Healthy Food for Denver’s Kids Emergency Hunger Relief Grantees (52 organizations)

May 2020

Requirement on Use of Funds: Note that all funds received must be used to provide food (meals and snacks) to Denver’s youth. Verification of program funding will be required through detailed budgets, budget narratives, and activity reports upon request.

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Maps of HFDK Emergency Hunger Relief Grantees

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Google Map link: https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1sG4MqLB5wRMRCi8dSEvE3Btauqf4R0q
1. Bayaud Enterprises

Funding will support Bayaud Enterprises’ mobile pantry, serving homeless families and children all over Denver with food and basic needs (by funding Food purchasing, Food delivery/transportation, Sanitation and cleaning supplies, Paying staff).

2. Bienvenidos Food Bank

Funding will support Bienvenidos Food Bank serve vulnerable households in NW Denver/West Colfax through their storefront pantry, mobile pantry, and neighborhood assistance locations, and many other activities (through funding food purchasing, food delivery/transportation, packing supplies, sanitation and cleaning supplies, and paying staff).
3. Brother Jeff’s Cultural Center

Funding will support the immediate needs of minority communities through distribution of nutritious food, primarily to the African American/Black community. The Our daily "Let’s Talk" social media broadcast reaches thousands with timely information. With this emergency funding, they will prepare and deliver nutritious meals to community members; including the homeless, elderly, and people living with HIV prepared in our commercial grade kitchen in the cultural center. They have the ability to prepare 100 meals per day.

4. Children’s Farms of America dba Children’s Farms in Action

Children’s Farms in Action works with approximately 150 youth ages 12 to 18 years to prepare the Montbello Urban Farm and 5 school gardens to grow vegetables to be distributed throughout a network of no-cost distribution sites. Without students this year, funding will support their efforts to utilize neighborhood growing spaces, so families can address their ongoing emergency food needs. They will hire two gardeners to prepare and plant and provide stipends to youth to help tend the gardens. Funds will be used to purchase transplants, provide home gardening kits to students who can plant vegetables in their yards to begin growing food for their families, and provide instructions on starting their gardens and tending them through our YouTube channel.

5. Colorado Congress PTA (Denver South High School PTA/Denver South High Food Pantry)

Funding will support the Denver South High School PTA/Food Pantry to secure adequate non-perishable food items; a consistent supply of fresh fruits, vegetables and protein, culturally appropriate food such as Halal meat; and occasional dental hygiene and other personal care items on a consistent and weekly basis, to serve its low-income students and families (~45% qualifying for free or reduced lunch) with basic food and nutritional needs throughout the school year, and especially on weekends when meals may not otherwise be available. Funds will also support weekly home delivery for families without transportation, supplies for packing food, sanitation and cleaning supplies.

6. Colorado Congress PTA (University Park PTA Backpacks for Kids Food Assistance Program)

Funding will support the University Park PTA Backpacks for Kids Food Assistance Program to continue to provide two bags of non-perishable foods and hardy produce to their regularly served low-income youth, families and staff members, through either home delivery or a drive-thru style food bag drop in the school parking lot. The entire program is offered to all families, staff, and workers who need it in the University Park Elementary
school community and surrounding area (funding Food purchasing, Supplies for packing food, Sanitation and cleaning supplies, Client communications).

7. Colorado High School Charter

Over 80% of Colorado High School Charter’s students qualify for free or reduced lunch and 90% are students of color who suffer from a variety of different health inequities. Many students rely on school for their daily meals, and their school food pantry is an integral part of the school community. Funding will support CHSC’s food pantry delivery program. Each Tuesday for the past three weeks a team of 13 delivered to more than 50 families reaching approximately 300 family members, which may increase with daily contact with students.

8. Community Ministry of Southwest Denver

Funding will support the Community Ministry of Southwest Denver’s pantry (and potentially smaller ones in the area), which serves a large population of low-income households and families in SW Denver with healthy fresh food (by funding Food purchasing, supplies for packing food, Sanitation and cleaning supplies, Paying staff).

9. Denver Indian Center

Funding will support the Denver Indian Center because they are at capacity with respect to the support they provide the community through their small food bank. Currently, they serve approximately 120 families with a TEFAP food distribution once a month, and approximately 30 seniors (60 yrs or older) with a CSFP commodity box once a month. Although this food support is considered supplemental, they are predicting that it will evolve into more of a primary source of food as the economic situation caused by COVID-19 continues to cause loss of jobs and income. Over the next several months they project that the need will triple from what they are currently providing.

10. Denver Inner City Parish

DICP will use these funds to provide food pick-up and delivery to vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis. DICP distributes 420 pre-packaged food boxes each week to participants, including deliveries to older adults, individuals who are self-quarantining, and those without access to transportation. Funding will provide critical support for the costs of the food, supplies, personal protection equipment, transportation, and increased staffing necessary to meet increased community need and scale the capacity of the home delivery program as more people are required to self-quarantine.
11. Denver Metro Emergency Food Network

Funding will support the Denver Metro Emergency Food Network, a highly coordinated coalition of 20+ organizations, to scale up their delivery of free, prepared meals to thousands of low-income families and seniors in and around Denver (by funding the sourcing, storage, and preparation of products).

12. Denver Parks and Recreation (Carla Madison Childcare Center for essential workers)

Funding will support the meal program at the Carla Madison Recreation Center, which provides childcare services to essential/emergency personnel for 12.5 hours a day, five days a week. In partnership with Revolution Foods, DPR is providing breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner, and funding will support them for four months, April-July.

13. Denver Public Schools Enterprise Management (Food and Nutrition Services)

Funding will support Denver Public Schools grab and go and meal delivery program. While the cost of meals to students 18 and under are covered by USDA reimbursement and waivers received from CDE, additional funding will support incremental staff costs associated with FNS, security and transportation; banners at the (24) grab and go sites to more effectively and visibly highlight this service; and to purchase cold storage carts to hold refrigerated items at the (24) grab and go sites required as the weather warms up.

14. Denver Rescue Mission

Denver Rescue Mission continues to serve its emergency services guests who desperately need help every day, even as other businesses are shuttered and hundreds of volunteers are no longer allowed in the shelters. DRM is working with federal and local officials to implement a rapid and effective response, and is doing everything it can to mitigate spread of the virus, while addressing the 23.5% increase in demand for hot meals at the shelters for the first three months of 2020, with virtually all of that increase related to the COVID-19 emergency.

15. Denver Urban Gardens

Funding will support Denver Urban Gardens to activate schools community gardens to relieve food insecurity for Denver Kids. DUG comes alongside residents, and together, they cultivate gardeners, grow food and nourish community. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to grow food for self sufficiency. During the COVID-19 pandemic many DPS families have lost sources of income, leading to economic instability and limited purchasing power for
healthy and nutritious foods. Funding will activate empty garden plots at DPS sites to a collective growing team to maximize food production. This program will focus on serving families who are facing food insecurity, inviting them to participate and engage during the entire growing season, from May to October.

16. Ekar Farm

Ekar Farm is growing fresh, nutrient-dense produce with organic practices to provide to Jewish Family Services' Weinberg Food pantry weekly, for distribution to families experiencing food insecurity. JFS is seeing a staggering increase in families with children needing access to food. As of the end of April 2020, they are seeing 1500 participants/families a week, the majority of which are representing families with children under 18. Ekar anticipates providing 5,000 – 7500 pounds of fruit and vegetables this season, beginning in late June. In addition, they are providing seed packets and seedlings for food pantry participants at JFS and across metro Denver looking to grow their own food this season, and they're providing technical assistance to families to successfully produce and store what they grow.

17. Family Star Montessori

Funding will support Family Star Montessori with their food collaborative, in which they distribute food to individuals and families in crisis. Prior to the pandemic, 80% of the individuals they served were below the poverty line, 40% were experiencing homelessness, and around 75% of individuals are from communities of color. Demand for their food distribution has quadrupled since the onset of the pandemic. In just the last week, they distributed 1,045 prepared meals, 64 totes of food, 79 fresh food boxes and nearly 3,000 pounds of rescued fresh food. They estimate that they are providing food on a weekly basis to 150 families with young children. Funding will support them to cover costs for: picking up food from vendors and suppliers; taking orders and distributing food on site; purchasing formula in emergency situations; and delivering food to residences and shelters.

18. Father Woody's Haven of Hope

Now more than ever there is a significant need for services geared towards homeless individuals throughout Colorado. Per the 2019 Point in Time survey there are over 5,700 individuals experiencing homelessness in the Denver Metro area. Due to the prevalence of homelessness, Father Woody's Haven of Hope provides much needed basic and emergency aid to a highly vulnerable population. With other shelters limiting services during the pandemic, Father Woody's is serving an increased number of guests. One of the signature
services Father Woody’s offers is restaurant-style meals. Rather than waiting in line for their food, guests are seated and served a meal by volunteers and staff, restoring a sense of dignity. Father Woody’s provides hot breakfast, a hot, four-course lunch, and a sack lunch for clients who work in the community.

19. Focus Points Family Resource Center

Funding will support Focus Points, an anchor institution in GES and part of the Denver Metro Emergency Food Network, to serve healthy meals to low-income and ethnically diverse children, families, individuals and seniors, especially in Globeville, Elyria-Swansea and Montbello (by funding, food purchasing, preparation and delivery, community outreach, volunteer recruitment and coordination, etc.).

20. Food for Thought Denver

Funding will support Food for Thought Denver to continue to provide non-perishable PowerSack (contains enough food to make eight meals) to Title I (family of four annual income less than $29,000) students. FFT has teamed up with Denver Public Schools to distribute PowerSacks in all eight schools where they are serving breakfast and lunch and four other school sites (funding Food purchasing, Food delivery/transportation).

21. Fresh Food Connect

Funds will support Fresh Food Connects Denver operations, in partnership with Denver Food Rescue, Metro Caring, Groundwork Denver, Groundwork Denver, and Children’s Farm in Action. Each partner organization is provided with the marketing and technology of the Fresh Food Connect app, as they mobilize backyard and community gardens in Denver to participate in local hunger relief efforts. Each of these organizations employ local youth to pick up the produce donated and/or oversee community led grocery programs. Committed to harnessing the growing number of households cultivating food in their backyards to participate during this critical time, FFC’s goal is twofold: encourage and educate Denverites to plant a garden and to share their bounty with food insecure families.

22. GRASP-Gang Rescue and Support Project

Funding will support GRASP to provide immediate connections for at-risk youth to access nutrition and healthy life-style habits through education, mentoring and community program support. GRASP’s trained facilitators (who are themselves former gang members) lead weekly support group meetings for youth wanting to leave the gang subculture. Weekly support group meetings also include a nutritious dinner for up to 50 youth and staff. These planned dinners are not only the first well-rounded meal of the day for some of
our youth, but in certain circumstances, are also the only meal some of our youth will have received. Between 50-75 youth will be impacted weekly through meal distribution, and upon completion of their programs, each youth will have a better understanding of how to access, prepare and purchase a healthy meal.

23. Grow Local Colorado

Grow Local Colorado grows produce and donates 100% of the harvest to partners to ensure a steady supply of nutritious, local food. As of last year, they distributed just under 5,000 lbs of produce from 12 gardens. Approximately 400 summer volunteers help achieve this goal, including children and youth-development organizations. GLC provides education in the garden to teach kids about growing food as well as inspire them to eat vegetables and fruits. Vegetable seeds are also shared with the children and their families. Funding will help GLC expand their garden spaces during this most important time.

24. GrowHaus

Funding would support The GrowHaus to continue to serve residents of the Globeville and Elyria-Swansea (GES) neighborhoods by providing packages of food staples and fresh rescued produce for 400 families for 2 weeks (800 total packages distributed). Their model includes Cosechando Salud (Harvesting Health) Mobile Deliveries & Pick-up (weekly no-cost distribution of high-quality rescued food in partnership with Denver Food Rescue and We Don’t Waste), as well as Rapid Response Food Package Delivery, providing a family of four with enough food to cover lunch and dinner for at least four days, in partnership with Bondadosa. (funding Food purchasing, Food delivery/transportation, Paying staff).

25. Hope Communities

Hope Communities serves approximately 1,100 individuals a year with housing, resource navigation, wrap-around services and customized programs. Funding will support food services, household supplies, emergency resources and an on-site food bank for low-income residents, community members, and their children. Statistics for the neighborhoods the organization serves shows 39% live in poverty vs. a regional average of 11%, and, at Hope, the percentage of households in poverty are even greater. Roughly 43% of residents are refugees and 65% of households have dependents.

26. Jewish Family Services

Funding will support Jewish Family Services’ Weinberg Food Pantry to serve immigrants and refugees, vulnerable workers and families with pre-packed boxes of food and supplies through a "drive-thru/walk-up" model to anyone experiencing food insecurity with no
documentation or sign up needed. Boxes include fresh produce, dairy, meat, and if needed diapers and wipes. JFS is also delivering boxes of pantry food and supplies to homebound older adults and other vulnerable populations to avoid unnecessary visits outside their homes.

27. Karis Community

Nearly 100% of Community Members are low-income individuals sitting well below the poverty line. At least 40% have been homeless at some point in their lifetime and 16% were homeless immediately prior to joining Karis. Over 75% utilize Medicaid, disability and food stamps among other public support. The low fees associated with their Empowerment Program mean that it is accessible to a diverse group of individuals. Karis has community members from all ethnic backgrounds, genders, ages and stages of life. Emergency funding will enable their organization to continue offering meals six nights per week to community members. These meals serve up to 25 people per night.

28. La Raza Services, Inc DBA: Servicios de La Raza

Funding will support Servicios de La Raza with a new service model of delivery basic emergency services, including food distribution, to very low-income families on the West side of Denver (funding Food purchasing, Food delivery/transportation, Supplies for packing food, Sanitation and cleaning supplies, Client communications, Technology and Equipment).

29. Mental Health Center of Denver

Funding will support the Mental Health Center of Denver to feed youth and families that would normally rely on the school/after school system for meals, especially in Northeast Denver, Montbello, and Green Valley Ranch, including those impacted by mental health diagnosis, low-income families and those experiencing homelessness (funding Food purchasing and Food delivery/transportation).

30. Metro Caring

Funding will support Metro Caring to distribute food through walk-up and drive-through pick up models for low-income families and individuals experiencing homelessness across Denver and a delivery program for older adults in need (funding Food purchasing, Food delivery/transportation, Sanitation and cleaning supplies, Paying staff).
31. Metro Ministries
Funding will support Metro Ministries to deliver boxes of food to all 21 of the Denver Housing Authorities properties, reaching thousands of families and residents, including low income and disabled persons who would normally rely on public transit to obtain food (funding Food purchasing, Food delivery/transportation, Supplies for packing food, Sanitation and cleaning supplies).

32. Mile High 360
Funding will support Mile High 360 to serve their students and families, mainly Latinx and immigrants previously employed in the restaurant, food, and janitorial industries and some with critical health issues, such as cancer and autoimmune diseases. Funds will be used to purchase and deliver healthy food and necessary cleaning and personal supplies.

33. Montbello Organizing Committee
Funding will support the Montbello Organizing Committee and their Freshlo partner, Struggle of Love Foundation, to provide drive-through food boxes and food bag delivery of healthy food options for low-income youth, families, seniors, and disabled individuals in Northeast Denver, including Montbello and Green Valley Ranch (funding Food purchasing, Food delivery/transportation, Supplies for packing food, Sanitation and cleaning supplies, Paying staff, Client communications).

34. Re:Vision
Funding will support Re:Vision to meet the emergency food needs of Westwood by shifting the Westwood Food Cooperative to a free food bank model, transforming the commercial kitchen at RISE Westwood to a commercially licensed site to cook and prepare 50 grab-and-go dinners (packaged for families of 5) a day for the next 8 weeks, and equipping their Promotoras to run the Westwood Food Bank, help chefs prepare meals, and teach meal prep, food preservation and gardening classes virtually (funding Food purchasing, Supplies for packing food, Sanitation and cleaning supplies, Paying staff).

35. Rocky Mountain Prep
Of Rocky Mountain Prep’s (RMP) nearly 2,000 pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade students, 83% qualify for free or reduced lunch, meaning more than 1,600 of families are navigating a myriad of unique and incredibly challenging barriers due to COVID-19 school closures. Eliminating food insecurity is one of their top priorities. In partnership with Revolution Foods, RMP began providing grab-and-go meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner).
for all children (ages 1-18), Monday through Friday, at each RMP campus when school closures began on March 16th. Many of the adults in their families are also in need of food assistance, so they have been providing meals to any adult family members as well. Over the past three weeks, RMP has already distributed more than 8,000 meals.

36. Savio House
Funding will support the Savio House Food Bank and food delivery efforts for low-income families and those with child safety concerns across Denver. Funds will be used for food purchasing, including the capacity to serve fruits and vegetables, food delivery/transportation, sanitation and cleaning supplies, and paying staff for the next two months.

37. Shorter Community AME Church
In light of the pandemic, many of the older adults they serve live in food deserts and are having a difficult time finding healthy meals due to the restraint of movement and shelter in place requirements. It is the goal to serve 500+ Older adults who are impacted in this pandemic by health limitations, lack of transportation and need for funds and resources. They also serve low-income individuals and families.

38. So All May Eat/SAME Café
Funding will support SAME Cafe to provide meals to vulnerable populations, including low-income families of color, differently abled, and those from the LGBTQ community, from their East Colfax location. Funds will purchase food and food service items to serve hundreds of meals over the next six weeks.

39. Street Fraternity
Funding will support Street Fraternity to provide nightly meals and grocery giveaways to low-income and immigrant youth and families in the East Colfax neighborhood (funding Food purchasing, Supplies for packing food, Sanitation and cleaning supplies).

40. Struggle of Love Foundation
For years, Struggle of Love Foundation has provided a small food pantry for Montbello residents, typically serving about 50-100 residents a week. In response to the need for emergency food and all other food access sites in Montbello shutting down, SOLF ramped up their food pantry services. Each week the number of people who need food grows at an alarming rate. From March 24-April 24, 16,167 people have received food and 64,699
pounds of food have been distributed. Funding will enable SOLF to continue to pay staff, provide small stipends to volunteers, pay for home deliveries, and purchase PPE, boxes for food distribution, and refrigeration for storage of donated perishable food. They anticipate continuing to serve approximately 250 – 300 children under the age of 18 years each day, five days per week for the next 4 months.

41. The Gathering Place
Funding will support the Gathering Place to purchase food for their emergency programming, including the Food Services Program with individual pre-packaged items and nutritious food for their Food Pantry, especially serving women, children, and transgender individuals who are experiencing poverty and homelessness.

42. There With Care
Funding will support There With Care, to continue delivery of food and basic needs goods and services to hundreds of vulnerable underserved families with critically ill and immune-compromised children (funding Food purchasing, Sanitation and cleaning supplies).

43. Urban Peak
Funding will support Urban Peak's work with youth experiencing homelessness by covering additional food costs, staff time and cleaning supplies. These resources will assist young people who do not have the ability to stock up on essential items, practice social distancing, isolate or quarantine and are therefore at particular risk of the adverse effects of COVID-19.

44. Venture for Success Preparatory Learning Center
Funding will support Venture for Success to serve the children in their care and their families. They are working hard to ensure healthy meals are provided to children while in our care. Their goal is to serve additional meals for enrolled families to take home, survey existing families to determine the additional amount of food and supplies needed within the community. On average they plan on serving between 30-50 meals per day.

45. Victim Offender Reconciliation Program of Denver Doing Business As Colorado Circles for Change
Funding will support Victim Offender Reconciliation Program of Denver Doing Business As Colorado Circles for Change to serve current low-income, immigrant, and refugee youth participants and families, over half who have been impacted by the criminal justice system
or immigration and customs enforcement, with continued food services (funding food purchasing, delivery, supplies for packing food and sanitation supplies).

46. ViVe Wellness

Funding will support ViVe to double or triple their work, including family outreach, and meeting immediate needs for food by identifying food banks, pantries, local farmers, etc. and driving to those places to pick up, purchase and deliver healthy foods. Their goal is to offer healthy fresh food to children and their families, including single mothers of children with disabilities, youth with terminal illnesses, and many families simply needing food because of job loss. Many of ViVe’s families are monolingual Spanish speakers. Funding will support them to serve 115 youth weekly for a total of 400 youth.

47. Vivent Health

Vivent Health will use these funds to support changes in operation for their onsite food pantry during the COVID-19 crisis. Vivent Health typically provides access to an on-site food pantry for any person who is living with HIV, receives services at Vivent Health, and lives at or below 500% of the federal poverty level (FPL). During the COVID-19 crisis, Vivent Health has transitioned to 75% home delivery and 25% curbside pickup to contribute to social distancing measures and limit exposure for our patients, clients, and staff.

48. Volunteers of America Colorado Branch

Funding will support Volunteers of America Colorado Branch’s Family Motel to serve three meals a day for individuals experiencing homelessness who are in quarantine. They are also providing emergency food baskets to residents in need, delivering food boxes to seniors and people with disabilities, and ensuring families with young children have food boxes and ready-made food items (funding Food purchasing, Food delivery/transportation, Supplies for packing food, Sanitation and cleaning supplies, Paying staff).

49. We Don't Waste

Funding will support We Don't Waste’s efforts to do the following: 
* Recover unused food from existing and new food donors. 
* Support current and new agency partners serving Denver youth with nutritious food. 
* Support the Globeville-Elyria Swansea area of Denver with two monthly Mobile Markets, along with a new Market at North Middle School in Aurora (not located in Denver County, but may serve Denver kids from the nearby Montbello, Stapleton, and East Colfax neighborhoods).
* Fund start-up costs at a new drive-through food-distribution effort in the Villa Park neighborhood of Denver, with the goal of sustaining this as a Mobile Food Market once COVID-19 precautions are over.
* Offer drive-through food distributions at We Don’t Waste’s facility and/or other community locations.

50. Westwood Unidos

Funding will support Westwood Unidos to supply outdoor food drop off sites within walking distance for residents (mainly low-income Spanish speaking immigrant populations, including mothers and children), in coordination with churches and apartment complexes, as well as delivery for people with disabilities and seniors (funding Food purchasing, Food delivery/transportation, Supplies for packing food, Sanitation and cleaning supplies, Paying staff, Client communications, on site pick up by appointment).

51. YMCA of Metropolitan Denver

The Denver Y pivoted mission work and redeployed staff to support communities in the following areas: child care, food insecurity and wellness check-ins. With an eye toward food insecurity, the Denver Y is addressing food insecurity by partnering with Food Bank of the Rockies to host rotating food distribution sites five days a week out of their wellness centers. In just two weeks, they distributed 13,629 pounds of nutritious food, preventing food insecurity for 837 adults and 791 children. Furthermore, the Denver Y continues to provide two nutritious meals and two snacks daily to the 150 children at their child care sites. Frontline staff are reaching out to families directly who are at heightened risk of food insecurity. Many of these families are immigrants, refugees, low-income and/or hourly minimum wage workers.

52. Youth Employment Academy (Osage Café)

Funding will support Osage Cafe/Youth Employment Academy to provide to-go food and groceries to local residents, families and communities in need. As a cafe and Culinary Academy, they will distribute food and provide food-based education through e-learning with the goal of providing low cost or no cost food for families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities who are residents in Denver Housing Authority low income areas.