



# Healthy Food for Denver's Kids

## 2021 Annual Report to City Council

December 2021

**HEALTHY  
FOOD FOR  
DENVER'S** Kids



**DENVER**  
PUBLIC HEALTH &  
ENVIRONMENT

## Introduction

Through the 2018 Denver [Ballot Measure 302](#), the Healthy Food for Denver's Kids (HFDK) Initiative increased taxes to establish a fund for healthy food and food-based education for Denver's youth. The ballot measure was approved by 59% of Denver voters on November 6, 2018 and went into effect in January 2019. The 0.08% increase in the sales and use tax within the City and County of Denver is expected to generate approximately \$11 million dollars annually and will sunset after 10 years. Funds will be collected from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2028 and distributed by December 31, 2029. The funds are distributed through competitive grants to agencies of local government, public schools in Denver (including Denver Public Schools or DPS), and non-profit organizations, with an emphasis on serving low-income youth. Funding decisions are determined by a Commission made up of 13 non-profit, government, and community member volunteer appointees. The Commission is staffed and supported by the Denver Department of Public Health & Environment (DDPHE). Since the passage of [the enabling legislation for HFDK](#), significant progress has been made, including awarding nearly \$18 million dollars to over 80 organizations and evaluating the first cohort of grantees.

## Need for the Healthy Food for Denver's Kids Initiative

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, in Denver 1 in 7 kids went hungry because their families could not afford three meals per day. During the pandemic, food insecurity was estimated to increase to 33% of the Denver population, up from 11% in 2018. Although Denver demonstrated record low unemployment rates prior to the pandemic, Colorado is the third-fastest-growing state for childhood hunger. Additionally, nearly 1 in 3 Denver youth has an unhealthy weight status, 34% of food insecure youth are not eligible for food assistance, and 25% of Denver youth eat less than one serving of fruits and vegetables per day. This initiative aims to help ensure kids have enough to eat, while receiving hands-on education in farming, gardening, cooking, and nutrition. When possible, it also supports Colorado farms, ranches, and food businesses.

## Overview of Commission Activities

### Key Developments in 2021

The Commission proposed changes to the enabling legislation for HFDK that will allow the HFDK commission to disburse funds more widely, effectively, and equitably. The changes passed City Council unanimously in July 2021 and have begun to go into effect. Changes have expanded the number and type of organizations eligible to apply for grant funds and create greater inclusion and diversity for representatives appointed to the Commission. The Commission adopted a new co-chair model and chairs for each committee, as well as an updated consensus-building processes. In collaboration with the Board of Ethics and City Attorney's Office, the Commission also approved a modified conflict of interest and recusal policy that will allow organizations represented on the Commission to apply for funds, as long as those Commissioners recuse from the writing of a request for proposal (RFP), reviewing and scoring application(s) from their own organization, and voting to approve both the posting and releasing of funds for an RFP.

Additionally, DDPHE hired an administrative support assistant to provide logistical, communications, and contracting support for the HFDK program, making it a three-person team supporting HFDK within DDPHE. Staff are also working with other City agencies to transition to a multi-agency grants management system to reduce burden on community organizations, centralize data, and streamline funding application, review and reporting processes, which is critically important as HFDK grows its number of grantees each year.

### Membership:

Commission member outreach and application processes have resulted in diverse representation on the HFDK Commission to date. Two new Commission members of color joined in August 2021. The current 13-member roster is made up of ten women and three men of different racial and ethnic identities (five Hispanic/Latinx/Chicano/a, one Black, two Asian, and five White members), including several individuals with lived experience of food insecurity. **See Appendix 2 for a full list of Commission members.**

### Ongoing Education for Commission Members:

Staff organize regular learning presentations for the Commission, featuring partners such as Hunger Free Colorado, Denver Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services, the Serve Kids Better Denver Youth Coalition, and city entities like the Office of Children's Affairs, the Office of Boards and Commissions, the Board of Ethics, and the City Attorney's Office. This year, staff also coordinated multiple grantee presentations to showcase their work to the Commission. Overall, HFDK is committed to taking a learning approach by bringing in external speakers, identifying gaps and developing strategies to maximize reach to youth most impacted by food insecurity.

## Sub-Committees:

HFDK recognized the need for further in-depth working sessions and has established sub-committees made up of Commission members that meet monthly to advance work on funding, evaluation, equity, technical assistance, and membership. Collectively, these committees have met 44 times over the past year, and in 2022, it is expected that the full Commission will meet less frequently since committee activities constitute the majority of the work.

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:

HFDK is deeply committed to the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). Spanish-language live interpretation is provided at all monthly Commission meetings and all grantee learning webinars, and a dedicated portion of the administrative budget supports racial equity training. The Commission had their first EDI training in August 2021, with grantee trainings planned for 2022, including a two-part language justice series. The Commission prioritizes EDI values in its grant making and strives to be a more equitable and inclusive funder through its application, reporting and other processes.

## Public Engagement:

HFDK staff attended and shared information at 13 community meetings, including coordinating with registered neighborhood organizations (RNOs) in high priority neighborhoods and HRCP Commissions about the second round of HFDK (HFDK02) RFP release. Presentations were given to members of the public in Athmar Park, Barnum, East Colfax, Five Points, Northeast Park Hill, and Ruby Hill and at meetings of City Council District 9's Food Desert Solution Advisory Committee, the Mayor's Youth Commission, the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council, and DDPHE's Food Pantry Network. Staff also served as panelists for Denver Urban Garden's Earth Week and the DPS Sustainability and Garden Forum, and connected with the DPS Teachers Union, the DPS Foundation, and DPS Pathways Schools with culinary education programs. Lastly, HFDK hosted an Informational question and answer session as part of the HFDK02 RFP that shared grant writing tips from Joining Vision and Action (JVA) with prospective applicants.

Staff have also met with dozens of community organizations, including discussions about eligibility and program fit. Staff have delivered presentations to national audiences at the American Public Health Association annual meeting and more locally at the Public Health in the Rockies conference. In 2021, more than 75 community members attended HFDK's monthly meetings and program updates are shared via [an e-newsletter](#) with a list of approximately 1,500 subscribers. Together with the DDPHE communications team, HFDK staff share key updates on social media (Twitter and Facebook) and continue to make updates on the public-facing [HFDK website](#). The website includes information about funding opportunities and impact, current grantees, and the Commission (including the meeting schedule, meeting materials, and how to apply to become a member). **See Appendix 1 for a link to all publicly accessible HFDK documents.**

## Funding Activities and Impact

### 2021 HFDK Grants Awarded

In 2021, the HFDK Commission awarded a total of \$10.4 million in grant funding to 47 organizations to feed and educate youth in Denver. This includes 20 new projects funded as part of HFDK02 (\$5.6 million), 21 continuing/renewed projects from HFDK01 (\$4.7 million), and 10 micro-grants of \$10,000 or less (\$93,150). The applications went through an extensive review process by members of the Commission. No Commissioners were able to review applications with which they had personal or professional relationships. Applicants selected for funding were then shared with the entire HFDK Commission for final approval. This selection process was conducted in accordance with DDPHE and City policies to ensure a fair and competitive process.

For the HFDK02 RFP, the initial grant term is one year (August 2021-July 2022), with the opportunity for grantees to apply for two additional years of renewal funds. Overall for the 2021 round of funding, the Commission received 30 applications and selected 20 to fund, including: 11 nonprofits; five schools, early childhood centers, or affiliates of Denver Public Schools; and four City agencies (Denver Health, Denver Housing Authority, Denver Public Library, and Denver Public Safety).

New projects include culturally responsive meals and snacks, take-home healthy food boxes and home delivery of meal kits, mobile food distribution, enrolling families in federal nutrition assistance programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), growing food to donate to pantries, summer meals, and distributing formula and food to families with children ages 0-5. Organizations are also educating and empowering youth of all ages (including some early childhood) through nutrition and healthy eating education, cooking classes, school and community gardens, aquaponics and agricultural training, permaculture and art design, indigenous ecology practices, and via promotora

models, community leadership and power building. HFDK is also funding a number of creative partnerships through these grants; for example, to train all DPS kitchen employees and managers with basic culinary skills to improve school meal quality and participation; to home deliver locally-grown community-supported agriculture (CSA) produce boxes to food insecure Denver Health patients; to procure food from Colorado farms and ranches for school food pantries in DPS; and to provide restorative justice opportunities for youth in urban agriculture.

Projects are taking place across the city and have adapted to the challenges of COVID-19, including shifting their educational programming to virtual and hybrid learning and pivoting food distribution to mobile models and home delivery. **See Appendix 3 for a full list of grantees.**

### Healthy Food for Denver's Kids Funded Organizations (2020-2021) and Percent Minority (Non-White) Population (2015-2019)

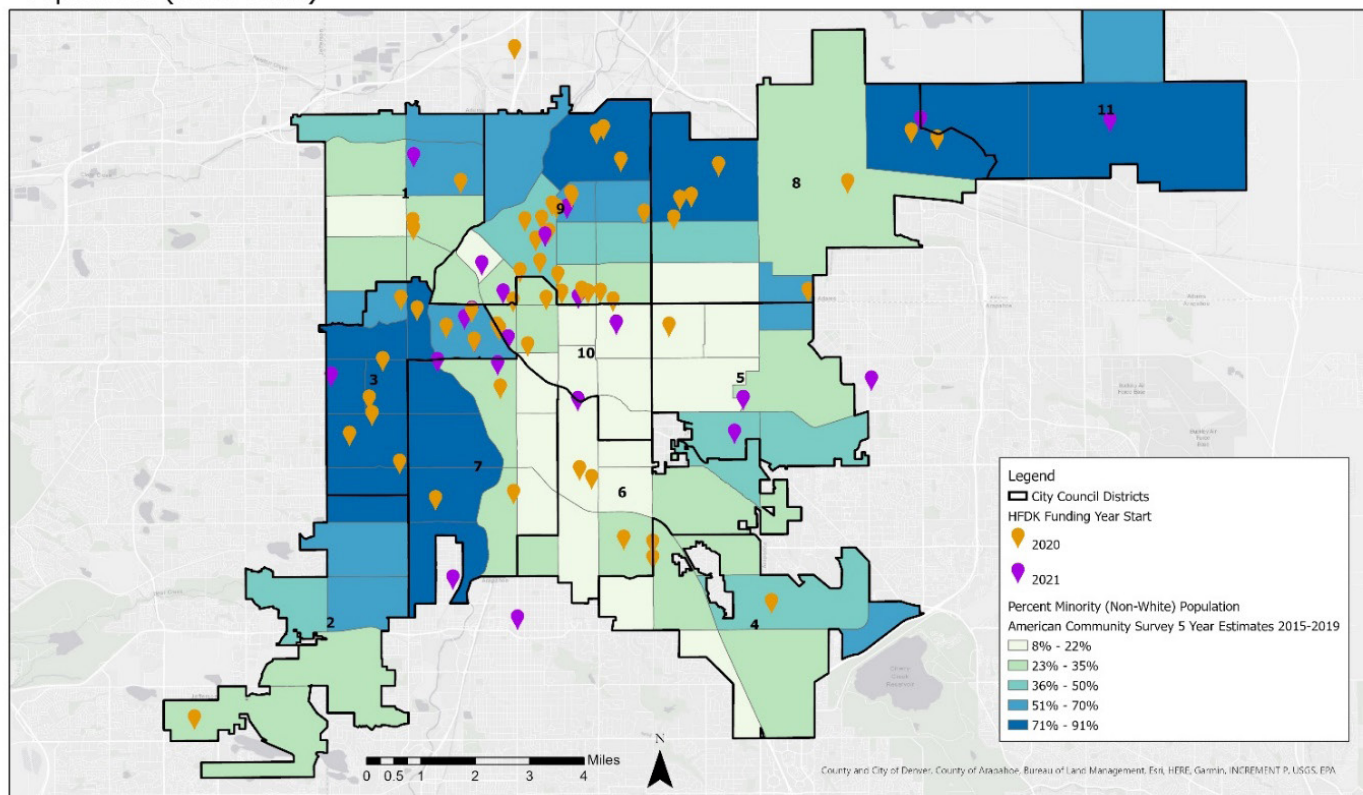


Figure 1. All organizations being funded by the Healthy Food for Denver's Kids Initiative (HFDK). Note that these pins are based on the main addresses or primary sites, and do not include the dozens of additional service sites across the city.

2021 Grant size summary (HFDK02 RFP)			
Largest grant	Smallest grant	Median grant size	Average grant size
\$1,000,000 (DPS Food and Nutrition Services)	\$104,000	\$190,000	\$343,000

Figure 2. Grant size summary for the HFDK02 cohort of 2021 grantees (not including micro-grants of \$10,000 or less). Note that these pins are based on main addresses or primary sites, and do not include the dozens of additional service sites across the city.

### Impact of Healthy Food for Denver's Kids 2020 (HFDK01) Grants

The Evaluation Team collected four quarters of grantee data from the 2020 cohort of HFDK grantees (August 2020-July 2021). This HFDK01 cohort was made up of 25 organizations, including 16 nonprofits, eight schools or affiliates of DPS, and one city agency. Of these grantees, 52% of the cohort supported both food access and education, 24% food education only, 16% food access only, and 8% had capital infrastructure projects. Projects included healthy meals and snacks (daily, summer, and weekend), no-cost grocery programs, meal/food delivery, mobile food markets, high school food pantries, school gardens, hydroponic classrooms, a large-scale greenhouse, urban farms, and classes (some bilingual) on nutrition, cooking, wellness, gardening and food systems/literacy/justice, as well as youth food leadership development and internships.

## 2020 Grant size summary (HFDK01 RFP)

Largest grant	Smallest grant	Median grant size	Average grant size
\$1,005,000 (DPS Food and Nutrition Services)	\$51,394	\$211,950	\$264,156

Figure 3. Grant size summary for the HFDK01 cohort of 2020 grantees

2020 Grantee Data (HFDK01 RFP) (August 2020-July 2021)	
Total Youth Touchpoints*	<b>266,547</b>
Unique Youth Served Quarterly	<b>38,403</b> (roughly 28% of Denver's 138,897 youth were served)
Meals Served	<b>118,924</b> snacks, lunches, dinners, grab 'n go
Food Boxes Distributed to Families/Youth	<b>145,723</b>
Food Distributed by Rescue Partners	<b>2,971,645 pounds</b> of food rescued and distributed to <b>185 Schools, 39 Community Centers, 52 Housing Facilities</b>
Food Classes or Workshops	<b>972</b> Classes or Workshops with <b>13,047 youth</b> attending
Food Courses	<b>392 sessions</b> of ongoing courses with <b>1,175 youth attendees</b> and <b>498 youth graduating or completing</b> a course
Youth Employment	<b>76</b> new youth jobs in the food system created: <b>9,058 hours</b> worked and \$124,204 paid to youth
New Gardens or Farms	<b>490</b> new gardens or farms at schools, community centers, and in backyards; engaging <b>2,523 youth</b>
Local Food Production	<b>21,502 pounds</b> of produce harvested and distributed from local farms and gardens (\$54,619 in value)
Languages Used in Organizations' Outreach Materials	<b>15</b> (including English, Spanish, Karen, Arabic, French, Vietnamese, Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese), Somali, Amharic, Rohingya, Tigrinya, Dari, Nepali, and Swahili)

Figure 4. HFDK01 Grantee Output Data (August 2020-July 2021)

\*Youth touchpoints refer to grantee program interactions with youth, including, but not limited to, meal or food distribution, food-based education classes, interacting in gardens, and food-based employment. This number is an aggregate count of all youth engaged, but not a count of unique youth individuals. **See Appendix 4 for Demographic Data from 2021 Grantees.**

Over the past year, grantees also reported changes at the individual, organizational and systems-level. Changes included increased vegetable consumption, an increase in the number of youth trying new foods, an increase in access to fresh, healthy food, and more as is represented in the graph below.

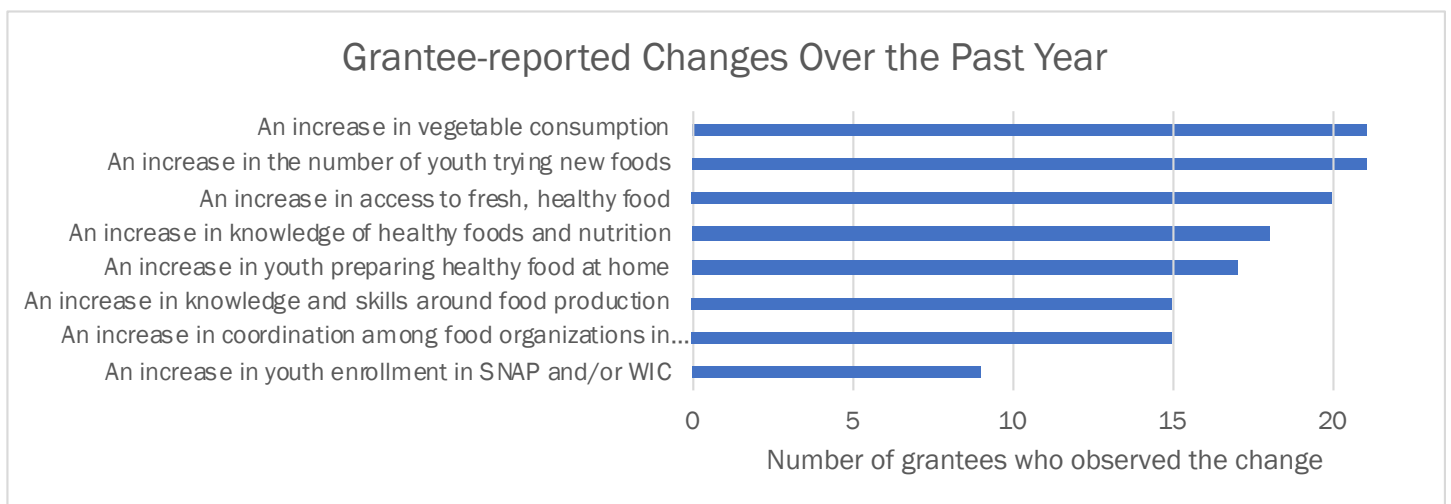


Figure 5. Grantee Reported Changes Over the Past Year

Grantees also saw an increase in engagement around themes of equity and justice, including the idea that food should be a right, not a privilege. The top three grantee strategies used to advance equity included:

- Being responsive to the community's desire for types of food served (e.g., providing culturally relevant food options such as Latinx-focused, Ramadan-friendly, and Halal food boxes)
- Engaging staff or volunteers that share identities with the community served
- Distributing/delivery of food in flexible and accessible ways

## Technical Assistance Support for Grantees

In 2021, the HFDK Commission launched a Technical Assistance, Capacity Building and Strategic Partnerships Committee made up of eight members that meet monthly. Key areas of focus for this grant term (2021-2022) are to increase enrollment in federal nutrition assistance programs (SNAP, WIC, school meals, Child Tax Credit, summer meals, Child and Adult Care Food Program, etc.) and advance nutritional quality by establishing more robust HFDK nutrition goals.

Over the past year, HFDK staff provided 15 learning opportunities/webinars to grantees, on topics ranging from evaluation (e.g. evaluation 101, culturally responsive and equitable practices, data storytelling, and data collection methods) to programs (e.g. nutrition, local food procurement, trauma-informed practices, federal nutrition program enrollment, food safety in food waste recovery). Collectively, HFDK has engaged more than 100 grantee-affiliated staff/individuals, representing 37 grantee organizations. All webinar materials can be found in [a public Google Drive folder](#).

## HFDK Partnerships and Collaboration

Grantees have developed partnerships across cohorts through in-person networking events, shared meal pick-up and redistribution, collaborating on local food sourcing, crop planning and planned menus based on what's growing in urban farms and gardens, cross-site education and benefits outreach and enrollment.

HFDK staff have established partnerships and collaborations with dozens of organizations across the city, state, and country. City agencies and external organizations have contributed to HFDK grantee technical assistance, leveraging resources, and thought partnership. These connections are internal with other city entities, such as the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council, Denver Human Services, Office of Children's Affairs, Office of Climate Action, Sustainability & Resiliency, and external with Registered Neighborhood Organizations; state-level agencies, such as Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Colorado State University; and nonprofit organizations, such as the Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger, Food Bank of the Rockies, Hunger Free Colorado, and Wildwood. Additionally, HFDK staff participate in numerous national networks to glean best practices, including PEAK grant-making, the Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE), and Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy.

# Budget Update

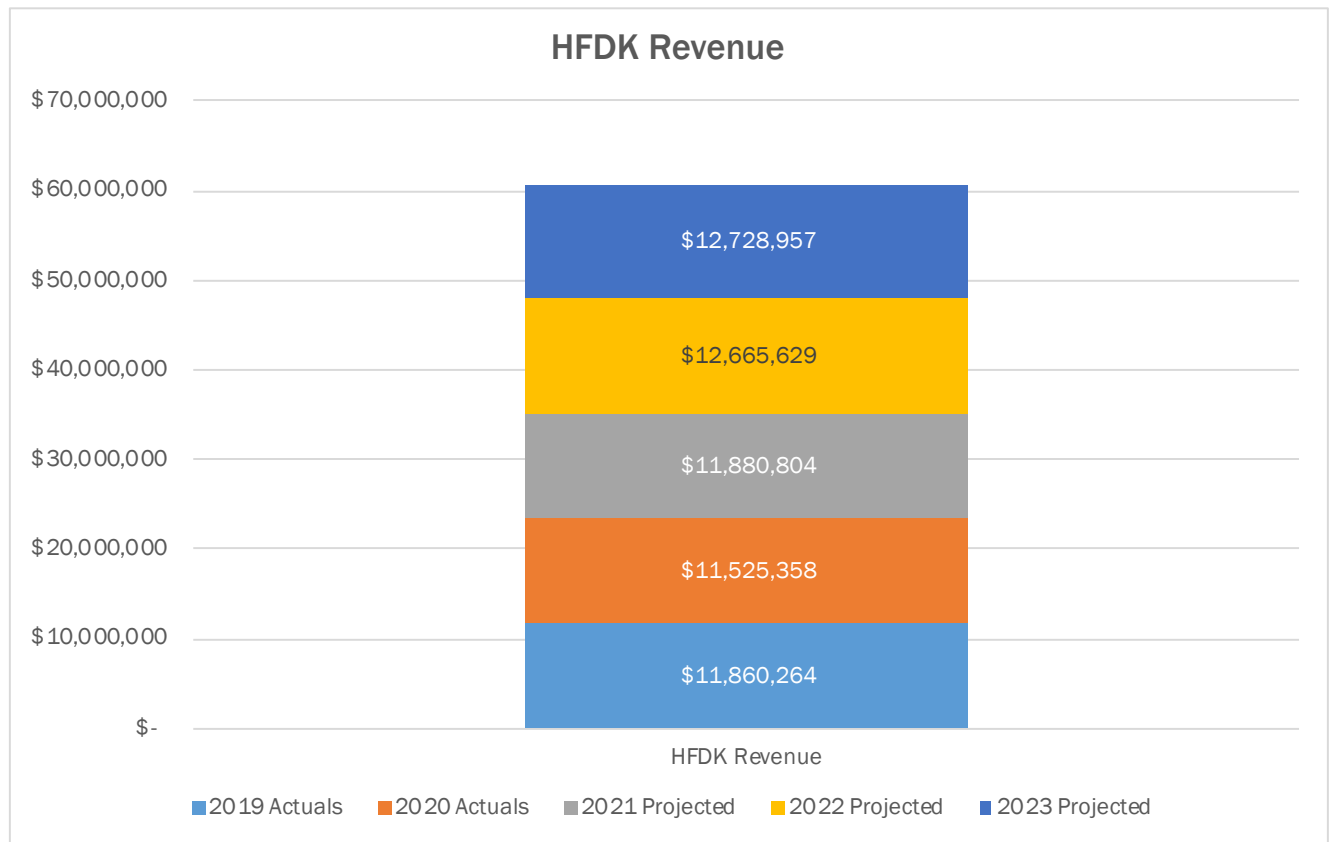


Figure 6. HFDK Budget Revenue

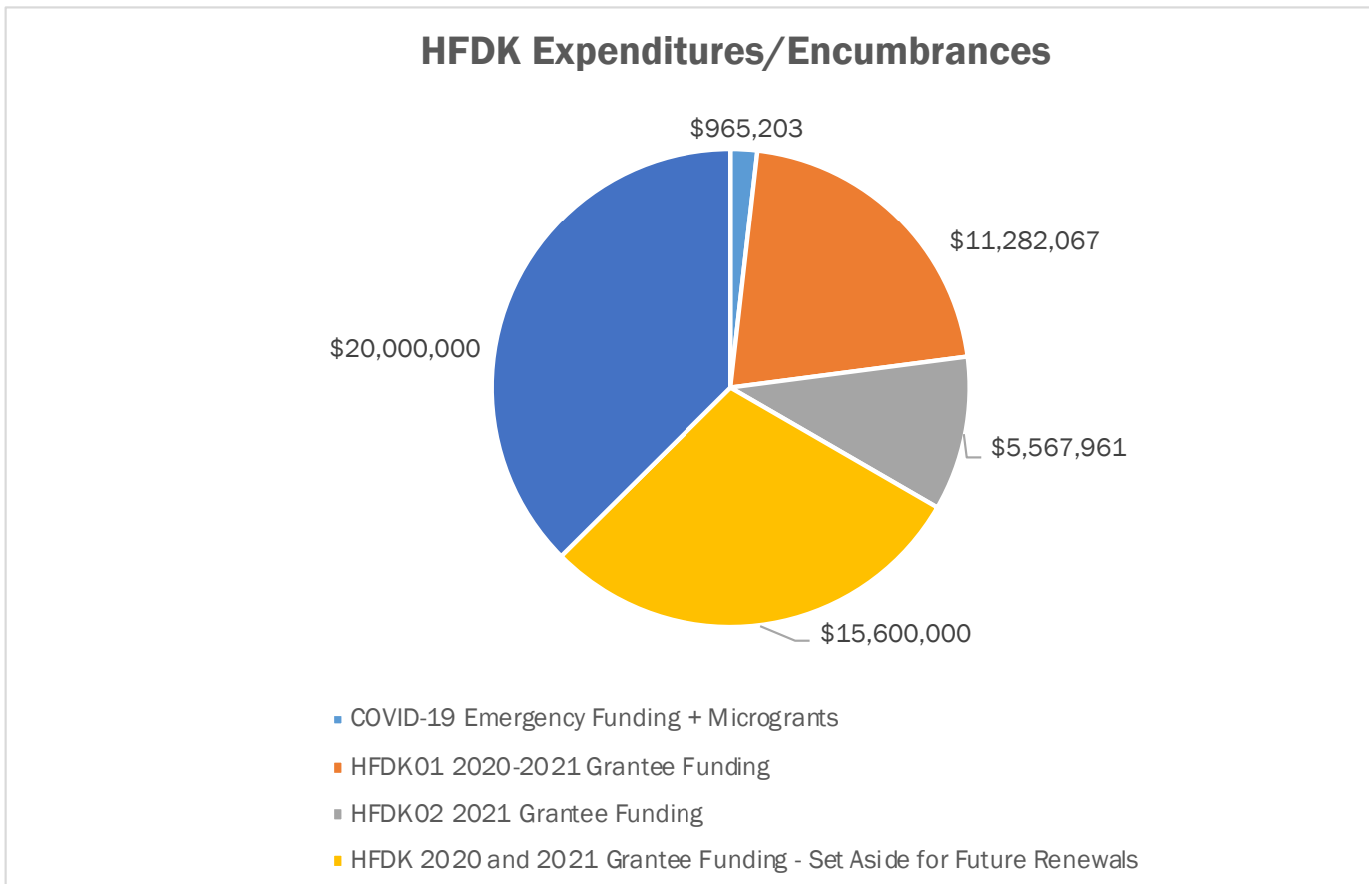


Figure 7. HFDK Budget Encumbrances

The Healthy Food for Denver's Kids fund collected a total of \$11,525,358 in 2020 and is projected to collect \$11,880,804 in 2021; \$12,665,629 in 2022; and \$12,728,957 in 2023. HFDK has paid out or encumbered a total of \$17,800,000 overall. This includes approximately \$500,000 in City administrative expenses each year (about 5% of the overall program budget) including staffing, the external evaluation contract, and other administrative needs, such as translation and interpretation services. All other expenses have gone directly to grant-making, including HFDK01 grants and renewals (2020-2021), HFDK02 grants (2021-2022), and 2021 micro-grants. Any administrative funds not spent are rolled into the program budget for the following year.

## Conclusion

In 2021, HFDK more than doubled its grant-making activity from the previous year, successfully modified the ordinance to allow more organizations to apply for funds and hired a third DDPHE staff member to support this work. The Commission has taken a deliberate approach to funding opportunities to ensure that the processes and outcomes are thoughtful and strategic. HFDK will use the evaluation tools, such as the Theory of Change and Baseline Assessment, the learnings from the first two RFPs and grantee data, and current events to help guide the strategic direction of future funding.

For 2022, the Commission looks forward to releasing a third annual funding round focused on early childhood, revamping its micro-grants to support smaller organizations or those that need rapid funding, conducting deeper evaluation with new data, and strengthening its commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, while continuing to further respond to community needs. Ultimately, HFDK will build upon the foundation, practices and procedures developed in the first two years to further its purpose to provide healthy food and food-based education to Denver's youth.

## Appendix 1. Link to HFDK Website and Public Documents

- Link to the Healthy Food for Denver's Kids webpage: <https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Public-Health-Environment/Community-Behavioral-Health/Food-System-Policies/Healthy-Food-for-Denvers-Kids>
- Link to HFDK Commission/public documents, including bylaws, policies and procedures, meeting materials and notes, grant opportunities, and learning resources: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1tTNOpDiBYVmL5VvOpRtSpPsBfTAcIIQ7>

## Appendix 2.

# Healthy Food for Denver’s Kids Commission Membership

<b>Members: 13 (Mayor appoints 11)</b>	<b>Term: 3 Years</b>	<b>Date Appointed</b>	<b>Appointment Expires</b>
Deborah Ortega (F) (Hispanic), City Council Member At-Large		Seated Oct. 2019	
Jamie Torres (F) (Chicana), City Council Member District 3		Seated Oct. 2019	
Austin Locke, Denver (M)(Black) Warren Village, rep. city-wide orgs or institutions engaged in food-related activities, appt.		July 2021	Aug. 2024
Blake Enyart, Denver (M) (White/Hispanic) Citizen member, reappt.		Aug. 2020	Aug. 2024
Laine Cidlowski, Denver (F) (White) Denver Department of Public Health and Environment, appt.		July 2019	Aug. 2022
Alexis Weightman, Denver (F) (White) The Colorado Health Foundation rep. city-wide orgs or institutions engaged in food-related activities, appt		July 2019	Aug. 2022
Sandra Stenmark, Denver (F) (White) University of Colorado School of Medicine rep. city-wide orgs or institutions engaged in food-related activities, appt.		July 2019	August 2022
Linh Tran, Denver (F) (Southeast Asian) Citizen member, appt.		July 2021	Aug. 2022
Blake Angelo, Denver (M) (White) Citizen member, appt.		July 2019	Aug. 2022
Susan Gallo, Denver (F) (Chicana) Denver Office of Children’s Affairs, reappt.		July 2019	Aug. 2023
Shelby Miller, Denver (F) (White) Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage rep. city-wide orgs or institutions engaged in food-related activities, reappt.		July 2019	Aug. 2023
Patricia Iwasaki, Denver (F) (Asian American), Citizen member, reappt.		July 2019	Aug. 2023
Lisana Muñoz, Lakewood (F) (Hispanic) Denver Human Services, appt.		July 2020	Aug. 2023

## Appendix 3. 2021 Grantees

GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED IN 2021	GRANT SUMMARY
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver	\$306,174	<b>2021 project:</b> Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver (BGCMD) will improve and increase food-related services for Denver Club members. BGCMD will help overcome inequities by offering targeted and robust healthy food supports including daily meals and snacks, take-home healthy food boxes, nutrition education, and support enrolling families in public food benefits like SNAP and WIC.
Colorado Circles for Change	\$140,700	<b>2020-2021 project:</b> Colorado Circles for Change (CCC) will provide nutritious meals on-site and delivery of food packages to youth impacted by violence, the criminal justice system in under-resourced communities. CCC is committed to feeding Denver’s most vulnerable youth, including youth of color, immigrants, and refugees.
Commún	\$234,145	<b>2021 project:</b> Commún will implement three programs: community food share, farm, and trainings and power building. They are transitioning multiple community food banks to combine into a community led food hub designed and directed by residents who experience food insecurity, toward community food sovereignty. This funding increases access to healthy food for Denver’s kids by providing food, local farming, and training in conjunction with a collective process to address the whole person and the root causes of hunger.
Denver Dream Center	\$10,000	<b>2021 project:</b> In 2020, Denver Dream Center was awarded a food award and partnered with the Pepsi Center to distribute 2,500,000 pounds of food to 300,000 people in Denver, focused on six of Denver’s most at-risk public housing projects and low-income neighborhoods. As a result, demand for the organization’s services have drastically increased. This grant will support the increased budget requirement for food procurement, storage, transportation, and distribution, as well as supplement the staffing requirements to reach this goal.
Denver Food Rescue	\$555,353	<p><b>2020-2021 project:</b> In addition to Denver Food Rescue’s (DFR) commitment to the mission of Producing Health Equity with Denver communities, assuring all programs are culturally inclusive, volunteer-driven and community-specific, DFR is excited to pilot a new program called Self-sufficiency and Nutrition (SAN). The SAN program is designed to teach youth how to independently select and prepare meals utilizing healthy food.</p> <p><b>2021 project:</b> Denver Food Rescue will establish a new program to deliver monthly meal kits containing ingredients and recipes for 10 meals to families with youth.</p>
Denver Health and Hospital Authority	\$478,383	<p><b>2021 project:</b> This project will be an extension and expansion of the specialized co-enrollment project with SNAP and WIC. This three-year proposal will include Montbello, Westside, Webb Pediatrics, and Pena locations and will enable patients to be enrolled in SNAP and WIC during their pediatric and OB/GYN appointments.</p> <p><b>2021 micro-grant project:</b> Denver Health and Hospital Authority (DHHA) will use \$10,000 over the course of a year to pay for personnel to facilitate cooking demonstrations (Healthy World Chef for bilingual English/Spanish classes), groceries for patients, and cooking carts supplied with cooking essentials. They will help ensure that patients with the highest needs for this type of program can access it within a safety-net organization such as Denver Health.</p>
Denver Housing Authority / Youth Employment Academy	\$338,666	<b>2021 project:</b> Denver Housing Authority (DHA) and the Youth Employment Academy (YEA) will address food insecurity in Southwest Denver through education, food distribution, and youth leadership in horticulture. YEA will be providing Nutrition and Healthy Cooking Classes, distributing healthy meals and snacks to youth twice a week, and running a youth led “Edible Artscapes” project.
Denver Inner City Parish	\$421,886	<b>2021 project:</b> Denver Inner City Parish (DICP) will implement the Greens-N-Grains (GNG) Community Nutrition Program with this funding. This program will distribute nutritious meals to youth in low food access areas across Denver, partnering with schools, afterschool programs, sporting events, and other community gatherings via the GNG Food Truck. The GNG Food Truck will also serve as a mobile education lab, providing modified versions of DICP’s “Veggie Rx” (fruit and vegetable prescription program) nutrition and obesity-related disease management education curriculum to meal recipients.

GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED IN 2021	GRANT SUMMARY
Denver Juvenile Services Center / Denver Public Safety	\$146,481	<p><b>2021 project:</b> Denver Public Safety Youth Programs provides educational and vocational support services to Denver’s justice-involved youth between the ages of 14-18. The goal of this specific project is to provide meaningful work experience and education in partnership with The Urban Farm in topics including healthy eating, cooking, farm business planning, horticultural skills, greenhouse management, and livestock care. The produce and animal products will be distributed to the local community on a sliding scale basis, and participants of the program will also receive a share of the food produced on a weekly basis.</p>
Denver Public Library	\$896,856	<p><b>2020-2021 project:</b> The HDFK grant will allow the Denver Public Library (DPL) to provide healthy snacks to youth at several library locations. In addition, they will be hiring teen assistants from each of the communities where snacks are being distributed.</p> <p><b>2021 project:</b> DPL will distribute healthy food boxes to youth and their families to provide pre-packaged grocery boxes. To reduce food insecurity in households with children in Denver, DPL will distribute 15,080 food boxes by the end of July 2022 via twelve participating branch locations and mobile service vehicles. In addition to healthy food box distribution, DPL will also coordinate food programming to educate youth and their families on the local food ecosystem, how food is grown, and how to cook a variety of foods and eat healthier.</p>
Denver Public Schools Career and College Success / CareerConnect	\$529,350	<p><b>2020-2021 project:</b> The Denver Public Schools Career and College Success team will use the HDFK funds to fill a gap in programs that focus on the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources industries. They will partner with Teens for Food Justice , a New York City-based nonprofit, to create a student-built and operated classroom hydroponic farm at Bruce Randolph School. The hydroponic farm will ensure students recognize food justice and insecurity, understand health and nutrition, actively engage in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and build a pathway to future income, all while providing fresh and affordable produce to both students and their community through urban farming, food preparation and food preservation.</p>
Denver Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services	\$1,000,000	<p><b>2020-2021 project:</b> Denver Public Schools (DPS) is building a 1one-acre greenhouse to grow salad bowl items for Denver students who participate in the school lunch program. When the greenhouse is financially and operationally sustainable, they will launch an urban agriculture Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway for students and provide workforce development opportunities for students and adults.</p> <p><b>2021 project:</b> In order to increase the number of daily lunches served to DPS students, DPS needs to improve the quality of meals made at school. To improve the meal quality, they will train all (850) kitchen employees and managers on basic culinary skills to serve consistent, high-quality, tasty and nutritious school meals. This proposal will help to fund the professional training program created and executed by a national organization, Brigaid, for all Food and Nutrition Services kitchen workers and managers.</p>
Denver School of Innovation and Sustainable Design	\$62,956	<p><b>2020-2021 project:</b> The funding will be used to implement a nutrition education program embedded into the physical education curriculum and a Youth Food Leadership program in the school’s elective. The program will incorporate a field trip to Sprout City Farms and a variety of community presenters with the goal of providing students with the opportunity to learn the interdependence of physical health, nutrition, and healthy choices, in addition to empowering students with leadership opportunities to teach about access to healthy food.</p>
Denver South High School	\$181,850	<p><b>2020 project:</b> Denver South High School’s Food Pantry provides a consistent source of fresh, healthy food to meet the basic nutritional needs of its students and families so that no student goes to bed hungry due to a lack of access to food. A top priority is providing fresh produce; dairy; meat and other protein; and culturally relevant food on a weekly basis.</p>

GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED IN 2021	GRANT SUMMARY
Denver Urban Gardens	\$363,257	<b>2020-2021 project:</b> Denver Urban Gardens is using the funds to expand their Healthy Seedlings program by activating educators to teach in an additional six Title 1 schools within DPS, while also continuing to provide services in three schools in the Globeville-Elyria-Swansea area. They will also be working to expand their Food Access programs by building local capacity for schools to run programs such as Youth Farm Stands and the Garden-to-Cafeteria program. Working alongside youth and educators, Community Activators will be given tools to work with youth to engage in policy, food system, and community activism by connecting with local food justice experts and offering internship opportunities through Groundwork Denver, FrontLine Farming and Slow Food Denver. By building capacity in local communities, they will be shifting ownership and embedding programs into the fabric of the school so they can continue to deliver beyond the grant period.
DSST Cole	\$10,000	<b>2021 project:</b> As a new initiative of DSST: Cole High School, the Cole Food Pantry was launched to provide, on average 100 families per week, with healthy food boxes, including fresh, local produce, dry goods, and a selection of dairy and meat products. HFDK funds will supplement the items donated to provide families with a well-rounded food package, including milk, eggs, cheese, and lunch meat.
Early Excellence Program of Denver	\$105,000	<b>2021 project:</b> Early Excellence will implement a new food-based educational program for its 80 at-risk students, ages 2.5 - 5 years old and their families. They are looking forward to implementing a family-friendly health and nutrition educational program that incorporates healthy activities, healthy foods and teaching young children and their families the life-long benefits of eating healthy and personal fitness for not only today, but for years to come.
Echinacea Montessori	\$5,550	<b>2021 project:</b> Between independence with food education, gardening while growing food, and a healthy meal program, Echinacea Montessori will use this funding to bring these services to the next level and continue them without financial strain.
Ekar Farm	\$104,575	<b>2021 project:</b> Ekar will use HFDK funds for growing and distributing farm fresh produce, and experiential education, to Denver's youth and families. Receiving HFDK funds means Ekar can ensure that tens of thousands of pounds of fresh, local, nutrient-dense food can be grown and distributed to the most vulnerable youth. These funds put farm-food systems-school partnerships to work building capacity for local schools and other service providers to reach more families than ever with produce, nutrition information, and hands-on food and food system education.
Food for Thought Denver	\$252,500	<b>2020-2021 project:</b> Food for Thought (FFT) provides PowerSacks to children in Title 1 schools in Denver to eliminate weekend childhood hunger. FFT will order food from Food Bank of the Rockies in order to provide enough food to feed two meals to a family of four. Each PowerSack includes between 9–13 nonperishable items, including foods that children can prepare themselves if no adult is able to cook.
Guided by Humanity	\$10,000	<b>2021 project:</b> HFDK funds will support Guided by Humanity and Apprentice of Peace Youth Organization's "Peace and Humanity Smoothie Bus," which creates access and wellness opportunities throughout the Denver Metro Area and supportive employment for marginalized youth and youth with Intellectual and/or Developmental disabilities. The Peace and Humanity Smoothie Bus will deliver pop up educational workshops and on-site wellness services using fresh resources from local Colorado organizations to teach youth about nutritious and sustainable eating.
Heart & Hand Center	\$10,000	<b>2021 project:</b> Heart & Hand (H&H) will provide healthy food, meals, and snacks to Denver's youth during its afterschool programs. Additionally, funds will be used for the hands-on, experiential food-based education component of H&H's programming. At the elementary and middle school levels, H&H youth have regular opportunities to participate in cooking and nutrition workshops utilizing fresh produce.

GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED IN 2021	GRANT SUMMARY
Jovial Concepts	\$104,897	<b>2021 project:</b> Jovial Concepts' primary purpose with this funding is to educate Denver's kids on how to avert hunger, reduce waste and eat healthy through 1) garden programs, 2) cooking and nutrition classes, 3) sustainable food education classes, 4) outreach and sign up for federal food assistance programs and 5) school youth garden clubs. In addition, Jovial distributes food directly to Denver's kids through summer meals and organic garden produce. They will increase food distribution for families with continuing needs through an innovative partnership with the Co-Op at 1st that will provide a meal subscription Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) food model that features healthy eating from organic produce and recipes from minority chefs who will disseminate educational recipes from around the world. They will also distribute formula and food to families with children ages 0-5 in their Baby Day program.
Kaizen Food Rescue	\$115,500	<b>2021 project:</b> Kaizen Food Rescue's proposed activities all revolve around a central idea: how can they get more healthy food, and more healthy food experiences, to youth? HFDK funding will support procuring and growing healthy food for the community. Through urban gardening and agriculture, local food procurement, summer kids meals, youth teams, and community leaders, HFDK funds will augment their hugely successful mobile food share with locally grown food, moving towards their goal of food sovereignty and simultaneously empower impacted Denver youth in the process.
Laverne Gillespie Ministries	\$10,000	<b>2021 project:</b> This funding will be used to provide healthy food items to youth ages 18 and under. They will make weekly scheduled warm meal delivery and food distribution items to service a wide area of youth and facilities that service youth under 18 years of age.
Metro Caring	\$197,512	<b>2020-2021 project:</b> Funds from HFDK will support Metro Caring's Kidz in the Kitchen family nutrition education program, as well as direct food distribution to thousands of families throughout the next year. During this health and economic pandemic, when three times the normal number of families need immediate food assistance, these funds will help families in the Denver community to access healthy, nutritious food relevant to their cultures and diets.
Metro Ministries	\$232,742	<b>2020-2021 project:</b> On a weekly basis, Metro Ministries, in partnership with Denver Housing Authority (DHA) and Colorado Feeding Kids (CFK), will visit each of the DHA properties that DHA has identified containing children in need of healthy and nutritional food. Metro Ministries will provide two CFK family meal packs for each identified child. In cooperation with DHA, the meals will be distributed on-site to the children.
Mile High 360	\$360,146	<b>2020-2021 project:</b> Mile High 360 will use HFDK funds to formalize their nutrition education programming and family engagement through cuisine with credentialed partners. They will also have a family liaison to work extensively with families on food security through the utilization of community and public resources.
Monarch Montessori	\$105,000	<b>2021 project:</b> First Steps at Monarch Montessori will use these funds to directly benefit 300 children in Northeast Denver. Their program educates youth, provides nutritious meals to students and boosts revenue to local food suppliers. HFDK grant money will support the student gardening program, daily school lunch, monthly food distribution and classes in gardening and cooking. These services will alleviate school-day hunger, provide healthy food year-round at home for students, and introduce skills essential to long-term
Montbello Organizing Committee	\$299,034	<b>2020-2021 project:</b> The FreshLo Farm-School Network – Healthy Food for Montbello Kids project is a three-year collaborative impact project among several local schools and nonprofit organizations that have come together to address the shared mission to work with children and youth to grow food for their community, teach them where their food comes from, and work with families to change nutrition habits and consumption patterns. The FreshLo Farm-School Network – Healthy Food for Montbello Kids is premised on an assumption that multiple efforts must work in concert to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of community-level efforts to reduce food insecurity and ensure that children and their families have access to affordable, healthy food.
North High School	\$60,618	<b>2020-2021 project:</b> The Healthy Food for Denver's Kids funds will be used to help increase awareness around school and community policies on unhealthy/healthy eating, food availability, food culture and media, and personal health choices such as economics, neighborhood, and education.

GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED IN 2021	GRANT SUMMARY
Re:Vision	\$522,884	<p><b>2020-2021 Project:</b> Re:Vision was founded in 2007, working in the Westwood neighborhood - one of Denver's most food insecure - to cultivate a community food system, primarily through teaching families how to grow their own food in their home gardens. With Healthy Food for Denver Kids funds, Re:Vision will work closely with community partners to create curriculum around food justice, health equity and the local food system, while using food as a lens to explore culture and promote discovery and emotional well-being for children in Southwest Denver.</p> <p><b>2021 Project:</b> Denver Health's Westside Clinic and Re:Vision will partner and build on the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program started by Sprout City Farms last year. Families will be screened for food insecurity, and those who qualify will receive CSA produce boxes from Re:Vision's Urban Farm delivered directly to their door via Bondadosa. This program seeks to build a holistic, local, and culturally relevant system of health, where no matter your income level, you can have access locally grown food and become actively involved in your own health.</p>
Sewall Child Development Center, Inc.	\$285,390	<p><b>2021 project:</b> Sewall will use Healthy Food for Denver's Kids funds to improve access to nutritious, culturally responsive foods and nutrition education for young children and their families. Sewall's healthy food program will add meal access for children, including those with special needs, at the Koelbel Building and The Zone for Inclusive Learning. Additionally, funds will cover the gap and expand food access to children at Dahlia Campus for Health and Well Being. Sewall will implement sustainable gardening and begin and expand experiential educational activities for children and families at all three locations. In addition to enhancing food access and reducing procurement cost, Sewall will purchase a vehicle to allow for delivery of food to families with no or limited access to transportation, to provide more mobile educational activities, and to further expand to more satellite centers in future years.</p>
Sisters of Color United for Education	\$105,000	<p><b>2021 project:</b> Sisters of Color United for Education is expanding to the Northeast Park Hill neighborhood. They are working in collaboration with Consumption Literacy Project, who is currently working in the Montbello area to develop native gardens and increase Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) food access, and a long-time partnership with Woodbine (WILD-I) ecology center that supports indigenous ecology practices and stewardship of the land. They will be training Promotoras de Salud and will increase youth engagement with understanding and becoming a part of the food systems in Denver to increase healthy food choices and access.</p>
Slow Food Denver	\$110,053	<p><b>2021 project:</b> Funds will support Slow Food Denver's Lil' Sprouts cooking and gardening program at local Denver Schools. These classes inspire students to develop healthy, lifelong eating habits by making the connection between where food comes from and how it is grown. Their goal is to provide an interactive learning environment, transforming children from passive food consumer to creators, and in doing so, increase their health awareness.</p>
Sprout City Farms	\$99,983.00	<p><b>2020-2021 project:</b> Sprout City Farms is partnering with Denver Health to leverage the WIC and pediatric care network to couple food access solutions and healthy food education with medical care. They have established a program to offer fresh, organically grown food from local farms to refugee families enrolled in WIC, as well as pediatric patients screened for food insecurity, throughout the Colorado harvest season (June through October). Lowry Clinic is the most diverse clinic in Denver, and families will receive interpretation and translation of nutrition education materials in their preferred languages in addition to fresh produce each week.</p>
Stedman Elementary	\$76,189	<p><b>2020-2021 project:</b> HFDK funds will be used to provide Stedman Elementary with a healthy snack to every student every day at school and to conduct activities in the garden related to health and nutrition.</p>
Stigma (Stone Soup, Inc., dba Stigma)	\$419,645	<p><b>2021 project:</b> Stigma procures meat, dairy, produce and other healthy food from Colorado farmers, ranchers, and distributors. They provide the healthy food to four food pantries within Denver Public Schools, including DSST Cole, RiseUp Community School, Ellis Elementary School, and Denver South High School. They are connecting Colorado's farmers and ranchers directly to the students in Denver Public Schools who need help with food security and nutrition the most.</p>

GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED IN 2021	GRANT SUMMARY
STRIVE Prep – SMART and Westwood Schools	\$59,890	<b>2020-2021 project:</b> STRIVE Prep will work with Big Green to install Learning Gardens to implement food literacy programs. They want to increase students' knowledge around healthy food choices and develop skills to grow, harvest, and cook those healthy foods. Students will have opportunities to learn health and nutrition information, practice skills, and share their learning through the Learning Garden curriculum.
Sun Valley Kitchen and Community Center	\$152,820	<b>2020-2021 project:</b> HFDK funds will provide support for Youth Employment + Professional Development, Youth Enrichment, and No-Cost Grocery Programs. The funding will allow Sun Valley Kitchen and Community Center to expand and deepen the impact and reach of each of these programs. HFDK funds will also support the weeknight dinners they prepare and serve for youth in the Sun Valley neighborhood, in partnership with Sun Valley Youth Center.
The GrowHaus	\$444,851	<b>2020-2021 project:</b> Funding from Healthy Food for Denver's Kids will connect youth and their families in the Globeville and Elyria-Swansea neighborhoods to The GrowHaus' food education, distribution, and community outreach programming. Programming includes food access initiatives that ensure kids have healthy food within reach, a summer leadership program for teens, out-of-school educational sessions for elementary-aged students, and multi-generational classes on nutrition, growing food, and wellness. Ultimately, Healthy Food for Denver's Kids funds support a holistic approach to healthy food access and well-being for kids and youth.
The Urban Farm	\$126,474	<b>2020-2021 project:</b> The Urban Grown Incubator Farm takes a three-pronged approach to promoting a resilient local food system in Denver by addressing workforce development, youth education, and fresh food access through urban agriculture. Urban Grown will utilize soil-based and hydroponic growing methods, allowing for healthy food production and education year-round.
Vista Academy	\$105,000	<b>2021 project:</b> Vista Academy will implement a comprehensive program to provide the Far Northeast community with equitable access of healthful snacks and food education to their students and community. The overall proposal has four key aspects: a 1,000 square foot community garden, an aquaponics system, healthful snack student initiative, and an educational program through their Culinary Department that provides monthly cooking lessons for students' families. This will be a multi-year keystone project that the school and community can rally behind.
ViVe Wellness	\$500,000	<b>2020-2021 project:</b> ViVe Wellness will be providing healthy food and snacks to participating kids, as well as education and hands-on growing of food, and nutrition and healthy cooking for the family. All will be done in Spanish and English.
We Don't Waste	\$144,960	<b>2020-2021 project:</b> We Don't Waste is excited to offer healthy food and education to children through a variety of programs. This includes providing nutritious food through distribution to partner agencies that work with Denver's youth and their families (including food distribution and recovery with schools) and sustaining/expanding their monthly Mobile Food Markets (free farmers market-style distributions in low food access neighborhoods). They will also offer nutrition and cooking education to families at these Mobile Food Markets and will partner with schools to provide nutrition and cooking education through classroom and experiential learning.
WeeCycle	\$10,000	<b>2021 project:</b> Through their Mobile Baby Essentials program, WeeCycle delivers much needed baby food and baby formula (along with diapers and wipes) to underserved populations in targeted low-income areas across the Denver metro area. Funding from Healthy Food for Denver's Kids will help them continue their emergency response to meet higher demand.
West Campus Food Bank	\$242,828	<b>2020-2021 project:</b> Denver West Campus Food Bank's mission is to provide healthy food for the students and families of students attending West High. West Campus Food Bank, developed to address food insecurity among West campus students, has been in operation since April 6, 2018, and has serviced over 200 students a week. They are 100 % volunteer operated.

## Appendix 4. Demographic Data from 2020 Grantees

For all population demographic categories, there is an option for grantees to indicate they “don’t know” for any given demographic category.

### Share of Youth Age Groups of Youth Served

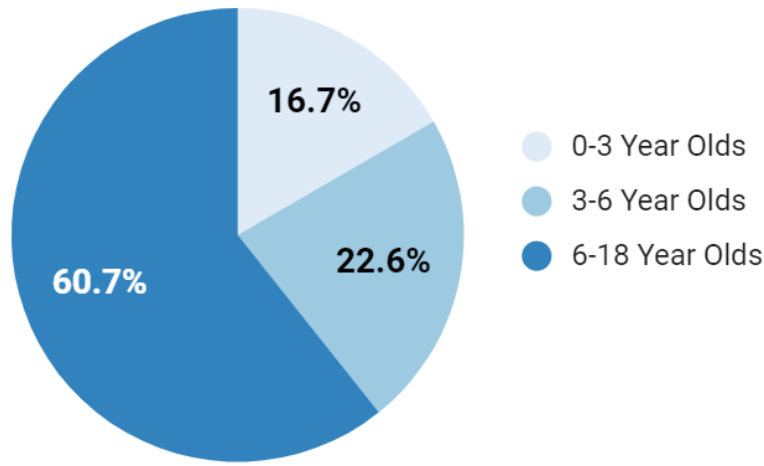


Figure 8. Age Groups of Youth Served. Source: Change Matrix Evaluation Team.

14% of grantees reported that they “don’t know” the age groups of the youth they have served.

### Share of Racial/Ethnic Groups of Youth Served

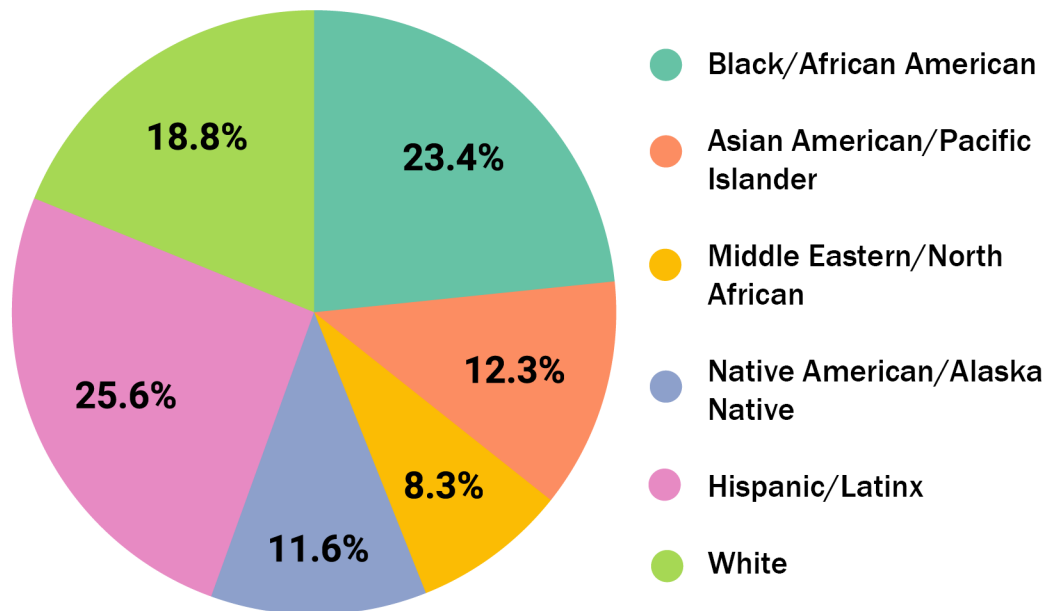


Figure 9. Race and Ethnicity of Youth Served. Source: Change Matrix Evaluation Team.

22% of grantees reported that they “don’t know” the racial/ethnic group of the youth they have served. People who identify as Hispanic and/or Latinx continue to be the racial/ethnic group served at a highest percentage by grantees overall.