



## Regional Food System Grant Program Annual Performance Report

KCD's Regional Food System Grant Program was developed to provide funding and capacity to implement many of the recommendations of King County's Local Food Initiative and priorities of the Regional Food Policy Council. This annual report will be used to understand how individual grant projects forward our regional food economy and to identify strengths and weaknesses in our current approach.

In your annual report, please envision your project as part of a larger endeavor to strengthen our region's economy and resiliency and articulate the ways in which the work accomplished contributes to this broader goal.

<b>Grantee:</b>	Harvest Against Hunger
<b>Project Name:</b>	King County Farmers Share
<b>Project Number:</b>	FF00064
<b>Project Contact:</b>	Olivia Jackiewicz
<b>Address:</b>	1201 1st Ave S, Suite 304
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<b>Date of Report:</b>	11/20/2023

**Instructions:** In narrative format, summarize the project accomplishments for the year, successes/problems or delays, future project plans, funding expended to date, and regional benefits. Explain how KCD was acknowledged. Please note a quarterly progress report will also be expected because it reports on the completion of proposed activities and deliverables from last quarter.

Please note that bulleted items under each topic area are things to consider in your response; they don't need to be treated as individual questions. If there are points that don't apply, such as project delays, you don't need to include them in your response.

### 1. Rationale

- Why did your organization undertake this project? What problem were you solving or opportunity were you seizing?

We continue to build off the strategies and success of HAH's statewide Farm to Food Pantry program and past King County Farmers Share activities to develop direct purchasing agreements between farmers and hunger relief organizations. Additionally, the work continues to pilot new ideas and distribution models, create flexible arrangements that support the varied needs of participants, and refine best practices. Our experience has shown that it is not always financially feasible for farmers to make donations or for hunger relief organizations to afford local small farms' produce at a price that fairly compensates the grower. Therefore, receiving funding to purchase local produce allows food banks to establish good rapport and foster ongoing, mutually beneficial relationships. Initiating these connections as purchasing relationships will both increase the amount, variety, quality, and consistency of local produce available to food-insecure King County residents and support local farmers with a consistent, profitable outlet for produce, providing a business development opportunity for small farms without previous wholesale experience. Further, creating more direct supply chains from new relationships between agencies that distribute emergency food and the farms that grow it will increase resilience of the field-to-fork supply chain, ensuring fresh, healthy food goes to people rather than to waste.

Now that KCFS has operated for 5 years, our hunger relief agency collaborators have developed strong and meaningful relationships with their partner farms. Many have developed deep relationships through working with the same farms year after year, and have begun to purchase beyond their contracted amount. It is also not uncommon for the farms to donate more regularly to their partner hunger relief agencies, as they now have a more consistent revenue source which has increased their ability to donate. Our KCFS program has helped to create a dense yet diverse and resilient network of small farms and hunger relief agencies, supporting a robust food system within King County.

## 2. Activities Performed

- Briefly summarize activities performed, targets, and/or performance goals achieved over the year. Whenever possible, describe the work accomplished in both quantitative and qualitative terms. Include significant results and accomplishments, and favorable or unusual developments.
- Provide a comparison of actual accomplishments with the goals established for the reporting period (as outlined in your grant scope of work and budget).

Grant Task	Performance Goals	Activities
1) Farm food purchasing	Food banks, meal programs, and other food assistance organizations in King County will develop contracts to purchase fresh food	29 Hunger Relief Agencies executed 44 contracts with 40 different small growers in King County either directly or through food hubs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>African Community Housing and Development:</b> Theary's Flowers and Produce</li> </ul>

	<p>produced by King County farm businesses</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <b>Boys and Girls Club of King County:</b> Farmstand Local Foods</li> <li>3. <b>Black Star Food Collective:</b> Blue Glass Farm, High &amp; Dry Farm, Songbird Haven Farm, Sound Sustainable Farms, Steel Wheel Farm, Theory's Flowers and Produce, Carnation Farms, Bumblebee Farm, Viva Farms, Marrowstone Mushrooms and Faithbeyond Farm via Farmstand Local</li> <li>4. <b>Chicken Soup Brigade:</b> IRC New Roots</li> <li>5. <b>FamilyWorks Food Bank:</b> Songbird Haven Farm and Jon the Farmer</li> <li>6. <b>FareStart:</b> 21 Acres, IRC New Roots, The Bellevue Urban Garden, Ayeko Farm, Living Well Kent</li> <li>7. <b>Good Food Kitchens:</b> New Roots, Carnation Farms, FaithBeyond Farm, Sound Sustainable Farms, Qazi Brothers, 21 Acres, Songbird Haven, Steel Wheel, Viva Farms and Griffin Creek Farm</li> <li>8. <b>Hunger Intervention Program:</b> Farmstand Local</li> <li>9. <b>Hopelink:</b> Kamayan Farm, Sound Sustainable Farms, and Terrebonne Truck Patch</li> <li>10. <b>International Rescue Committee:</b> Salaam Family Farm, Beatrice Shimirimana, Bahati Farm, and Namuna Farm</li> <li>11. <b>Jewish Family Services:</b> Sound Sustainable Farms</li> <li>12. <b>Jubilee REACH:</b> Sound Sustainable Farms</li> <li>13. <b>Mary's Place:</b> Blue Glass Farm, Kamayan Farm, Songbird Haven Farm, Sound Sustainable Farms, Theory's Flowers and Produce, Bumblebee Farm, 21 Acres, Faithbeyond Farm, Long Way Farm, Rain Dog Farm, Four Elements Farm, and Griffin Creek Farm via Farmstand Local Foods</li> <li>14. <b>Operation Sack Lunch:</b> Farmstand Local Foods</li> <li>15. <b>Plant Based Food Share:</b> Pacific Coast Harvest and Beatrice Shimirimana</li> <li>16. <b>Pike Market Food Bank:</b> Lee's Produce</li> <li>17. <b>Pike Market Senior Center:</b> Bumblebee Farm, Kamayan Farm, Haxan Ferments, Rising Sign Farm, Sound Sustainable Farms, Theory's Flowers and Produce, Rain Dog Farm, and Four Elements Farm, Foraged and Found, and DeGoede Brothers via Farmstand Local Foods</li> <li>18. <b>Plateau Outreach Ministries:</b> Small Blessings</li> </ol>
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		<p>Farm</p> <p>19. <b>Rainier Valley Food Bank:</b> Terrebonne Truck Patch</p> <p>20. <b>Rainier Beach Action Coalition:</b> Four Elements Farm and Theary's Flowers and Produce via Farmstand Local Foods</p> <p>21. <b>South King County Food Coalition:</b> Namuna Growers</p> <p>22. <b>South Seattle College Food Pantry:</b> Faithbeyond Farm, Sound Sustainable Farm, Steel Wheel Farm, Artemis Farms via Farmstand Local Foods</p> <p>23. <b>SnoValley Food Bank:</b> Farm Among Us</p> <p>24. <b>SnoValley Senior Center:</b> Rain Dog Farm, SnoValley Mushrooms, Sidhu Farms via Farmstand Local Foods</p> <p>25. <b>Teen Feed:</b> Farmstand Local Foods</p> <p>26. <b>U District Food Bank:</b> Farmstand Local Foods</p> <p>27. <b>Vashon Maury Food Bank:</b> Provo Farms</p> <p>28. <b>Vashon Senior Center:</b> Plum Forest Farm and Matsuda Farms</p> <p>29. <b>White Center Food Bank:</b> Matsuda Farms</p>
1) Farm food purchasing	Food banks, meals programs, and other food assistance organizations will enter their farm purchases into the KCFS 2023 datasheet	Not all agencies have completed their purchases and/or entered them but as of now 20,614 pounds of local produce and other food items, many of them rarely available, highly nutrient dense and/or culturally familiar, were purchased. For example, blueberries, kale, halal meat, and African nightshade were all food items purchased with these funds.
2) Additional Supplies and Services	<p>Flexible funding to support resource development and in-depth evaluation, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Printing materials</li> <li>• Grower Roundtable</li> <li>• Technical assistance to farms in contracting and distribution logistics</li> <li>• Translation services to support the above</li> </ul>	<p>Initially Harvest Against Hunger planned to use these funds to host a Grower Roundtable. However, we received feedback from our hunger relief agencies and their partner farms that executing a 2024 contract earlier would be beneficial to both parties in crop planning and implementing forward contracting. In response, we pivoted to purchasing additional supplies to support their operations. We purchased 34,720 compostable bags to bolster gleaning and other food bank activities. HAH will distribute these to participating agencies over the next few months. HAH stills plans on hosting a Grower Roundtable in early 2024, pending contract approval.</p> <p>We also utilized an online volunteer platform, Catchafire, to translate our "Wholesaling to Hunger</p>

		Relief Guide for Farmers” to Spanish. The translated guide is now available on our KCFS Google Site.
3) Administrative support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach to farms about participating in program</li> <li>• Supporting organizations with creating farmer contracts</li> <li>• Hosting monthly virtual meetings with participating organizations</li> <li>• Record-keeping of organizations’ spending</li> <li>• Organizing field trips to facilitate in-person network and seeing are farm to food access projects first-hand</li> </ul>	<p>The HAH Farm to Community team, comprised of the Program Manager and Program Specialist, provided administrative support to partner hunger relief agencies throughout the program year. We walked agencies through the Letters of Agreement and made sure they understood the terms of the program. Once they agreed to participate, we assisted agencies in executing contracts with farms. We offered technical assistance by providing contract templates and answering any questions they may have had throughout the contracting process.</p> <p>Furthermore, we facilitated monthly cohort meetings to encourage networking and communal problem-solving between agencies. During these meetings, in addition to updates and Q&amp;A from the agencies, we often had guest speakers who presented on various topics that contributed to the overall learning of farm to food access work.</p> <p>We also assisted agencies in the recording of their farm purchases into the 2023 KCFS datasheet. All agencies have access to the datasheet and are welcome to enter their farm purchases themselves, but, if needed, HAH staff was available to complete the data entry for them. We input the data in a timely fashion so agencies could see, in real time, the amount of funding remaining in each of their farm contracts.</p> <p>Lastly, due to agency interest, HAH coordinated a cohort field trip to glean at Oxbow Farm in Carnation. We had over 5 agencies represented and harvested kale and radishes that were donated to Hopelink. We hope to have more field trips next year!</p>
3) Administrative Support	Dovetail parallel activities in King County Farmers Share and Growing for Good Programs	HAH provides administrative support to both KCFS and Growing for Good (G4G). G4G, a program born during the first months of the pandemic, is modeled after the KCFS program so, in an attempt to streamline similar activities, we dovetailed a few aspects of the programs. The G4G food banks were invited to our monthly cohort meetings to expand their network of agencies doing farm to food access work. And they were invited to our

		gleaning field trip at Oxbow Farm. We'd like to further harmonize these two programs over the next few years.
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### 3. Collaboration

- Present the significant contributions and role of project partners in the project.

Growing for Good (G4G) is a farm to food access program born out of the pandemic, co-operated by PCC Community Markets (PCC), Neighborhood Farmers Markets (NFM) and Harvest Against Hunger. Modeled after KCFS, G4G is geographically and structurally similar. Out of the 29 hunger relief agencies in KCFS, 8 also participate in Growing for Good (G4G). As a result, we worked to synergize similar aspects of both programs to leverage funding and relationships with PCC and NFM. With limited funding in both programs, we took into account those 8 hunger relief agencies that participate in both during the funding allocation process so as not to “underfund” agencies who only participate in one of the programs. This allowed the funds in each program to stretch further and provide agencies with funding amounts that would be meaningful to both the agency and the farm. Moreover, because of the G4G program, we were able to foster additional farm relationships for some of the KCFS hunger relief agencies, like Vashon Maury Food Bank. Tian Tian Farm on Vashon Island, who had donated produce to Vashon Maury Food Bank in the past, wanted to get involved in KCFS. However, it would have been difficult to partner with a food bank on the mainland due to delivery logistics. Through G4G, we were able to fund a paid partnership between Tian Tian and Vashon Maury Food Bank to financially enhance their relationship, which was previously based solely on donations.

At our October Monthly Meeting we were joined by International Rescue Committee (IRC), South King County Food Coalition (SKCFC) and Groundworks to present on their forward contracting research project funded by Public Health Seattle and King County. IRC and SKCFC are both KCFS program participants. Over the past two years, this group conducted community based research on a relational values-based approach to forward contracting between food banks and farms through roundtables, 1:1 interviews with farmers and food bank staff, and case studies. Through their research, they found that this approach to forward contracting allows for more transparency, communication, accountability and convenience for both parties. This model of forward contracting is founded on trust and relationship building, as much as it is a financial transaction. The research project culminated in a forward contracting toolkit that includes findings from their research, templates, and readiness checklists. With hopefully more lead-time on funding, we plan to incorporate this toolkit in next year’s activities so farms and food banks can start crop planning together early in the season. Through the conversation at our monthly meeting, we know our hunger relief agencies are eager to use the toolkit.

### 4. Outcomes

- Clearly convey progress toward achieving outcomes by illustrating baseline data that has been gathered to date and showing the progress toward achieving expected measurable outcomes and performance measures. This could include, for example,

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dollar value and percentage increase in sales of King County farm products; the percentage of King County farm products in CSA shares, Good Food Bags, or sold through other incentive programs; increase in King County farm membership in a co-op; the number of people that reported eating more local, King County produce; the number of people that gained knowledge of how to access/produce/prepare/preserve local, King County produce; number of new delivery systems/access point offering local, King County produce; number of new/beginning King County farmers who went into production; number of King County farmland acres in new production; number of new King County jobs created, etc.

- If a target of a project has already been achieved, please consider amending the outcome measure.

~ Some reporting is missing from agencies

Program Outcome	2019	2020	2021	2023
\$ distributed to hunger relief for local farm purchasing	\$37,500.00	\$297,634.30	\$139,206.50	\$85,000.00
# of participating King County hunger relief organizations	12	35	31	29
# of King County farms purchased from	24	51	57	40
Lbs of produce purchased and delivered	20,592	87,087~	52,443~	29,989

## 5. Problems or Delays

- Note delays or challenges that have been confronted to complete the goals for the project. Explain why these changes took place.
- Mention the actions that were taken to address these delays and challenges.
- Review measurable outcomes to determine if targets are realistic and attainable. An objective that is too stringent should be scaled back and identified in the performance report. Keep in mind that targets may slip due to all kinds of factors, such as employee turn-over, delays in permitting, and bad weather.
- In the event that the work plan timeline, expected measurable outcomes, budget, and/or methodology need to be adjusted, provide an outline of those changes.

Several KCFS agencies had funding for local food purchasing from the WA State Dept. of Agriculture that had to be spent by the end of the state fiscal year, June 30, and thus held off creating KCFS farm contracts until after then. This strategy made sense for agencies, given the declining funding available across various food assistance public funds, which was stretched thinner due to inflated food prices, but is a logistically challenging time for a small farm to start

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a new wholesale relationship. We supported agencies in connecting with farms that were able to accommodate a new relationship late in the season.

Additionally, staff turnover and limited bandwidth continued to pose a challenge on agencies' capacity to initiate and manage farm purchasing relationships. When we were put in touch with new contacts at agencies, we would plan a 1-on-1 meeting to go over the KCFS program and processes to onboard the new coordinator. Still, a few organizations had trouble contracting with farms. For example, UTOPIA, an organization new to KCFS, was unable to execute a contract. After meeting with their staff and getting the Letter of Agreement signed, we continued to support them in the contracting process through providing contract templates and recommending farms. But, due to staff turnover, limited capacity and the time it takes to familiarize oneself with the farm contracting process, they ultimately decided to return the funds. We were able to disburse the returned funds to Operation Sack Lunch and International Rescue Committee for additional food purchasing. UTOPIA plans to participate in KCFS next year and is confident they'll have the capacity and tools to contract with a local farm.

## **6. Future Project Plans**

- Briefly summarize activities performed, targets, and/or performance goals to be achieved during the next reporting period. Whenever possible, describe the work to be accomplished in both quantitative and qualitative terms. Identify how your accomplishments in this reporting period impact your longer-term project goals.
- Describe any changes that are anticipated in the project.

While COVID cases have subsided, our food banks and meals programs are being hit harder than ever as they simultaneously battle rising food costs, increased client demand and the end of COVID-era funding. This perfect storm means many of our hunger relief partners participating in King County Farmers Share are struggling to keep their shelves stocked and clients fed.

"COVID-era food assistance benefits for over 95 million Washington families were cut in March 2023, which led to a 25% increase in the number of families visiting North Helpline's food banks from 2022. Meanwhile, the organization lost \$114,388 in federal funding...As the cost of groceries for local families continues to rise, there are fewer food donations coming in to keep local food banks stocked, while serving a growing number of households." (North Helpline, Seattle Times)

It is no longer only those living below the poverty line struggling to make ends meet. A family of four now needs to earn six figures, or more than \$100,000, annually to be able to afford basic necessities (Westneat, Seattle Times). And it doesn't seem as though things will improve soon—Seattle ranks number 1 for fastest-rising cost of living (Westneat, Seattle Times).



With no end in sight to the rising food costs and increased demand on our food banks, the annual award from King Conservation District is more important than ever. But dollars are not stretching as far as they did a year ago.

UW researchers at School of Social Work, “found that the cost of basic life necessities in Seattle just went up by \$16,000 per family *in a single year* — from \$86,000 in last year’s estimates, to \$102,000, an 18% jump.” (Westneat, Seattle Times)

While we are incredibly appreciative of our 2023 award, it will not have an equivalent impact in 2024. In order to meaningfully support our partner food banks, including University District Food Bank who saw a 47% increase in demand compared to last year (Westneat, Seattle Times), additional funding is imperative. We appreciate your continued support to increase access to nutritious, locally grown food in our King County food banks.

Next year, we plan to conduct an in-person gathering/evaluation with farms and hunger relief agencies in coordination with Growing for Good. The event will be held in early 2024 in a central location so farms and agencies have a chance to connect prior to the growing season. There will be a facilitated discussion about forward contracting and other relevant topics, plenty of time for networking, and food. We also hope to use some funds to offer travel stipends to farmers attending the event, as their time is valuable and are likely traveling from further distances. Our hope for the gathering is that farmers and agencies make new connections and strengthen existing ones by having in-person dialogue around farm to food access work.

By starting conversations about forward contracting earlier than in previous years at our in-person gathering and our 2024 monthly cohort meetings, we hope to facilitate early season crop planning between our hunger relief agencies and their partner farms. This way, farmers can better plan their season’s crops and markets around their agency partners and, in turn, agencies can work with farmers to select fruits and vegetables that are most needed and/or desired by their clients. We believe this will increase culturally relevant options at hunger relief agencies and reduce food waste, since agencies can request specific cultural foods that may typically be challenging for them to procure and farmers have a confirmed marketplace for that produce.

We were also recently notified that Harvest Against Hunger was awarded \$35,000 from the Aven Foundation to fund local farm purchasing. We plan to incorporate this private funding to increase award amounts to our hunger relief agencies.

#### Citations

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/it-now-takes-at-least-6-figures-for-a-family-to-get-by-in-seattle/>

<https://www.seattletimes.com/sponsored/end-of-federal-covid-funding-impacts-puget-sound-families/>

## **7. Funding Expended to Date**

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- Provide information regarding the level of grant funds expended to date (a summary table in addition to narrative would be helpful).
- Provide information regarding the level of cash and/or in-kind match expended to date (a summary table in addition to narrative would be helpful).
- If the project gained income as a result of planned activities, provide the amount of this supplemental funding and how it will be reinvested into the project.

#### ***Grant Funds Expended***

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Grant Budget Amount</b>	<b>Expenditures to Date</b>
Food Purchasing Funds	\$85,000.00	\$85,000.00
Additional Supplies and Services	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Administrative Support	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>

#### ***Cash/In-kind Match***

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Match to Date</b>	<b>Match Source</b>
Grower Donations	\$1,881.36	Farms (donations/gleans)

To date, we have spent all of the 2023 funding (85% on food purchasing, 12.5% on administrative support, and 2.5% on additional supplies). Our hunger relief agencies have also received \$1,881.36 of value in donated produce, calculated by using the Emergency Food Assistance Program's value for in-kind donated food (\$2.16). Some organizations with gleaning programs have not yet reported the lbs of produce gleaned from their partner farms, so the actual in-kind match is likely much higher.

Harvest Against Hunger received a grant from the Aven foundation for \$35,000 to put towards the KCFS program. We will use these additional funds in the 2024 program year to supplement potential KCD funding for food purchasing.

#### **8. Regional Benefits**

- Provide a description of the groups or other organizations that have benefited from the project to date.
- Provide any testimonials, survey feedback, or other community input that reflects participant satisfaction with the project.

In August, HAH hosted a Ripple Effects Mapping (REM) session. REM is a participatory evaluation tool that collects the untold and behind-the-scenes activities that can ripple out from

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a specific program or activity. At our session, the regional benefits of KCFS over the years for local hunger-relief organizations and farmers was acknowledged and celebrated. In particular, participants cited how KCFS has provided secure markets for the budding businesses of refugee farmers, how multi-year contract relationships have helped farmers expand and diversify their growing and how fresh produce has impacted hunger relief agencies' ability to provide nutritious and culturally appropriate food to their clients.

#### Impact on farmers

"In 2020 King County was in the process of transitioning how we utilize farmland, transitioning from recently large farms to historically disadvantaged farmers. We own about 500 acres of farmland, but we transitioned 200 acres to support imminent refugee farmers and historically disadvantaged farmers. And this [KCFS] was happening right in 2020...The sales at the food banks were just essential to support many of these farmers." - Department of Natural Resources and Parks-Food Economy Program

"This was their first foray into farming as a business, in this country. This funding provided that first opportunity to sell into a market...Things like reading an invoice, the basics of running a business, they learned through this program. I believe that this program is essential to the success that we've had in supporting these farmers." - Department of Natural Resources and Parks-Food Economy Program

"It feels so great to me that we're able to give fresh produce to underserved people who aren't able to afford it otherwise, and also still get to pay a farmer, not just rely on donations. Donations are great, and the farmers still donate a ton to us, but it feels so good to be able to give them some money because it's the hardest gig there is and it's so necessary." -Hopelink

#### Increase in culturally relevant foods

"These funds are supporting Theary's Cambodian Foods. She's feeding elders, authentic and traditional Cambodian cuisine that they really just can't get anywhere else. That's a form of nourishment that is really hard to quantify." - Seattle Good Business Network

"Being able to acquire culturally relevant food has been a priority for us. We interact with our clients as they're seeing the food coming in off of Elena's pick up and putting it into our produce area. To see people gravitating towards the fresh produce and to see people's faces brighten up has been really impactful. We can see the tangible results of everyone's efforts here and how it translates into people's wants and needs when it comes to walking into a pantry" - Hopelink

"Project Feast is a non-profit that serves refugee and immigrant culinary apprentices. It's really important for them that they're also sourcing from refugee and immigrant farmers." - Seattle Good Business Network

"We have long standing existing relationships [with farmers] and they'll grow specifically for our clients in mind. I'll be like, "Collards don't go. Please don't grow any collards for us, but we would love X, Y and Z. We have a really big Hispanic population in this one market. We would love tomatillos and jalapenos. Or we have a lot of Asian clients here." I've found a lot of awesome BIPOC farms that are growing things I've never heard of that we're able to get to [our clients]." - Hopelink

"We're not going to be able to glean everything that we want to glean and that's why it's awesome that we have the farm purchasing grants to cover those bases... We call it dignity food, and I love that. I love that we're buying dignity food. We're able to buy a lot of these cool, culturally diverse items that we're not getting in grocery rescue or through gleaning." - Hopelink

#### Increasing meals nutritional value

"The mushrooms, the beautiful blue oyster mushrooms, and bok choy... have really elevated a couple of meals. Our chefs are planning their meals around the produce we order." -Operation Sack Lunch

"We were getting a lot of really nice eggs from [Left Foot Farms]. Those were a really great supplement for all of our home delivery clients. We normally buy eggs from Food Lifeline- they're more affordable but lower quality so to be able to give our SUCH high quality eggs, everyone was really happy"- Jewish Family Services

"Just from handling the food from a day to day aspect, we've really been able to elevate our vegetarian options. I like to incorporate more ethnic dishes and that's how we utilize the fresh produce that we buy. It's provided us with a lot of room for growth in what we're able to serve" - Mary's Place

#### Systems benefits

"During COVID, people had noticed that restaurant doors closed and farmers lost their market share... We started looking for a funder. We started thinking, 'What's the best way that we could support these folks?' By injecting money into the restaurants, making sure they could keep their restaurants open and staff employed, and also return some market share back to farmers. Then also feed the community who is experiencing a rise in food insecurity with really nourishing and culturally relevant meals. I met David. We pitched the idea, and we ended up receiving just a couple thousand dollars through KCFS to pay one of our restaurants in a pilot to say, "If we give you this money, would it help support you with community meals, if you spend it on produce from local farms?" There's a lot of iterative process that happened between then and now but that program is now Good Food Kitchens and we've directed over \$1.7 million to over 50 restaurants and caterers, serving over 50 different community organizations, sourcing from over 30 different local farms." -Seattle Good Business Network

## 9. Acknowledgement of KCD Funding

- Explain how KCD was acknowledged and attach copies of web pages, newsletter articles, photos of signs, etc. to document compliance with acknowledgement requirements. If you have already submitted these attachments in prior progress reports, only a summary of activities is required.

KCD was acknowledged on both the Harvest Against Hunger website and the KCFS Google Site. The KCD logo is also included on program documents such as the 2023 Program Overview, Letters of Agreement, and Grower Appreciation Cards.

We also got to talk with the public and other local food system stakeholders about KCFS and our partnership with KCD while tabling at various events this year, including the networking event Nourishing Local Connections by Seattle Good Business Network/United Way King County/Cascadia Produce, and the Rainier Beach Urban Farm & Wetlands Farm Fest.

[King County Farmers Share - Harvest Against Hunger](#)  
[KCFS Impacts and Insights - Harvest Against Hunger](#)  
[KCFS \(google.com\)](#)

*If this is your final report, before closing out the grant project, please address the following:*

## 10. Lessons Learned and Recommendations for Future Projects

N/A