

Phoenix Resilient Food System Initiative

Creating a Resilient Food System

The **Phoenix Resilient Food System Initiative** is designed to:

- 1) Continue and expand the programs that have innovatively provided food for COVID-19 impacted individuals and families, while creating jobs, economic opportunities, and strengthening our local food network;
- 2) Achieve the goals established in the 2025 Phoenix Food Action Plan; and
- 3) Create a resilient food system.

Food Insecurity during the Pandemic

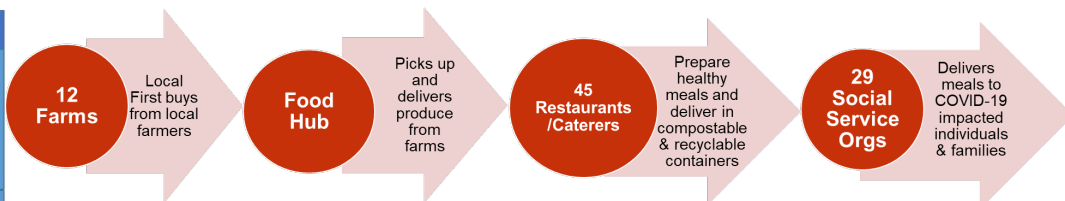
- **1 in 3** Households experienced food insecurity
- **Hispanic** households, households with children were persistently and newly food insecure
- **1 in 8** households bought food on credit, borrowed money for food or received from food pantries

The importance of a resilient local food system was brought to the forefront due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic presented significant challenges to our local food system. Local food producers, grocery and retail, restaurants, caterers, distributors, and all facets of the food value chain were confronted with interruption in service and supply as well as being impacted by breakdowns in reaching consumers. The economic stressors caused by the pandemic negatively affected the ability of individuals and families to purchase food in addition to exacerbating the obstacles already faced by nearly half of our residents in Phoenix who live in food deserts and suffer hunger and food insecurity.

"Phoenix Didn't Just Feed the Hungry. It Saved Farms and Restaurants"

--Bloomberg CityLab

FEED PHOENIX INITIATIVE SUCCESS



Because of this program, 90% of the restaurants noted that they have shifted their purchasing to include more locally-grown produce from nearby farms, and additionally, they report purchasing biodegradable supplies from Captains, a local container supply company.

"We would not be open if it were not for our community and local business support," said Lori Harlig, owner of Amici Catering. "Every purchase we make now is viewed from the lens of supporting local - first. We have a desire to give back to businesses because of the generosity shown to us."



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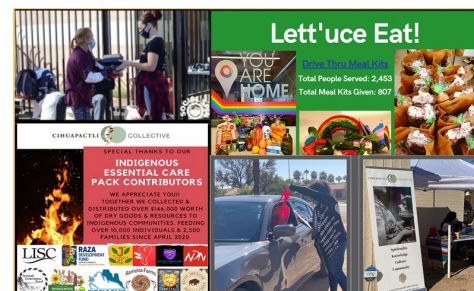
FUNDS TO FEED INITIATIVE SUCCESS

8 Months
3,050,767
 Meals
508,938
Individuals
276,485
Families

10 Grassroots Organizations and 4 School Districts

The program enhanced existing food delivery occurring in communities by communities and promoted new partnerships. Vulnerable and marginalized populations were engaged to provide input on equitable practices for the grant application process. These organizations gained capacity to continue their work beyond the life of this grant.

Cihauapactli Collective featured on NPR.



YEAR 1 FUNDING - \$9,700,000

CONTINUED PROGRAMS

- Phoenix Program – Local First Arizona Foundation (\$2,700,000)
- FuFeednds to Feed Program – LISC Phoenix (\$1,950,000)
- Funds for Food Banks and Food Pantries (\$1,300,000)

EXPANDED PROGRAMS

PERSONNEL (\$200,000) Project Manager and Administrative Assistant (temporary positions)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

- **Worker Cooperative Sustainable Food System Business Incubator (\$200,000)** - Create an incubator in partnership with private sector to develop worker cooperatives for sustainable food businesses.
- **Agri-food Technology Innovation Grants (\$500,000)** - Provide funding and incentives to encourage existing food system entrepreneurs and new/innovative food businesses to expand or locate in Phoenix, including agricultural technology that addresses challenges posed by climate change.

LOCAL FOOD CONSUMPTION/PRODUCTION

- **Backyard Food Production Pilot Project (\$500,000)** - Provide grant funding for up to 100 residents located in food deserts to install backyard gardens and community gardens using aquaponics, raised beds, and other water conservative growing methods, including education and training.
- **Farmland Preservation (\$1,000,000)** - In partnership with nonprofits and land trusts, provide cost-share in the purchase/preservation of 100 acres of land for agriculture in Phoenix.

RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEM

- **Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Projects (\$200,000)** - Provide grant funding to Phoenix farms for advancing technologies and methods that address growing food in our changing climate.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

- **City of Phoenix Urban Agriculture Fellowship (\$50,000)** - Provide funding for a 1-year fellowship for high school and college students with local food producers with 60% for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) participants. Upon completion of the fellowship, participants eligible to enter the Worker Cooperative Sustainable Food System Incubator.
 - **Council District Food Action Plans, Projects or Initiatives – (\$400,000)** - Initial focus on districts with food deserts, high food insecurity and hunger rates to identify whether a council specific food plan would be feasible and desired or whether more specific projects or initiatives are preferred.