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# HEALTHY FOOD FOR DENVER'S **KIDS**

Annual Report to City Council

December 22, 2021

# Healthy Food for Denver's Kids (HFDK) Background

- Citizen-led ballot measure (302) approved by 59% of Denver voters in Nov. 2018
- Tax increase to establish a fund for healthy food access and food-based education for Denver's youth
  - 0.08% sales and use tax, expected to generate ~\$11 million/year
  - Term: Jan. 1, 2019-Dec. 31, 2028
- Funds distributed through grants to Denver nonprofits, public schools/Denver Public Schools (DPS), and local government agencies
- Aimed at Denver's low-income youth
- No more than 10% for city admin costs

# HFDK Commission

- 13-member Commission
  - 3 city staff
  - 2 members of City Council
  - 4 residents of the city
  - 4 representatives of city-wide organizations or institutions involved in food
- Nonprofit, government, community member appointees
- Diverse representation
- Sub-committees
- Staffed by the Denver Department of Public Health & Environment (DDPHE)



# Key 2021 Accomplishments

- More than doubled grantmaking activity from previous year
- Via City Council, modified the ordinance for more organizations to apply for funds and create greater inclusion and diversity for Commission applicants
- Commission adopted a co-chair model and chairs for each committee, and new consensus-building processes
- In collaboration with the Board of Ethics and City Attorney's Office, revised HFDK conflict of interest and recusal policy
- Hired an administrative assistant to provide logistical, communications, and contracting support for HFDK
- Exploring a multi-agency grants management system

# Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Public Engagement

- Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) training and equitable grantmaking
- 75+ monthly meeting guests, 1500 Listserv subscribers
- Spanish-language interpretation for Commission meetings and grantee technical assistance webinars



Grantee photo from Food for Thought Denver

# 2021 Funding Opportunities

- HFDK02 Request for Proposal (RFP) opened March 15, 2021
- **Application range:** \$100,000-\$1,500,000 grants for food access or education
- One-year grant term, option for two additional one-year renewals
- **30 applications received, 2 ineligible**
- **20 organizations selected to fund**
  - 11 nonprofits
  - 5 schools, early childhood centers, or DPS affiliates
  - 4 city agencies (Denver Health, Denver Housing Authority, Denver Public Library, and Denver Public Safety)
- 14 micro-grant applications received, 10 funded for \$10,000 or less



# 2021 Grants Awarded

- Number of grantees:  
47 organizations
- Total funds granted:  
\$10.4 million
- Average grant size for 2021 cohort:  
\$343,000

[Link to grantee project descriptions](#)



Grantee photo from The GrowHaus.  
Pictured: the granddaughter of a GrowHaus Promotora

# HEALTHY FOOD FOR DENVER'S Kids

## 2020 Grantees



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**

METRO DENVER



**Metro Ministries**



SUN VALLEY KITCHEN & COMMUNITY CENTER



GROWHAUS

ELYRIA-SWANSEA, CO



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SAVING FOOD • PROTECTING THE PLANET • FEEDING PEOPLE



DENVER SOUTH



DENVER NORTH HIGH SCHOOL



**Sprout City Farms**



**METRO CARING**

ENDING HUNGER AT ITS ROOT



**Vive Wellness**



THE URBAN FARM



DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Career and College Success



**DUG DENVER URBAN GARDENS**

DENVER SCHOOL of INNOVATION and SUSTAINABLE DESIGN



DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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MILE HIGH 360



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**DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY**



COLORADO CIRCLES FOR CHANGE



DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Food & Nutrition Services**  
Feeding healthy futures



**RE:VISION**

Transforming Youth & Communities



**STRIVE Prep**



**MONTBELLO FreshLo Initiative**  
A Program of Montbello Organizing Committee



# HEALTHY FOOD FOR DENVER'S Kids

## 2021 Grantees

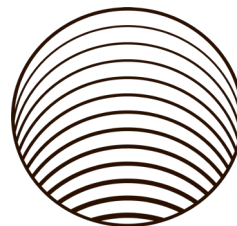


BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

METRO DENVER



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KAIZEN FOOD RESCUE



Commún  
THE VERB OF COMMUNITY



CONNECT. GROW. NOURISH. REPAIR.



JOVIAL  
CONCEPTS



DENVER HOUSING AUTHORITY



DENVER INNER  
CITY PARISH



Slow Food  
DENVER



DENVER  
HEALTH  
est. 1860  
FOR LIFE'S JOURNEY



Sewall  
Child Development Center  
Collaboration ★ Equality ★ Community

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ACADEMY  
Education • Employment • Empowerment



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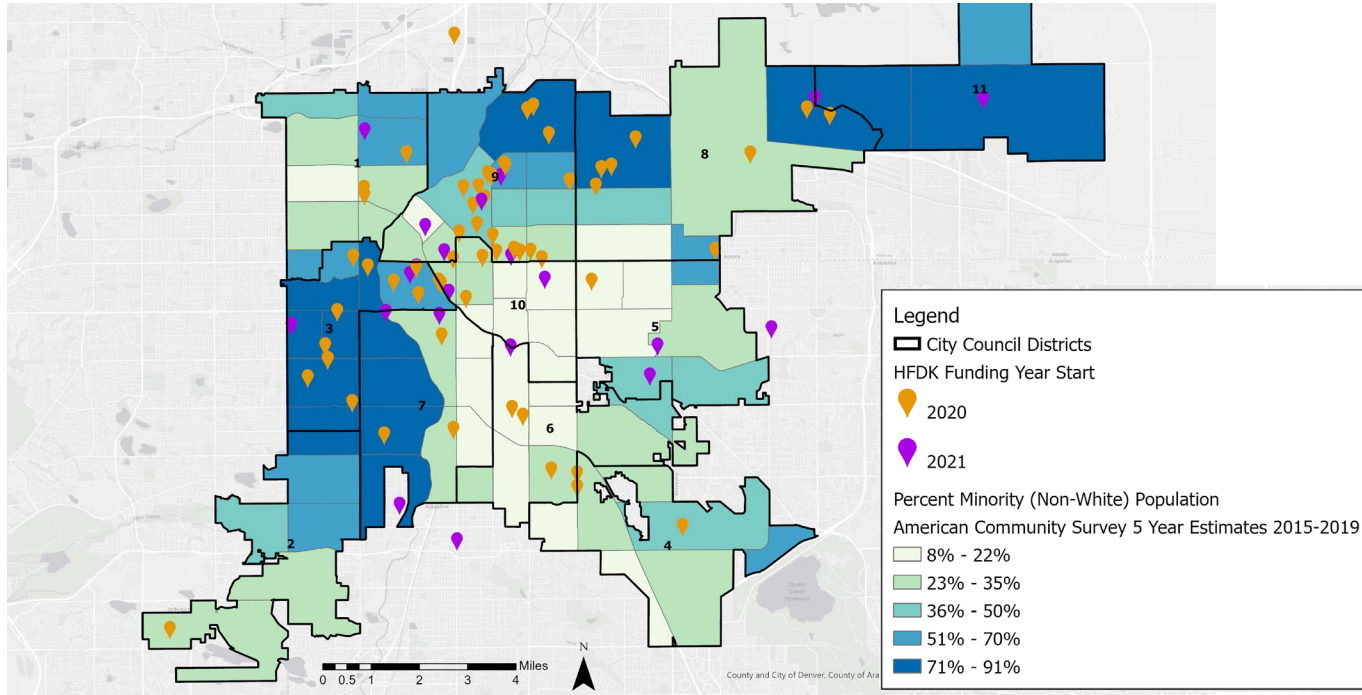


WELLNESS.COMMUNITY.DEVELOPMENT



# All HFDK Grantees by City Council District

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



# 2021 Grant Example: Jovial Concepts

**Grant amount:** \$104,897

Program is based in Barnum and includes:

- School gardening
- Cooking, nutrition, and sustainable food classes
- Outreach and sign up for federal food assistance programs
- Summer meals
- Meal subscription Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) food boxes
- Formula and food to families with children ages 0-5



Grantee photo from Jovial Concepts

Receiving an HFDK Grant is: “The ability to train and keep individuals from our community to staff these programs. It means feeding kids all summer long healthy, nutritious and culturally relevant meals. It means introducing families to healthier choices and fun recipes.”

## HFDK Data for Contracted 2020 Grantees Q1-Q4 (Aug. 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021)

**Total Youth Touchpoints: 266,547** (n=23) | **Unique Youth Served: 38,403** (n=19)

- **118,924 meals served**
- **145,723 food boxes** distributed to families and youth
- **2,971,645 pounds** of food rescued and distributed to 185 schools, 39 community centers, and 52 housing facilities
- **490 new gardens or farms** engaging 2,523 youth
- **21,502 pounds** of produce harvested from local food production sites, a total value of \$54,619
- **76 new youth** jobs created in the food system, including 9,058 hours worked and \$124,204 paid to youth
- **392 sessions** of ongoing food courses with 1,175 youth attendees and 498 youth graduating or completing a course
- **972 food classes** or workshops with 13,047 youth attending



# Grantee Annual Report Responses (n=23)

## Grantee-Reported Changes Over the Past Year:

**Consumption:** An increase in vegetable consumption among youth

**New foods:** An increase in the number of youth trying new foods

**Knowledge:** An increase in knowledge of healthy food, nutrition, and food production among youth

**Access:** An increase in access to fresh, healthy food among youth

**Food Prep:** An increase in the number of youth preparing healthy meals and snacks at home

**Collaboration:** An increase in coordination among food organizations in Denver



# Grantee Annual Report Responses (n=23)

## Changes Seen Over the Past Year:



### Increased Engagement on Equity and Justice

“We noticed that this year students were very engaged in discussions about equity and justice. ‘**Food should be a right not a privilege.** Everyone should have the right to good food.’ ‘**Food justice means giving food to those who don't have the chance to get it.**’”

## Top 3 Grantee Equity Strategies

- ✓ Responding 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/delivering food in **flexible and accessible ways**

# Grantee Technical Assistance

## Commission engagement

- A new Technical Assistance, Capacity Building and Strategic Partnerships Committee
- Prioritizing increase enrollment in federal nutrition assistance programs
- Advancing nutritional quality

## Grantee learning and networking opportunities

- 15 webinars completed in evaluation and programs
- 100+ grantee-affiliated staff/individuals, representing 37 grantee organizations
- Cohort community building



# Partnerships

Internal and external organizations assist with technical assistance, leveraging resources, and thought partnership



WILDWOOD  
Child and Adult Care Food Program



LOCAL AND REGIONAL  
GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE ON  
RACE & EQUITY



COLORADO  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment



Emerging Practitioners  
in Philanthropy



COLORADO  
Department of Education



DENVER  
CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS

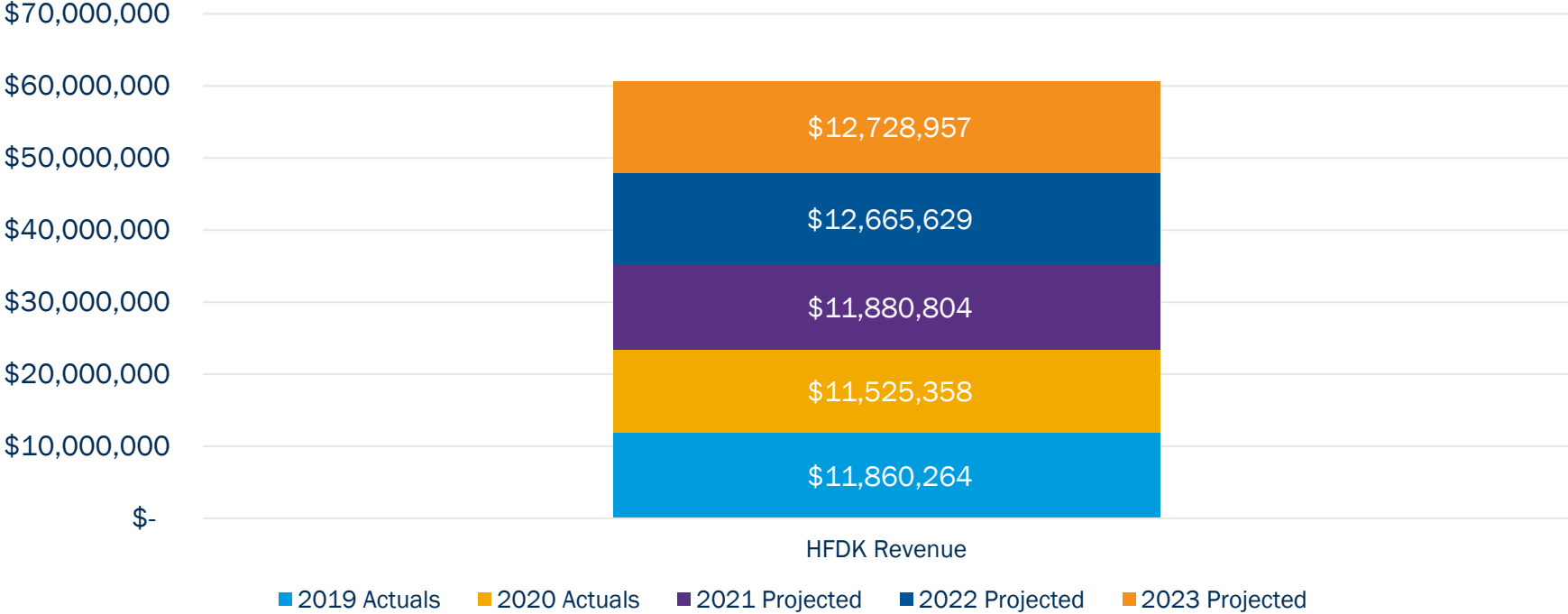


Colorado  
State  
University



# Budget Update

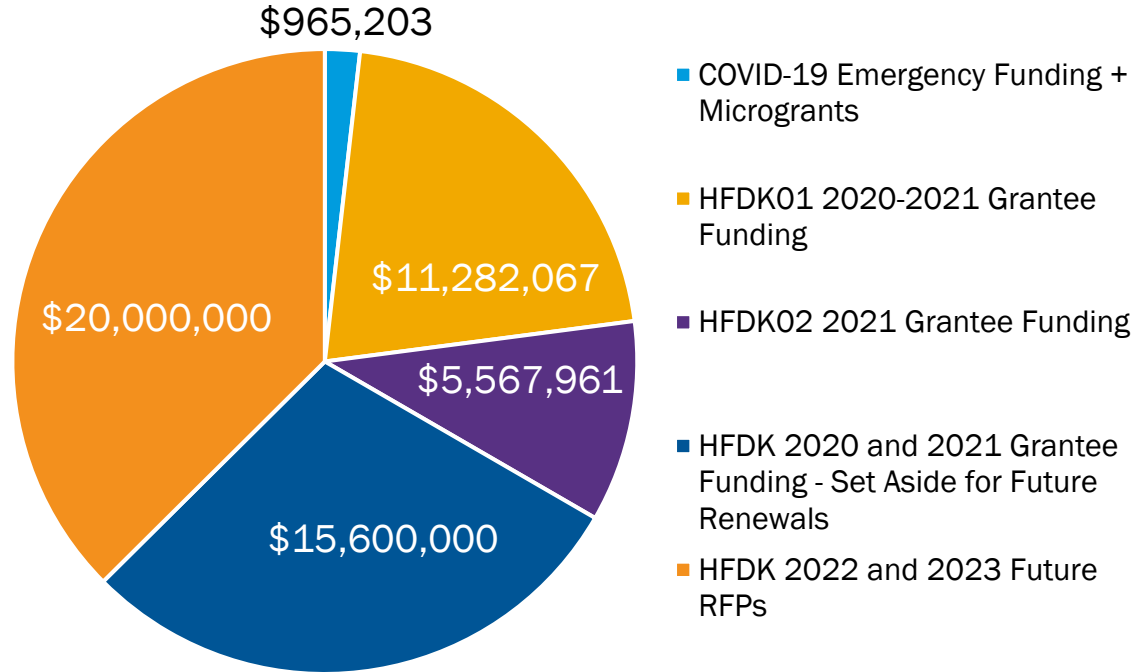
## HFDK Revenue



# Budget Update

## HFDK Expenditures/Encumbrances

- In 2021, HFDK allocated \$10.8 million (\$10.3 million in grants and \$500,000 in admin)
- In total, HFDK has awarded nearly \$18 million to 80+ organizations from 2020-2021.



# Upcoming Activities

\$10,000 or less grant requests, reviewed and approved on a quarterly basis



Rolling Micro-Grants

Continued focus on learning, commitment to EDI, and responding to community need



Regular RFP Cycle

At least one RFP per year (2022 will be focused on early childhood, ages birth-5)



Continued learning and equity focus

# HEALTHY FOOD FOR DENVER'S Kids



## Thank you!

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