

Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative

5-YEAR PFJI Cumulative
Impact Report



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Introduction

Background

The Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative (PFJI) supports the rights of communities to grow, sell and eat healthy food. PFJI is a partnership of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health's Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention (CDIP) and Reinvestment Fund.

Historically, the food system has displaced, enslaved, and undervalued the labor, land rights, and self-determination of Black and Brown individuals, women, immigrants, and Indigenous people. In Philadelphia today, low-income communities and communities of color still have fewer fresh food choices.

PFJI supports community-driven solutions in areas where access to healthier food is needed the most. PFJI is informed by health justice, the collective movement to heal society and remove barriers that prevent individual and community well-being.

Philadelphia has tremendous food assets and opportunities for individual and collective action.



PFJI strengthens these assets by providing funding for innovative, community-led projects that work to further food justice. PFJI prioritizes projects led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, immigrants and people living with disabilities, and those with lived experience with health injustice. PFJI supports projects that offer fair compensation to staff and partners.

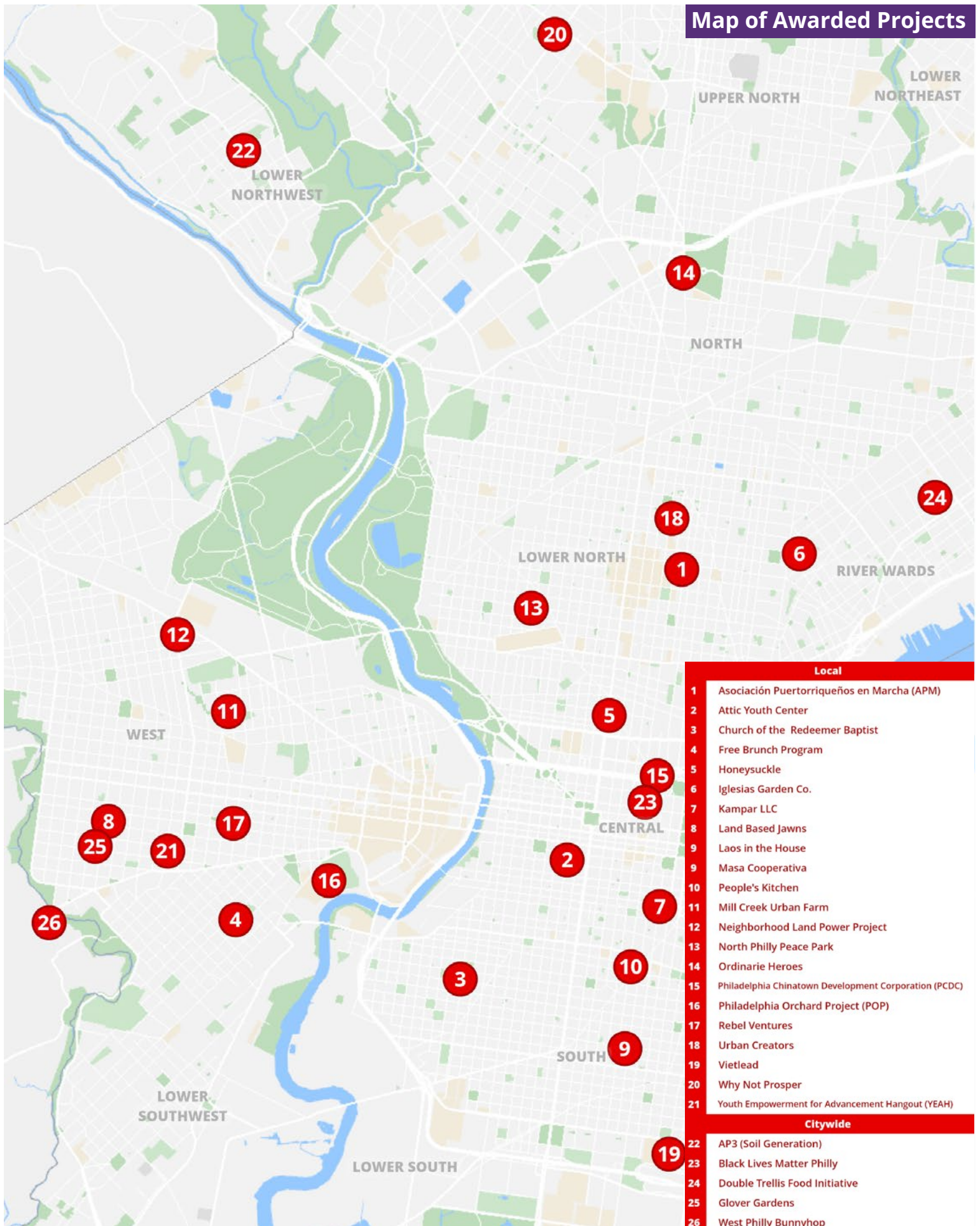
Program Overview

From 2019-2024, PFJI has administered four funding rounds and awarded nearly \$2 million in grants to advance community-driven solutions to food injustice. Grant awards have ranged from \$4,000 to \$100,000.

Year of funding	Number of grants	Total amount awarded	Average grant award	Number of continuation grants	Total amount of continuation awarded
2019	6	\$ 180,000	\$30,000	3	\$112,000
2020	6	\$ 331,500	\$55,250	6	\$262,500
2021	6	\$ 380,810	\$63,468	4	\$142,530
2023	9	\$556,280	\$61,808	6	\$250,000
Total	27	\$1,448,590		19	\$767,030

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) contributed most of the funding towards the initiative, but other funders have committed additional funds to advance food justice in Philadelphia. Wells Fargo Open for Business Fund contributed \$354,000 in May 2021, and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Healthier Together contributed approximately \$183,500 for grants in June 2022. For all four rounds of funding, Reinvestment Fund has been the fund manager and has led program implementation alongside PDPH. In 2023, the program expanded to include a contracted program outreach position to assist with grantee engagement and technical assistance.

Map of Awarded Projects



Project Activities and Outcomes

PFJI supports community-driven solutions in areas where access to healthier food is needed the most. Community-driven solutions can vary in scope and have different outcomes depending on depth, breadth, and who they are serving. However, the cumulative impact of PFJI is clear; projects add value to their communities, work together to deepen impact, and think systems-wide, considering and including multiple sectors to increase equitable food access.

This section will share the variety of project activities and the outcomes achieved with PFJI funding. Each section illustrates key themes with quotes from the dedicated organizations and leaders who steward each grantee's work. Quotes included are shared as they were expressed in their final reports and have not been altered.

Project Activities

PFJI funds advanced food justice in a variety of ways. Each project was grounded in their community and served the needs of their residents. Grant-funded activities centered on four main domains: food distribution, food retail and food businesses, urban agriculture, and education and training.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

COVID-19 was a significant global event during the PFJI funding cycles and had a clear impact on the types of projects proposed. Grassroots organizations stepped up to support and provide for their neighbors' needs. Several projects had a primary focus on food distribution and mutual aid. Some projects not only distributed foods but grew their own. At Mill Creek Farm (2019), a Black-run urban farm in West Philadelphia, over 1,200 pounds of produce were harvested and distributed for markets, with over 220 customers served at 26 different market days from PFJI funding. Other projects served meals, like the People's Kitchen (2020), a collaborative of chefs, students and community members responding to poverty and food insecurity by growing and cooking free meals, who used their funding to serve 14,687 meals over 43 weeks.

"This past season was unlike no other where we had seen grocery stores with empty shelves demonstrating the inefficiencies with our global food system. As a Black-led farm rooted in West Philadelphia, our project significantly helped us serve the need for fresh, affordable produce for community members, and also demonstrated how a local asset can be a part of more robust, localized food system that can serve them and be less vulnerable to these greater food chain disruptions."

– Mill Creek Farm, 2019

FOOD RETAIL AND FOOD BUSINESSES

Some PFJI funded projects started or expanded food businesses with an aim of improving access to healthy foods. AP3 (2021), a Black and Brown women-led cooperative social enterprise that provides operations support, financial management, and administrative services to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-led food and farm organizations, was awarded PFJI funding to incubate and establish a nonprofit branch of service to provide fiscal sponsorship support for organizations in need. Honeysuckle Projects (2020), a network of community spaces centered around the values of ancestry, nourishment and reclamation, used their funding to support the build-out of their online marketplace.





“Black & Brown communities have the best solutions for addressing health inequity. Many groups that come together to address health disparities have incredible ideas, but struggle with backend administrative functions, such as financial accounting, grant writing, and payroll. AP3 fills that gap by providing back-end administrative support, so that clients can focus on implementing their brilliant community-led solutions.” – **AP3/Soil Generation, 2021**

URBAN AGRICULTURE

Several PFJI grantees maintained their own growing plots across the city and used funds to support improvements or expansions to their land. Church of the Redeemer (2021) used PFJI funding to rebuild 490 garden plots, which increased the number of gardeners and included an expansion to beekeeping. At Glover Gardens (2019), PFJI funds were used to install 10 garden beds for families and 9 garden beds at a women’s shelter. Neighborhood Land Power Project (formerly Urban Tree Connection) (2021), a grassroots organization whose mission is to build a neighborhood rooted food and land system through community leadership development and land-based strategies, grew over 4,000 pounds of food and distributed over 950 boxes of produce from their garden and farm sites.



“By replacing the garden plots, we were able to have more people participate in the garden. Gardeners were able to grow more vegetables that before because the plots were sturdy and able to hold more produce” – **Church of the Redeemer, 2021**



“During the 2021 and 2022 growing seasons we were able to successfully grow culturally relevant foods using all sustainable growing practices; coordinate with neighborhood leaders to distribute food shares to neighbors biweekly; and grow the skills and capacities of neighbors and gardeners through our health and wellness workshops, farm tours, and educational programs.” – **Neighborhood Land Power Project (formerly Urban Tree Connection), 2021**



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Many PFJI funded projects went beyond improving food availability and accessibility and provided opportunities for residents to come together and learn, develop new skills, volunteer, and build community. Urban Creators (2020), a platform for radical and collaborative imagination that uses food, art, and education as tools to nurture resilience and self-determination in North Philadelphia, provided 18 weeks of community food education programming including an 8-week youth food sovereignty fellowship program. The Philadelphia Orchard Project (2021), an organization that plants and supports community orchards in Philadelphia, received funding to train new volunteers, create virtual trainings, and launch an instructional video series, prioritizing making their resources available to all who were interested.

“Through our partnership with Urban Creators, we were able to provide youth an opportunity for hands-on food cultivation and develop an understanding of the values of being connected to food. They were able to reflect on the importance of food sovereignty for marginalized communities and put those reflections into a concrete project that was the capstone of their summer. We saw the most youth we’ve seen since the pandemic began in 2020 and because of our increased budget we were able to purchase and provide fresh food every day for 45 youth for six weeks.” – **Attic Youth Center, 2021**

Project Outcomes

While each PFJI funded project was unique to meet the needs of their community, the overall goals of the projects were consistent: projects were focused on community, increasing equitable access to the food system, and collaborative partnerships. Many of these goals are intertwined and can affect one another. For example, grantees often shared how their community-driven solution led to new partnerships.

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN

A primary goal of the PFJI program is to prioritize community-driven solutions and fund projects led by organizations or individuals with deep roots in a neighborhood or community. Projects led by those most impacted by a challenge start from a profound understanding of it, and the solutions they develop can be more widely accepted and have long-term sustainability. From 2019-2024 PFJI made grants to 27 recipients, all of which were community-led. Of the 27 grantees, 25 were Black, Immigrant, and People of Color owned or led, and 18 were owned or led by women. Projects engaged residents in a variety of ways to ensure their voices were represented and valued in their projects. Solutions were authentic and culturally relevant with many preserving and celebrating Black, Indigenous, Mesoamerican, Chinese, Lao and Viet cultures.



“Each new community fridge took intentional relationship-building with representatives from a new host site. A series of meetings helped us establish where the fridge would be placed at the site, how it could simultaneously contribute to beautification, how it would receive electricity, and how to loop in surrounding community members to contribute to its upkeep. We purchased each fridge from a used appliance store local to the site. This was intentional to support businesses in the community where the fridge was being placed, as well as having access to fridge maintenance and repair services nearby should the need arise [in the future]. Fridge “unveilings” were part of a larger event, so as to raise excitement and awareness about the resource.” – **West Philly Bunnyhop, 2021**



“Relationships are the roots that initiated this project, and they remain deeply seeded in our vision and areas of work. While it can be hard to measure relationships, it is one of the best successes of People’s Kitchen. It is the people who make up the People’s Kitchen - the restaurant workers, the growers, the food insecure families, the dishwashers, the chefs, the drivers - that have powered our advocacy and organizing work and together, defining the goals and priorities of the People’s Kitchen to solve the most important issues of our time.” – **The People’s Kitchen, 2020**

EQUITABLE ACCESS

Another primary goal of the PFJI program is to improve equitable access to grow, learn about, and eat healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant foods. As described in the previous section, projects utilized a variety of activities to improve equitable access to healthy foods such as expanding growing plots across the city, distributing fresh produce through mobile pantries, expanding food retail operations, or teaching and engaging with residents on food systems topics. All projects valued and embodied advancing equity in the local food system.



COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Philadelphia has tremendous food assets and potential for individual and collective action. New and strengthened partnerships working towards a common goal can allow for greater and more sustainable change. Several grantees shared success stories from their PFJI funding that involved partnerships with PFJI grantees or other similar food justice organizations across the city. Not only did grantees acknowledge the power of collective action across and with food justice and health organizations, but they also prioritized and recognized the need to partner with their local communities.

“The Peace Park sites also strengthened as a popular site for safe outdoor programming. Besides the regular food distributions, healthy lifestyle programming and communal gardening activities, the PFJI grant allowed a steady stream of public programming in partnership with a very diverse array of arts, health and social justice organizations.”

– Philly Peace Park, 2020



“We create a participatory process for neighbors to directly engage in and be a part of their local food system. Further, we are working with established community leaders to increase Black working-class families’ access to healthy foods and green spaces and to have greater agency in their communities’ well-being. A key aspect of our work that can be replicated is building trust with community leaders, growing a shared understanding of what change can look like in the community, and carrying out projects together in a way that grows the interest and health of more neighbors.” – **Neighborhood Land Power Project (formerly Urban Tree Connection), 2021**

Looking Forward

PFJI funded projects ranged from expanding growing plots in order to grow more food to distributing thousands of pounds of food to individuals and families in need, to providing education and training to residents on critical food justice topics, with each responding to the unique needs of their communities. Grantees not only demonstrated their commitment to their communities but showed resilience and dedication in the face of a world-wide pandemic.

Despite PFJI projects’ impact, many communities are still struggling to improve the food system and create equitable access to healthy foods. More funding and support is needed. During the 2023 funding round, PFJI received 79 applications totaling \$6.1 million, demonstrating the widespread need for financial and technical support. Every grantee shared plans for the future and next steps for their projects and general operations; their work continues and, in many cases, is growing. True transformation takes time. With continued support from programs like PFJI, strong, community-driven projects can continue to innovate, scale, and make a difference in their communities. We look forward to continued rounds of funding, new creative projects, and investing in local solutions.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, please visit our website and check out the additional resources available.

[PFJI 2023 Grantees](#)

[PFJI 2021 Grantees](#)

[PFJI Impact Report 2019-2020](#)

About the Partners



The mission of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) is to protect and promote the health of all Philadelphians and to provide a safety net for people who are disproportionately impacted by societal factors that limit their access to healthcare and other resources necessary for optimal health. Within PDPH, the Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention (CDIP) works to cultivate safe, healthy, just, and livable communities and reduce the burden of chronic disease (heart disease, stroke, asthma, etc.) and injury (gun violence). Recognizing that health is shaped by structural factors, CDIP works to change systems, policies, and environments to improve health, rather than focusing on individual behavior. The values that guide CDIP's work include: All people have the right to live to their fullest potential. All communities have the right to create environments that allow them to grow and thrive. - Public health policy will be developed in full partnership with the community. Knowledge comes in many forms and many places in our society. Progress only happens when we treat people, communities, partners, and staff with care and respect.

CDIP thanks our state and federal partners who have contributed funding to PFJI: the Pa. Department of Health's Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, the Building Resilient and Inclusive Communities Grant, and Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) funding.



Reinvestment Fund is a mission-driven financial institution committed to making communities work for all people. We bring financial and analytical tools to partnerships that work to ensure that everyone has access to essential opportunities: affordable places to live, access to nutritious food and health care, schools where their children can flourish, and strong, local businesses that support jobs. We use data to understand markets, communities, and impediments to opportunity—and how investment and policy decisions can have the most powerful impact. Since our inception in 1985, Reinvestment Fund has provided over \$3 billion in financing to strengthen neighborhoods, scale social enterprises, and build resilient communities.



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Visit www.reinvestment.com/philadelphiafoodjusticeinitiative

Reinvestment Fund is available to answer questions related to the program, email phillyfoodjustice@reinvestment.com.



APPENDIX



The project descriptions in this report reflect past work and may not be fully up to date, underscoring how tenuous land and food systems work can be—and highlighting the critical importance of long-term investment to ensure these efforts not only survive but thrive.

Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha (APM) 2019 & 2020

APM, a community development corporation in North Philadelphia, in collaboration with a resident-led advisory council, is developing and re-launching a community-owned Food Buying Club for affordable produce. The Food Buying Club (FBC) works towards dismantling and changing a broken food system and the inequities that the current system sustains by boosting community control over the process of bringing food to neighborhoods. Through FBC, community members have the opportunity to be directly involved in bringing fresh produce into their community, purchase produce at affordable, wholesale prices, and collaborate with APM to grow neighborhood capacity to operate the program sustainably. In the first year of funding, the Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative supported a feasibility plan and community resident council process to guide the development of a scalable and sustainable model. The ability to access fresh produce at an affordable price will be integral to the health and post-pandemic recovery of the community—financially, physically, and socially. Upon completion of the grant project, APM established a dedicated resident Advisory Council and collaborated with a consultant team to prepare business plans to sustain and maximize operations.

Glover Gardens 2019 & 2020

Glover Gardens is an emerging business that is based in Southwest Philadelphia. The founder of Glover Gardens is Hajjah Glover, an alumna of Bartram's Garden Sankofa Farm internship. With the mission of helping communities become sovereign and grow connections with their ancestors, body, and soul, Glover Gardens designs, builds and installs garden beds. In the first year of operations, Glover Gardens provided many local families with a consultation and installed ten garden beds at homes in Southwest, West, North, and Northeast Philadelphia. In the second year of operations, with additional support, Glover Gardens will reach more families with consultations and home garden bed installations, and establish partnerships with local schools to create infrastructure for outdoor gardening and learning. Upon completion of the grant project, Glover Gardens installed 10 garden beds for 12 families and 9 garden beds at a women's shelter.

Honeysuckle Projects 2020

The Honeysuckle Community Center concept uses food as an anchor for community and will include a small sustainable grocery, meat market, cafe library, and supper club in West Philadelphia. Honeysuckle will place an emphasis on supporting and supplying Black owned artisans and makers. Honeysuckle will reinvent the function of a food space to serve more than just good food, it will nourish a community. Honeysuckle will work to build an ecosystem of Black and minority farmers, artisans, artists, and makers in Philadelphia and beyond that will be engaged in the community center's network. The Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative will support Honeysuckle identifying and developing a project location in West Philadelphia. With PFJI funding, Honeysuckle Provisions had a very successful pilot program with 80 grocery boxes, where they had the opportunity to test production and logistics as well as gather feedback from the community they serve.

Land-Based Jawsns 2020

Land-based Jawsns is a spiritually-rooted organization that provides education and training to Black and brown women on agriculture, survival, carpentry, and self/community healing. The Earthseed Workshop Series and dinner event will introduce participants to traditional and natural agricultural methods; survival skills such as shelter making, fire starting, and identifying wild edible plants; carpentry skills such as building raised garden beds, tables, and shelves; self-defense skills; self and community healing techniques. The Food Justice Project will also include a Dinner, which will feature seasonal dishes created using crops of the African diaspora and Americas that are grown at Sankofa Community Farm. Over the course of the funded project, Land-Based Jawsns engaged with 230 people through various workshops and events and shared tools resources to help groups become more self-reliant and connect with the land.

Laos in the House 2019

Laos in the House is an arts organization with the mission of promoting storytelling in the Lao American refugee communities through the mediums of art. The Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative supported a two-part project that included growing vegetables and herbs native to Lao and Southeast Asian Cuisine and then use them in intergenerational cooking classes taught by elders and local chefs, as well as virtual lessons and connections with chefs and communities around the country. The community events and classes supported continuing knowledge and skills of food preservation and preparation and shared often untold stories of adaptability and survival by Southeast Asian immigrants who have been affected by war. Laos in the House successfully hosted an intergenerational cooking class and a series of cooking videos featuring two Lao chefs.

MASA Cooperativa 2019

Masa Cooperativa is a new cooperative of existing businesses and individual members, to produce wholesale and sell corn masa. The project is based in the indigenous tradition of cultivating and processing corn for food consumption, a thousands of years old process developed by the ancestors of Mesoamerica. Masa Cooperativa empowers people who are descendants of and members of this culture and tradition. The worker-owner cooperative model will empower workers to earn a fair wage, and centers worker voices and decision making, within indigenous knowledge foodways. In the first year, and With PFJI funding, Masa Cooperativa established and formed an LLC, created and translated bylaws, produced a marketing video and logo with local immigrant artists and businesses, and purchased and stored initial inventory.

Mill Creek Farm 2019

Mill Creek Farm is a Black-run urban farm in West Philadelphia providing training and food access grounded in environmental, trauma-informed healing, regenerative practices and indigenous heritage. Mill Creek Farm fosters a collaborative learning environment, that believes that everyone has knowledge to share that can help facilitate learning in a group. Mill Creek Farm has transitioned to being a Black and Brown-led cooperatively governed Food Justice organization, and prioritizes community participation and direction at the farm. With Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative support, Mill Creek Farm hired three Black women for new farmer, farmer assistant, and operations associate positions to manage the farm. In addition to programming and farm market sites, Mill Creek Farm had donated over 1,200 pounds of produce to pop up food drives around West Philadelphia that had emerged in response to exacerbated need due to COVID-19.

The People's Kitchen at El Compadre 2020

The People's Kitchen is a food security and employment survival collaborative empowering a multi-racial movement that connects food access to community organizing and social justice in Philadelphia. The Project is a platform for working together for the common good. During natural and human-created disasters, food becomes a vehicle to engage with communities, share resources, and build relationships. The Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative supported the People's Kitchens food-centered, participatory framework that provided 215 free daily meals to vulnerable households during and after the COVID-19 emergency response, as well as connecting social and health services, civic engagement opportunities; employment, training, and leadership development centering restaurant workers and immigrant community members; and supporting local food systems through urban agriculture, recovered food, and intentional sourcing.

Philly Peace Park 2020

The North Philly Peace Park is an open, fence-free, charitable, intergenerational, neighborhood-managed ecology campus championing food, education and community. The Peacetown Project is an integrated, sustained effort of intentional community equity building led by the Philly Peace Park centered around local resident-led land-based urban farming, beautification, communal design, diverse food justice programming, and stimulating local entrepreneurship and sustainable employment opportunities for neighborhood residents. The Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative supported the regular distribution program with over 700 pounds of food distributed, educational programming for 125 community members at the North Philly Peace Park Pavilion, and expansion to the West Philly Peace Park site.

Rebel Ventures 2020

Rebel Ventures is a youth-led social enterprise with the mission to create healthy deliciousness. Rebel Ventures is developing and implementing the Rebel Market, to provide students with healthy and nutritious snacks and beverages during after school hours, as an alternative to the unhealthy options near schools. Not only are the markets operated by students and for students, but the products offered are also produced and packaged by paid high school students in a commercial kitchen. In the first year of the grant, Rebel Ventures hired a market planning team (including high school youth positions) to develop a youth-run healthy corner store, pivoting to an in-school market model to further test products and market needs. Rebel Ventures drafted branding and marketing materials for Rebel Market, hosted two pilot markets, and adapting to the COVID-10 pandemic, shifted to Healthy Deliciousness at Home virtual programming (videos, fund for cooking equipment, virtual cooking workshop run by youth).

Urban Creators 2020

The Urban Creators is a platform for radical and collaborative imagination. Since 2010, Urban Creators have used food, art, and education as tools to nurture resilience and self-determination in North Philadelphia. Urban Creators operates Life Do Grow (LDG), an Urban Farm and Neighborhood Creative Commons in North Philly, on the ancestral lands of the indigenous Lenni Lenape. With support from the Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative, Urban Creators invested in garden infrastructure at Life Do Grow farm; will organize a Neighborhood Marketplace to increase access to fresh food while fostering economic and artistic opportunity; and will host hands-on education programs focused urban agriculture, food justice, health & wellness, the arts, and social entrepreneurship. Urban Creators will also continue to operate a Mobile Market to offer making fresh produce, hot meals, PPE, books, diapers, feminine hygiene products, and other key resources with flexible locations throughout the community. With PFJI support, Urban Creators distributed 57,000 meals, hosted weekly markets, installed a new greenhouse, and hosted public events focused on providing a platform for local/emerging artists and BIPOC businesses, which over 1,000 people attended.

VietLead 2020

VietLead is a community organization in South Jersey and Philadelphia. VietLead was founded by members in the Vietnamese community who wish to create a vision for community empowerment and social justice. Their mission is to develop innovative solutions to improve community health, increase sovereignty, and develop Vietnamese leadership in solidarity with other communities of color. VietLead's project, Resilient Roots, continued to build out the Furness Community School Garden, including funding a garden coordinator and creating a plan for an outdoor classroom and educational garden, and running the Youth Leadership Program to provide access to fresh natural produce. In addition, VietLead hired an experienced organizer to build relationships with ethnic businesses along Washington Ave to increase their healthy practices and preserve their space.

AP3 2021

AP3 is a Black and Brown women-led cooperative social enterprise that provides operations support, financial management, and administrative services to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)- led food and farm organizations, including food retailers and restaurants in Philadelphia and surrounding areas. AP3 emerged from the activism, gatherings, learnings, and economic justice principles of Soil Generation (SG), a Philadelphia-based BIPOC-led coalition of gardeners, farmers, entrepreneurs, and community-based organizations working to ensure BIPOC regain long-term, community control of land and food. AP3 uses a compassionate approach to healing collective and individual traumas as we create financial stability and community well-being to catalyze sustainable, equitable, and cooperative economic models for long-term community growth. AP3 has created a nonprofit branch of service, 4DaSoil, to provide fiscal sponsorship services for SG and other BIPOC-led organizations that need additional support with infrastructure development as they expand projects and purchase land. AP3 was created as a response to the social and economic inequalities BIPOC communities continue to experience as a result of generational systemic and structural racism and is collectively led by six Black & Brown activists, organizers, consultants, and community leaders who have been meeting and dreaming since January 2021. The Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative proudly supported the start-up and launch of AP3.

The Attic 2021

The Attic is Philadelphia's only organization exclusively dedicated to LGBTQ youth and has served over 20,000 individuals in nearly 30 years of existence. Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative funding will expand The Attic's existing on-site meals for youth, allow The Attic to serve more fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and healthy proteins as well as incorporate healthier snacks. The Attic will provide more youth with the opportunity to leave with a take-away meal. The Attic will also incorporate healthy food options into food pantry items, available for pick-up five days a week, as well as explore adding healthy pre-packaged frozen meals through the food pantry. The Attic will also increase youth knowledge of healthy food by offering cooking lessons to learn how to incorporate healthy choices into food preparation on a budget. Upon completion of the grant project, The Attic successfully purchased and provided fresh food every day for 6 weeks to provide to 45 youth.

Church of the Redeemer Baptist 2021

Church of the Redeemer Baptist is located on the corner of 24th and Dickinson Street in South Philadelphia. The church has been in existence for 55 years and is a place to worship, a place devoted to community activities and affairs, a place to embrace and enrich the total life of humankind spiritually, politically, socially, morally, and economically. Redeemer's Growing Together Garden Ministry's mission is to help supply the community and members with fresh fruits and vegetables. Redeemer's Growing Together Garden is also a place to fellowship with the community, people from different nationalities and neighborhoods. Redeemer restored the Growing Together Garden by replacing garden plots to provide garden space and supplies for current and new community gardeners. Overall, they successfully rebuilt 490 garden plots and expand the number of people participating in their gardens.

The Philadelphia Orchard Project 2021

The Philadelphia Orchard Project (POP) plants and supports community orchards in Philadelphia. In partnership with communities, POP envisions urban ecosystems that create beautiful green spaces, connect neighbors, provide hands-on learning experiences, and grow fresh fruit for generations to come. Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative (PFJI) funding supported the Lead Orchard Volunteer (LOV) Program, which was created in 2020 to build a stronger community-ownership structure for volunteer teams caring for each POP-supported community orchard. LOVs are placed at an orchard within their own neighborhoods or nearby sites. PFJI also funded ongoing orchard planting and education programs, including new and replacement plantings for partner sites, online and in-person workshops, and continuing training in ecological orchard care best practices for partners and volunteers. POP distributed over 1,100 pounds of produce from their orchard to mutual aid partners.

Land Power Project (formerly Urban Tree Connection) 2021

Land Power Project (formerly Urban Tree Connection) is a grassroots organization whose mission is to build a neighborhood rooted food and land system through community leadership development and landbased strategies. The Food Sovereignty Share (FSS) project seeks to address the historical legacy of harm and inequality in our food systems by building a community-rooted, participatory food system in the Haddington neighborhood of West Philadelphia. FSS members participate through volunteering at the farm and community gardens, contributing recipes/content, supporting food distribution, attending workshops/farm tours for a 'share' of produce. With PFJI funding, the Land Power Project successfully grew and distributed 4,430 pounds of food, trained Food Sovereignty Leaders, and provided hands-on educational workshops and farm tours.

The West Philly Bunny Hop 2021

The West Philly Bunny Hop provides free food to the people through a mutual-aid model that centers the respect and dignity of neighbors in need, on the principle that all people deserve access to fresh produce. Since April 2020, they have served over 300 households every week, entirely through volunteer labor, distributing produce and prepared meals via pop-ups in public spaces and drops at community fridges located throughout the city. The West Philly Bunny Hop is shifting their work to focus on expanding the community fridge network, and developing educational resources on how to establish a distribution site in your own neighborhood, among other ways to get involved in mutual aid. Upon completion of their grant project, the West Philly Bunny Hop opened two new community fridges and established 3 new monthly food distributions.

Black Lives Matter 2023

Black Lives Matter 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. PFJI funding helped secure meeting space and materials for workshops, compensate facilitators, and purchase fresh groceries for food distributions.

Double Trellis Food Initiative 2023

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 covered crucial personnel expenses, rental and supplies costs, and help launch a workforce development program. Throughout programming, Double Trellis Food Initiative cooked and distributed 52,000 meals and distributed nearly 40,000 pounds of fresh food.

Iglesias Garden 2023

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 publicly opened the kitchen and continued 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 supported fair compensations for contracted teachers and chefs, kitchen infrastructure such as a water line installation, and kitchen and gardening supplies.

Kampar LLC 2023

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 covered predevelopment expenses, including architectural design, project management, and program marketing to enable the creation of the Kampar Restaurant facility. Kampar opened their doors and on-boarded two resident chefs, who have been able to increase their revenue each month.

Ordinaries Heroes 2023

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 2023

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 supported the long-term sustainability of this singular program as well as helped to establish an educational garden, which provides fresh produce and nutrition and gardening workshops.

Wholistic.Art 2023

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. PFJI funding supported existing and new staff members, sustain and grow FBP, and work towards expanding their garden space.

Why Not Prosper, Inc. 2023

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 supported 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 purchased healthy meals from these establishments and help them develop healthy meal options. PFJI funds also supported 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. With this purchase, Why Not Prosper served over 6,000 individuals.

Youth Empowerment for Advancement Hangout 2023

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 helped sustain inventory and stocking expenses of the store, personnel needs, and point-of-sale software. YEAH was able to hire 12 young people to work at the market and provide approximately 13,000 pounds of food per day.



Photos provided by PFJI grantees:

*Double Trellis, Iglesias Gardens, Philadelphia
Chinatown Development Corporation, Wholistic
Art, Why Not Proser Inc., and YEAH Philly.*