

Community Economic Development (CED) Funding through the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' (HHS)

Background

The federal Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) is administered by the United States Departments of Agriculture and Treasury, and formerly by the Department of Health and Human Services from 2011-2016. The program is designed to provide grants, loans and technical assistance to eligible projects that will improve access to healthy foods in low-income communities across the country. From 2011 to 2016, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded HFFI funds to private, non-profit community development corporations through their Community Economic Development (CED) program. This includes faith-based organizations and Alaskan and Native organizations. The HFFI grants awarded through the CED program between 2011 and 2016 have been used to finance grocery stores, farmers markets, commercial kitchens, urban farms, and other businesses that create jobs and provide sources of fresh nutritious food to low-income communities. These projects increase access to healthy food while fostering job and economic development in low-income communities. Over \$50 million was awarded through the CED-HFFI program between 2011 and 2016.

Though funding for CED-HFFI was discontinued in the FY17 budget, CED is still accepting proposals for projects related to food, just not under the federal Healthy Food Financing Initiative. You can learn more about the project requirements for CED [here](#).

CED grants are part of a broader strategy to address objectives such as decreasing dependency on federal programs, chronic unemployment, and community deterioration in urban and rural areas. CED projects are expected to actively recruit individuals with low income to fill the positions created by CED-funded development activities, to assist those individuals to successfully hold those jobs and to ensure that the businesses and jobs created remain viable for at least one year after the end of the grant period.

Project Eligibility (Source: Office of Community Services, [CED](#) & [Healthy Food Financing](#))

To be eligible for the CED program, an applicant must meet three conditions:

- Applicant must be a private, nonprofit CDC with 501(c)(3);
- Applicant must have articles of incorporation or bylaws demonstrating that the CDC has as a principal purpose the planning, developing, or managing of low-income housing or community economic development activities; and
- The Board of Directors must have representation from each of the following: community residents, business leaders, and civic leaders.

Consider applying if your project includes:

- Startup or expansion of businesses and physical or commercial activities;
- Capital expenditures such as the purchase of equipment or real property;
- Allowable operating expenses; and
- Loans or equity investments.

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See the [CED Fact Sheet](#) for more details on how to apply for funding.

Healthy Food Access Portal



www.healthyfoodaccess.org

Applying for CED Funding

Opportunities to apply for CED Funding will be announced on HHS's [Funding Opportunity Announcements](#) page as well as on www.grants.gov. There are several steps you can take now to make sure you're registered and ready to apply as soon as an opportunity becomes available. See [here](#) for detailed instructions.

1. Unique Entity Identifier (formerly DUNS) Number registration;
2. System for Award Management (SAM) SAM.gov registration; and
3. Grants.gov registration.

For specific questions about CED, contact:

Rafael J. Elizalde, Program Manager

Community Economic Development Program

Office of Community Services

Phone: 202-401-5115

ocsgrants@acf.hhs.gov

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/programs/ced>

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Projects Funded through the Healthy Food Financing Initiative at HHS

See [here](#) for a full list of projects funded through HFFI at CED

Food Desert Community Outreach and Jobs Creation Program | Columbus, Ohio

Source of money: HFFI CED Program; Fiscal year(s): 2011, 2012

The Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI) is using HFFI financing to support the Food Desert Community Outreach and Jobs Creation Program in Columbus, Ohio. The program's goal is to increase healthy food access and generate jobs for low-income individuals by creating a revolving loan fund for food-related businesses. ECDI is also working to develop an FCI Plaza Market grocery store and a community food commissary that serves as an incubator for food-based businesses. ECDI is also working with [Green City Growers of Cleveland](#) to develop a 3.25-acre hydroponic greenhouse, which will employ 40 residents and be the largest inner-city greenhouse in the U.S. With funding from OCS in 2012, ECDI worked with The Green City Growers of Cleveland (GCGC) in the development of the largest inner-city greenhouse in the U.S. Green City Growers had their first harvest in September, and are currently expanding to hire 40 new employees.

Projected Impacts

- 304 jobs created, 49 of which are full-time jobs for low-income individuals
- 33 unique users and 20 start-up food businesses using their capital, training, and technical assistance
- 4,000 sq. ft. of food business incubation space created
- Development of largest inner-city greenhouse in the country
- Financing to open grocery store in inner-city neighborhood

Mandela Foods Cooperative & Mandela Foods Distribution | Oakland, California

Source of money: HFFI CED Program; Fiscal Year(s): 2013, 2016

Based in Oakland, California Mandela MarketPlace is a non-profit Community Development Corporation, incorporated in 2004, that works in partnership with local residents, family farmers, and community-based businesses to improve health, create wealth, and build assets through cooperative food enterprises in low income communities. Through community organizing, education, business cultivation, and 'ladder-up' financing, community members engage in the development, operation, and ownership of a local economy and sustainable food system. Mandela MarketPlace is using HFFI financing to support a **revolving loan fund for business expansion**. The two initial businesses to receive loans are **Mandela Foods Cooperative** and **Mandela Foods Distribution**.

Projected Impacts

- Establishment of a \$115,000 revolving loan fund to incubate healthy food-related social enterprise
- Increase sales of healthy foods at Mandela Foods Cooperative by 50% to \$1.5 million annually
- Mandela Foods Distribution will use the loan to increase delivery and consumption of fresh produce by 800,000 pounds annually
- Create 6 new jobs and 5 ownership positions by opening a grocery store and café in urban low-income, low-access community
- Support under-resourced, local farmers through creation of an urban wholesale produce distribution enterprise

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