



DENVER FOOD IN COMMUNITIES

CONNECTING TO THE VISION

Winnable Goal:

- 5 low-income or underserved neighborhoods reach self-defined goals for a complete food environment

Priority: Inclusive

- Invest in building community-driven complete neighborhood food environments

Strategies:

- Engage diverse community organizations, institutions, neighborhoods, and residents to develop neighborhood food plans as part of qualifying city neighborhood and small area plans that outline the ideal features of an equitable complete food environment
- Develop maps and other tools that highlight neighborhood assets, gaps and opportunities for creating complete food environments in Denver's low and moderate-income neighborhoods (prioritize neighborhoods that are currently food deserts)

PROJECT NAME: Food in Communities
PROJECT DURATION: 3 years
PROJECT LEAD: Denver Department of Public Health & Environment

PROJECT PARTNERS: Jefferson County Public Health
 Tri-County Health Department
 Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council
 Local community food coalitions

FUNDING DETAILS: FUNDING: \$2 Million
 SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Cancer, Cardiovascular, Pulmonary Disease (CCPD) Grant Program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In partnership with Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) and Tri-County Health Department (TCHD), the Food in Communities project aims to expand equitable or fair access for everyone - to healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant foods in focus areas in Adams, Denver, and Jefferson Counties. The goal of the project is to strengthen complete neighborhood food environments through programs and policies that address food access and food insecurity. This is defined as community-defined set of food resources that together provide for the food needs of all community members, integrating the culture and values of each neighborhood (e.g., grocery stores, farmers' markets, school gardens, etc.). This work will be done by first working in partnership with community members to identify assets and needs related to food in their communities and collaborating with new or existing neighborhood groups to design and test food access, food justice, or food business pilot projects. The project team also supports local food policy councils or coalitions to advocate for food policies that support community food needs and priorities.

CASE STUDY

Improving the health of communities and expanding access to fresh, healthy, affordable and culturally relevant food by transforming neighborhood food environments through policies and system changes is a major priority of the City. By changing the neighborhood context in which people live, work, learn and play, people may be able to eat a more healthful diet and experience positive health outcomes and experience reduced food insecurity. This place-based approach will change neighborhoods through policies, systems, and environmental changes as well as on-the-ground pilot food projects guided by and for the communities being served. For example, space and opportunity to grow food, walkable access to healthy foods in local stores, cooking lessons for local cultures all contribute to a complete food environment and a great neighborhood.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

- Increase in new or enhanced food access points in participating neighborhoods
- Increase in supportive food system policies and laws
- Increase equitable access to fresh, affordable, culturally relevant food in participating neighborhoods
- Increased investment in neighborhood food environments

