



MEMO

TO: Members, Partners, and Friends
FROM: Bruce Karmazin
DATE: 10/30/2023
RE: 2022 Annual Big Questions Report

As part of the Foundation's commitment to evaluation and to learning from its work and that of its grantees, we developed *The Lumpkin Family Foundation Framework for Ongoing Evaluation and Learning* in 2011. This *Framework* guides the Foundation's evaluation and learning efforts, including:

- Monitoring our performance and adherence to mission, vision and plan;
- Monitoring grantee adherence to proposals;
- Learning for continuous program and service improvement; and
- Understanding the extent to which we are making progress in meeting programmatic goals, and having impact.

To that end, the *Framework* calls for a report on the *Annual Cross-Program Reflection Questions* and for reflection on a deeper set of questions every four and ten years. The *Annual Reflection Questions* are:

1. Did we deliver on our work plan objectives and achieve our intended outcomes for the year?
2. What impact have we had in working toward our mission?
3. Are family members adequately engaged in our work?
4. How well did we steward our financial resources over the past year?

For the ninth year in a row, we are completing this report using a series of infographics. We have received positive feedback about this accessible format from Members at the Family Meeting.

We reviewed everything from internal information on family member engagement, satisfaction, and participation to the number and amounts of grants across programs and post-grant report narratives. We carefully selected data to include in the infographics that we hoped might spark dialogue and learning. Some the information is subjective, based on what data staff felt could best answer the questions. We had to make some judgment calls when categorizing grants into our mission areas, but have used a

taxonomy since 2015 in an attempt to keep the reports consistent. Where relevant, we included objective information and statistics.

Staff hopes the report will provide the information needed by Trustees and Members to assess whether the Foundation is achieving its goals and living up to your expectations. We look forward to learning how we can make this report more helpful in the future.



Our Vision

We envision a healthy, sustainable world.

Our Mission

We support people working together to build healthy, sustainable communities in East Central Illinois and across the United States.

Our Purpose

To bring together the rich intellectual, social, and cultural capital of the extended Lumpkin family in collective pursuit of positive change in the world.

Our Values

- *We value family and we enjoy working together to improve lives.*
- *We value our roots in East Central Illinois as a lens through which we see the broader world in which we're engaged.*
- *We value trusting relationships that arise from being open, transparent, and accountable.*
- *We strive to be a learning organization.*
- *We accept our responsibility to care for the earth.*

1. Did we deliver on our work plan objectives and achieve our intended outcomes for the year?



OPERATIONS, GOVERNANCE, AND ACTIVITIES

[Strategic Plan Update & 2022 Activity Report](#)

Staff Changes

- Program Officer Laura Huddleston left in September to become a consultant to libraries.
- Conducted search for a new program officer and hired Monique Schlichtman, who is shared between Chicago operations and ECI programs.
- Good Food Policy Officer, Daniel Doyle, moved to part time status.



Jonathan Coppess Addresses 2022 Grantee Convening in Champaign, IL

Governance

- Board Retreat 2022 in Mattoon – Emergent Learning and Systems Thinking with Human Dynamics - [Retreat Report and Survey Summary](#).
- Affirmed LFF direction and strategy in an updated [Strategic Plan](#) with some program changes/additions.
- [Dr. Chigozirim Sodeke](#) joined the board as an independent trustee.
- Learning and Evaluation Advisory Team (to become a committee) continued work to define foundation success and establish framework for continuous learning.

Activities

- Surveyed grantees for feedback on improving application, evaluation, and reporting processes.
- Released [ECI Landscape Scan](#).
- Grantee Convening held in May with Mark Mueller and Jonathan Coppess based on [2021-22 Producers Report](#).
- LFF hosted two mission forums on food and farm policy and civic engagement in conjunction with scheduled committee and board meetings.
- Completed direct investment in [Canopy Farm Services](#) and took seat on new nonprofit Proofing Station (Joint PRI fund).
- Moved into new office at 1632 Broadway Avenue.

Racial Justice and Equity Activities

- Completed consultancy with Sustainable Equity and Racial & Equity Ad Hoc Committee.

Racial Justice and Equity Activities (cont.)

- Evaluation and Learning Advisory Team updated or developed new umbrella statements to allow for enhanced transparency and the orientation of staff and trustees; statements include a proposed value statement on Equity.
- Adopted an [Equity Rubric](#) to guide future action and to support an audit of Foundation practices with respect to equity and social justice.
- Held Family Meeting in Chicago July 2022 at the DuSable Black History Museum with Dr. Kim Dulaney.
- With Fresh Taste, Program Officer Daniel Doyle co-chaired the Racial Equity Working Group: organizing speakers, films, and readings for partner engagement.



The DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center, Chicago

GRANTMAKING

Coles County and ECI (\$1,333,665)

- LIFT Academy grant for solar panels to former CCI building for energy efficiency and school curriculum.
- Pledged \$1M over 3 years for Emerald Acres Sports Connection construction.
- City of Mattoon grant to extend Lincoln Prairie Grass Trail six blocks to YMCA.
- Five-year commitment to tree planting project in Mattoon.
- Continued funding for Illinois Regenerative Agriculture Initiative (I-Regen) at UIUC with other Fresh Taste partners.
- Increased amount of operating grants and made longer commitments of 3- to 5-years for general operating support and capacity building.
- Began accepting grants of \$5,000 or less without an application.

New Programs in Development

- Chicago/ECI Mental Health programs for launch in summer 2023.
- Untold Stories community learning for launch in 2024.
- Small Towns, Big Ideas community-driven program for development and launch in 2024.

Chicago, Statewide, and Beyond

- Continued Aspiramos Juntos and Austin Fresh, launched North Lawndale Fresh.
- Continued participation in Chicago Region Food System Fund with other Fresh Taste partners, supporting a shift to participatory grantmaking.
- Joined the Re-AMP network to support climate smart ag opportunities in the Midwest.
- Continued engagement with affinity groups and collaborative grantmaking opportunities, including Funders of Regenerative Agriculture (FORA) and the Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems Funders Network (SAFSF) through the Good Food Policy program.

2a.+b. How have we contributed to the growth of our grantees and moved the needle on leadership (in ECI)?

Total Grants Given in ECI in 2021: \$1,333,665

37% of all Foundation/DDF Giving

*Including LHC, Nature Based Climate Action (NBCA), Donor Directed, Matching, Discretionary, and Staff Matching funds.

- Enhanced the capacity of the nonprofit sector, completing the [2021-22 Producer Report](#) and convening grantees for networking and learning.
- Provided support to the [Elevate](#) business incubation center in Mattoon to encourage, connect, and grow local entrepreneurs and economic prosperity in East Central Illinois and rural America.
- [Forefront](#) launched the [Advancing Racial Equity Collective](#), committed to supporting the advancement of racial equity as well as infuse and operationalize racial equity strategies within the organization's mission and core offerings.
- [Illinois Environmental Council](#) provided sector leadership to make important changes to local conservation ordinances, while the [Illinois Stewardship Alliance](#) advanced local food system policy priorities at the state level by supporting education and outreach among citizens and lawmakers.

Board Opportunity Fund



City of Mattoon

Bike Trail Expansion - **\$75,000**

Mattoon Community Unit School District #2

LIFT Academy Solar Canopy and EV Charging Stations - **\$492,975**

Emerald Acres Sports Connection

Approved pledge for **\$1M** over 3 years (in partnership with DDFs)

Disc/DDF/Matching – 8 Local Organizations - \$59,250

Edgar County Community Foundation

Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Foundation – Hospice House

Mattoon Community Food Center

Mattoon High School Spectrum Club

Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation – Coles County Peace and Justice Fund

The Haven

Camp New Hope

Mattoon Area YMCA



Concept Design for LIFT Academy Solar Canopy



Land, Health, Community

- \$287,806 for 15 Responsive Grants
- \$418,500 for 10 Recurring/Core Grants



Sola Gratia Farm's New Acreage in Production

- [Sola Gratia Farm](#) in Urbana expanded their farm acreage for the 2023 growing season as well as hired their first development staff position, with our support going to expand both their organizational capacity and farm production potential.
- Support to [Douglas-Hart Nature Center](#) for expansion of native habitat and trail systems as well as to fund development and feasibility studies around a proposed new and improved nature center.

- [Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting](#) (Investigate Midwest) added as Core Grantee to produce in-depth stories focused on water, agriculture, and environmental issues. Coverage includes award-winning work such as "[Big Ag U](#)" that examined large donor influence on our public land grant institutions.
- The University of Illinois Extension's "[Illinois Deer Donation Program](#)" pilot project worked with six partner meat processors during the 2022 deer hunting seasons and provided **8,414** pounds of venison to 37 food pantries in 12 East Central Illinois counties.

The total support granted by CRFSF is \$11,438,150 to 156 non-profit organizations since June 2020.



In January 2023, [Chicago Region Food System Fund](#) (CRFSF) announced an additional \$10 million in funding, the bulk of which will be distributed in three rounds of grantmaking through April 2024. The first round will focus on evolving the food system. It will be followed in September 2023 by a round focused on growing food system resources and a third round in January 2024 focused on better preparing for food system emergencies.

2c. How have we moved the needle on our mission areas?

Climate Action & Regenerative Agriculture

- In addition to Investigate Midwest's reporting, [Food & Environment Reporting Network](#) (FERN) coverage continues to shine a light on the immense challenges and opportunities to combat climate change in the Midwest and across the country, including features on [rural communities](#) as well as their new [Hot Farm](#) podcast, which won the Institute of Nonprofit News 2022 Insight Award.
- [Evergreen Climate Innovations](#) expanded its CET's 501vc® Platform, which catalyzes climate innovations by finding, funding, and growing startups in the Greater Midwest that are commercializing impactful solutions for clean energy, decarbonization, and environmental sustainability.



LFF joined the [Re-AMP Network](#) to support their mission to set collective strategy and enable collaboration on climate solutions in the Midwest with the goal of equitably eliminating greenhouse gas emissions in the region by 2050.

- In 2022, the board approved an impact investment in [Canopy Farm Services](#), a purpose-driven start-up of one of our long-term grantees, Savanna Institute. Canopy's goal is to commercialize tree planting on farms across the Midwest.

Illinois Regenerative Agriculture Initiative (I-Regen) – LHC Grantee

The [I-Regen](#) pooled funding project continues to catalyze efforts to build relationships, conversations, activities, and funding around regenerative agriculture within the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and with the broader community. In 2022, I-Regen increased staffing, expanded relationships, and awarded its second year of seed grants to three projects.



Fresh Taste partners, include Daniel Doyle of LFF, stand with I-Regen Director Dr. Emily Heaton in front of a miscanthus plot.



Nature-Based Climate Action Program

The Nature-Based Climate Action Program supports projects that use natural systems, which include the preservation or restoration of critical ecosystems to address climate change, the threats of extreme weather, and habitat loss that contributes to the extinction of vital species.

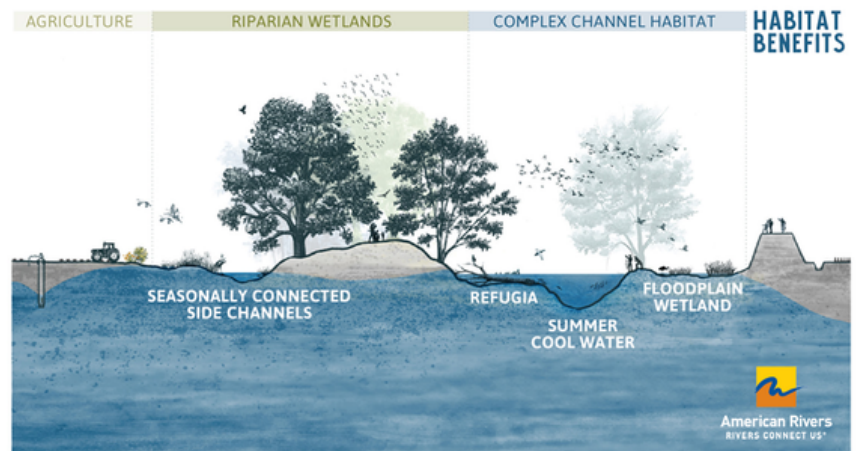
\$455,000 Awarded
2021 Grantees

\$648,438 Awarded
2022 Grantees

American Rivers: Floodplain Restoration & Community Impact

[The Illinois Floodplains Work Program](#) is a public-private framework to advance multi-benefit floodplain development projects that address flood-related climate disruption, social and racial injustice, biodiversity loss, and other locally important issues in the state in a holistic way.

In 2022, American Rivers focused on efforts to win protections for ecosystems that are home to imperiled wildlife, pass legislation that will make drinking water cleaner, and find common ground with unlikely partners so that rivers can thrive without sacrificing energy or agriculture needs.



- HUMAN BENEFITS**
- ↑ RAISED groundwater level
- CLIMATE MITIGATION with carbon storage
- RECREATIONAL fishing + hunting
- MORE RELIABLE water supply
- SAFER FLOODS
- POLLINATION of crops
- ECONOMIC DIVERSITY with eco-tourism
- REDUCED regulation
- IMPROVED water quality

"It's the incremental policy improvements and victories achieved in community meetings and over countless email and phone conversations that improve a neighborhood's access to nature, make it possible for a species to survive, and lessen flooding in someone's front yard. Those are the breakthroughs we fight for."

- Tom Kiernan, American Rivers President

The Land Institute

'Increasing Resiliency of Illinois Corn Production by Intercropping with Native Prairie Species' explores opportunities to help Illinois growers leverage native nitrogen-fixing legumes, like [Illinois bundleflower](#), and prairie grasses as perennial groundcovers (i.e., perennial cover crops), which do not need to be replanted each year and provide permanent soil cover and protection.

Tree Planting: Savanna Institute and More!

NBCA supports tree plantings in several communities across East Central Illinois. With their multi-year grant, the [Savanna Institute](#) plans to establish and maintain 250 acres of agroforestry in Champaign and Piatt Counties, focusing on alley cropping and windbreaks, two of the recognized nature-based climate solutions.

Champaign Parks Foundation will establish tree-cover along their Greenbelt Bikeway, while Faith in Place does so on church properties in the region, Charleston High School on school grounds, and the Douglas Hart Nature Center will increase their protected forest by nearly one-third.



New Trees at Savanna Institute

National Food Policy



Good Food Policy Program



**In the program's fifth year:
Awarded \$315,000 to 16 organizations**

In 2022, the Good Food Policy Committee agreed to pursue a new strategic focus by identifying two focus areas to prioritize in evaluating both current commitments to advance and future organizations to invite:

- 1) Coalition building and network development;**
- 2) Advancing critical narratives and storytelling.**

Additionally, engagement of the committee will shift toward emphasizing strategy, evaluation, and learning by awarding general operating, multi-year grants consistently across the GFPP portfolio through 2024.

Funders for Regenerative Agriculture (FORA): Farm Bill Grassroots Capacity Building

The [FORA](#) collaborative project's primary focus is on providing financial support and training to on-the-ground organizations across the country in partnership with leading agricultural policy coalitions through three funds: rapid response, capacity building, and priority states.

Grantee partners in one or more of the funds include the [HEAL Food Alliance](#), [Rural Coalition](#), [National Family Farm Coalition](#) (NFFC), and [National Young Farmers Coalition](#) (NYFC).

“We firmly believe that food and agriculture policy advocacy is a vehicle for social change. For young farmers to effectively continue and scale critical climate change mitigation work, they need bold policy change to make more land and capital available to them and regenerative practices equitably recognized, supported, and financially rewarded.”

– Sophie Ackoff, Co-Executive Director of National Young Farmers Coalition

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC): Farm Bill 2023 Centers Climate & Justice

[NSAC](#), a coalition of U.S. farmers, ranchers, and food systems advocates, hosted a fly-in as well as co-hosted a three-day national [Rally for Resilience](#) in Washington, D.C., calling for farmer-led climate solutions, centering of racial justice, and prioritizing communities over corporations.

In the lead up to the 2023 Farm Bill, NSAC published a [comprehensive farm bill platform](#).



Rally for Resilience in Washington, D.C.

Food Chain Workers Alliance (FWCA) & HEAL Food Alliance: Public Purchasing Power



FWCA and HEAL have worked with coalitions across the country to win [Good Food Purchasing Program](#) policies, when cities or school districts commit to buy more food from local producers and supply chain transparency as well as racial equity and climate justice standards. This “value-based” procurement has already been adopted by municipalities including Illinois’ Cook County.

A new report by [HEAL](#) and [FCWA](#) entitled “[Procuring Food Justice](#)” analyzes the first decade of Good Food Purchasing Program’s progress.

Healthy Food Access

The Aspiramos Juntos (AJ) program continues to support organizations in the Chicago area that provide nutrition programs to youth, develop urban gardens and farms that serve as a source of health and wellness, and others geared towards stewarding our natural environment while mitigating the effects of the built environment within an urban context.

A number of first-time applicants submitted proposals in 2022, which is evidence of word getting out about this funding opportunity.

Aspiramos Juntos

\$300,000



17
PROJECTS
FUNDED



139
JOB SEEKERS
TRAINED



14
NEW GREEN
SPACES



101,384
INDIVIDUALS
IMPACTED



121
COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS



41,490
POUNDS OF HEALTHY
FOOD GROWN

[AJ Fall 2022 Post Grant Reports](#)

[AJ Spring 2022 Post Grant Reports](#)

Austin Fresh

\$1,725,000 [2022 AF/NLF Grantees](#)

In its 3rd year of funding, the Austin Fresh funders collaborative made 6 grant awards. One of the grantees, [Austin Coming Together](#) (ACT), received a two-year grant of \$450,000 for each year. This collaborative worked with community partners to support programming that included nutrition education for children and adults, gardening programs, a community incubator kitchen, and much more.

North Lawndale Fresh

\$1,222,000

Following the collaborative funding model of Austin Fresh, North Lawndale Fresh (NLF) is in its first year of a 5-year commitment, representing a collaboration between five funders: Builder's Initiative, Food:Land:Opportunity, Steans Family Foundation, Walter Mander Foundation, and The Lumpkin Family Foundation. The partnership will work to expand healthy retail options, support community gardens and local food production, grow food enterprises, and protect and strengthen food assistance programs in the North Lawndale neighborhood.

2d. How have the communities (including family member communities) in which we work benefitted from their relationship with LFF?

"I've been supporting [Audubon Canyon Ranch](#) (ACR) for over 25 years. This organization protects the natural resources of its sanctuaries while fostering an understanding and appreciation of these environments. ACR educates children and adults, promotes ecological literacy that is grounded in direct experience, and conducts research and restoration that advances conservation science. I have been particularly impressed with their educational programs, their use of and trainings about prescribed fire management for land stewardship, and their mountain lion conservation and education program."

- Pam Keon

"I support [Wilton Go Green](#) with my time and resources because they are working locally to educate people on issues of sustainability. My latest grants helped to get our local Market on board with separating food waste for composting. Since November they have diverted thousands of pounds of food scraps to the bio digester where it generates energy, and the byproduct is a healthy soil amendment. This is a small step forward, but having the Market on board will help us to get residents and other businesses in Wilton to sign on to getting food waste out of the trash."

- Tina Duncan

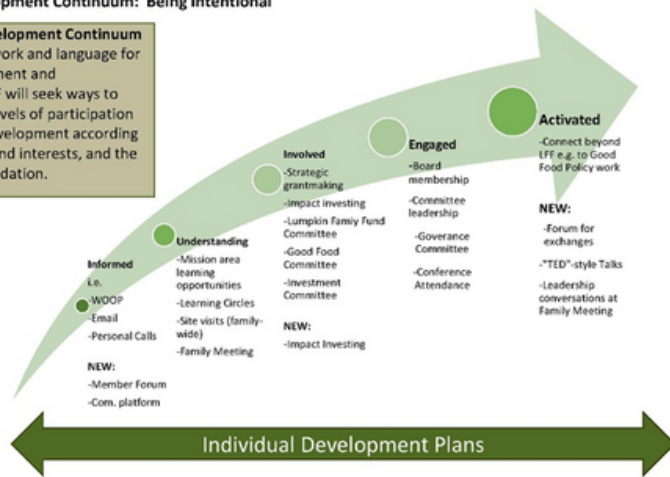
"Headed by Paul Cox, Ph.D., who Time Magazine named one of eleven "Heroes of Medicine," [Brain Chemistry Labs](#) is a distinguished non-profit research laboratory advancing the understanding of brain diseases. With groundbreaking discoveries, the lab has successfully established a connection between a particular environmental toxin and Alzheimer's disease. The team is pioneering the development of innovative treatments for various brain diseases and developing a state-of-the-art blood test capable of detecting brain diseases at an early stage."

- Joe Keon

3. Member Engagement - Are family members adequately engaged in our work?

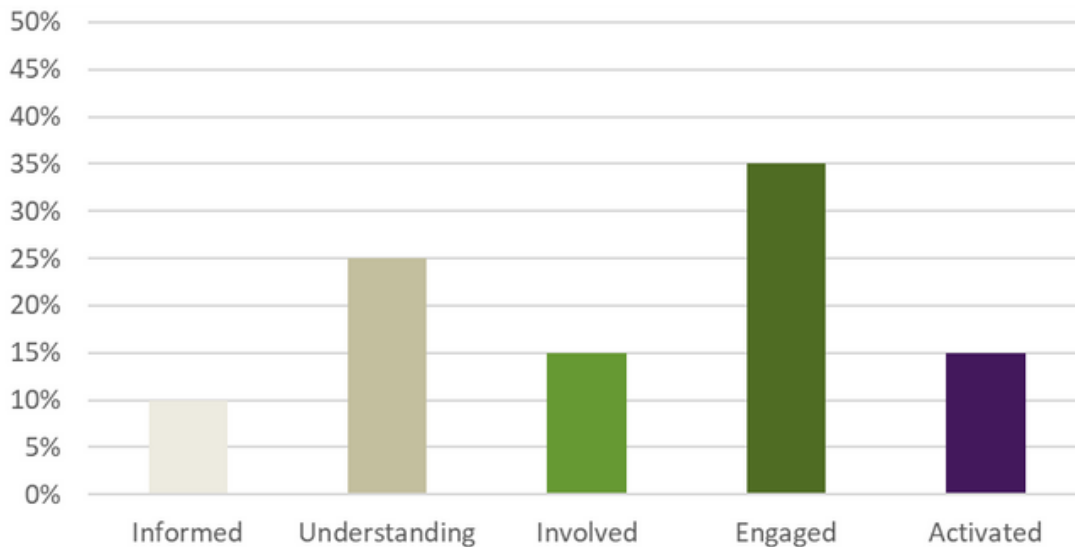
Member Development Continuum: Being Intentional

The Member Development Continuum provides a framework and language for member development and programming. LFF will seek ways to support optimal levels of participation and leadership development according to member time and interests, and the needs of The Foundation.



The [2023 Member & Trustee Self-Assessment Report](#) asked members to consider the Member Development Continuum (at left) and to self-rate their 2022 level of development with Foundation activities based on the information given on the continuum.

Where do you currently fit on the Continuum?



Member Sentiment

Respondents were generally satisfied with their current level of engagement or were in a stage in their lives where career focus took precedence but hoped to do more when time allowed.

Like 2021, 65% rated themselves as Involved, Engaged, or Activated. When asked where they would like to be on the Continuum in 3-5 years, 10% of 2023 respondents wanted to move from Involved to Engaged, but 15% wanted to become less active or help others to become more so.



Informed Membership

- Members who attended conferences: Ila Duncan @ SAFSF, National Council on Family Philanthropy.
- WOOP Newsletter Stats: 73% open rate (14% Increase over 2021); 10% click rate.
- Mission Forum panels on the Inflation Reduction Act and Small Giving for Big Impact.



Dynamic and Knowledgeable Leadership

- Individual Development Plans
- Evaluation and Learning Advisory Committee met for ten sessions during the year to discuss updates and new statements to enhance transparency, including a proposed value statement on Equity.
- Board Retreat in November 2022 - [Report and Survey Summary](#)



Vibrant, Collaborative Culture

- 19 Members participated on eight committees in 2022.
- Discretionary & Matching giving down slightly from 2021.
- 21 respondents to the 2023 Member and Trustee Survey.
- 55% of Members donated a total of \$51,400 in Discretionary Funds and a total of \$35,550 in Matching Funds.



Disaster Grantmaking 2022: War in Ukraine

Lumpkin Family Foundation members donated \$37,000 toward humanitarian relief for the people of Ukraine after the 2022 Russian invasion. Recipients included World Central Kitchen, Doctors Without Borders, and Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights: Urgent Response Fund.

If you'd like to learn more about joining any of the Foundation's work, please contact Bruce.