal role of food justice in the U.S. food movement. (2011). *Race/Ethnicity: Multidisciplinary Global Contexts*, 5(1), 96-97.