Agenda

Share findings from the final report:

- Evaluation questions
- Impact of HFDK funding
  - Expanding food access
  - Providing food and nutrition education
  - Building healthy environments
- HFDK outcomes
- Strengths, gaps, and opportunities
Evaluation Questions
Macro Evaluation Questions

The macro evaluation will seek to answer the following questions:

● What gaps and shortcomings exist in the food system? To what extent can HFDK help address them?
● What strengths exist in the food system? 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

- To what extent is HFDK reducing overall food insecurity in households with children and youth in Denver?
- To what extent are HFDK investments reaching populations who experience food insecurity the most?
- Which neighborhoods and areas of the city are moving toward healthy food access?
- To what extent is HFDK increasing the number of children and youth receiving healthy and culturally relevant food and meals in Denver?
- 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 and just food systems education in Denver?
Data Collection Methods

- Reviewed secondary data
- Grantee surveys
- Key informant interviews
- Community input
  - Community listening session
  - Youth focus group
Year 2 HFDK Grantees
**Year 2 HFDK Grantee Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Access</th>
<th>Healthy Environments</th>
<th>Food Education</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Distribution</td>
<td>Federal Nutrition Assistance Program Outreach and Enrollment</td>
<td>Organizational, Policy, And/or Environmental Changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Grantees</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>9</td>
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In total, 39 grantees increased healthy food and food education for Denver’s children and youth using HFDK funds.
12-Month HFDK Grantee Data (August 2021 - July 2022)

- Meals served: 17,249,272
- Pounds of food distributed to families: 11,359,749
- Pounds of food distributed to partners: 2,608,410
- Total instruction hours for food/nutrition education: 10,895
- New youth jobs, internships, and apprenticeships created: 169
- Children and youth that participated in food classes or workshops: 15,500
- Total Group classes offered (sessions, workshops): 1,810
Population Served by HFDK Funding
An estimated **132,619** unique children & youth were served by HFDK grantees in Year 2.

**In Year 2 grantees served:**

1. Primarily low-income Latino/a school-age children.
2. More children aged 0-6 years old (i.e., infants, toddlers, and pre-kindergarteners).
3. High school students (aged 15-18 years old) at the highest percentages (with higher counts at or above 50%).
The highest number of grantees were concentrated in priority neighborhoods in west Denver, followed by north and northeast Denver.

Priority neighborhoods are identified as neighborhoods with higher percentages of populations experiencing poverty and other socioeconomic conditions that increase their risk of experiencing food insecurity.
Impact of HFDK Funding
How Did HFDK Grantees Impact Food Access?

95% of HFDK grantee activities included food distribution to children, youth, families, and/or partner organizations in year 2.

17,000,000 meals and snacks served to children, youth, and families.

11,000,000 pounds of food distributed to children, youth, and families.
Meals & Snacks Served to Families

Includes 12 month data from August 2021 to July 2022

53% of grantees who served meals or snacks to children, youth, and families included nutritional information.

100% of meals or snacks served included fruits or vegetables.

Content of Meals and Snacks Served:
- Vegetables: 20%
- Fruit: 19%
- Quality Protein: 15%
- Whole Grains: 16%
- Dairy: 16%
- Refined Grains: 11%
- Highly Processed: 2%
Food Distributed to Families

Content of Food Distributed to Families

Of the 80% of grantees who distributed food to children, youth, and families, they provided:

- Grocery boxes or bags
- Meal kits
- CSA Produce Boxes
- Subscription healthy food boxes
- Food pantries
- Home grocery delivery
- Family meal packs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refined Grains</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Grains</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality Protein</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly Processed</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grantees Reporting Impact on Food Security Among Children and Youth

*SNAP, WIC, P-EBT and/or free and reduced-price school meal programs
How Did HFDK Grantees Take a Culturally Responsive Approach to Food Selection?

Grantees:

- Considered dietary restrictions and cultural, traditional foods cooked at home
- Sought feedback from families when determining foods
- Included recipes and/or ingredients to support the preparation of culturally specific dishes
Early Excellence is using culturally inclusive recipes to show students and families different options to their traditional cooking recipes by putting healthier options to use in the cooking kits (e.g., substituting Greek non-fat yogurt for whole milk sour cream or substituting black beans instead of pinto beans). Early Excellence also made sure that all healthy cooking classes and information sent home in healthy food boxes was in the native language of each family.” — Early Excellence Program of Denver
Food Distributed to Partners

2.6 million pounds of food were distributed by HFDK grantees to partners in the Denver food system.

31% of grantees distributed food to partners, including:

- Schools
- Community centers
- Faith-based organizations
- Food vendors
- Housing facilities
- Local organizations
- HFDK grantees

Content of Food Distributed to Partners:

- Vegetables: 26%
- Quality Protein: 15%
- Fruit: 20%
- Whole Grains: 13%
- Dairy: 11%
- Refined Grains: 11%
- Highly Processed: 3%
23% of HFDK grantees supported enrollment of participants in federal nutrition assistance programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Adult Women</th>
<th>Children/Youth</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WIC Enrollment</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>861</td>
<td>1,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAP Enrollment</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-EBT or Free/Reduced-Price Meals</td>
<td>51,252</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Tax Credit</td>
<td></td>
<td>204</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“As a school, we work to assist parents with free and reduced [lunch] forms, and we assist our older students to access food banks, EBT, and SNAP on an individual basis.”

— Vista Academy
With HFDK funds, Denver Health and Hospital Authority (DHHA) opened the main campus location in Year 2 and implemented an innovative co-enrollment model where WIC staff help to enroll women in WIC during their doctor visits. DHHA collected information on the total number of individuals who received WIC services at their Denver Health Main Campus from February-July 2022.

In total, 1,505 individuals were engaged through the co-enrollment model. These 1,505 individuals represent 793 family units that were provided services.

“I like how you can talk to someone as you are visiting the doctors and don't have to go to multiple places.” WIC recipient, Denver Health, 2022
How Did HFDK Grantees Impact Food Education?

87% of HFDK grantees offered food & nutrition education to children & youth in Denver.

HFDK funds supported healthy food and nutrition education to an estimated 15,500 children and youth in Year 2.
After a year out of the classroom, our students were able to interact with each other and different types of food. It is amazing to see how students are not comfortable with fresh, whole ingredients because they either do not interact with it or mom or grandma take care of all the cooking at home. It took time for our students to get comfortable with how to handle food, read a recipe, and put together a meal from scratch. A lot of students used critical thinking, problem solving skills, and communication to make the recipe successful. Our students are starting to use the recipe and food education that they are learning in class, and (they) will finally be able to use it outside of the classroom.

- North High School
Grantees led or partnered to provide 1,800 learning opportunities (classes, programs, or workshops) for a total of 11,000 instruction hours to children and youth in Year 2.
Topics Covered by Educational Content

- Nutrition/Healthy Eating: 29
- Food Production (e.g., farming or gardening): 29
- Cooking: 27
- Food Systems Education: 18
- Food Justice and Advocacy: 18
How Were HFDK Grantees Culturally Responsive in Food Education?

Grantees:

- Selected foods and recipes that were culturally relevant to the community or class participants
- Incorporated cultural celebrations into the educational content
- Honored Indigenous agricultural practices when teaching food production methods
We taught additional culturally relevant cooking classes with community members around Dia de los Muertos. We taught children, parents, and grandparents how to make traditional pan de muerto. Not only is this recipe culturally relevant, it's less processed than anything found at stores, and it is an activity that promotes multi-generational learning.

— Re:Vision

The Slow Food USA School Garden Curriculum highlights a variety of different cultural dishes. Not only did students learn how to create dishes from other cultures, but they were taught the traditions, importance, and history behind each dish as well. A great example from the fall term was the success of the mortar and pestle class. Students learned about the different European, Middle Eastern, Indian, Asian, and Mexican techniques and the history for using these tools.

— Slow Food Denver
Grantees Reporting Changes in Knowledge, Skills, and Healthy Behaviors

**Increased Knowledge Among Youth**
- Knowledge of healthy foods and nutrition: 34%
- Food production knowledge and skills: 26%
- Food systems knowledge: 22%

**Increased Healthy Behaviors Among Youth**
- Trying new foods: 35%
- Vegetable consumption: 32%
- Preparing healthy meals and snacks: 25%
How Did HFDK Grantees Create Healthy Environments?

64% of grantee activities included organizational, policy and/or environmental change.

Three grantees have used their HFDK funds to support changes within large school and health systems:

- DPS CareerConnect
- DPS Food and Nutrition Services
- Denver Health and Hospital Authority
Denver Public Schools (DPS) CareerConnect hired STEM consultant, Teens for Food Justice, with HFDK funds to **develop the K-8 Agricultural STEM Framework and the AgConnect Program.** These resources offer DPS students exposure to several different career pathways related to food, farming, health, and nutrition.

HFDK funds were also **utilized to create an on-campus hydroponic farm** that supports classroom education and aims to increase food security of students and the surrounding community.
Grantee Highlight - DPS Food and Nutrition Services

Denver Public Schools (DPS) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) utilized Year 2 HFDK funds to create and maintain a partnership with Brigaid, a group of trained chefs, and Frazier Consulting to improve the quality of meals made from scratch across all schools.

This partnership capitalized on the existing strengths of the DPS food service team and built a foundation of organization, culinary techniques and engagement at each school to increase the participation rates of DPS students eating lunch served at school.
Environmental Changes

In Year 2, grantees harvested 95,602 pounds of food.

51% grantees used their HFDK funds to grow food, making fresh, local food more available in Denver.

Over the past two years, HFDK funds have supported the establishment of nearly 550 new growing sites in Denver neighborhoods.
What Organizational and Policy Changes are HFDK Grantees Making?

Grantees are:

- Adopting policies that are improving the diet quality of food served and distributed
- Stopping or reducing offering sugar-sweetened beverages or foods with added sugar; healthy alternatives are offered instead
- Revisiting their procurement policies and changing food vendors to improve their ability to offer more produce and locally sourced food
- Active in local and regional food policy
What Other Changes Did HFDK Grantees Make?

Engaged Community

Expanded Partnerships

Supported Community Development
Community Engagement

Grantees:

- Prioritized community engagement efforts, to build relationships and better understand the diverse communities they are serving
- Used various communication methods to disseminate information and resources to participants

“Through monthly community meetings in English and Spanish; surveys distributed in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Arabic offered in-person and online; one-on-one interviews; and focus groups, we continually ask for feedback around what culturally relevant foods people would like to receive. In these meetings, surveys, and conversations, we ask about meal preferences leading up to holidays, specific requests for food that we do not yet provide, and feedback about the culturally relevant food that we have provided so far.” — Commún
100% of grantees identified a partnership that supports their HFDK activities. Grantees shared that partnerships have:

1. Increased their ability to offer healthy foods
2. Expanded their capacity to provide food/nutrition education

79% of grantees identified a fellow HFDK grantee as a partner.
Our students have really enjoyed the partnership with Sprout City Farms. It has created new exposure to community, gardens and fresh, whole foods. Our students love being able to learn outside of the classroom. Our students are able to see what is really happening within their community for their community. It is very powerful to see how our students are recognizing and how to utilize the resources for their personal health habits.

— North High School
Supported Community Development

48% of grantees invested directly in youth through the development of 169 new jobs, internships and apprenticeships.

“We continue to put our focus on hiring youth employees who have grown up in the Sun Valley neighborhood community. Both of our new hires have gone through the ServSafe training and certification, and — along with the rest of our youth employees — are fundamental to the operations of SVK+CC. We could not run our programming without our youth employment team.”

-Sun Valley Kitchen & Community Center
Supported Community Development

Grantees drew from **local resources** & **invested funds** into the local economy.

*We source from BIPOC farmers, food-entrepreneurs, local carnicerias, and other producers to ensure we are providing culturally relevant food and contributing to the local economy.*

— Re:Vision
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HFDK Grantee Activities</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meals Served to Children, Youth and Families</td>
<td>118,924</td>
<td>13,289,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pounds of Food Distributed to Children, Youth and Families</td>
<td>2,971,645</td>
<td>11,359,749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children &amp; Youth Who Participated in Education</td>
<td>13,047</td>
<td>15,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Classes Offered (i.e., Sessions, Workshops)</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>1,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Youth Jobs and Internships Created</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pounds of Food Harvest From Local Gardens/Farms</td>
<td>21,502</td>
<td>95,602</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strengths in the Food System

What Are Strengths in the Food System?

- Federal nutrition assistance programs - such as CACFP, NSLP, SNAP, and WIC - have broad reach and are increasing access to healthy foods.
- HFDK’s focus on equity and funding grantees that were community-based and equity-minded.
- HFDK grantees are using funds to address some of the impacts of structural racism in the food system.
- Funders, and specifically HFDK, have been moving away from traditional “top-down” approaches.
- Strong relationships and connections across the local Denver food system are being utilized to leverage each other’s work.
- KIs identified food and nutrition education that includes experiential learning and is family-focused as being a strength in the food system.
Gaps in the Food System

What Gaps Exist in the Food System?

- There are barriers to enrollment for Federal nutrition assistance programs such as CACFP, SNAP and WIC (e.g., underutilized by eligible residents and sites) and informal care providers are ineligible for CACFP.
- Neighborhood disparities in infrastructure (e.g., transportation, lack of grocery stores) make it harder to access healthy foods.
- Children and families struggling with food insecurity continue to experience stigma.
- There is variability in the quality of school meals, especially in schools that lack the infrastructure to prepare scratch meals.
- There continue to be gaps in provision of culturally responsive foods among some organizations in the Denver food system.
- Some organizations fail to recognize the role that colonialism has played in shaping diets and what is considered healthy, as defined by white mainstream culture.
- Aspects of HFDK grant administration created burdens for grantees.
How Can HFDK Leverage Strengths and Address Gaps?

Recommendations for the Commission

Grant Administration and Implementation
1. Review grant administration processes and consider expanding administrative support.
2. Provide grantees with more guidance on equity practices.
3. Apply a lens of food justice and revisit messaging around healthy foods to grantees and community members.

Facilitate Connection
1. Connect grantees with more partners that are able to provide resources and other social support to families.
2. Actively promote CACFP and connect interested sites and centers with the state agency (CDPHE) or a sponsor agency.

Partnership and Community Building
1. Explore opportunities to partner with other funders to support large-scale improvements to neighborhood food environments.
2. Support community building among HFDK grantees and Denver residents.
3. Commit to a community-driven approach that shifts more decision making power to grantees and those most impacted.
How Can HFDK Leverage Strengths and Address Gaps?

Recommendations for the Commission

Support Education
1. Train grantees on federal nutrition programs, including CACFP, SNAP, and WIC.
2. Support grantees distributing food to prioritize education, especially those working with refugee and immigrant populations.
3. Expand educational opportunities using culturally responsive models, especially ones designed to engage the entire family.
4. Expand opportunities for children and youth to participate in experiential learning.

Leverage Data
1. Use data on HFDK grantee reach to identify areas of focus for future funding.
2. Leverage data to support grantee outreach for SNAP and WIC enrollment.
How Can HFDK Leverage Strengths and Address Gaps?

Recommendations for the Commission

Funding Strategies

1. Fund the purchase of books and curricula on food, nutrition, and gardening and other educational materials for early childhood and school environments.

2. Continue to fund grantees that are distributing food via delivery and mobile strategies that address stigma and transportation barriers.

3. Fund organizations that are well-connected to FFN providers.

4. Prioritize funding programs that focus on sustainable strategies expanding food access in neighborhoods impacted by food apartheid.

5. Fund infrastructure projects in schools (e.g., build kitchens) and other strategies that bring more healthy food into underserved schools.

6. Fund strategies that bring healthier foods into schools.
Questions or Feedback?

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Thank you!