



**United States
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**USDA Rural Development
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FY2024 HFFI Planning Grant Awards
November 1, 2024**

Project Name	Organization	Award Amount	City/County	Project State	Project Summary
Planning and Predevelopment of a Community Farm on Saint Paul Island, AK	City of Saint Paul	\$125,000	Saint Paul Island	AK	<p>The Project is the planning and predevelopment of a Community Farm which includes two greenhouses (one hot, one cool), a composting facility, a chicken house, facilities for retail sales of staple and perishable foods, and space for workshops and community gatherings. HFFI funds will be used to support business, feasibility and operations planning, market research, community engagement, surveying and site layout, conceptual design of the food retail business.</p> <p>The ultimate goal of the Project is the establishment of a sustainable community farm that improves access to and availability of staple and perishable foods and improves food supply chain resilience for this underserved, disadvantaged, distressed and primarily Native Alaskan (Unangâx) community of Saint Paul Island, Alaska. The objectives are to ensure food security, promote food independence, improve nutritional intake, strengthen community ties, provide educational programs, and create new job opportunities.</p>
Big River Grocery	Delta Magic	\$150,000	Helena	AR	Big River Grocery will be a full-service grocery store located in downtown Helena, Arkansas. HFFI Funding will be used to support development, design, and start up activities related to co-op development.
Supporting Local Food Systems and Building Food Security at the Healthy Roots Grocery	Orchard Community Learning Center	\$123,915	Phoenix	AZ	OCLC will use HFFI funds to carry out planning, business development and design activities to support the opening of The Healthy Roots Grocery, a neighborhood SNAP-authorized food retailer that will provide low food access communities in south Phoenix, Arizona with access to staple and perishable foods, including locally sourced produce.
Community-led Planning & Pilot Project to Expand Mandela Partners' Community Produce Stand Program	Mandela Partners	\$142,442	Oakland	CA	Mandela Partners' (MP) community food hub, Mandela Produce Distribution, brings California-grown produce from small, BIPOC-owned farms to Alameda County residents. MP supports farmer networks through several different programs and sales channels, including a Community Supported Agriculture produce box program offering home delivery and pick up; cooking classes and holistic nutrition and wellness workshops; wholesale purchasing options for local restaurants and small food businesses, and Community Produce Stands that pop up weekly at three sites across Alameda County and offer an affordable, culturally-relevant source of produce for local residents. Mandela Partners will use HFFI funds to support the expansion of their existing Community Produce Stands operations. Funds will be used to identify additional sites for the pop markets and planning an expanded business model, that will include additional staple and perishable food offerings for the community.



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Planning a Mobile Food Pharmacy to Enhance Community Access to Healthy Foods	Fresh Approach	\$107,905	San Jose	CA	This project will set a strong foundation for the implementation of multiple Mobile Food Pharmacy sites in Santa Clara and Contra Costa counties. The intent of the project is to integrate Fresh Approach’s existing Mobile Farmer’s Market—which has over a decade of success supporting communities experiencing food insecurity and historically underserved farmers—with healthcare systems to create a more streamlined and accessible Food as Medicine approach. To ensure that Mobile Food Pharmacy sites are maximally functional and accessible in alignment with community preferences, this project will support Fresh Approach in conducting Key Informant Interviews, hiring Community Liaisons, hosting multiple Community Forums, and piloting new workflows with healthcare partners.
Strengthening The Supply Chain for Local BIPOC Farmers and Food Retail Operations	Fresno BIPOC Produce	\$150,000	Fresno	CA	Fresno BIPOC Produce is a crucial player within the local agricultural framework, dedicated to enhancing the visibility and economic strength of BIPOC farmers. Founded by Keng Vang, a refugee from Laos, FBF is the only Asian-owned food hub in Fresno County. FBF’s long-term goal is to establish an inclusive and equitable local food hub in a USDA-designated LILA tract in Fresno, California. This initiative will feature a central facility outfitted with advanced cold storage, processing, and packaging technology to bolster the growth and sustainability of over 200 small BIPOC farmers. Supported by the HFFI planning grant, FBP will undertake a feasibility study, conduct a market analysis for food retail distribution, and develop architectural and engineering plans for the food hub, setting the foundation for transformative community impact.
Archuleta Food Hub Planning Project	Healthy Archuleta	\$150,000	Archuleta County	CO	The Archuleta Food Hub Planning Project will use funding to develop a plan for the Food Hub and an associated Capital Campaign to fund the project. The ultimate goal of the Food Hub is to improve access to fresh, healthy food through food retail in our underserved area amongst low-income and Spanish-speaking households. The project activities are to 1) conduct a pre-feasibility study, 2) capture the voices of growers/producers, local businesses, entrepreneurs, and community members to inform food hub design, 3) conduct a feasibility study, 4) bring together key stakeholders and conduct a collaborative food hub design event, 5) develop a business plan, and 6) create a capital campaign plan. A Food Hub would enable food producers to better reach retail food businesses, making staple and perishable foods more accessible to underserved populations such as low-income and Spanish-speaking households - advancing food equity and food sovereignty in Archuleta County.



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RMSER Food Market Development in Affordable Housing Community	Rocky Mountain SER	\$150,000	Pueblo	CO	RMSER will use HFFI funding to plan and develop a Food Market within a 100-unit affordable housing complex at 2300 E 10th Street, Pueblo, CO. This Food Market will enhance access to healthy foods in an underserved area, support local food systems, and create economic opportunities for residents. Grant funds will be utilized for architectural designs, evaluating and selecting a feasible business model, establishing and training a project team, solidifying community partnerships, vetting and selecting a general manager or market operator, developing a business plan, assessing capital funding needs, and conducting community engagement activities. The Food Market will be an integral part of the community, ensuring food security, fostering economic development, and promoting community health and well-being. This initiative aligns with RMSER’s mission to empower underserved communities through sustainable, community-driven projects.
Developing a Business Model for Expansion of FRESHFARM’s Pop-Up Food Hub	FRESHFARM	\$149,804	Washington DC	DC	The FRESHFARM Pop-Up Food Hub (PUFH) is a low-infrastructure, decentralized nonprofit model that uses farmers markets as points of wholesale aggregation and distribution instead of a traditional warehouse. By leveraging farmers markets’ infrastructure and logistics, we make hundreds of thousands of local agricultural products available to dozens of community-based organizations, nontraditional buyers, and nonprofit food services excluded by traditional food hubs and the local food system. However, our successful model has reached its current capacity limits as the demand for our services grows. The local food distribution market in the DC Metropolitan Area region presents a significant opportunity for expansion, with increasing interest from institutional clients and community organizations. HFFI funding will be used to develop a business model for expansion that will assess community-based and commercial market potential, the capacity of our farmer network, and the capital funding needed to effectively and sustainably respond to growing demand.



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Dill & Sylvan Food Co-op	The Guild	\$148,500	Atlanta	GA	<p>The Community Stewardship Trust (CST), a real estate model incubated by The Guild, enables residents to co-own and govern local properties that support them to thrive in place, like affordable housing, grocery stores, and spaces for small businesses. The 918 Dill Ave mixed-use project is the Guild’s pilot CST project. The Dill and Sylvan Food Co-op will be the project’s focal point and primary driver, providing underserved SW Atlanta residents (in a food desert/food apartheid zone) with a walkable option to shop for fresh and affordable food and produce that is locally-sourced and owned. Key objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hire grocery consultants, partners, and staff - Complete food assessment and develop business model/plan - Secure grocery operators - Develop standard operating procedures and operating system and train staff - Establish the Stewardship Board and conduct community engagement and codesign convenings with local residents - Finalize grocery layout design - Develop and launch grocery store website
Frank and Olive's Marketplace	Frank and Olive's Marketplace, INC.	\$150,000	Junction City	GA	<p>Our project is to build and open a fresh food country store in Talbot County, GA. Talbot residents have been living in a food desert for over 20 years. Our planning and predevelopment activities have included hosting four community meetings for residents living in the five towns that make up Talbot County: Box Springs, Geneva, Junction City, Talbotton, and Woodland. We have identified a location for building a store, 500 Old Mauk Rd., in Junction City. Using grant funds, we will hire a preconstruction team consisting of an architect, civil engineer, mechanical engineer, land surveyor to generate a physical drawing and layout of the store; and a series of reports that focus on the best way to construct the store and make it an environmentally sound building. All this information will be used to provide assurance to potential lenders to demonstrate the validity of this project.</p>



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Increasing Healthy Food Access in Clayton County through a Mobile Market	Hand, Heart and Soul Project	\$125,518	Clayton County	GA	<p>Hand Heart and Soul Project (HHSP) serves Clayton County in Metro Atlanta. According to the USDA Economic Research Service, 17 Clayton County census tracts are food deserts with low supermarket access and 14 census tracts are low vehicle access. Eighty-seven percent of Clayton County Public School students qualify for free or reduced lunch (Georgia Department of Education, 2024). Within HHSP service zip codes that HHSP 17.2% to 46.7% of children live in poverty; and 65% percent of Clayton County’s children under six years old are living below 200% of the Federal poverty level compared with the 48% Georgia average (GEEARS Early Childhood Profile).</p> <p>This grant will improve access to healthy food in Clayton County through a Mobile Market that supports farmers and offers staple goods at affordable prices. HHSP seeks HFFI funding to support operational and financial planning and training of staff for the Mobile Market.</p>
Patchwork City Farms	Patchwork City Farms LLC	\$150,000	Atlanta	GA	<p>Patchwork City Farms (PCF) plans to expand its current farming operation into a health and wellness hub. We aim to build-out approximately 5,000 sf of new space, including a commercial kitchen, food retail space for selling fresh produce and food products produced by PCF and other local farmers and food producers, a new USDA approved post harvest processing and cold/dry storage facility and flexible gathering space for healthy food programming, including cooking demonstrations and vendor markets. The expansion aims to foster a healthier and more sustainable food system in Atlanta. The first of its kind in Atlanta, PCF has received zoning approvals and community support, and we are seeking grant funding to pay for architecture + engineering, business development, project management, and permitting costs. PCF is an independent urban farm in Atlanta, founded by Jamila Norman in 2010, in a food desert, to provide healthy food access, engagement and education.</p>
Post Marketplace Food Ecosystem Planning	Adelante Center for Entrepreneurship	\$125,000	North Chicago	IL	<p>Adelante Center seeks funding for the design, planning, and a capital campaign for Post Marketplace, an innovative food ecosystem in Lake County, IL just North of Chicago. The Marketplace will feature a premium grocery market, a food hub for entrepreneurs, a farm-to-school program, a shared kitchen, an online/delivery-based food pantry, an indoor hydroponic farm, and a food hall-style café. Future plans include “Comedor,” a program providing meals for the homeless with reclaimed food.</p> <p>HFFI funds will support the planning and development for activities related to the grocery store. The ultimate goal is to create a resilient food ecosystem that improves food access, supports local entrepreneurs, and promotes sustainability. This will reduce food waste, create living wage jobs in our community, and ensure timely delivery of fresh food within a 10-mile radius of the proposed facility, benefiting both for-profit and nonprofit stakeholders.</p>



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Shared Harvest Grocery Co-Op	Elgin Food Cooperative dba Shared Harvest	\$150,000	Elgin	IL	Elgin is a post-industrial city 35 miles northwest of Chicago. Most of Elgin’s downtown is deemed a USDA Food Desert as well as a Justice40 zone. Shared Harvest Co-op is a locally owned grocery co-op with over 1000 local shareholders. Our project, a Shared Harvest grocery store, will provide access to healthy and affordable groceries to Elgin’s downtown, underserved and neighborhood residents. This HFFI grant will support our next level of planning: engaging top-level grocery store expertise; obtaining market studies and feasibility plans for our proposed sites; securing site plans; and undertaking extensive community outreach and engagement. Our ultimate project goal is to open our first grocery store and increase access to fresh, healthy and affordable Staple and Perishable Foods; bring Quality Jobs to our Elgin neighbors; build community around healthy food choices; and promote sustainable agriculture in our region.
Expanding Healthy Corner Stores into Kansas	Kanbe's Markets	\$150,000	Wyandotte County	KS	Kanbe’s Markets’ Healthy Corner Stores (HCS) provides access to fresh, healthy food to residents in USDA-designated Low Income, Low Access (LILA) census tracts. HCS partners with local stores and supplements their staple food offerings with perishable fruits and vegetables, enabling SNAP eligibility, then selling the food at significantly reduced prices. Currently operating in Kansas City, Missouri, Kanbe’s Markets plans to expand into Kansas. This expansion aligns with HFFI’s activity of expanding business models to serve new underserved populations. Planning activities will include Community Engagement (CE) efforts to identify high-need areas, relationship building with store owners, onboarding new store partners, and completing registration processes. Funding will support an HCS Account Coordinator to identify locations, a bilingual CE Coordinator to work with and understand the community, and a contract consultant for legal and state work. Outcomes from this project will include 14 store partnerships and formal establishment in the state of Kansas.



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Scotlandville Bodega Expansion	Scotlandville Bodega LLC	\$148,600	Baton Rouge	LA	<p>A substantial percentage of residents in Scotlandville have limited access to staples and perishable foods. Before Scotlandville Bodega, grocery stores were non-existent in the area. Scotlandville Bodega aims to fill this void by expanding its supply of staples and perishables, sustaining jobs for residents, and engaging community members and stakeholders.</p> <p>To achieve this, Scotlandville Bodega has set two major objectives: first, to secure a loan from Hope Enterprise Corporation (an HFFI partner), and second, to develop a Community Engagement and Marketing Plan. The following planning activities will support these objectives:</p> <p>Assessing capital needs; Developing a business plan, including operating financials, architectural design, and site planning; Vetting and selecting a general manager; Conducting community engagement activities that support the business model, inclusive of targeted residents and stakeholders; Assessing the community to be served. By implementing these activities, Scotlandville Bodega aims to enhance local access to essential goods and foster community development.</p>
Nourish Holyoke Initiative	Agric Organics LLC	\$99,000	Holyoke	MA	<p>Our project focuses on the predevelopment phase of constructing or renovating a new food retail location in Holyoke, MA, aimed at enhancing access to healthy foods in an underserved community. Planned activities include site analysis, professional appraisals, architectural design, and addressing soft costs such as legal support, permitting, and environmental assessments. These efforts aim to increase availability of fresh, affordable, and nutritious foods, create both temporary and permanent jobs benefiting local residents, and contribute to the revitalization of low-income communities. By completing these activities, we pave the way for a resilient food system that supports community health and economic vitality.</p>
Winchendon Community Food Retail Project	Growing Places	\$147,894	Winchendon	MA	<p>Building on food system and economic empowerment momentum, Growing Places seeks to finalize the Winchendon Community Healthy Food Access Project plan in the rural Winchendon, MA region. Primary project goals are to create a Winchendon Food Retail model that: 1) is equity-based and positioned for sustainability; and 2) improves the economic health and wellbeing of the Winchendon region by connecting existing infrastructure to close the grocery gap. Through consultant expertise and community engagement, primary project activities include two comprehensive site assessments and development of the model's ownership and governance structure, business and operating model with a workforce development component, and fundraising plan. We expect the following outcomes that position Winchendon's Community Food Retail project for financing, operationalization, and sustainability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A values-based operating model and business plan with direct linkages to the local food system, a workforce development component, and practical fundraising plan. •A community informed ownership and governance structure.



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North Flint Food Market Transition to Sustainability	North Flint Reinvestment Corporation	\$150,000	Flint	MI	<p>North Flint Reinvestment Corporation will use HFFI grant funds for the final planning phase of the North Flint Food Market. The Market has been developed as a grass-roots, resident-driven initiative in the underserved area of North Flint as a fresh food retail store to provide access to healthy food, create quality jobs, and revitalize this low-income community. HFFI funding will assist the Market with planning activities for community and capacity building to complete the project and open the Market.</p> <p>North Flint Reinvestment has facilitated the development and incubation of the Market for seven years, and despite setbacks during COVID19, the Market is now ready to open. A grant from HFFI will provide funding for personnel and consultants for community engagement, leadership development (board and staff), and capacity building.</p>
Purple Carrot Market planning and construction pre-development for a food cooperative in Little Falls Minnesota	Purple Carrot Market	\$145,000	Little Falls	MN	<p>Our project strives to increase access to affordable, nutritious, locally produced foods that are delicious and good for your health by creating a year-round, consistent access point at the Purple Carrot Market, a food cooperative owned by 750 owners and growing. The Purple Carrot Market seeks grant funding for six objectives that will support the planning and construction pre-development of a food retail cooperative in Little Falls, MN. Those six objectives are capital campaign planning and launch, increasing community outreach and engagement, creating a new website with robust online shopping features, recruiting and training a general manager, increasing board engagement as the board transitions from a volunteer board to a governing Board of Directors, and preparing for project construction. These six objectives were identified by the Purple Carrot Market as activities that would significantly increase the success of the project while laying a solid foundation prior to store opening</p>
Be Well Grocery Store and Farmers Market	Be Well Cafe and Farmers Marketplace	\$77,439	St. Louis	MO	<p>The Be Well Grocery Store & Farmers Market project seeks funding to support the successful opening of a new grocery store and farmers market pavilion to increase access to affordable, healthy food in Hyde Park, St. Louis, and neighboring communities. The planning and predevelopment activities include funding for personnel and marketing – two of the five identified barriers to successful grocery store operations. Personnel would receive training from an established neighborhood grocery with a similar population base focused on locally grown and processed produce. In addition, a plan will be developed with this and other neighborhood grocery stores to establish collaborative supply chains and strategies for supporting individual neighborhood growers/groups of growers to become ‘preferred vendors’ for the collaborative. Strategies to decrease food waste and optimize sales will also be developed. A marketing consultant will be hired and a targeted marketing plan will be developed.</p>



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Delta Resilience Center Project	Delta Advantage Center	\$149,215	Moorhead	MS	Delta Advantage Center (DAC) is re-developing a former production facility in Moorhead, creating the Delta Resilience Center supporting SNAP-enabled food delivery, rural grocer cooperative formation, local food aggregation, waste reduction, and food distribution. DAC has completed architectural design for installing a cold storage and distribution facility. Smaller grocery stores in this region are unable to use major wholesale food distributors because they do not meet minimum order requirements. Several continue operating by purchasing products from large retailers and re-selling in their stores or relying on C-store distributors. This increases the cost for the retailer and for the consumer. HFFI grant funds will be used to plan grocer co-ops to create aggregate orders above the minimum weekly requirement, plan the SNAP-eligible food delivery service, and organize (with the Delta Regional Food Business Center) area farmers to use the facility as a regional public market and distribution center.
By the People, For the People: Developing a Community-Owned Cooperative Grocery Store in Butte, Montana	The Butte Food Co-Op	\$149,280	Butte	MT	<p>A developing cooperative grocery store in Butte, MT, the Butte Food Co-Op (BFC) will provide access to fresh, healthy, and locally-sourced food for the community. The BFC seeks funding assistance for two areas of store planning efforts:</p> <p>Capital Campaign Development Plan: To access private investment capital, the BFC must hire a development coordinator to lead capital campaign planning efforts. The primary goal is the development of a capital campaign plan with clear action steps for the campaign launch. The intended outcome is to position the BFC to begin its capital campaign.</p> <p>Feasibility: The BFC requires additional site and financial feasibility due diligence, including store architectural design planning, equipment specifications, store programming, real estate documentation legal review, and an updated pro forma. Feasibility goals are to procure a workable site design plan, pro forma, and lease or purchase agreement, with the primary intended outcome of achieving feasibility in all areas.</p>



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Fertile Ground Food Cooperative Community Grocery Store	Carolina Common Enterprise	\$150,000	Raleigh	NC	<p>After the closing of national supermarket stores in Raleigh’s historically segregated Southeast quadrant in 2013, community members came together to start Fertile Ground Food Cooperative, a community-owned grocery store that will increase food security, create living wage jobs, and serve as a safe community gathering space in Southeast Raleigh. Our retail grocery store will be owned by the community it serves and will keep the needs of its members central to its operation.</p> <p>Fertile Ground is currently in the early predevelopment construction phase, with the goal of opening the store in the Summer of 2026. Fertile Ground is working with Andre Johnson Architect (AJA), whose role is to develop the design and documentation for the construction of the new grocery store. AJA is designing the building with associated parking land improvements on the selected site and completing programming, planning, community engagement, and conceptual visualizations for the project.</p>
Front Porch Grocery Cooperative Feasibility Study	Working Landscapes	\$150,000	Warrenton	NC	<p>The Front Porch Grocery Cooperative (TFP), in partnership with The Ella Baker Project of North Carolina (EBP), will work to assess the food needs of the Warren County North Carolina community and complete a feasibility analysis for our proposed grocery. This will allow us to determine the overall capital needed for the project while creating and solidifying additional community partnerships.</p> <p>We will build local support by educating the community about the benefits of this hybrid cooperative business model. The ultimate goal for these funds is to grow our cooperative membership to a minimum of 1000 members, which will allow us to approach lending organizations to get additional funding to open The Front Porch Grocery Co-op in Warrenton, NC.</p>



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Nourish Northside: Building Community Through Food and Opportunity	Northside Food Coop	\$126,223	Wilmington	NC	<p>The Northside Food Cooperative (The Co-op) is creating a community-focused grocery store centrally located in Wilmington, North Carolina's historically underserved Northside neighborhood, set to open in 2026.</p> <p>For this project we seek a partner to invest in developing a workforce plan for our store's future staff (15-20 new positions). Job creation and training are crucial for this community grocery store in a low-income, low-access area. Our aim is to hire and train Northside neighbors, encouraging community participation, economic empowerment, and business sustainability.</p> <p>Key objectives for this project include comprehensive training programs, recruiting a General Manager, and creating jobs for Northside residents. The Co-op will partner with local food hubs, Black farmer cooperatives, and BIPOC-owned businesses to address systemic racism and economic challenges. Through hiring and empowering Northside residents, this project fosters community engagement, economic growth, and long-term sustainability, strengthening both the neighborhood and Wilmington.</p>
Three Sisters Market	West Boulevard Neighborhood Coalition	\$150,000	Charlotte	NC	<p>This project seeks to support planning activities for the Three Sisters Market, a member-owned food cooperative in the West Boulevard Corridor of Charlotte, NC that aims to build community health and wealth. This community-driven initiative is led by the West Boulevard Neighborhood Coalition (WBNC), a grassroots community development organization. Funding will enable WBNC to hire a project manager to oversee planning activities, strengthen board governance and capacity, and develop a marketing campaign. As a result of the planning activities, the WBNC and food co-op board will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop a comprehensive business and fundraising plan, - expand the committees that oversee co-op planning, - enhance existing community engagement work, - launch a website and multiple social media channels to more broadly share the vision of the co-op, - increase the number of member-owners and volunteers, and - leverage the funding to secure earmarked funds from city, county, federal, and other sources.



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Planning the Fresh Food Co-op in Newark's Clinton Hill	Clinton Hill Community Action	\$150,000	Newark	NJ	Driven by community-set priorities to have more sustainable access to fresh, healthy food, and more ownership over the process of accessing it, Clinton Hill Community Action (CHCA) seeks to develop a community food co-op to serve and to be co-operatively owned and managed by the residents of the Clinton Hill neighborhood. Clinton Hill is a low-income, majority Black neighborhood in the South Ward of Newark, NJ, which was deemed the 3rd most severe food desert in the state by the NJ Economic Development Authority. Funding is requested for the development of strong and comprehensive business and operating plans for the co-op to ensure its sustainability; and for organizing work with community members, to help educate, train and develop residents to build a membership structure for the co-op, and to elect and stand up and effective first resident-led board for the co-op.
Food Hub Planning for Southern Nevada	University Nevada Reno Extension	\$150,000	Las Vegas	NV	This proposal outlines a comprehensive plan to establish the first-ever Las Vegas food hub based on preliminary research into exemplary food hubs in similar social and ecological climates, site assessments, stakeholder engagement, market analysis, and strategic business model development. Our team includes faculty expertise in nutrition security, sustainable economic development, strategic business planning, and food system capacity development, ensuring a holistic approach from seed to table. We are backed by strong community engagement, which strongly advocates for the dire need for food security, high agricultural and consumer demand for access to fresh food, and great economic benefits of a food hub. This project builds on planning and development analysis by regional government officials, success of the exclusively local retail market, stakeholder engagement, and insights from previous food hubs. Our goal is to leverage these foundations for a sustainable impactful food hub addressing local food security and supporting the regional economy.
Electric City Community Grocery: Bringing fresh, local food - just a heartbeat away.	Electric City Community Grocery	\$150,000	Schenectady	NY	The Member-Owners and community partners of the Electric City Community Grocery (ECCG) are working together to open a community-owned, democratically governed grocery store in Downtown Schenectady where everyone can shop, and anyone can own. First incorporated in 2013, this food cooperative has grown to become a community of 1,040+ Member-Owners united in our commitment to provide nutritious food options to our diverse community, expand meaningful and equitable employment, and build a more sustainable and regenerative food economy in our region. With the downtown site now secure, HFFI funds will be used to support professional planning services to leverage with funding we have secured for capital and construction costs. These funds will support start-up services with National Cooperative Grocers and propel the capital campaign. Anticipated store opening is in Q4 2025, allowing us to nourish and connect neighbors, farmers, food producers, and more in and beyond the Mohawk River Valley.



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Neighborhood Market Planning Phase	Connected Communities, Inc.	\$150,000	Rochester	NY	This food retail project is in the predevelopment stage, evaluating the viability of a new grocery market on the site of a former store. The property has been acquired and a comprehensive analysis is being conducted to determine the feasibility of establishing a retail opportunity that meets community needs and regulatory requirements. HFFI Funds will be used for community engagement, a feasibility and market study, along with environmental testing.
Potsdam Food Co-op Expansion	Potsdam Food Cooperative	\$75,000	Potsdam	NY	The Potsdam Food Co-op in remote, rural Potsdam, New York, will use HFFI funds for store design/construction Predevelopment Services. The existing 50 year-old cooperative grocery store is currently situated in an aged house, no longer suitable for retail purposes. The Co-op membership and the local community have repeatedly expressed their wish and need for a modern store to offer access to healthy local food options, as well as to support our local producers with a robust marketplace.
Medford Food Co-op Development Project	Medford Food Co-op	\$50,000	Medford	OR	Medford Food Co-op will use HFFI funding for crucial planning and feasibility assessments for a new proposed location. MFC plans to construct a new store on a lot near the intersection of South Pacific Highway and Garfield Street in Medford, Oregon. Funding will be used for professional assessment and the creation of a site and building plan – essentials steps before MFC can secure the site and financing for construction. Expansion will significantly enhance our ability to provide fresh, healthy food to more people. The needs of the community are growing beyond the capacity of the current location. A recent market study indicates growth is necessary in order to attract and serve additional customers.
Aliquippa Food Co-op	Keystone Development Center	\$150,000	Aliquippa	PA	The Aliquippa Food Co-op Steering Team will use HFFI Planning Grant funds to further the cooperative’s development by engaging skilled and knowledgeable technical assistance providers, introducing paid staff to support and enhance the activities of this all-volunteer effort, and to continue community engagement. Grant funds will be used to continue the Team’s work with Keystone Development Center from whom the Team has been receiving technical assistance for two years to continue cooperative education and organizing support. National Co-op Grocers (NCG)’s Site Development Team will be engaged to support lease or purchase negotiation, financing, and store design. Programming and outreach activities will be funded to further the co-op’s reach and expand membership. Part-time staff will be introduced to improve project coordination and administration. These efforts will move the Aliquippa Food Co-op from Stage 1: Organizing through Stage 2a Feasibility and into Stage 2b Implementation Planning.



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PAL Food Hub Success Plan	PAL: Play. Advocate. Live Well.	\$115,335	Spartanburg	SC	<p>PAL’s Food Hub, which aggregates and distributes local food, has grown organically since its inception as a response to the need for more healthy local food. To ensure the most effective impact and sustainability of the Hub, PAL wishes to step back, analyze growth potential, expand outreach, improve systems and processes, and seek expert feedback. This grant will provide the Hub that opportunity while preparing PAL for strategic investment moving forward.</p> <p>PAL will use HFFI funding to support the PAL Food Hub Success Plan, to hire experts to create nine strategies that will be implementation-ready and that help the Hub better operate and ultimately position the Hub to get more local food out into the Spartanburg community, especially within under-resourced communities. This ultimate goal only happens if we plan strategically, develop strong marketing efforts, listen to the community, ensure safe operations and partner better with Spartanburg and Upstate regional farmers.</p>
Transforming Western: Increasing Food Access & Security	Knoxville's Community Development Corporation	\$105,000	Knoxville	TN	<p>Transforming Western is a collaborative community initiative—with over 100 nonprofit and business partners involved—to transform the Western Heights and Beaumont neighborhoods in Knoxville, Tennessee, with the goals of improving the neighborhood conditions and transforming the residents’ lives.</p> <p>Through a 15-month period of extensive community engagement and collaboration, residents identified several needs and shared their dreams for their neighborhood. From this feedback, the Western Heights Transformation Plan identified three pillars of focus: the physical NEIGHBORHOOD itself, the HOUSING options available, and the much-needed programming and resources for the PEOPLE of Western Heights.</p> <p>Among the priorities identified within the PEOPLE pillar was FOOD SECURITY: improving access to affordable, healthy fresh food options. In collaboration with our Transforming Western food partners—including Real Good Kitchen and The Center at Western Heights—we will expand our original plans for achieving this goal by adding a SNAP-eligible food retailer in the neighborhood.</p>



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Del Valle Food Co-op	Austin Cooperative Business Foundation	\$144,716	Del Valle	TX	<p>Del Valle Food Co-op, a cooperative grocery store incorporating this year, started as a City of Austin solicitation, funded by ARPA, to support the development of a cooperative and/or non-profit grocery store in Austin’s “Eastern Crescent” to address historic food inequity caused by of historic, systemic, and institutional racism and discriminatory practices and policies by public and private entities. City of Austin funding is available from September 2022 to April 2025 and the project is administered through Go Austin/Vamos (GAVA) received the contract and proceeded to recruit a multilingual, resident-led, steering committee. The committee supported by GAVA and Austin Cooperative Business Association received training, conducted outreach and development work prepare the foundation of the co-op.</p> <p>HFFI funding would enable continued outreach, business planning, project management, and capital campaign planning & execution. Additionally, the co-op will launch a pilot program to address food insecurity in Del Valle and bolster co-op membership immediately.</p>
Feeding Our Future Food-Buying Club and Cooperative	Emancipation Economic Development Council	\$150,000	Houston	TX	<p>The Feeding Our Future Food Co-op & Buying Club represents the next step in a series of community-led food security initiatives in Houston’s Third Ward - a resilient low-income, historically African American neighborhood. Building upon the success of multiple grass-roots programs, the Club & Co-op will meet the residents of this community’s needs through a cooperative economic and health model designed by and with its community members. As a multi-stakeholder community-driven effort, this project will create access to local, nutritious food provided by people who look like the residents of this community and understand their needs, while creating quality jobs and strengthening community bonds.</p> <p>This project moves the needle from ideation to activation by preparing this community to invest in an informed, sustainable framework that positions them to raise the next level of membership and funding and make the Feeding Our Future Food Co-op & Buying Club vision a reality.</p>
Frontera Grocery Co-op: Market and Feasibility	Frontera Grocery Co-op	\$35,750	Laredo	TX	<p>Frontera Grocery Co-op will work with consultants to evaluate the best path for a grocery cooperative that will be sustainable & successful in the long-term future & move their Co-op to the planning stage. HFFI funds will be used to conduct a local market study to assess locations & local market trends to determine which sites within the grant program's eligible areas will best serve Frontera's goal of alleviating food insecurity in our Hispanic-dominated community, and to perform pro form/financial analysis to assess Frontera's profitability within the next 10 years after its planned opening. Using the results of these studies, Frontera will identify specific target sites within eligible areas & develop professional educational outreach materials in English & Spanish to recruit & educate partners, funders, & community members as we move to establishing the food co-operative in an eligible area.</p>



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Market On Melrose	Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, Inc.	\$81,417	Roanoke	VA	The Market On Melrose is set to be a full-service grocery store situated in a recognized food desert within the 24017 area of Roanoke, VA that will provide fresh meats, produce, and essential staples to this underserved community. . Goodwill is a long-standing trusted partner in this area of the city. HFFI funds will be used to support community engagement initiatives aimed at raising awareness and attracting both customers and job seekers to the Market On Melrose.
Great River Coop - Local Food Hub Ecosystem Predevelopment	Sustainable Valley Group	\$136,126	Bellows Falls	VT	Sustainable Valley Group is developing a retail food coop that will include shared equipment for local farmers to store and process produce. HFFI funds will be used for business planning, design, and community engagement activities to support the opening of the new business.
Main Market Co-Op - Food Access Program Planning	Main Market Co-op	\$75,100	Spokane	WA	MMC is a consumer-owned cooperative grocery store whose mission is to provide wholesome, responsibly sourced food to its community and contribute to the vibrancy of downtown Spokane. MMC will use HFFI funds to complete a Community Food Assessment (CFA) and Marketing Plan (MP) to develop targeted programming to improve food access for its low-income underserved community. To complete the CFA, MMC will administer surveys and host listening session with local residents, conducting outreach through community partnerships to ensure that marginalized groups are represented. MMC will base its MP on findings of the CFA and host meetings with community partners, public agencies, and local producer co-ops to further inform its development.
Twin Sisters Mobile Market: Expanding Food Access in Rural Whatcom County	Twin Sisters Mobile Market	\$74,890	Deming	WA	<p>Twin Sisters Mobile Market (TSM) will use HFFI grant funds to plan the expansion of an existing successful mobile farmers market into a year-round direct to consumer (DTC) business model. This project will allow TSM to expand our offerings to reach rural residents of Whatcom County “food deserts” not currently served by its existing markets.</p> <p>TSM staff will perform outreach activities to community stakeholders, including farmers and consumers in LI/LA areas to gather feedback about proposed DTC models. TSM staff will also work with a qualified consultant to conduct a feasibility study of various DTC distribution models and conduct site analyses facilities that will allow TSM to increase offerings for SNAP users in additional underserved Whatcom County communities.</p> <p>This work will prepare TSM seasonal market to become a year-round enterprise — expanding the availability of healthy, affordable, locally grown foods, and supporting expanded market access for BIPOC farmers.</p>



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The Alford-Retail Grocery Store & Shared Commercial Kitchen	Public Food Markets	\$150,000	Kenosha	WI	<p>The Alford project goals are to address food insecurity and revitalize a designated food desert community. This initiative encompasses a comprehensive plan for the development of a modern retail grocery store, and shared commercial kitchen.</p> <p>HFFI Funding will be used to support planning and predevelopment activities that will lay the groundwork for this project through market research, community engagement, and feasibility studies. Site selection, design charrettes, and economic modeling will inform the development of a comprehensive master plan that outlines the project's scope, timeline, and budget.</p> <p>Through these interconnected elements, the project aims to create a sustainable food system that empowers community members to make healthy choices, employs local residents, and revitalizes the neighborhood's economic vitality. By increasing access to affordable, nutritious food, the project will have a transformative impact on the community's health and well-being, addressing the critical issue of food insecurity and creating a more equitable and vibrant neighborhood for generations to come.</p>