



## 2023 Challenge Puzzle: Business Development

Thank you for your interest in joining us this summer! TCEC has been a cornerstone of this small Mississippi Delta town since the mid-1980s. It is now in a turnaround phase. The poverty rate in this area is 3x the national average, and illiteracy and obesity are huge problems. The USDA classifies this as “a remote rural region” and a “food desert.”

### Research and Challenge

Please familiarize yourself with our history and work by going to our website: <https://www.tutwilercommunityeducationcenter.org/> and through a Google search of national and local media covering TCEC (e.g., Sun Sentinel). Identify similar programs in the Mississippi Delta. Please read “[Food Access in West Tallahatchie](#).”

- Determine the viability of creating a hydroponics, micro greens, or farm stand business. The goals would be revenue generation, job training, and wellness promotion.
- Does anything like this exist in the surrounding counties (e.g., Coahoma)?
- How would we determine market viability?
- What are some sources of seed funding (no pun intended)?
- How could we create a competitive advantage?