

PHILADELPHIA FOOD JUSTICE INITIATIVE: 2023 GRANT AWARDS

Since its launch in 2019, the initiative has awarded nearly \$2 million in grants to 27 grantees to advance community-driven solutions to historic food injustice.

Reinvestment Fund joins the Philadelphia Department of Public Health in announcing \$556,280 in Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative (PFJI) grant awards to nine local Philadelphia organizations to create a more just food system. Additional support for PFJI comes from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Wells Fargo Open for Business Fund. In total, the initiative has provided nearly \$2 million in grants to 27 grantees since its launch in 2019.

PFJI provides funding to innovative, community-led projects that strengthen Philadelphia's food assets and opportunities for individual and collective action to further food justice. The initiative is informed by health justice, the collective movement to heal society and remove barriers that prevent individual and community well-being. To learn more about PFJI and the 2023 awardees, visit our website at: www.reinvestment.com/grants/phl-food-justice-initiative

2023 AWARDEES

BLACK LIVES MATTER BLM Philly's vision is an inclusive, politically and economically empowered, healthy, and whole Black community. A focus on food justice helped the 'Build Our Own' committee create the *Feeding Our Families* project, a city-wide food distribution program that serves up to 100 individuals per event. With support from PFJI, BLM Philly will strengthen their food distribution network and capacity, increase its monthly citywide food distributions, and begin community-based education programming regarding food and economic justice. Funding will secure meeting space and materials for workshops, compensate facilitators, and purchase fresh groceries for food distributions.

DOUBLE TRELIS FOOD INITIATIVE Double Trellis Food Initiative Meals Program implements a holistic approach to serving food insecure individuals by distributing rescued food to households, unhoused individuals, and community fridges across Philadelphia. A newly acquired community kitchen space will expand their programming, increasing their meals production to 50,000+ meals, serving over 12,000 Philadelphians. In addition to providing nutritious and delicious meals, Double Trellis will host four culturally relevant nutrition and culinary workshops to nurture the principle that food is medicine. Support from PFJI will cover crucial personnel expenses, rental and supplies costs, and help establish a 3-month workforce development cohort that will hire and train two individuals with relevant lived experience who will participate in cooking classes and community events.

IGLESIAS GARDEN In May 2023, Iglesias Garden built an outdoor kitchen, called Cocina sin Fronteras (Kitchen without Borders). The kitchen includes a fogon, a traditional meso-American grill, a stove, sink, and kitchen prep area. With the support of PFJI, Iglesias Garden can publicly open the kitchen and continue to provide free community meals. Iglesias Garden will use the kitchen as a gathering space to educate and share food traditions with the expertise of local chefs and engage community members in monthly free food and bilingual education events. PFJI will support fair compensations for contracted teachers and chefs, kitchen infrastructure such as a water line installation, and kitchen and gardening supplies.

KAMPAR LLC Kampar LLC is rebuilding Kampar Restaurant, a revival of Sate Kampar, a Malaysian restaurant that closed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The restaurant will provide a central kitchen for 2-4 "chefs in residency" who are working to cultivate their own food businesses. Each chef will have space to prepare meals for lunch or dinner hours and a platform to engage with diners to bolster their brand visibility. Kampar will uplift the importance of ethnic and underrepresented foods by eliminating barriers to starting a new food business for chefs. Support from PFJI will cover predevelopment expenses, including architectural design, project management, and program marketing to enable the creation of the Kampar Restaurant facility.

ORDINARIE HEROES Ordinaries Heroes is a Black-led nonprofit organization that places an intentional focus on partnering with underserved youth and families to help shift and shape their communities. They are building a community garden for the Hunting Park community of North Philadelphia to grow fresh produce that will provide healthy options for weekly meals provided during their youth mentoring program and support their mobile food pantry for the community. The Ordinarie Heroes team will also conduct hands-on garden and nutrition education workshops for its at-risk youth mentoring program and build community engagement and collaboration around healthy food consumption. PFJI will support the expenses of building the new community garden, including staff and contractors, garden supplies, harvesting tools and storage.

PHILADELPHIA CHINATOWN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION The Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation launched its Food Distribution Program in early 2020 to target food insecurity for low-income immigrant families in Philadelphia's Chinatown. As one of the few organizations with the language and cultural capacity to serve this population, PCDC strives to preserve, protect, and promote Philadelphia's AAPI communities, with a geographic focus on Chinatown. The food distribution program takes place in the heart of Chinatown at Crane Community Center, where community members are connected to wraparound family support services. In recent years, PCDC successfully expanded the program to provide an increased amount of culturally appropriate foods and vouchers to a local Asian market. Funding from PFJI will support the long-term sustainability of this singular program. Looking forward, PCDC plans to capacity build its employee base, targeting project management and targeted outreach coordination.

WHOLISTIC.ART Wholistic Art's Free Brunch Program is a tribal, familial, and community project initiated in 2017 as a creative disruption against gentrification. FBP's food work, which has always centered cooperation and mutual aid, has since become a public food distribution program. Our programming consists of no-cost curated meals and lively, community-focused free produce distributions. FBP follows a long lineage of Black radical caregiving practices and is proud to support caregivers in 19143 in food sharing within the neighborhood and throughout their social networks.

WHY NOT PROSPER INC. Why Not Prosper, Inc. is a Black-led nonprofit that helps formerly incarcerated women discover their own strength and empowers them to become responsible, economically self-sufficient and contributing members of the Germantown community. Recognizing a spike in food insecurity, Why Not Prosper created the 'Why Not Eat Healthy Project', which distributes plates of whole/raw foods to meet the growing needs of people in the community who experience food insecurity and health issues related to diet and exercise. PFJI funds will support the expansion of their distribution program in partnership with Sisters with a Goal (SWAG). The 12-month pilot highlights a partnership with two Black-owned neighborhood restaurants where the 'Why Not Eat Healthy Project' will offer skills-based and experiential healthy eating workshops led by paid facilitators. The project will purchase healthy meals from these establishments and help them develop healthy meal options. PFJI funds will also support a new refrigerated mobile food prep station to allow for weekly prepared meals and delivery of whole/raw foods at community events, agencies, and neighborhood-based public spaces.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOR ADVANCEMENT HANGOUT Youth Empowerment for Advancement Hangout (YEAH) creates safe and authentic hangout spaces by providing culturally relevant engagement and implementing teen led interventions to address the root causes of violence in West and Southwest Philadelphia. A focus on food justice and notable demand for YEAH's free groceries program, created a need for a brick and mortar YEAH Philly Community Market. The market will provide no-cost, healthy food options for its neighbors on site and by delivery. The market will be open three days a week and will be led and staffed by teens and young adults in the area, who will be able to gain valuable skills and be employed long term. Customers of the YEAH Philly Community Market can expect to shop from an assortment of items for healthy meals driven by community input and that have been sourced from local food partners and distributors. PFJI funding will help sustain inventory and stocking expenses of the store, personnel needs, and point-of-sale software.



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