



# HFDK01 Final Report Findings



Change Matrix HFDK Evaluation Team • December 2021

# Agenda

Share Findings from the Final Report:

- **Evaluation Questions**
- **COVID-19 Pandemic Implications**
- **Who Was Served by HFDK Funding**
- **Impacts of HFDK Funding**
- **Opportunities for HFDK to Improve Strategy and Implementation**



# Evaluation Questions



# Macro Evaluation Questions

**The macro evaluation will seek to answer the following questions:**

- What gaps and shortcomings in the food system exist? To what extent can HFDK help address them?
- What strengths in the food system exist? To what extent can HFDK align with and leverage them?
- How can HFDK improve the food system to better meet the needs of underserved populations?

# Macro Evaluation Questions Continued

- Which neighborhoods/areas of the city are moving toward healthy food access through environmental changes?
- To what extent are HFDK investments reaching populations who experience food insecurity the most?
- To what extent is HFDK increasing the number of children and youth receiving healthy and culturally relevant food and meals in Denver?





# Macro Evaluation Questions

- To what extent is HFDK improving the diet quality of children and youth in Denver?
- To what extent is HFDK increasing the number of children and youth receiving nutrition education, food skills, and sustainable/just food systems education in Denver?
- To what extent is HFDK reducing overall food insecurity in households with children and youth in Denver?

**COVID- 19**

**Pandemic Implications**

# COVID-19 Implications for HFDK Grantees

## Food Insecurity

People who experienced or were at risk of food insecurity before COVID-19 are facing greater hardship resulting from the pandemic, although interventions are lessening economic impacts.

## Economic Insecurity

Women and populations of color were disproportionately impacted by the economic downturn.

## Food Assistance

Many Coloradans were able to access food assistance, which helped offset loss of income and rising food costs. Federal food programs expanded their reach through increased budgets and reduced access barriers.

# Impacts of HFDK Funding

# HFDK Funding Primarily Served Denver's Youth

Roughly **28%** of Denver's **138,897 youth** were served.

Unique Youth served Quarterly: **38,403**





# Youth Served by HFDK Funding

- As a whole, grantees reported primarily serving low-income school age children identifying as Hispanic/Latinx.
- All reporting grantees are largely serving school-aged children (age 6-18).
- All grantees served Denver children and youth living in areas identified as at-risk.

# How Did HFDK Impact Food Access?

Most grantees distributed nutrition information with meals and food.

Over the course of the year, seven HFDK grantees served nearly **120,000** meals and snacks

Pounds of Food Delivered Due to HFDK Funding:

**3,000,000**

Fourteen grantees distributed over **150,000** food boxes.

# Barriers to Food Access

Transportation is often required to access healthier food options because of geographic inequities like:

- Low food access areas
- Lack of local childcare options
- Incomplete neighborhood coverage by federal child nutrition programs





*Practically speaking, our patients work, they have transportation struggles, a number of different issues with childcare, which prohibit the ability to very easily go to a place where there might be better fresh fruits and vegetables, prohibit their abilities to have appointments with human services to get these enrollment completed. There's million[s] of barriers.*

-HFDK Key Informant, 2021





# HFDK Impact on Food Access

- **52% of the cohort supported both food access and education**, 24% provided food education only, 16% focused on food access only, and 8% had capital infrastructure projects.
- Key informants highlighted **participation requirements, exclusive eligibility requirements, and program guidelines as barriers to food access**.
  - The waivers helped organizations significantly increase food access for struggling families who wished that they could continue beyond the pandemic.

# HFDK's Impact on Food Access

Grantees Served

**118,924 meals**

**66,400 Snacks**

**21,566 Grab-and-Go Meals**

**15,399 Breakfasts, Lunches, and Dinners**

**145,723 Food Boxes**

# Food and Nutrition Education Provided Through HFDK

HFDK grants provided education and instruction around healthy food and nutrition.

Food justice and food advocacy topics showed up in about **25%** food education classes held.

**15 Grantees** provided education and instruction around healthy food and nutrition to

**25,000**

Children, youth, and families.

Of the food education classes held: **78% covered nutrition or healthy eating, 71% had a focus on cooking, 41% included education on food production** – such as farming or gardening.



# How Is HFDK Supporting Healthy Environments?

- Over the course of the first year, HFDK supported the establishment of **nearly 500 new growing sites** in neighborhoods with higher levels of food insecurity.
- Grantees supported expansion of community and individual gardens. One grantee supported the planting of **112 backyard gardens** beginning in mid-May.
- Another grantee is distributing seeds and seedlings to community members as part of the Grow a Garden program.

# Systems Changes

## Food Systems Development — Denver Public Schools

HFDK funds contributed to development of the **AgConnect Program**, the first Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources-related career pathway and program in Denver Public Schools.

With HFDK funds, DPS was also able to justify 2020 Bond dollars to aid in the funding of the **Bruce Randolph School (BRS) hydroponic classroom project** and develop community-wide systems.

# New Partners in Collaboration with HFDK

- Partners helped provide **additional resources, materials, and connections** for food assistance.
- These efforts **expanded grantees' ability to be responsive to families'** food preferences; enhanced food and nutrition classes and curricula; and helped to mobilize the larger community.



# HFDK Micro - Grant Funding

- Awarded **10 micro-grants (\$10,000 per organization)**
- Goal was to prioritize children and youth most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Of the five grantees that reported results:
  - **Micro-grantees served an average 2,275 unique youth**
  - **A total of 11,375 children and youth were served**
- Funds were used to:
  - Serve healthy meals and snacks
  - Distribute food
  - Provide hands-on, experiential food-based education (e.g., growing gardens)
  - Provide for basic needs (e.g., supplied infant formula)

# How HFDK Ensured Cultural Responsiveness



# Community Engagement Efforts

- HFDK grantees used a range of community engagement methods to get input from youth and families
- The **majority of grantees relied on surveys** but also reported getting feedback via one-on-one conversations, social media, and email. Feedback was also received through listening sessions and focus groups.



***We sent out a community survey to the families we serve at our mobile food markets to help inform the future of our mobile food markets. One highlight of the survey was that 91% of respondents reported that their family has been able to eat more nutritious meals due to the food we provide. Additionally, 70% of respondents indicated that their kids have tried new fruits and vegetables from our markets.***



**- We Don't Waste, 2021 HFDK Grantee**

# Culturally Relevant Foods, Materials, and Educational Programs

- **HFDK grantees provided culturally relevant materials and educational programs** by understanding the diverse needs of the young people they served.
- To be responsive to youth participating in the educational programs, grantees also considered the importance of representation as well as **integrating lessons that were culturally relevant to the students in the program.**





Everything we do comes from a **culturally informed place**. Our recipes are created by our promotoras, who are Latinas from the community. They have taken their healthy equity and food access training to **create recipes that incorporate fresh healthy food into traditional dishes** (i.e. Zucchini enchiladas, fruit salad with Chamoy, cauliflower ceviche... Likewise, everyone on our team is from the community and speaks Spanish.

- Re:Vision , an HFDK01 grantee, 2021



Opportunities



# Improve Implementation

## Grantmaking Process

Practice proactive transparency in communication with potential grantees and community members by:

- Engage in proactive outreach and relationship-building with grassroots organizations;
- Clarify eligibility criteria;
- Show applicants how their programs reflect and embody equitable, culturally responsive, and community-based practices;
- Update applicants during application process
- Provide meaningful feedback to unfunded applicants



# Improve Implementation

## Grantmaking Strategy

- Suggest HFDK consider investments that indirectly support young people (e.g., investments in families)
- Develop a multi-pronged equity strategy that can adapt to the strengths and challenges of different Denver neighborhoods
- Pursue strategies that center collaboration — with communities and with other funders

# Opportunities for HFDK to Address System Gaps and Leverage System Strengths

- **The interconnectedness of the food system offers opportunities for far-reaching impact:**
  - Find powerful leverage points that could spark ripple effects across the system
- **HFDK needs to prioritize, engage, and uplift/leverage community perspectives and leadership:**
  - Talk with and listen to community members directly impacted by hunger;
  - Partner with communities and community members directly impacted by hunger;
  - Follow and take direction from communities and community members directly impacted by hunger

# Opportunities for HFDK to Address System Gaps and Leverage System Strengths

- **Facilitate or support better communication and coordination amongst actors in the food system**
  - HFDK could function as a convener, facilitating connections across organizations across sectors addressing food insecurity in Denver
- **Consider exploring the potential of engaging with and leveraging social change and advocacy work happening outside of the food system**
  - Support local and state advocacy efforts to address and shift policies and other “upstream” factors that contribute to food insecurity

# Questions?

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