

Homegrown Community Projects: 2024-2025 Contracts

Overview

The Minneapolis Health Department (MHD) released a request for proposals (RFP) for Homegrown Minneapolis (Homegrown) community projects. The Homegrown community projects funding provides resources for community-led projects that implement specific strategies outlined in the:

- Minneapolis Food Vision
- 2024-2026 Minneapolis Food Action Plan
- 2023 Climate Equity Plan (with a focus on the Food, Zero Waste Circular Economy (FZW) and Green Spaces & Trees (GST) chapters)

In 2024, the 16 projects funded addressed one or more of the following focus areas:

- Sustainable growing - educational programming and/or access to materials, equipment, water, lighting and other resources for growing food using sustainable production methods within the city
- Season extension - construction and use of energy efficient season extension/controlled environment growing structures for fruit and vegetable production within the city
- Wasted food prevention - reduce wasted food in the city through prevention, food rescue, and composting)

Fourteen of these projects are continuing in 2025.

The funding for these projects, which is part of the City's Climate Legacy Initiative, supports the advancement of an equitable and climate-resilient food system.

Contracted organizations

Organization	2024 Award Amount	2025 Award Amount	Scope
Appetite for Change	\$24,677.06	\$14,000.00	Appetite For Change seeks to plant, grow, and harvest sustainable produce in three urban gardens and enhanced Deep Winter Greenhouse for community food distribution and youth education in North Minneapolis.
Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization (CANDO)	\$22,680.00	\$14,900.00	Plant-Grow-Share (PGS) is building sustainable agriculture demonstration sites in the Central and Bryant neighborhoods of Minneapolis. CANDO is growing a community celebrating cultural connection and climate resiliency. Plant-Grow-Share will conduct a series of free workshops based on PGS’ beginning gardener curriculum. These workshops will be focused on sustainable growing methods accessible to both gardeners and urban farmers of various economic backgrounds and land access.
Church of the Incarnation	\$20,040.00	\$14,000.00	Harvest From the Heart food shelf, which is run by Church of the Incarnation, will increase the capacity of food rescue in South Minneapolis fivefold through the hiring of a driver. Increasing their food rescue capacity will significantly enhance their ability to combat food waste, address rising food insecurity in the 87% BIPOC communities they serve, and build the sustainability of Harvest from the Heart’s programming in coordination with other area food shelves.
East Side Neighborhood Services, Inc.	\$20,175.52	\$12,900.00	The East Side Neighborhood Services (ESNS) garden space will enhance food support and older adult programming through sustainable gardening initiatives, including the expansion and maintenance of garden beds, installation of water conservation systems, and engagement of dedicated staff and community volunteers. The project will increase access to fresh produce for food shelf participants, foster community involvement, and promote social equity.

Grapevine Collective	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	The Grapevine Collective facilitated the building of handicapped accessible raised garden beds at New City Center. They will use the space in these new beds as well as the ones already in place to coordinate a community-led organic gardening project that will include education and donation of fresh produce to Minneapolis residents in need.
Hope Community Inc.	\$25,000.00	\$15,100.00	Hope Community’s Growing Food, Growing Leaders project will: 1) educate Minneapolis residents about preventing food waste and sustainable urban agriculture through 12 community-led Skill Shares, and 2) restore and bring an 850 sq. ft. urban agriculture space back into production to be farmed by resident leaders who will be coached on sustainable growing practices and techniques.
Kingfield Farmers Market (Neighborhood Roots)	\$13,860.00	\$9,700.00	Neighborhood Roots is dedicated to strengthening and perpetuating its impactful produce redistribution program, known as Nourishing Neighbors. This initiative prioritizes fair compensation for local farmers, aiming to diminish food waste and alleviate food insecurity across Minneapolis. Drawing from a history of fruitful community engagement, they will leverage partnerships with Twin Cities Food Justice, local food shelves, and educational institutions to foster a resilient and equitable local food system.
Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI)	\$22,000.00	\$14,400.00	NACDI, under its Four Sisters Urban Farm program, will use funds for equipment and materials needed to continue operations at their community garden site and to expand into their medicine garden site. There, they will continue to practice sustainable growing by building living soil and engaging in no-till organic techniques. They will also use these funds to support food rescue efforts at the Four Sisters Farmers Market.
NorthPoint Health and Wellness	\$25,000.00	\$17,500.00	Funding will expand NorthPoint’s capacity to participate in local community food rescue programs and increase the re-distribution of food rescue items through their Community Food Shelf and will increase food security in North Minneapolis.

Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC)	\$11,220.00	\$5,600.00	In 2024 this project created a community composting ambassador program to motivate Willard Hay and Near North residents to shift their behavior to sustainable living practices by diverting food scraps from the trash. The training workshop for the ambassadors will be led by local experts and supported by NRRC’s green team youth, offering a unique multi-generational knowledge-sharing opportunity to build environmental resilience and community ties. In 2025 NRRC will engage and train Green Team youth to install and maintain garden beds in the surrounding neighborhood. This will empower youth to develop gardening skills, leading to improved environmental awareness and self-sufficiency. The gardens will also increase the amount of locally grown, healthy food distributed to the community, helping to reduce food insecurity.
Open Arms of Minnesota	\$22,536.00	\$12,900.00	Open Arms of Minnesota will use this funding to support their community garden program, Open Farms, which produces vegetables and herbs used in their meal program for clients living with severe and chronic illnesses. Funds will support their North Minneapolis and South Minneapolis gardens, allowing them to install a drip irrigation system, establish a compost system, and increase growing space for their core meal program as well as their new Cultural Meals Program designed for East African, Hmong, and Latinx clients.
Tamales y Bicicletas	\$24,750.00	N/A – 2024 only	Tamales y Bicicletas extended the growing season by utilizing a deep winter greenhouse to grow and harvest crops throughout the winter and start seedlings earlier in spring. By extending the season, other urban farmers and community members grew at the farm throughout the year. This funding supported community workshops, culturally relevant produce distribution, and increased gardener engagement.
The Aliveness Project	\$15,000.00	\$10,500.00	The Aliveness Project’s Food Shelf Program is uniquely designed to meet the nutritional needs of individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their families and is open five days per week. This project will increase the program’s food rescue activities, collecting 60,000 pounds of wasted food from area grocers and coops and thus expand the availability of fresh, nutritious food options in the Food Shelf Program.

The Camden Collective	\$14,600.00	N/A – 2024 only	The Camden Collective addressed food waste through an expansion of their food rescue program.
The Sanneh Foundation	\$24,999.00	\$16,000.00	The Sanneh Foundation will partner with Black Radish Farms to support their sustainable growing operations and to bring fresh produce to community members that visit the Sanneh Foundation’s existing free food distribution at Corcoran Park each Friday. Nopales Rebeldes will sample and distribute recipes using unfamiliar foods to increase acceptance and prevent wasted food.
Twin Cities Food Justice	\$23,587.00	\$20,000.00	Through the Produce Preservation Program, Twin Cities Food Justice will reduce the amount of fresh food wasted during the summer months when it is in abundance and preserve it for distribution in the winter and spring when fresh produce is scarce. Fresh food will be preserved and distributed to Minneapolis food relief organizations at no cost.