

## Methodology of this Initiative

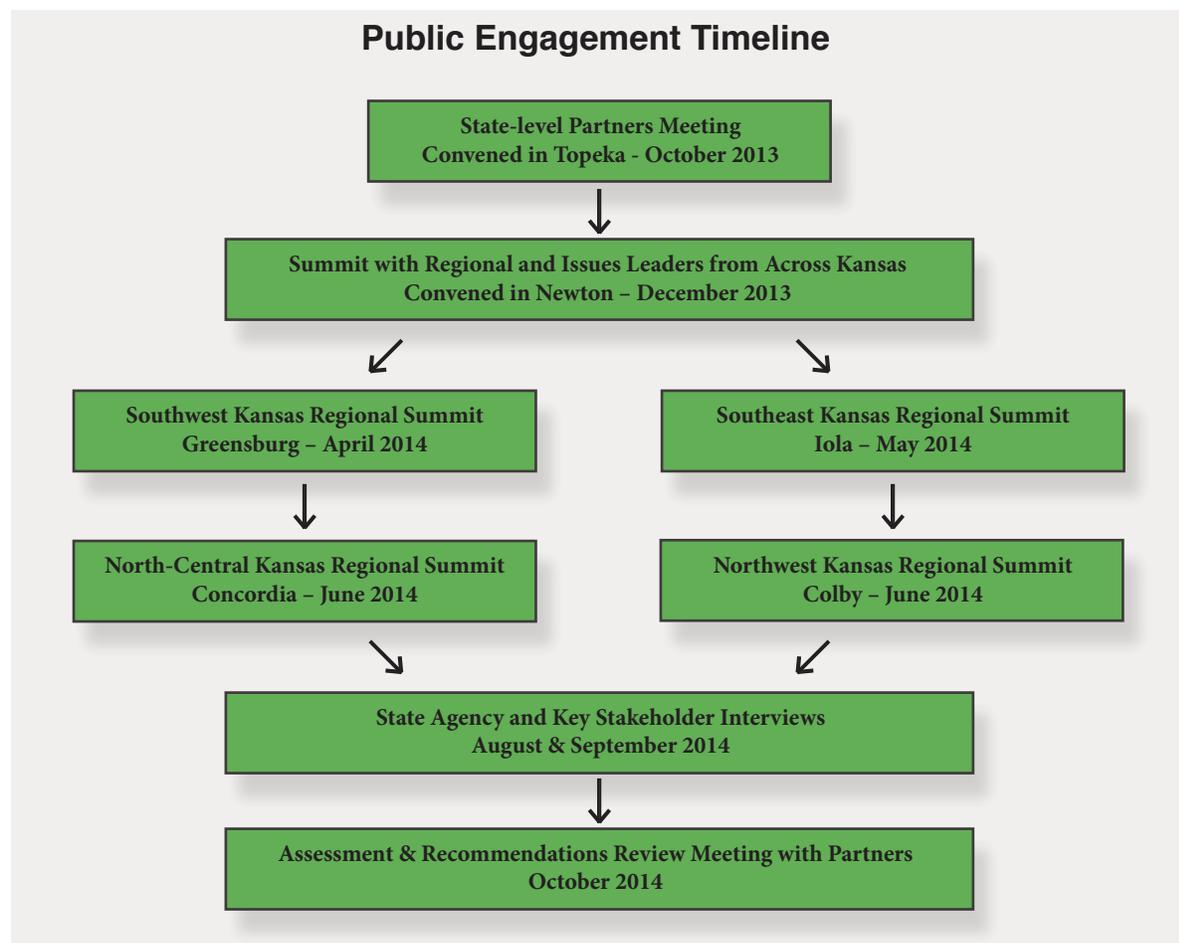
The methodological design of this initiative's assessment and report draws from similar, successful initiatives in states such as Iowa and North Carolina (Leopold Center, 2011; Curtis, 2010). Each of these initiatives involved engaging wide-ranging stakeholders from across the state and local food system in facilitated dialogue about key issues related to healthful food access and consumption. The resulting reports reflect an extensive diversity of perspectives representing a broad swath of the states' residents. This approach is deemed critical to ensuring any resulting recommendations are true responses to the on-the-ground realities in those states, and will have strong support from multiple sectors of the population.

*Feeding Kansas* developed out of an iterative process of stakeholder engagement and qualitative research, conducted by the Kansas Rural Center. This process involved the broader public by activating a three-tiered partners network

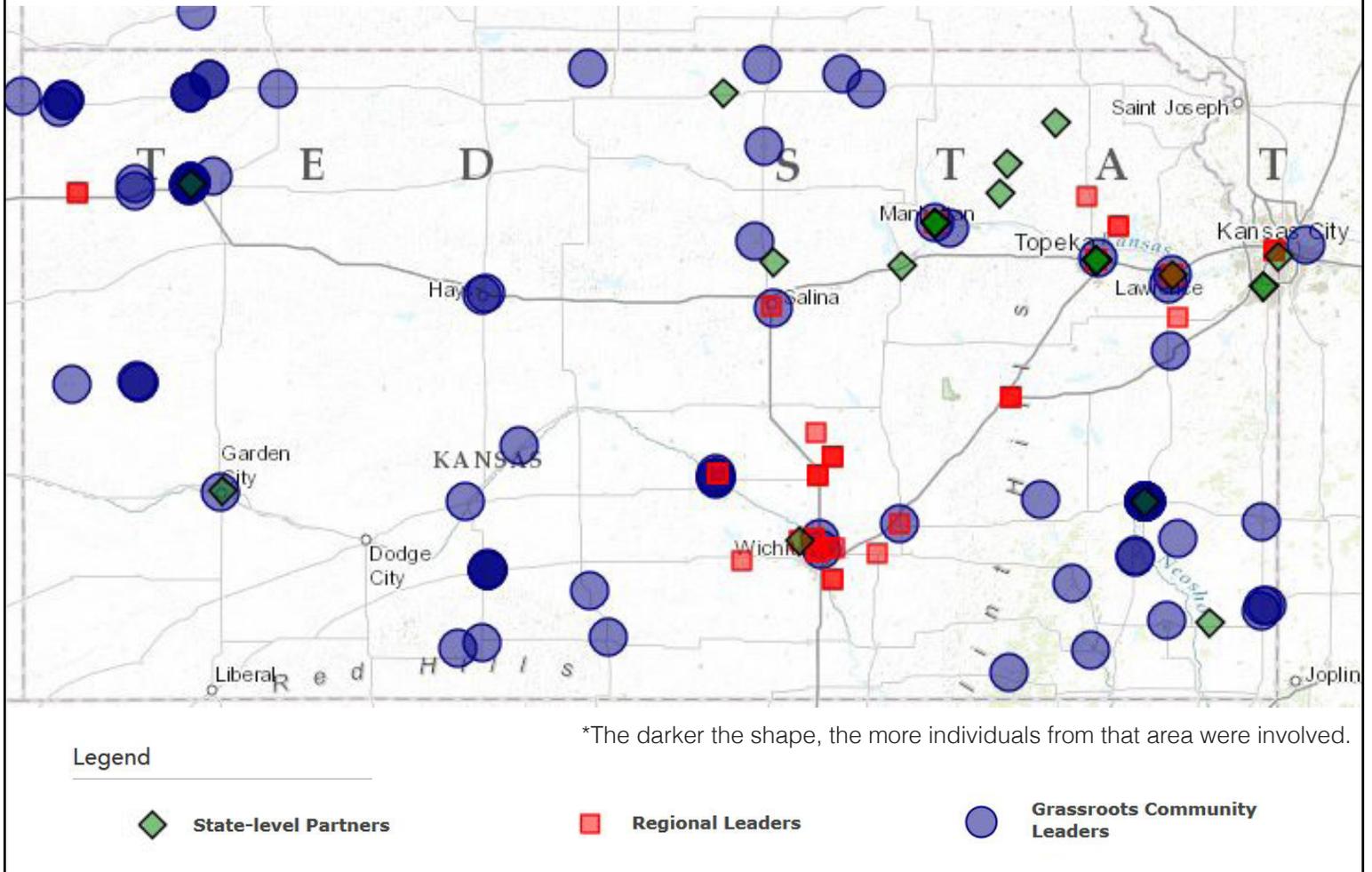
(pictured on the next page) one tier at a time, drawing upon the experience and knowledge of 275 stakeholders from across food system sectors at six public events around the state in 2013 and 2014. Participants at these events represented all regions of Kansas and all sectors of the farm-to-fork food system. Events also included health experts, educators, business and economic advisors, and more. At each event, KRC revealed the findings from conversations at previous events,

in order to avoid redundancy and ensure each new conversation delved deeper into the issues than the previous event. KRC also shaped the dialogue at each summit event around topics especially relevant to the unique features and challenges of the region where that summit was conducted.

Upon completion of the public engagement process, KRC conducted private interviews with 25 representatives from multiple state agencies, in order to pursue answers to specific questions that came up during the public events.



### KRC Three-tiered Partners Network Engagement Map



Hundreds of pages of notes from more than a year of group and one-on-one conversations were analyzed by the KRC team, with technical support from the Public Health Law Center at the William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota. Technical support included: research into existing related state and local government policies in Kansas, an analysis of the relevance of government policies from other states, a review and feasibility assessment of the proposed policy recommendations, creation and sharing of key resources to support farm-to-fork food system development within Kansas, and coordination of KRC efforts with other partner organizations (see list within the opening pages of this report).

In addition, KRC conducted a literature review of prior Kansas food and farm system regional and statewide studies, including many of KRC's prior reports, to ensure the *Feeding Kansas* analysis builds upon and advances the work that has come before. And finally, KRC staff, board of directors, and state-level partners provided critical input and review with the benefit of their many years dedicated to this work across the farm and food spectrum in Kansas.

**KRC's final analysis yielded three key goals with seven public policy recommendations. These are respectfully presented herein to the people of Kansas, as immediate priorities for growing the state's farm-to-fork food system and helping to make healthful foods a routine, easy choice for all Kansans.**

Over the coming two years, the Kansas Rural Center will work with many partners and a growing grassroots network to advocate for the enactment of the public policy recommendations set forth in this report.