

## Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) Funding through the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Program

### **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. The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund offers financial assistance and technical assistance awards to build the capacity of CDFIs, empowering them to grow, achieve organizational sustainability, and contribute to community revitalization. The program actively works to address the lack of affordable financial products and capital investment by investing federal resources, matched with private funding, in CDFIs working to serve low-income and underserved people and communities.

Since Fiscal Year 2011, Healthy Food Financing Initiative Financial Assistance (HFFI-FA) awards have been offered as supplemental grants to CDFIs who receive a Financial Assistance (FA) award from the CDFI Program to expand their healthy food investment activities. These investments help increase access to healthy food while fostering job and economic development in low-income communities.

The HFFI-FA awards provide a range of financial products for the startup or expansion of healthy food businesses in production, aggregation, distribution or retail in low-income communities. This includes loans, equity investments, and technical assistance to support grocery stores, farmers markets, bodegas, food-ops, and urban farms. Over \$135 million in HFFI-FA grants has been awarded to 30 CDFI as of FY 2016.

### **Project Eligibility**

Applicants must be a Certified or Certifiable CDFI, a designation by the U.S. Department of The Treasury offered to specialized financial institutions that provide financial services in low-income communities and to people who lack access to financing. Visit the [CDFI Certification](#) page to learn more about the certification process and requirements. The CDFI must demonstrate the project will increase access to healthy foods by developing retail outlets or the local food infrastructure. At least 75% of the CDFI's HFFI-FA grant award must be invested in healthy food retail outlets. In addition, eligible projects must be in a "food desert" as defined by USDA food atlas or other approved methodologies. See [Defining Underserved Primer](#).

Source: [Community Development Financial Institutions Fund](#)

### **Applying for HFFI Funding through CDFI Program**

To be eligible to receive a HFFIFA award, applicants must apply for and be selected to receive a CDFI Program FA award. Opportunities to apply for HFFI-FA grants will be announced on CDFI's Funding Opportunity Announcements page (<https://amis.cdfifund.gov/s/AMISHome>) as well as on Grants.Gov. There are several steps you can take now to make sure you're ready to apply as soon as a funding opportunity becomes available.

*Last Updated June 2017*

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

# Healthy Food Access Portal

[www.healthyfoodaccess.org](http://www.healthyfoodaccess.org)

PolicyLink



For detailed application instructions, visit the [CDFI Program Application Page](#) or the [Healthy Food Financing Initiative section](#).

1. Submit CDFI Certification Application through AMIS
2. Submit SF-424 through Grants.gov
3. Submit FA/TA Application through AMIS

**For specific questions about the HFFI-FA program at the CDFI Fund, contact:**

Phone: (202) 653-0421

[cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov](mailto:cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov)

<https://www.cdfifund.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

*Last Updated June 2017*

*See the [HFFI-CDFI Fact Sheet](#) for more details on how to apply for funding.*

## Projects Funded through the Healthy Food Financing Initiative at CDFI Fund

To find other grantees through HFFI at CDFI Fund, visit the Searchable Awards Database at

<https://www.cdfifund.gov/awards/state-awards/Pages/default.aspx>

### Low Income Investment Fund

Source of money: HFFI CDFI Fund; Fiscal year(s): 2011, 2013, 2014, 2016

For more than a quarter of a century, Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF) has been at the forefront of the community development industry. In this time, LIIF has expanded its programmatic and geographical reach, but maintained its singular focus on serving the nation's most vulnerable people.

LIIF is using its Healthy Food Financing Initiative award to provide financing and technical assistance to food markets located in or planning to locate in low- to moderate-income communities that lack access to affordable, healthy food in Louisiana, New York, and Pennsylvania. For example, funds from LIIF's HFFI awards have been used to support the transformation of a 65,000-square-foot abandoned supermarket in New Orleans into the ReFresh Market, an integrated healthy food center. ReFresh New Orleans, an \$18 million New Markets Tax Credit transaction mixed-use project, received \$1.5 million leveraged funds from LIIF to transform the vacant building into a healthy food hub. It is expected to create and preserve more than 110 jobs.

In addition to its national work supporting the development and expansion of fresh food outlets in underserved communities through its national financing and policy efforts, LIIF is the lead administrator for the [New York Healthy Food & Healthy Communities Fund](#). As a result, LIIF has dedicated more than **\$30 million** to increasing healthy food access for low-income families across the state.

### Colorado Enterprise Fund (CEF)

Source of money: HFFI CDFI Fund; Fiscal year(s): 2012, 2013, 2016

Colorado Enterprise Fund (CEF), established in 1976, is a certified CDFI providing customized loans and business advisory services to existing small businesses and start-ups in Colorado including women, minority, and low-income business owners. CEF used its 2012 HFFI award to launch its Healthy Food Fund in 2013, which has expanded into the [Colorado Fresh Food Financing Fund](#) (CO4F).

CEF serves as a core partner in CO4F and is using its HFFI grant to finance food production, small grocery retail, and innovative healthy food businesses, including farmers markets, bodegas, food carts, and produce stands. To date, Colorado Enterprise Fund has **dispersed over \$1.3 million in HFFI funds to 30 food businesses** since 2013. Their loans are put toward equipment purchases, energy efficiency improvements, and leasehold improvements. CEF lends to all segments of the food system to foster healthy food access and economic development.

Last Updated June 2017

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