

Community Investment to Equitably Increase Food Security in Jefferson County via the American Rescue Plan Act



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Request for Applications

Objective

Jefferson County is committed to fostering a local food system that ensures equitable access to nutritious, locally produced food that reflects cultural preferences. This will be achieved through supporting Jefferson County farmers, investing in food systems infrastructure, improving organizational community engagement, commitment to racial and social equity, and striving for strong collaboration among organizations and communities. Community based food justice organizations must be connected with meaningful resources, including funding, training, technical assistance, and tools for building organizational resilience. This grant opportunity is a one-time funding event to invest \$1,700,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into Jefferson County's long-term food security and collective impact efforts. This program will be primarily administered and coordinated by the Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) food systems team and the County Rescue Team (ARPA).

Background

The COVID pandemic and impacts of inflation have significantly increased food insecurity and disruptions to our local food supply in Jefferson County. Prior to the COVID pandemic, 9.1% of Coloradans and 10% of Jefferson County residents were experiencing food insecurity, but since the pandemic began, this percentage has quadrupled (38%, or 2 in 5 Coloradans experienced food insecurity in 2021, per Hunger Free Colorado). In summer 2021, JCPH and the Community First Foundation launched a grant program "Moving from Emergency Response to Recovery in Jefferson County: A Grant Opportunity to Reimagine a Jefferson County Food System that Meets the Needs of All" and distributed \$1.7 million to 12 community-based organizations in Jefferson County. The 2021 grant program represented Jefferson County's first post-Covid investment to shift from emergency response to food security toward rebuilding a more resilient, community-centered food system to effectively meet all resident needs.

Jefferson County will continue to invest in this vision through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). To learn more about this vision, we highly recommend reviewing the following two 2021 JCPH reports on the County's food system:

- 1) [Recovery, Rebuilding, and Resilience: Centering Community to Create a Food Secure Jefferson County](#). This report identifies the challenges, gaps, and potential solutions to rebuilding a more resilient food system that can withstand and recover from disruptions and crises in a way that ensures a sufficient supply of acceptable and accessible food.
- 2) [Jefferson County Food Systems Network Report: A Vision for Jefferson County's Future](#). This report by JCPH, the Community First Foundation, and Aging Dynamics provides an action plan for county food systems stakeholders and subsystems. The report includes a detailed food system map, identified gaps, a vision for resilience across the food system, and an action plan for community-based solutions for coordinated and collective funding.

Also see [Appendix B](#) for key figures from each of the above reports.

What you need to know to apply

Application Period: Applications close *Friday, October 28th at 5 p.m. Mountain Time*. Applicants will be notified of their application status no later than Monday, November 28, 2022.

Submission Instructions: Applications will only be accepted through Jefferson County's Form Center. The Form Center is accessed via the link found on the [Jefferson County ARPA website](#) under the tab "Jefferson County Food System Grant." The online application system will not allow incomplete proposals or submissions after 5 p.m. MT on Friday, October 28. The information and questions included in this document are for your reference only. Do NOT email applications or submit applications outside of the Form Center.

Award Amounts: Jefferson County has allocated \$1,700,000 in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to invest in food security efforts. The total amount available for all grant awards is up to \$1,600,000. Funding will be awarded in amounts up to \$300,000 (no minimum). Funding awards will be based upon type of project, service area, and the strength of alignment with this RFA.

Technical Assistance: Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) will administer the remaining \$100,000 throughout the grant period via technical assistance contracts to benefit grantees and the Jefferson County food system as a whole. Funded applicants and community partners will be included in planning and feedback to administer this funding. More details to come.

Funding Timeline: Funding requests may cover a maximum period of *December 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024*. Funding contracts must be in place by December 31, 2022. Grantees will be required to provide quarterly reports and annual review per the terms of ARPA.

Informational Webinar: Learn more about this grant opportunity and ask questions at the online information session on *Tuesday, September 27 at 4-5:15pm*. Grant administrators from JCPH and the County Rescue Team will discuss program goals and values, explain eligibility, and be available for questions. The webinar will be recorded and distributed via the County ARPA Website. Spanish interpretation and translation will be provided. [Click here to register for the September 27 webinar.](#)

Types of Requests Allowed: Unrestricted, Program, Infrastructure and Capacity Building, Pilot Demonstration Projects, Capital/Equipment with a focus on building long-term infrastructure and/or informing long-term systems change.

Eligibility: To be eligible for American Rescue Plan Act funding, applicants must provide:

- **System of Award Management (SAM) number.** This number shows SAM registration along with the Unique Entity Identifier number given by SAM to confirm the organization is in good standing to receive federal dollars. You must have your entity registered with SAM.gov and receive the Unique Entity Identifier in order to be awarded funding through this opportunity. Please visit the [official website SAM.gov](#) to get started with this process.
 - If you plan to apply for this grant program and you do not yet have a SAM number, please get started on this process AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SAM numbers can often take weeks to months to receive.

- [Click here](#) for a quick start guide on how to start registering a new entity in SAM.gov
- If you need assistance obtaining a SAM number, please refer to the Colorado Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) information below.
- *Certificate of Good Standing in Colorado*, obtained through the [Colorado Secretary of State](#)
- *Employer Identification Number (EIN) or Tax Identification Number (TIN)*

The following types of entities are eligible for funding:

- Registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit or government equivalent. Eligible applicants must be recognized by the IRS as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3), government equivalent or fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity.
- Small food and/or farmer businesses with a recent history of supporting the Jefferson County food system, including small- and mid-sized producers, and entities that support small- and mid-sized producers, such as intermediaries, as well as sourcing, processing, packaging, and distribution entities. Business must be licensed by the Secretary of State doing Business in Colorado.

Applicants must also demonstrate the following criteria to be eligible:

- *Jefferson County-Focused Work*. Applicants must be headquartered or have a physical location in Jefferson County and/or must demonstrate a recent history (within the past year) of providing services or support to Jefferson County residents. Organizations not headquartered or that do not have a physical location in Jefferson County must have a recent history (within the past year) or a clearly demonstrated and planned commitment of providing services in Jefferson County. Consideration will be given to programs serving vulnerable populations in high needs areas of Jefferson County (see Figures 3 and 4 in [Appendix B](#) for more information).
- *Willing to share data*. Jefferson County intends to use information included in grant applications and data collected through grant projects to inform a broader food systems collective approach. By submitting a grant request, applicants agree to allow Jefferson County to use or share information contained in the grant application to inform community-level data initiatives and establish a network that will be accessible to a public audience. This information may also be used by the County in its community impact storytelling and marketing efforts.

The following entities and project types are ineligible:

- Individuals.
- Fundraising events.
- Private foundations.
- Other foundations or nonprofits that distribute money to recipients of its own selection.
- Endowments.
- Organizations that practice discrimination of any kind.
- Organizations that do not have fiscal responsibility for the proposed project.

Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC): Colorado PTAC is willing to help potential subrecipients with SAM registration, coaching on and review of grant application, etc.

There is no cost for their services. To obtain help, please register on the [PTAC website](#) and mention that you are applying for an ARPA grant with Jefferson County.

Award Notification & Contract: Awarded applications will receive an award notification to outline the terms and conditions to receive funding and conduct risk assessment (see below). The final agreement will be in the form of a signed contract with Jefferson County to receive funds. Grantees will also complete annual reports as denoted in final contract. For more information on contracts, see [Appendix E](#) for sample contract.

Risk Assessment Disclaimer: Prior to making a Federal award, Jefferson County will assess the risk of a potential subrecipient's noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward at the outset of the relationship and at least annually afterward. Risk assessments will include evaluation of both the magnitude of potential noncompliance and the probability that noncompliance will occur. Risk assessments will be conducted during the review and selection process and will address the following: Prior experience with federal awards; Results of any previous audits; Personnel involved; Extent and results of any monitoring by the federal awarding agency; Policies and procedures; Financial stability; Management systems; and Complexity of award requirements.

What we're looking for

Adherence to program goals

Key Performance Indicators: Per ARPA requirements, program administrators will be required to report on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to verify compliance and ensure the program is meeting goals for food security improvements and community engagement. The following KPIs were carefully chosen by the Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) food systems team with approval from the Jefferson County ARPA Food Insecurity Task Force and the Jefferson County Commissioners:

1. Number of individuals engaged (note this KPI is simply intended to measure the total reach of the program. It does **not** indicate that proposals with wider reach will be prioritized over those with more focused engagement, or vice versa).
2. Action taken to increase community engagement and empowerment of community members.
3. Equitable distribution of ARPA funding to historically underserved communities in Jefferson County to strengthen the food system.

As such, grantees will be asked about adherence to the above KPIs in the application process. Applicants will be required to report quarterly on KPIs (1) and (2). KPI (3) will be measured via final portfolio balance as decided by the applications review committee.

Project Specific Performance Measures: Within the application, applicants will also be asked to select 1-4 additional performance measures that specifically pertain to the proposed project and report on these metrics quarterly.

Project types: Funded applicants must have a history of supporting the Jefferson County food system and can provide direct benefit to the County's food producers and/or residents. Proposed projects must also have an intended impact on community-identified food systems needs. Here are some examples of types of stakeholders that may be funded:

- *Community-Based Organizations:* Farmers' markets, community food/agriculture organizations, food systems coalitions, environmental groups, food charity organizations, neighborhood associations, workforce development.
- *Agriculture:* Small- or mid- size direct-market producers (defined as producers with annual gross revenue up to \$1,000,000), farm organizations, farm support agencies.
- *Intermediaries/community connectors:* Food hubs, value-added processors, transportation, food distribution networks, or other organizations processing, packaging, and/or distributing agricultural products for local consumption.
- *Policymakers:* Public works agencies; community and economic development agencies, human services organizations, park and recreation departments.
- *Health & Education:* Public schools; community health organizations; private health organizations/hospitals; universities/colleges; research institutions.
- *Business:* Local business associations; restaurants; grocer associations; grocery stores; food chains/franchises; small/local grocers.

Grantee engagement: To maximize collective impact for food security in Jefferson County, funded partners will be strongly encouraged to engage in the “grantee cohort” administered by the Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) food systems team throughout the duration of the grant period. Level and types of engagement will be determined by the needs of the funded partners, community feedback, and analysis conducted by JCPH. The goal of this engagement is to fortify robust, authentic partnerships and foster resilience for the Jefferson County food system. Cohort participation may include, but is not limited to:

- Group meetings for mutual learning, improving collaboration and coordination, information sharing, and troubleshooting.
- Group trainings on requested topics such as community engagement, equity and inclusion, organizational development; data collection and analysis.
- Individual technical assistance and training on requested topics.
- Individual meetings on project progress, data collection, and reporting.

Project Values

EQUITY - COMMUNITY CENTERED APPROACH - COLLABORATION – RESILIENCE

Awards will prioritize applicants that sufficiently demonstrate the following values within their organizational structure and proposed Jefferson County project. For more information and definitions, please refer to the [Scoring Criteria](#) section and the glossary of terms provided in [Appendix A](#).

Equity: Equity is an intentional and continual practice of changing policies, practices, systems, and structures by prioritizing measurable change in the lives of low-income communities, high risk communities, and/or Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Equity criteria will be at the forefront of the community review process. This is meant to recognize past and present injustices and invest in a more equitable local food system. For more context on food systems injustices in Jefferson County and surrounding areas, please refer to [Appendix D](#). Applications may be prioritized for funding if they demonstrate the following:

- Proposed program(s) are led by and/or serve low-income communities, high risk communities, and/or BIPOC.

- Commitment to increasing equitable access to nutritious, local food for residents of Jefferson County who have historically experienced food and/or nutrition insecurity and lack access to local food options, particularly BIPOC, elderly, low-income, high-need communities, and those who live and work in rural Jefferson County. Please refer to Figures 3 and 4 in [Appendix B](#) to learn more about potential geographic locations of interest. Note that the map in Figure 4 is not entirely prescriptive of priority areas.

Community-centered approach: Community centered approaches build networks by involving individuals at multiple levels that promote equity and increases people's control over their health and lives. Community-centered approaches seek to identify and empower community leaders, build trust in the community, and prioritize community need and feedback in operations. Applicants who indicate devotion and ability to advance community-centered approaches with their work will be prioritized for funding. It is highly recommended to refer to the Community Engagement Spectrum in [Figure 5 in Appendix B](#) for more information.

Collaboration: Collaborative efforts strengthen capacity of organizations and communities to do the work of building a resilient food system. Collaborations are mutually beneficial relationships formed between two or more organizations (nonprofit, business, and/or government) whose purpose is to pursue a common goal based on the shared values of participating organizations. Such efforts may include regular communication for mutual learning, operating in coalitions with one another, soliciting feedback, and more. Applicants who demonstrate strong collaboration and/or ability to improve collaboration will likely be strong candidates for funding.

Food Systems Resilience: This grant opportunity is a one-time funding event to inform Jefferson County's long-term food security collective impact efforts. Grant decisions will favor organizations that:

- Propose projects that demonstrate a deep understanding of and investment into food system resilience and food justice, including community and organizational capacity building, infrastructure investment, long term systems change efforts, and more.
- Operate with diversified funding sources, especially from organizations who will be requesting funding for programs or projects that are ongoing.
- Demonstrate strong partnerships and/or ability to build and maintain partnerships with communities and organizations for sustainability of the work.
- Demonstrate ability and willingness to plan for sustainability and resilience within the organization or partnership as well as the Jefferson County food system as a whole.

Scoring Criteria

Applications will be reviewed through a selection process that involves ranking applications on each of the following criteria:

- **Equity.** The application demonstrates a plan to increase equitable access to nutritious, local food for residents of Jefferson County who have historically experienced food and/or nutrition insecurity and lack access to local food options, particularly BIPOC communities, the elderly, low-income residents, those who live and work in rural Jefferson County, and high-need neighborhoods.

- **Capacity.** The application demonstrates that the applicant has the organizational capacity to carry out the proposed activities and to track and report according to the required metrics and additional metrics which they will provide.
- **Coordination & Collaboration.** The application demonstrates commitment to collaboration and coordination across the food supply chain and in partnership with community members toward rebuilding a resilient food system.
- **Community-centered approach.** Program proposal demonstrates a community-centered approach to increasing food security and has potential to improve how the organization mobilizes assets within communities, promotes equity, and increases people’s control over their health and lives.
- **Alignment with Existing Efforts.** The application demonstrates how the applicant is informed by, aligns with, and builds on food and nutrition security efforts within community(ies) served and within food justice efforts in Jefferson County as a whole.
- **Sustainability & Scalability of Efforts.** The application demonstrates the project’s ability to contribute to a more resilient and just food system and contribute to long term recovery for Jefferson County, I.e. via infrastructure investment, supply chain fortification, sustained food security in communities (particularly historically underserved communities), community informed decision making, and other investments that will help the food system withstand disruption. The applicant demonstrates and identifies past efforts and future plans to sustain or expand activities beyond initial funding.
- **Aspiring Grant Portfolio Balance.** Collectively, final grant awards result in a balanced portfolio that is representative of all functions and roles of the food system and have a geographic reach that prioritizes historically underserved communities and communities with high needs throughout Jefferson County, per KPI (3). For more information, see Appendices B and D.

Questions about the application or Jefferson County’s food systems?

1. **View the webinar:** Attend our informational webinar on Tuesday, September 27, 4-5:15pm. [Register here](#). After September 27, you may also view the recording of the webinar on the [Jefferson County ARPA website](#) under the tab “Jefferson County Food System Grant.”
2. **Contact the program administrator:** Email Willow Cozzens, Food Equity and Nutrition Security Coordinator at Jefferson County Public Health, at wcozzens@jeffco.us

Appendices

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

The following list describes terms as they are currently defined by the Jefferson County Public Health Food Policy and Systems team. For suggestions and/or questions on how these definitions were developed, please contact Willow Cozzens at wcozzens@jeffco.us.

Climate Smart Agriculture: Climate-smart agriculture is an integrated approach to managing landscapes to help adapt agricultural methods, livestock and crops to the ongoing human-induced climate change and, where possible, counteract it by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, at the same time considering the growing world population to ensure food security.

Collaborations: Collaborations are mutually beneficial relationships formed between two or more organizations (nonprofit, business, and/or government) whose purpose is to pursue a common goal based on the shared values of participating organizations. Such efforts may include regular communication for mutual learning, operating in coalitions with one another, soliciting feedback, and more.

Community Centered Approach: Community centered approaches are not just community-based, but about mobilizing assets within communities, promoting equity, and increasing people's control over their health and lives. A community-based organization can be a catalyst for resistance and resilience, self-determination, sovereignty, connection, and liberation. It is the way to move towards more equity-centered solutions that are agile and adapt to meet the actual needs and wants of the community; they foster trusting relationships and create pathways for self-determination and community power, and they celebrate the community work that is being done while continuing to move it forward. For more information, please refer to Figure 5 and its associated descriptions in [Appendix B](#).

Equitable Food System: A food system that creates a new paradigm in which all — including those most vulnerable and those living in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color — can fully participate, prosper, and benefit. It is a system that, from farm to table, from processing to disposal, ensures economic opportunity; high-quality jobs with living wages; safe working conditions; access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food; and environmental sustainability.

Equity: Equity is an intentional and continual practice of changing policies, practices, systems, and structures by prioritizing measurable change in the lives of low-income communities, high risk communities, and/or Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

Food Access: Individuals and families have access to fresh, affordable, culturally appropriate, healthy food in a dignified way.

Food Justice: Communities exercising their right to grow sell and eat healthy food. Healthy food is fresh, nutritious, affordable, culturally appropriate, and grown locally with care of well-being of the land, workers, and animals

Food Sovereignty: The right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through sustainable methods and their right to define their own food and agriculture by addressing historical inequities.

Food System: All the people and activities that play a part in growing, transporting, supplying and ultimately eating food.

Local food: Local food is defined as the direct or intermediated marketing of food to consumers that is produced and distributed in a limited geographic area. There is no pre-determined distance to define what consumers consider “local,” but a set number of miles from a center point or state/local boundaries is often used. [Jefferson County Public Health defines local food as within 400 miles from consumption point.] More importantly, local food systems connect farms and consumers at the point of sale. Consumers, schools, hospitals and other institutions purchase from farms or buy farm products that originate from known, local farms that preserve the identity of the farm for each item. Each of these varied marketing techniques joins farmers and consumers in the local food system.

Nutrition Security: When all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to food which is safe and consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary needs and food preferences, and is supported by an environment of adequate sanitation, health services and care, allowing for a healthy and active life.

Nutritious food: In the context where it is consumed and by the individual that consumes it, nutritious food provides beneficial nutrients (e.g. vitamins, major and trace minerals, essential amino acids, essential fatty acids, dietary fiber) and minimizes potentially harmful elements (e.g. antinutrients, quantities of saturated fats and sugars). The contextual or target group qualification is necessary because particular vulnerable groups have special needs, which can make a given food nutritious for them while being potentially undesirable for others. Consuming a healthy diet throughout the life-course helps to prevent malnutrition in all its forms as well as a range of noncommunicable diseases and conditions. The exact make-up of a diversified, balanced and healthy diet will vary depending on individual characteristics (e.g. age, gender, lifestyle and degree of physical activity), cultural context, locally available foods and dietary customs. However, the basic principles of what constitutes a healthy diet remain the same.

Resilient Food System: A resilient food system is defined as a food system that can withstand and recover from disruptions and crises in a way that ensures a sufficient supply of acceptable and accessible food for all.

Appendix B: Important supplemental figures referenced in RFA

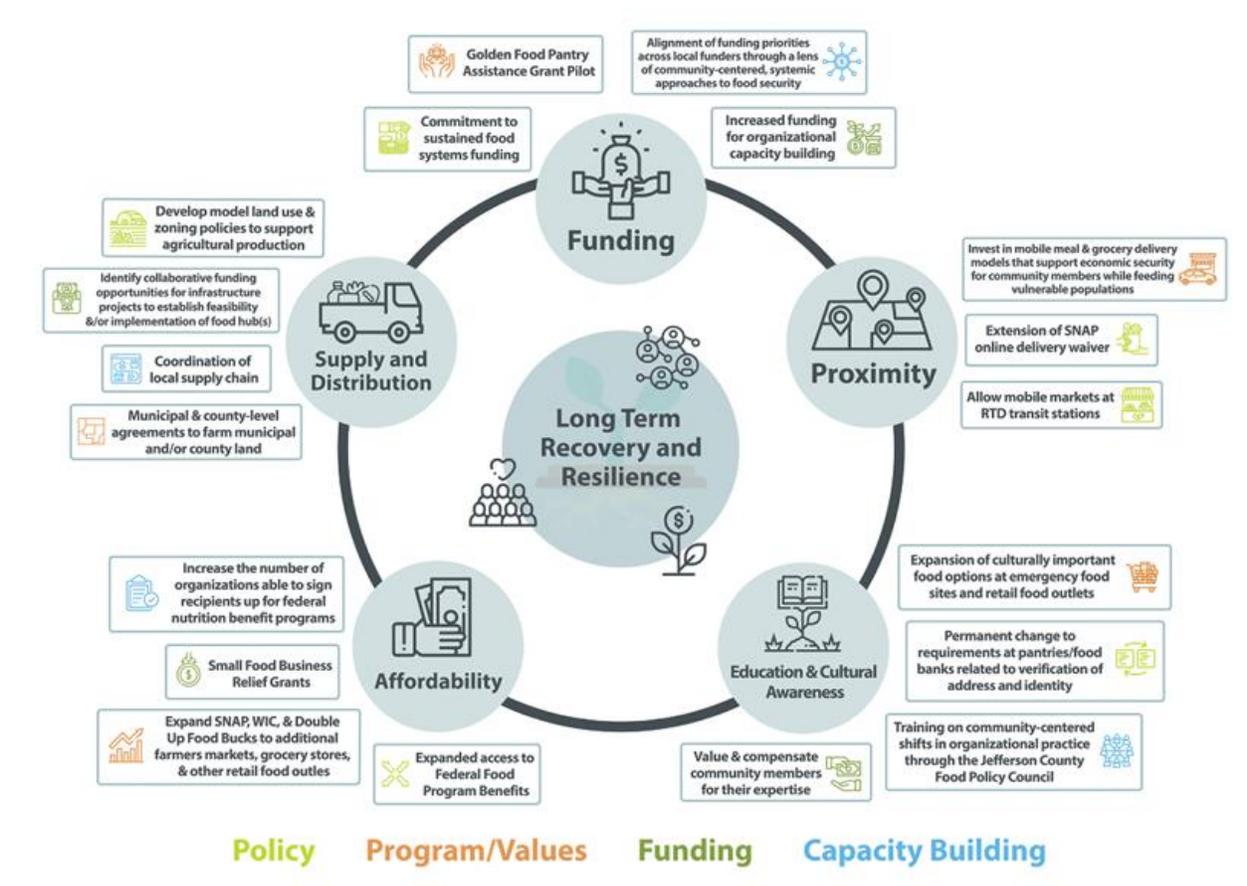


Figure 1. A model of the Jefferson County food system for long-term recovery and resilience

Figure 1 illustrates the components necessary to achieving a resilient food system. This approach allows for both short- and long- term planning, encourages collaboration across sectors, and develops cohesive and effective responses. Further, community-centered approaches to a resilient food system recenters efforts to address food insecurity and food system development through a wider lens of food justice. To learn more about the systems level approach to long term recovery in Jefferson County please refer to [Recovery, Rebuilding, and Resilience: Centering Community to Create a Food Secure Jefferson County](#).



Figure 2. Community components needed to foster resilient food systems

Figure 2 depicts how creating a resilient food system requires building different kinds of capacity through a network of three subsystems: production, markets and institutions, and policy. The interconnection between every aspect of the food system is clear and synergies between the subsystems exist. Addressing a challenge within one subsystem will often help resolve others and thus build resilience across the broader food system. To learn more about each subsystem and how to plan for action, please refer to [Jefferson County Food Systems Network Report: A Vision for Jefferson County's Future](#).

Construct Category	“Factor”/Indicator	Measure
Income/Wealth	Median Household income	Below county median
	Percentage persons below poverty	Greater than county average
	Median value of owner-occupied housing units	Below county median
	Percentage of housing units that are owner occupied	Below county average
Education	Percentage of adults 25 years and older with complete high school	Below county average
	Percentage of adults 25 years and older with complete college	Below county average
Occupation/employment	Percentage of persons 16 and older in executive, Managerial, or professional occupations	Below county average
	Percentage employed	Below county average

Figure 3. Chart of Area-based Indicators of Socio-economic Status

See Figure 4 below for how these indicators apply in Jefferson County.

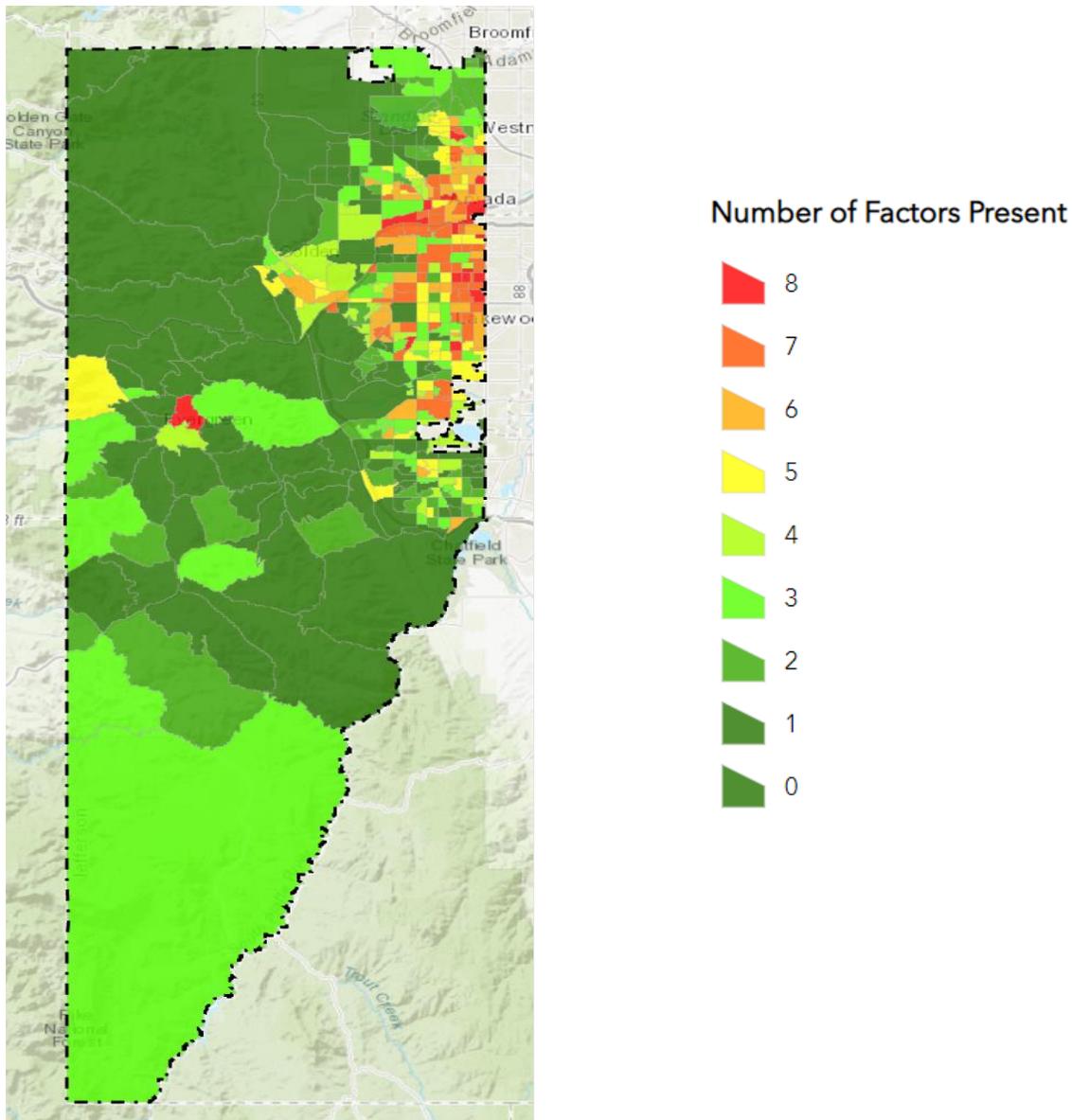


Figure 4. High Needs Areas in Jefferson County, Colorado (2019)

The above images show map of Jefferson County, with each plat color-coded according to the number indicators of socio-economic status (outlined in Figure 3 above). According to the developed methodology, plats with red, orange, and yellow color-coding report five or more indicators. Plats with green color-coding report four or fewer indicators. See Figure 3 for more information on indicators and measures. Map and methodology developed in partnership with Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) and Five Points Geoplanning.

This map serves as only a sample of areas that may be prioritized for funding through this grant opportunity due to historical food and/or nutrition insecurity and is not entirely prescriptive of priority areas. JCPH is in the process of updating this map to reflect the most recent data. Please view more information and learn more about data using this interactive map: [High Needs, Food Deserts*, and Food Swamps in Jefferson County, Colorado.](#)

*Please note when reviewing the maps that we recognize that the term “food desert” is flawed and does not reflect the systemic creation of low food access areas, nor acknowledge the resilient and creative strategies for food access within our communities. JCPH is currently working to update both the data and terminology in our mapping systems. If you have questions or comments, please contact Willow Cozzens at wcozzens@jeffco.us.

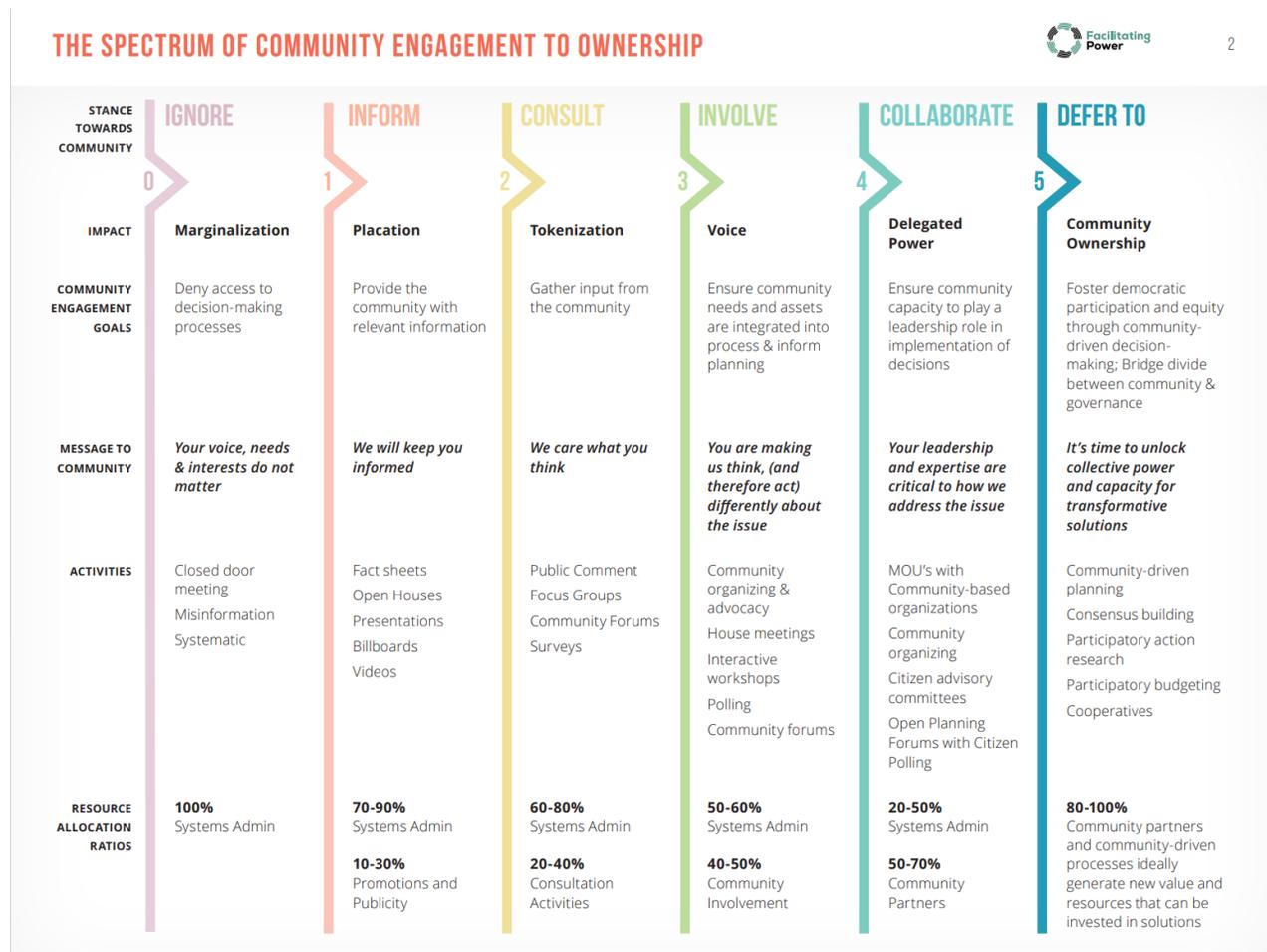


Figure 5. Community Engagement Spectrum

Why engage the community in Food Systems work?

“A community-based food system can be a catalyst for resistance and resilience, self-determination, sovereignty, connection, and liberation. It is the way to move towards more equity-centered solutions that are agile and adapt to meet the actual needs and wants of the community; they foster trusting relationships and create pathways for self-determination and community power, and they celebrate the community work that is being done while continuing to move it forward.” The above spectrum serves as the basis of the [Community Engagement Toolkit](#) developed by [Food In Communities \(FIC\)](#), a regional food systems collaborative between Jefferson County Public Health, Denver Department of Public Health and Environment, and Tri-County Public Health.

Refer to Facilitating Power's [Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership tool](#) (pictured above) to assess where you currently fall when it comes to engaging your community and where you aspire to be. Each level of community involvement includes specific activities, strategies, and tools, and involves different considerations. Utilize the information in the FIC Community Engagement Toolkit (linked above) to help outline your answers to the community engagement questions in this grant application.

From Facilitating Power: “The Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership charts a pathway to strengthen and transform our local democracies. Thriving, diverse, equitable communities are possible through deep participation, particularly by communities commonly excluded from democratic voice & power. The stronger our local democracies, the more capacity we can unleash to address our toughest challenges, and the more capable we are of surviving and thriving through economic, ecological, and social crises. It is going to take all of us to adequately address the complex challenges our cities and regions are facing. It is time for a new wave of community-driven civic leadership. Leaders across multiple sectors, such as community-based organizations, local governments, philanthropic partners, and facilitative leaders trusted by communities, can use this spectrum to assess and revolutionize community engagement efforts to advance community-driven solutions.

This tool was developed by Rosa González of Facilitating Power, in part drawing on content from a number of public participation tools, including Arnstein’s Ladder of Citizen Participation, and the Public Participation Spectrum created by the International Association for Public Participation. The contents have been piloted with municipal community-centered committees for racial equity and environmental justice at the cities of Portland, Oregon, Providence, Rhode Island, Seattle Washington, and Washington DC; and with the Building Healthy Communities Initiative in Salinas, California, and developed in partnership with Movement Strategy Center.”

To view the spectrum of community engagement in more detail and learn more about how to engage community to ownership, please refer to [The Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership](#) by Facilitating Power and the [Community Engagement Toolkit](#) by Food In Communities.

Appendix C: Sample Projects

The following project types are examples of applications that may score high during the review process. This list does not provide a limit to types of projects.

- Community-centered approaches to long-term food systems change and resiliency.
- Collaborative proposals involving multiple players in the food system that support collaboration, coordination, infrastructure and capacity building.
- Increasing enrollment in and coordination with Federal Food Assistance programs (e.g. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Free or Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL).
- Food distribution activities that increase bringing people to food and food to people.
- Food production activities that allow for expanded and extended production across the County, including land access, value-added processing, and climate smart agriculture.
- Addressing specific food-related needs of sub-populations with a focus on activities that are led by and support Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.
- Contributions to addressing the gaps and challenges identified in rebuilding a more resilient Jefferson County food system, including affordability, proximity, supply and distribution, education and cultural awareness, and funding.

Abstracts from Projects Funded by the 2021 Jefferson County Public Health & Community First Foundation Food Security Program

“Moving from Emergency Response to Recovery in Jefferson County: A Grant Opportunity to Reimagine a Jefferson County Food System that Meets the Needs of All”

- Support garden improvements in Jefferson County through deployment of [corps] members, an Apprenticeship, and data collection and analysis efforts as it relates to food security. These efforts are part of a new Initiative, Baseline Infrastructure Initiative (BII) centered on establishing and increasing equity across [organizations] entire network of gardens. The BII has a physical and human component, as it will ensure that all gardens are resourced at an equivalent level to support a thriving community garden producing optimum yield.
- Support value chain development with 20 different farmers (focus on BIPOC farmers) and 5 different food access organizations and build a sustainable aggregation and distribution model that meets the wholesale needs of food assistance organizations. Role is to aggregate products from small and mid-sized farmers to meet the demands of large volume institutions.
- General operating to specifically support Jefferson County food activities and 1) roll out the Culturally Responsive Food Initiative (CRFI) (Jefferson County not currently part of 8 pilot counties based on prioritizing racial disparities) to increase the distribution of culturally relevant food 2) continue partnerships with Jefferson County-based hunger relief organizations; 3) roll out new program, FRESH, which provides fresh produce and Link2Feed, a cloud-based software program, at mobile pantries that tracks client data specific to dietary needs/restrictions to inform food availability and distribution.
- Support for [Farm], the centerpiece of their food production in Jefferson County specifically in the areas of food production, donation of produce to Jefferson County-

focused food access organizations, Apprenticeship Program to develop leaders and farmers in the food movement (specifically BIPOC communities) and Community Food Access (CSA program) that conducts enrollment and navigation of SNAP and WIC benefits, while also providing CSA shares to those enrolled.

- Support for Community Food Access through activities such as mobile markets and developing earned revenue streams, centering community to ensure distribution of culturally relevant foods, and expand their food procurement model to benefit local partners, and address affordability of their food shares; Farmer Assistance to create stronger networks and training opportunities among local farmers; and upgrades for cold storage and food safe infrastructure improvements to support the Local Food Share program that connects local farmers with a local customer base.
- Hire a consultant to focus on building organizational capacity, design and facilitation of community engagement efforts, and further advance strategic plan for [a local food systems coalition].
- Increase healthy food access with free farmers markets, expand partnerships in Jefferson County opportunity zones with BIPOC local farmers/ranchers, provide locally produced, culturally relevant foods, purchase a refrigerated vehicle for mobile food shares, hire promotores.
- Strengthen the coordination, capacity, and efficiencies of [a local food systems coalition] to center community voice, create shared infrastructure, increase organizational capacity at member agencies and fill in food access gaps, pilot a food hub model, connect to local/BIPOC farms, provide locally produced, culturally relevant food to food insecure residents, and expand benefits enrollment assistance across Coalition members.
- Strengthen partnerships with local food producers, application assistance for SNAP and WIC clients, new mobile food pantry and kitchen to distribute locally- produced, fresh food to food insecure residents, and expand existing nutrition education programming.
- Build a greenhouse for a 1/3 acre urban farm located in Lakewood to increase food production for distribution at farmers markets, GoFarm, and independent supermarkets.
- Expand current infrastructure of [Farm] to extend the growing season, enable increased number of farmers to grow, and address food insecurity through Jefferson County-focused partnerships such as Jefferson County-schools, Culinary Arts and Farm To Table Programs, distribution of CSA shares to WIC families.
- Support to increase safe food transportation, establish fresh food delivery options for high needs residents, extend EBT/SNAP purchasing power, address affordability through Double Up Bucks and WIC, extend culturally appropriate food offerings, create a local food cooperative, provide education programming on eliminating food waste, and further develop local partnerships.

Appendix D: Racism and Injustices in the Food System: Jefferson County in Context

Excerpts from [“Using a Historical Lens to Contextualize Discriminatory Housing Practices and Food Access in Jefferson County”](#) Prepared in April 2022 by Taylor Jones and Erica Walters for Jefferson County Public Health Food Systems Team

Background: Links Between Discriminatory Housing Practices and Food Insecurity

“Food insecurity” occurs when “the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or the ability to acquire acceptable food in a socially acceptable way, is limited or is uncertain.” Growing income disparities throughout the United States have resulted in an increased dependence on the emergency food system, which has been severely exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), in 2019, 11% of households in the United States experienced food insecurity and 4% of households experienced “very low food security,” which is defined as “reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.” In 2020, the number of households with “very low food security”—households where “normal eating patterns were disrupted due to lack of resources”—more than doubled as a result of the pandemic, increasing from 4% to 11%. Researchers have identified the primary causes of food insecurity as low salaries, high medical costs, and reduced funding for federal assistance programs. Other barriers to food access include limited transportation, functional impairments, and restricted access to social cohesion and support.

Recent surveys of food pantry clients in Colorado rank housing/rental assistance in the top three things that would improve client’s ability to access nutritious and culturally appropriate foods. Respondents to a 2021 survey of food pantry clients chose higher income (20%), followed by healthier food options (13%), and housing/rental assistance (11%) as their top choices for reducing food insecurity. These results echo the results of the 2020 CDHS client survey, which ranked “[better pay (38% of respondents), housing/rental assistance (34% of respondents), a job (29% of respondents), and more work hours (28% of respondents)... as the top four needs.” In Jefferson County specifically, “root cause” issues—including housing and economic insecurity—“were the barriers most frequently identified by Jefferson County community members when asked about what challenges they faced in accessing healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant food,” and suggested strategies to increase food affordability included eviction court reform, rent control, and improvements to affordable housing.

Redlining had direct impacts on supermarket siting and the resulting access to food. The nonprofit Atlanta Studies, in recognition of the impact of redlining on food access, uses the term “supermarket redlining” to describe racial, place-based disparities in food access:

[The term supermarket redlining] highlights how the locational decisions of food retailers are evidence of intentional disinvestment in low-income neighborhoods and BIPOC communities. This parallel is not simply metaphorical. Historically, supermarkets grew up along with the suburbs, relying on the sprawling, car dependent landscape of these low density communities. Supermarkets were created with suburban residents in mind, and so the forces that created the suburbs also shaped our food shopping options.

This form of “infrastructural exclusion” can be seen to be a result of numerous interdependent factors, including the Great Depression, redlining and other racist housing practices, transportation innovations, white flight, and suburban development, all of which coalesced to disproportionately impact BIPOC communities and create current unequal access to goods and resources, including fresh food.

Other racist housing practices in addition to redlining and racial covenants are responsible for disparities in healthy food access. “Blockbusting”—an unethical practice in which real estate agents and developers deliberately instilled fear of people of another race or class moving into a neighborhood, persuaded homeowners to sell property cheaply, and then profited by reselling the houses at a higher price—appears to be even more closely correlated with poor food access than redlining in a study of the city of Baltimore:

The historical processes that made housing more difficult or impossible for minority populations to afford are a key determinant of health disparities. And while redlining was a critical factor in shaping life course health among African Americans throughout the 20th century, this study suggests that blockbusting may be having a larger effect on the contemporary landscape [of poor food access]. Without explicit consideration and interrogation of the ways neighborhoods were irrevocably altered via these patterns of disinvestment, gentrification runs the risk of repeating the disinvestment patterns from other neighborhoods, and it will be more difficult to implement equitable redevelopment.

One of the challenges of studying racially restrictive housing practices is that it is difficult to identify causality between historical practices and the current state of neighborhoods, including as they pertain to food access. In part, this is due to the circular dynamic created by the limited opportunities afforded to BIPOC and the results of those racist policies. BIPOC were more likely to be restricted to physically undesirable locations, which had the effect of further reducing the likelihood of investment in these communities. Instead of a causal effect, then, the impacts of various racially restrictive housing practices are best understood as a part of a network of systemic barriers for BIPOC. Taken together, these barriers resulted in chronic disinvestment and financial disempowerment in BIPOC communities, both of which contributed to disparities in food access and food justice.

Demographics and Material Conditions in Jefferson County

Jefferson County’s municipal boundaries include the incorporated cities and towns of Arvada, Bow Mar, Edgewater, Golden, Lakeside, Lakewood, Mountain View, and Wheat Ridge, as well as portions of the cities of Superior and Westminster. The County also reaches into the foothills of the Rocky Mountains where unincorporated communities such as Conifer, Evergreen, Genesee, and Morrison are located. The county contains more than 212,000 acres of public land: “Unincorporated Jefferson County contains approximately 260 square miles of parks and open space. This equals approximately 40 percent of the County’s land area.” Population density is highest in the area to the east of and encircled by I-70 and I-470 and the northeast portion of the county above I-70 and to the east of I-93 (see [Figure 4](#)), and corresponds roughly with the incorporated areas of Jefferson County (see below for a discussion of incorporated vs. unincorporated). “Part of this could be due to topography, given the fact that 82 percent of the [unincorporated] land area is mountainous (342,113 acres of the 419,008 total unincorporated acres). In the Mountain Areas, constraints related to availability of water and sanitation, steep slopes, and road network capacity make economic development on a large scale difficult.”

Of the approximately 580,000 people residing in Jefferson County as of the 2020 census, 22% identify as non-white. Only about 1% identify as Black or African American. However, 13% of Black people in Jefferson County report living under the poverty line, as opposed to 6% of white people. For further context, about 15% of the population identifies as being of Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race), and about 12% of that population lives under the poverty line. Poverty does not necessarily have a 1:1 correspondence with food insecurity and may underestimate it. Note that nationally, “20 percent of food insecure people are above the federal poverty level, or near poor.” There is a significant refugee population in Jefferson County, and the county proactively signed a resolution welcoming refugees in 2020. There is also a significant population that may identify (or be identified) as white but does not speak English, or speaks English as a second language (e.g. Russian immigrants). These populations warrant further examination in regards to the unique barriers they face to secure housing and food access, but that examination is beyond the scope of this paper.

About 28% of people in Jefferson County rent, while the remaining 72% own their home (for comparison, in Denver County, the split is about 50/50). Of the approximately 300,000 housing units in Jefferson County, ~210,000 (70%) are occupied solely by white people. ~153,000 (72%) of those units are owner-occupied, and ~56,400 (27%) are renter-occupied. 1,744 (0.5%) housing units are occupied solely by Black people: 637 (36%) are owner-occupied and 1,107 (63%) are renter-occupied. Black people appear to rent disproportionately in Jefferson County compared to white people.

From “Preliminary Recommendations”

As the consequences of redlining and other racist land-based policies make clear, BIPOC in the United States have experienced a lack of opportunity to accumulate generational wealth through homeownership. In addition, discriminatory practices and policies in the housing market have contributed to patterns of chronic disinvestment in BIPOC communities. As such, improving access to food through location-based measures alone will not suffice to end food insecurity. Although ensuring that all neighborhoods have physical access to fresh and healthy food is critical, the financial empowerment of residents is also indispensable in achieving justice. Using a holistic perspective, food justice can only be achieved through the pursuit of economic and social justice as a whole, part of which must occur through broader investment in BIPOC communities. However, efforts to empower BIPOC communities must be led by BIPOC, a point which is addressed below under “Community Self-Reliance.”

To view the preliminary recommendations and for further reading, please click the link to view the complete document [“Using a Historical Lens to Contextualize Discriminatory Housing Practices and Food Access in Jefferson County.”](#)

Appendix E: Link to Grantee Sample Contract

Please [click this link](#) (or copy and paste the below URL into your browser) to view a Grantee Sample Contract for the grant opportunity “Community Investment to Equitably Increase Food Security in Jefferson County via the American Rescue Plan Act.” Contracts will be distributed to grantees and agreed upon among all parties no later than December 31, 2022.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a8Xb3tu0PVmN_IK-k-1HQYoCvxOXANI5/edit?usp=sharing&oid=102953116256629453821&rtpof=true&sd=true