

# CREATING INCLUSIVE FARMERS MARKETS & COMMUNITY GARDENS



## WHAT CAN FARMERS MARKETS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS DO ENSURE INCLUSIVITY?

Farmers markets and community gardens are a great way to provide locally grown fresh produce to residents. Organizers will want to ensure accessibility so that all residents can either purchase or grow fresh fruits and vegetables. In their traditional settings, farmers markets and community gardens often have many barriers that limit or even restrict participation all together. With the help of your local public health agency and inclusive health coalition, you can remove barriers and provide equitable access for all residents. You can get started by completing an On-Site CHII Assessment. This assessment will help to not only identify what you are doing well, but it will also identify barriers that may make access difficult for people with disabilities.

This tip sheet is one of a series of six that has been created to help local public health agencies and community coalitions remove barriers that prevent people with disabilities from achieving the same health and wellness opportunities as people without disabilities.

# RESOURCES

[Accessible Gardening](#)

[Gardening Adaptations](#)

[Creating Markets for All Shoppers](#)

[Farmers Market Video](#)

[Farmers Market Brochure](#)



Raised Deck Garden  
Sioux City, IA

## WHAT POLICY, SYSTEM, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES CAN IMPROVE INCLUSIVITY?

### POLICY & SYSTEM LEVEL CHANGES

- Add inclusive features to vendor contracts: Require 3 feet of space between tables and tent poles. Product must be close to table edge and within reach from a seated position. Signage should be 14-18 point font, high contrast text, and include a pictogram. Should also have large print and electronic options available.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

- Located on or next to a smooth, firm surface such as cement. Don't place on or next to gravel or grass.
- Provide assistance and place signage at booths.
- Have product wagons and adaptive carts available.
- Have at least one raised garden bed between 18 and 30 inches high and paths 5 feet wide.
- Provide adapted equipment: long handle watering wand, easy grip tools, kneeler or stool.
- Provide accessible bathrooms and parking.
- Seating options should include companion space.



This document was supported through a contract with the Iowa Department of Public Health using federal funding available from Cooperative Agreement number 1NU27DD000019, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Health and Human Services.

