

Smart and Connected Community Food Systems

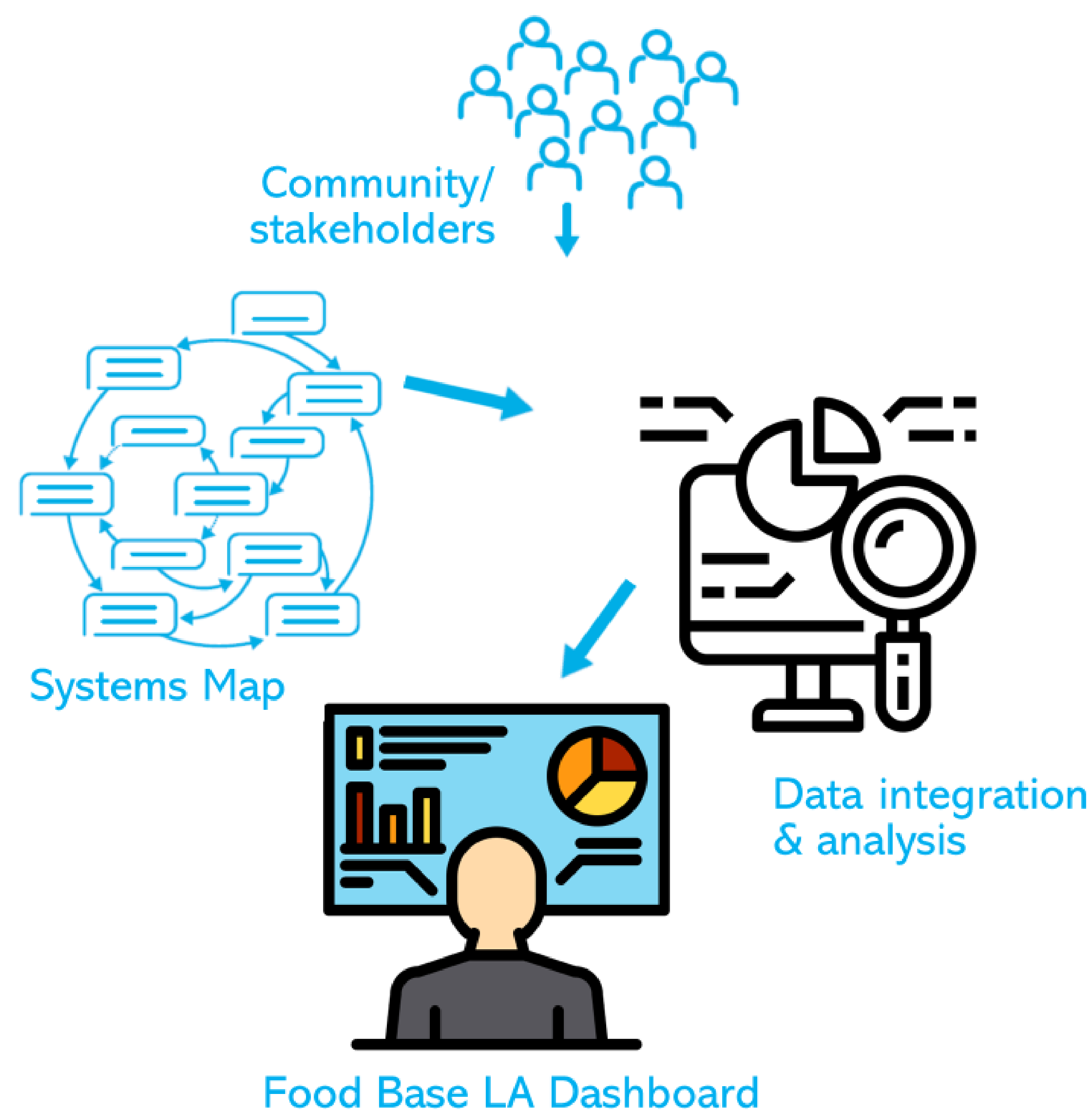
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Challenge

LA County lacks timely information about their local food system and food/nutrition security among >10M residents.

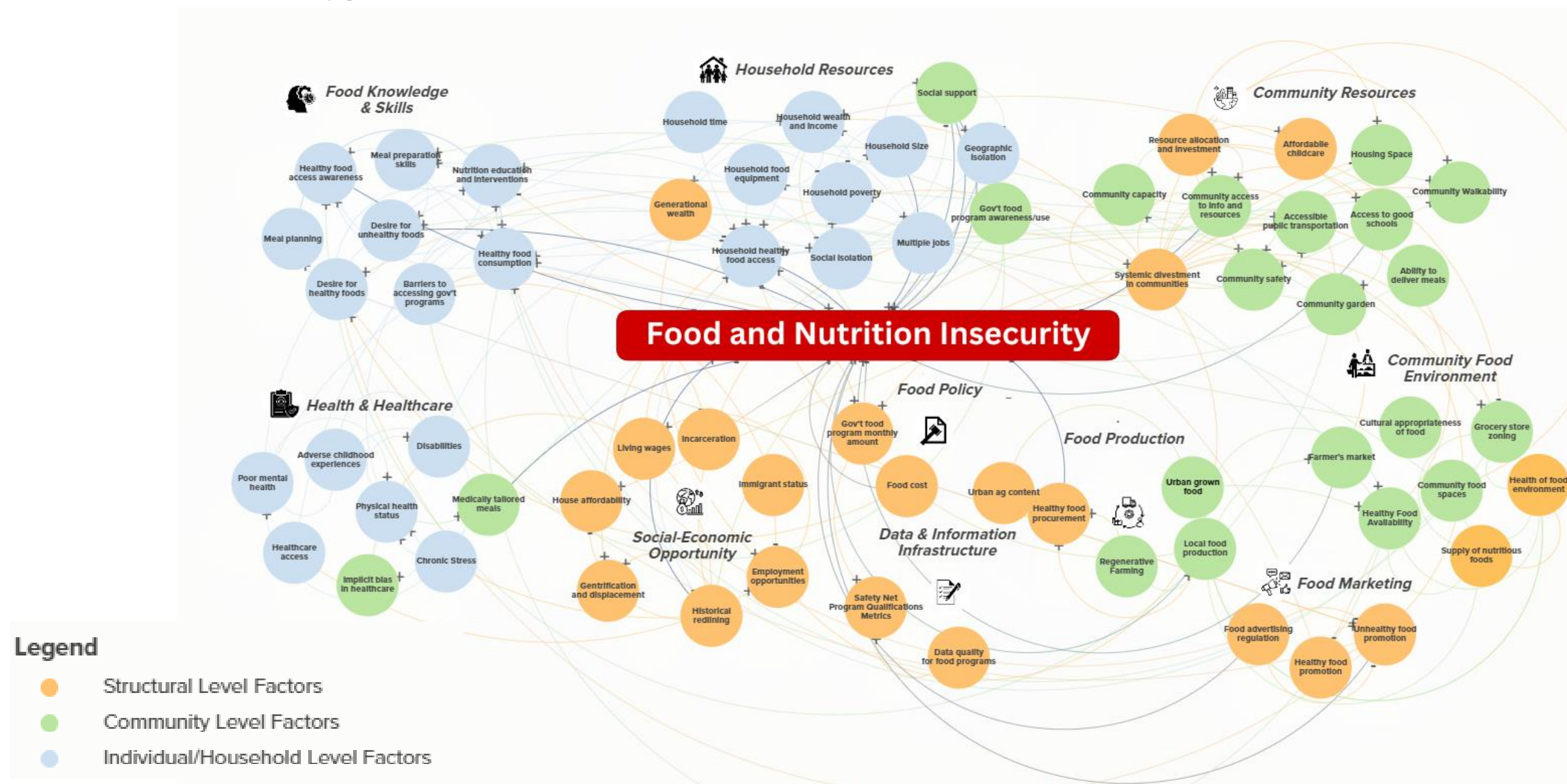
Goals & Intellectual Merit

- Use participatory, **systems-thinking** tools to gain new insights about the local food system.
- Connect stakeholders working on local food challenges with **timely, integrated, and actionable information about the food system**, so they can meet residents' needs to access sufficient healthy food.
- Develop a scalable, innovative model for monitoring and strengthening the resilience, equity, and sustainability of food systems, to increase food and nutrition security.

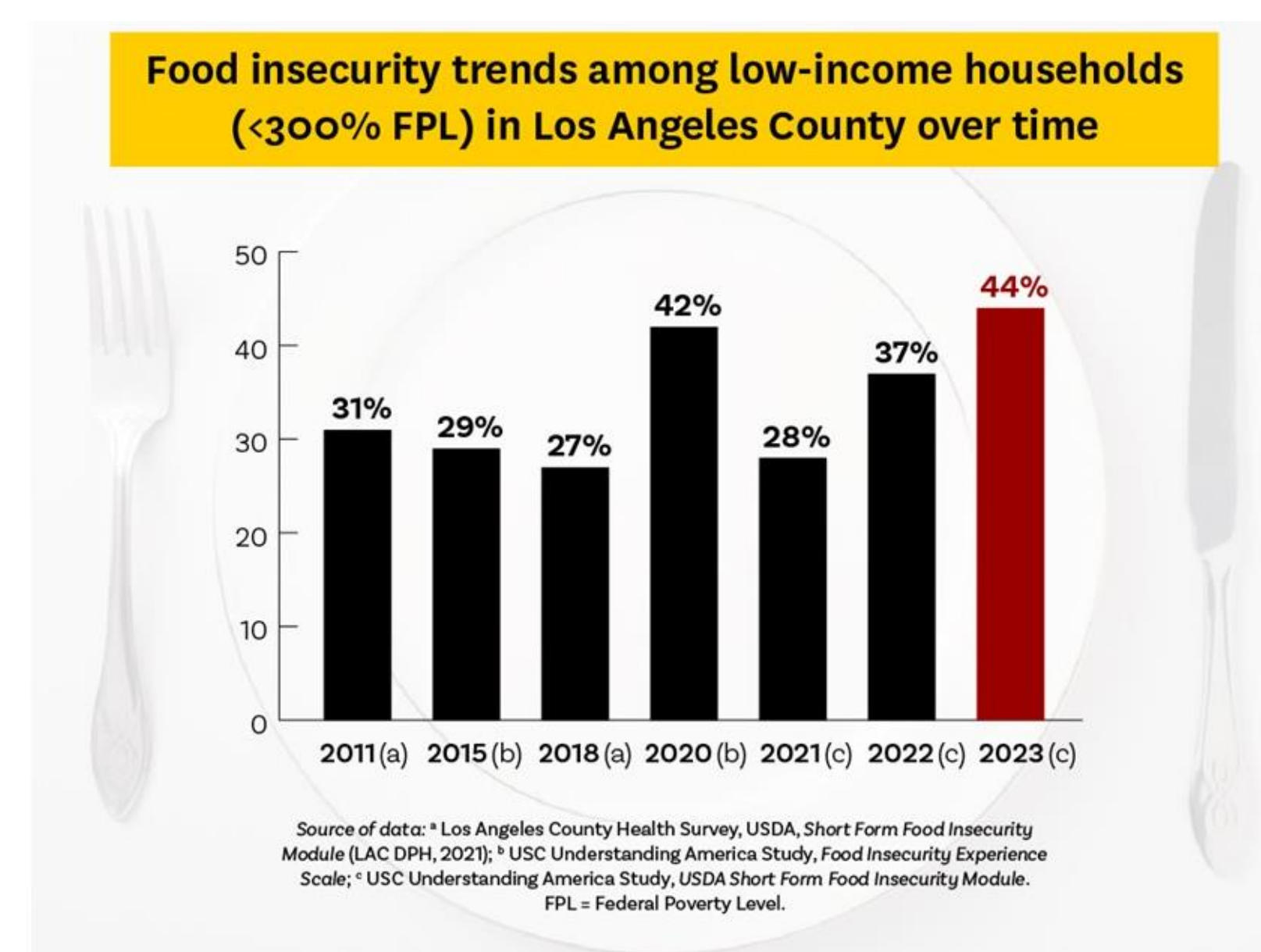


Major Outcomes

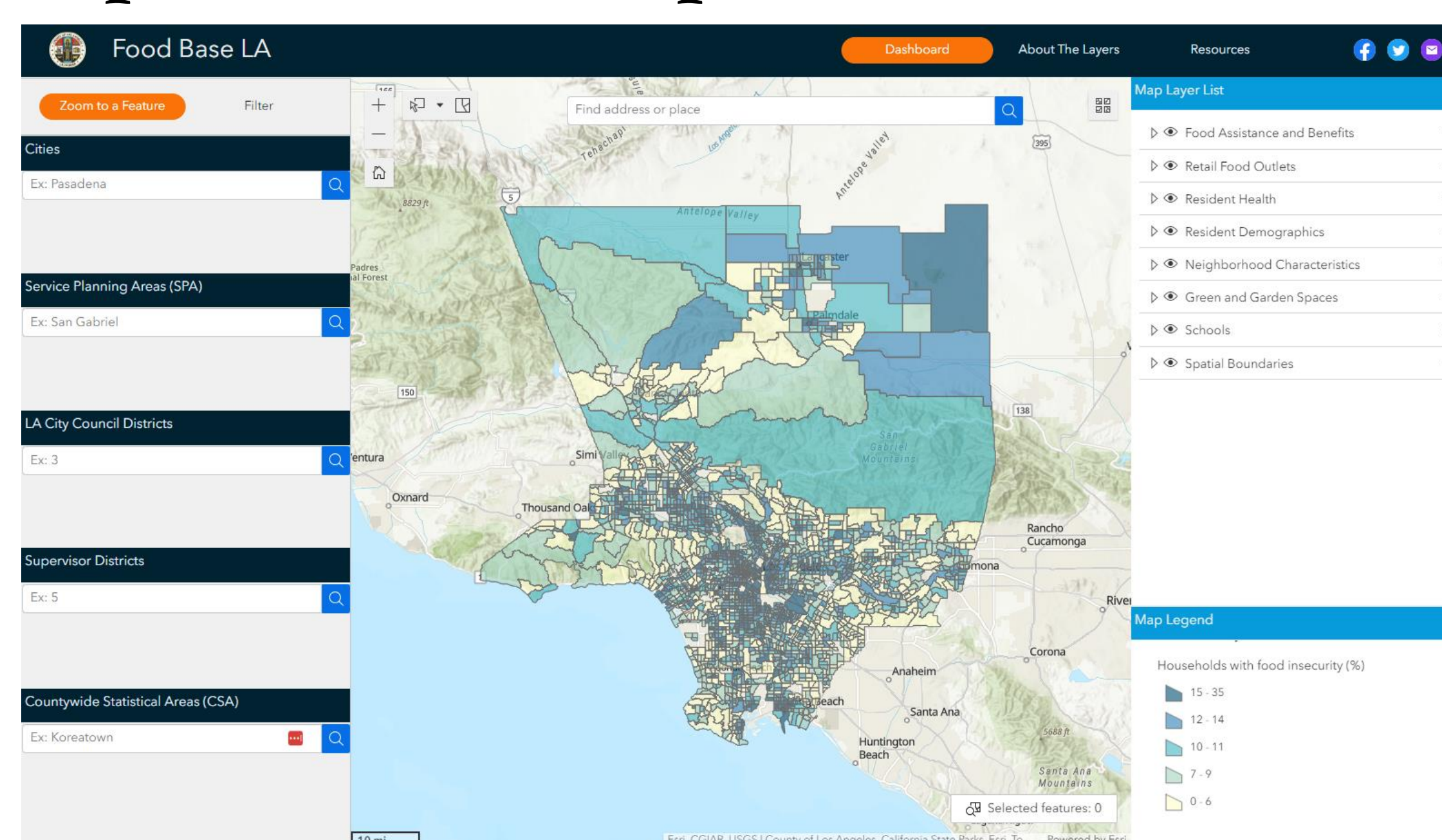
A1. New stakeholder-informed insights about the complex local food system



A2. New food system data & results through validation, integration, and analysis of novel data. e.g., dynamics of food & nutrition insecurity, household food assistance, resident mobility



A3. 'Food Base LA' data dashboard co-developed with local partners



Impact & Future Goals

- Food insecurity statistics widely cited by local media, CBOs, and government.

Los Angeles Times Editorial: Let's end hunger in Los Angeles County



Holidays are a time of get-togethers and feasts. But for many families, just getting enough to eat is a struggle. According to USC researchers, 1 in 4 Los Angeles County residents experience food insecurity. That means they lack consistent access to regular food, often because of poverty.

A family that is food insecure might have enough for the kids to eat but not for the adults. Or they may have food some days but not others. Poor nutrition affects children's growth and development, sometimes resulting in learning difficulties. The long-term effects of food insecurity are a shortened life span and chronic conditions such as diabetes or hypertension.

In this land of plenty, where billions of pounds of food a year are wasted, no one should go hungry.

- System-wide insights informed resource allocation, policy motions, & the Food Equity Roundtable Action Plan (2023-33).



- Transition our Food Base LA dashboard to the LA County Office of Food Equity, enabling it to become the central tool for implementing and evaluating their Action Plan (2023-33).
- Disseminate our model of dashboard data, research insights, and system-thinking tools as a template for monitoring and strengthening local food systems, and quickly acting on emerging food crises.