

July 22, 2019

Dear Senator,

As partners and stakeholders from across the country, we urge you to fully support the Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) in Fiscal Year 2020. HFFI is a proven effective model to address the limited and inequitable access to healthy food in low-income communities across America. HFFI is a program worthy of investment, as it would increase access to healthy food and spark the economic development that rural areas, small cities and towns, and underserved urban communities across the country need.

With bipartisan support, Congress passed the 2018 Farm Bill, which reauthorized the national HFFI at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). We respectfully ask that you fund HFFI at USDA at \$10 million to expand healthy food access across the country through the HFFI national fund manager. This is the dollar amount allocated by the House Appropriations Committee for FY20.

Additionally, we request \$22 million for HFFI at the Department of Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI) to continue its work strengthening CDFIs to provide vital financial services, and contribute to better health outcomes and community revitalization by investing in healthy food projects.

Together, this public-private partnership will catalyze community development in underserved areas by providing critical loan and grant financing to help fresh food retailers open, expand, and thrive. HFFI helps healthy food enterprises overcome the higher initial barriers to entry into underserved, low-income urban, and rural communities, and supports the renovation and expansion of existing stores so they can provide the healthy foods that communities want and need.

With multiple benefits for communities across the nation, we strongly believe that funding for HFFI is worthy of your support during the FY20 appropriations process.

Sincerely,

Agriculture & Land Based Training Association (ALBA)
Amy Requa Health Consulting, Inc.
Angel City Advisors
Asociacion Puertorriquenos En Marcha (APM)
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
BluePrint Geneva, Inc.



REINVESTMENT
FUND

Capital Impact Partners
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank
Chester County Food Bank
Cincinnati Development Fund
City Harvest
Colorado Enterprise Fund
Community Activist
Cooperative Fund of New England
D.C. Hunger Solutions
Fair Food Network
Finance Fund
Florida Impact to End Hunger
Food Empowerment Project
Food For Families
Food Insight Group
Food Policy Action
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Hall Hunger Initiative
Healthy Savannah
Hispanic-American Institute, Inc.
Hope Enterprise Corporation
Houston Food Bank
Hunger-Free Pennsylvania
IFF
Just Harvest: A Center for Action Against Hunger
Lawrence Community Gardens, Inc.
Leviticus Fund
LiveWell Colorado
Local Environmental Agriculture Project, Inc.
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Low Income Investment Fund
Main St Farmers Market
Mandela Partners
MANNA
Massachusetts Public Health Association
MidTown Cleveland, Inc.
MyTown Marketplace
National Grocers Association
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
NFEDC
NJ Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
North Carolina Alliance for Health
Opportunity Finance Network



Penn Center for Community Health Workers
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association
Philabundance
Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance
Pittsburgh Food Policy Council
Pittsburgh Food Policy Council Urban Ag Committee
PolicyLink
Producers 1 Ag Group/Burlington City Historic Development Collaborative
Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago
Reinvestment Fund
Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania
Self-Help
Shared Capital Cooperative
SVDP Foodbank at St. Peter's, Brownsville
Taking Neighborhood Health to Heart
The Center for Closing the Health Gap in Greater Cincinnati
The Food Trust
The Riddle Company
The Rutabaga Project
Top Box Foods Louisiana
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Fresh Produce Association
Washington Township/Fayette City Food Pantry
West Chester (Food) Cooperative
Wholesome Wave
Wright's Market
WSU Ext SNAP-Ed

