

# ***Fresh Food Access Fund Progress Report 2020-2021*** Prepared October 2022

**Prepared for:** City of Milwaukee Common Council Members

**Prepared by:** FFAF Committee External Partner - Danielle Nabak (UW-Extension)

## **Introduction**

In late 2019, the City of Milwaukee announced the [Fresh Food Access Fund](#) (FFAF), a grant program designed to provide financial support to activities that increase fresh food access and healthy food choices in Milwaukee communities. This grant fund was informed by the [Fresh Food Access Report](#) and the result of several years of food security advocacy, championed by Alderman Khalif Rainey and supported by multiple community partners and city departments. The FFAF opportunity was made available in 2020 and 2021 to for-profit and not-for-profit businesses aligned with the goal of the fund. Over two years, the grant attracted over 80 applicants, and 16 capital and 24 educational projects were funded that serve all aldermanic districts. Forty-one grants totalling \$600,000 were made on a 50% match requirement, reimbursable basis, over the two year pilot program.

As of October 26, 2022, majority of the 2021 FFAF grant projects have been completed, but there are still some remaining. The following progress report provides a high level overview of the grantees progress and achievements thus far. Upon the time of 100% project completion, a more in depth evaluation will be prepared and presented to the Department of City Development, Common Council, and others upon request.

## **COVID-19 Adjustments and Innovations**

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the timeline, scope, and outcomes of several FFAF projects. For many educational projects, the outcomes remained the same but methods of delivery changed. For many capital projects, the scope and outcomes remained the same while timelines shifted a few months. In all cases, grantees responded to COVID-19 with innovation and adaptability, and continue to be diligent in increasing fresh food access and education.

## **Educational Projects**

Twenty-five grants were made to support educational projects, for a total of \$106,335. Educational projects are intended to provide food preparation, nutrition education, and reinforcements to help constituents make healthier choices. Grantees are:

1. Bayview Community Center \*
2. Children's Community Health Plan
3. Core EL Centro \*
4. Cross Lutheran Church
5. Dominican Center for Women
6. FoodRight
7. HeartLove Place Inc \*
8. Near West Side Partners \*
9. Northwest Side CDC
10. The Gathering
11. Tikkun Ha-Ir of Milwaukee \*
12. YMCA
13. Housing Authority City of Milwaukee
14. Teens Grow Greens
15. Groundwork Milwaukee
16. By the Block LLC
17. Healthy Food Movement Unlimited
18. Cosecha LLC
19. Great Lakes Conservation
20. Bloom MKE Inc

*\* Denotes awardee in both 2020 and 2021*

## **Capital Projects**

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Sixteen grants were made to support capital projects, for a total of \$488,865. Capital projects are intended to support purchase of equipment, space, and/or vehicles to start, bolster, or expand healthy food access through mobile, storefront retail, kitchens, technology, and gardens. Many capital projects will not be completed until 2021. Grantees are:

1. The Table Alice's Garden
2. Walnut Way
3. Friedens Community Ministries
4. Groundwork Milwaukee
5. MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary
6. Victory Garden Initiative \*
7. Hunger Task Force
8. Housing Authority of the City Milwaukee,  
Westlawn
9. MKE Good Food Bus
10. Muslim Community Health Center
11. Mt Calvary Community Development
12. Interchange Food Pantry
13. By the Block LLC
14. DQ Investments - Sherman Park Grocery
15. Scott Crawford Inc / The Community Within  
The Corridor

*\* Denotes awardee in both 2020 and 2021*

### **Outcomes & Resources Leveraged**

#### **Community Reach:**

At this point in time it is estimated that over 10,000 community members were reached with some form of nutrition or food preparation education, a healthy food item or incentive, or additional food security support. Constituents and/or organizations in all aldermanic districts were supported by FFAF dollars.

#### **Impact Themes:**

In speaking with each of the grantees about outcomes and impact, some high level themes are:

- Grantees want to work on a more collaborative level across the city on complementary projects and outcomes, both now and in the future
- Grantees would like shared learning spaces to hear about other projects and meet each other
- Grantees want to continue to see both public and private funding for food systems work -- in fact, most grantees plan to continue the project for which it was funded beyond the grant term
- Organizations appreciated that both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations were eligible to apply

#### **Resources Leveraged:**

\$600,000 in City tax levy was invested in 41 projects and each grantee contributed at least a 50% match. In many cases some grantees contributed more than the 50% match for much larger projects. The number of dollars leveraged by FFAF projects is estimated at well over \$3,000,000, in addition to pro-bono staff support received from external committee members for grantee selection, evaluation, and technical support.