



HEALTHY FOOD FOR DENVER'S **KIDS**

December 23, 2020

Annual Report to City Council

HFDK Background

- Citizen-led ballot measure (302) approved by 59% of Denver voters in November 2018
- Tax increase to establish a fund for healthy food access and food-based education for Denver's youth
 - 0.08% sales and use tax, expected to generate ~\$11 million/year
 - Term: January 1, 2019-December 31, 2028
- Funds distributed through grants to Denver nonprofits, schools/DPS, and local government agencies
- Aimed primarily at low-income and at-risk youth



Why is the HFDK Commission & Funding Needed?

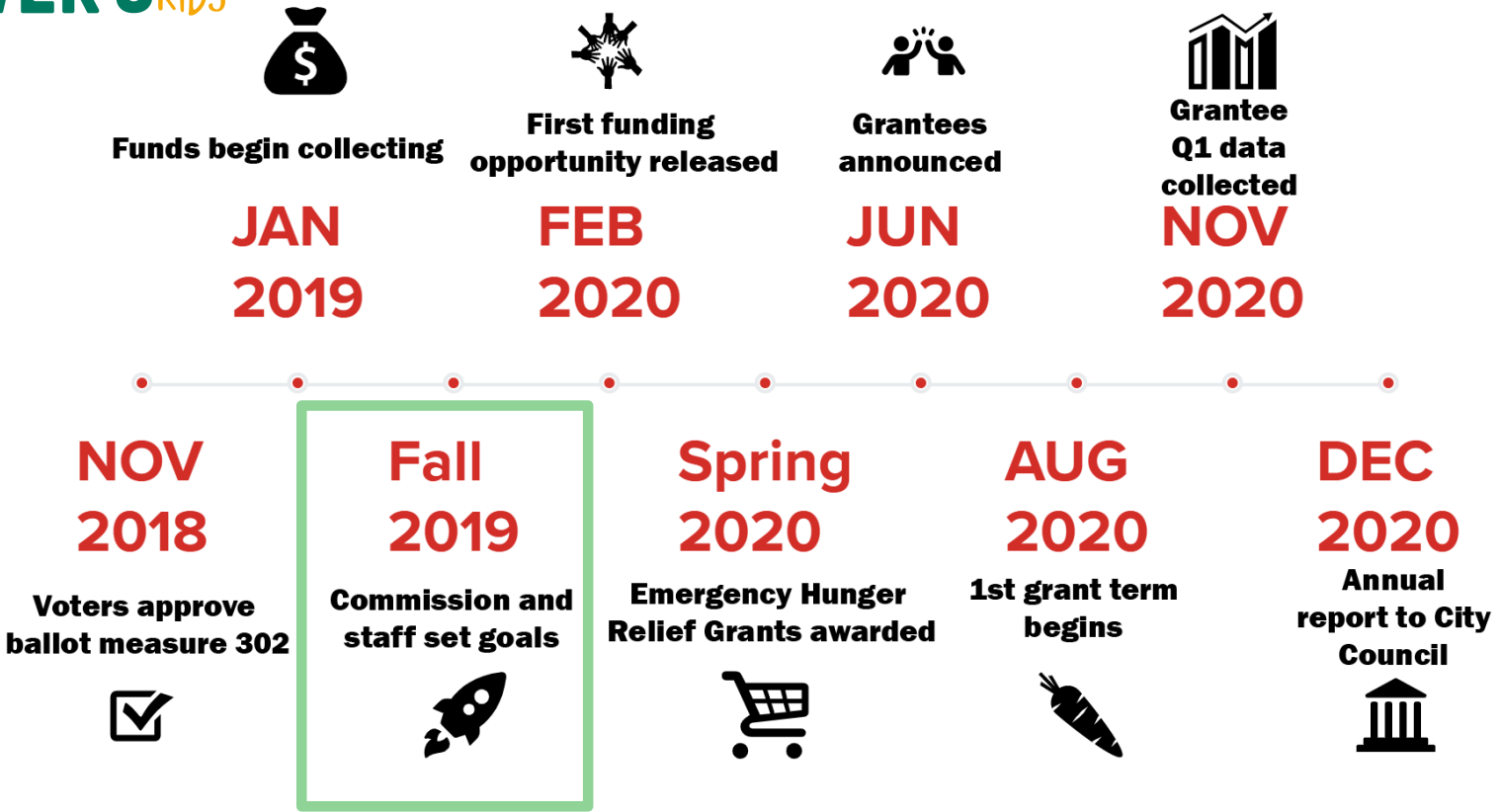
- Pre-COVID-19 pandemic, 1 in 7 Denver kids were food insecure
- During COVID-19, ~25-36% of the Denver population is now food insecure
- Nearly 1 in 3 Denver youth has too much weight for health
- 25% of Denver youth eat less than one serving of fruits and vegetables per day

A young child with dark hair is looking down into a woven basket filled with fresh, ripe strawberries. The child's face is partially visible at the top of the frame, and the basket's rim is in the foreground. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting.

Purpose of the Funds

- Year-round access to healthy food, meals and snacks
- Hands-on education about farming, gardening, cooking, nutrition and healthy eating
- Preferential procurement of food from Colorado farms, ranches, and food manufacturers (up to 10%)
- Funds & organizations must principally benefit Denver and its residents
- No more than 10% for city administration costs

HEALTHY FOOD FOR DENVER'S KIDS TIMELINE



HFDK Commission

13-member Commission

- 3 City staff
- 2 members of City Council
- 4 residents of the city
- 4 representatives of city-wide organizations or institutions involved in food
- Nonprofit, government, community member appointees
- Diverse representation
- Sub-committees
- Staffed by DDPHE



**HEALTHY
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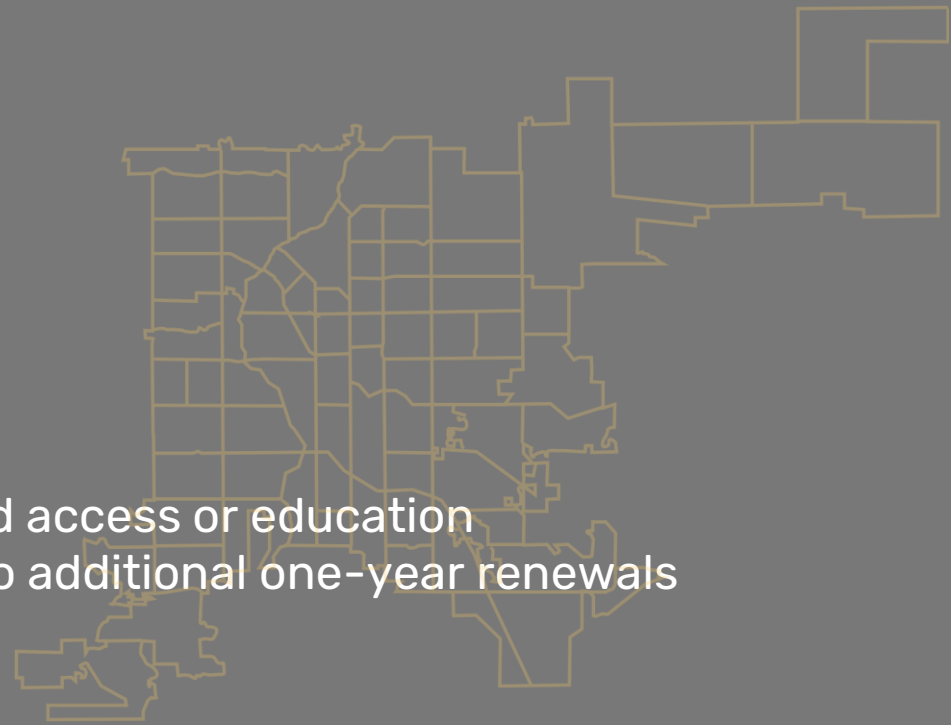


Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Public Engagement

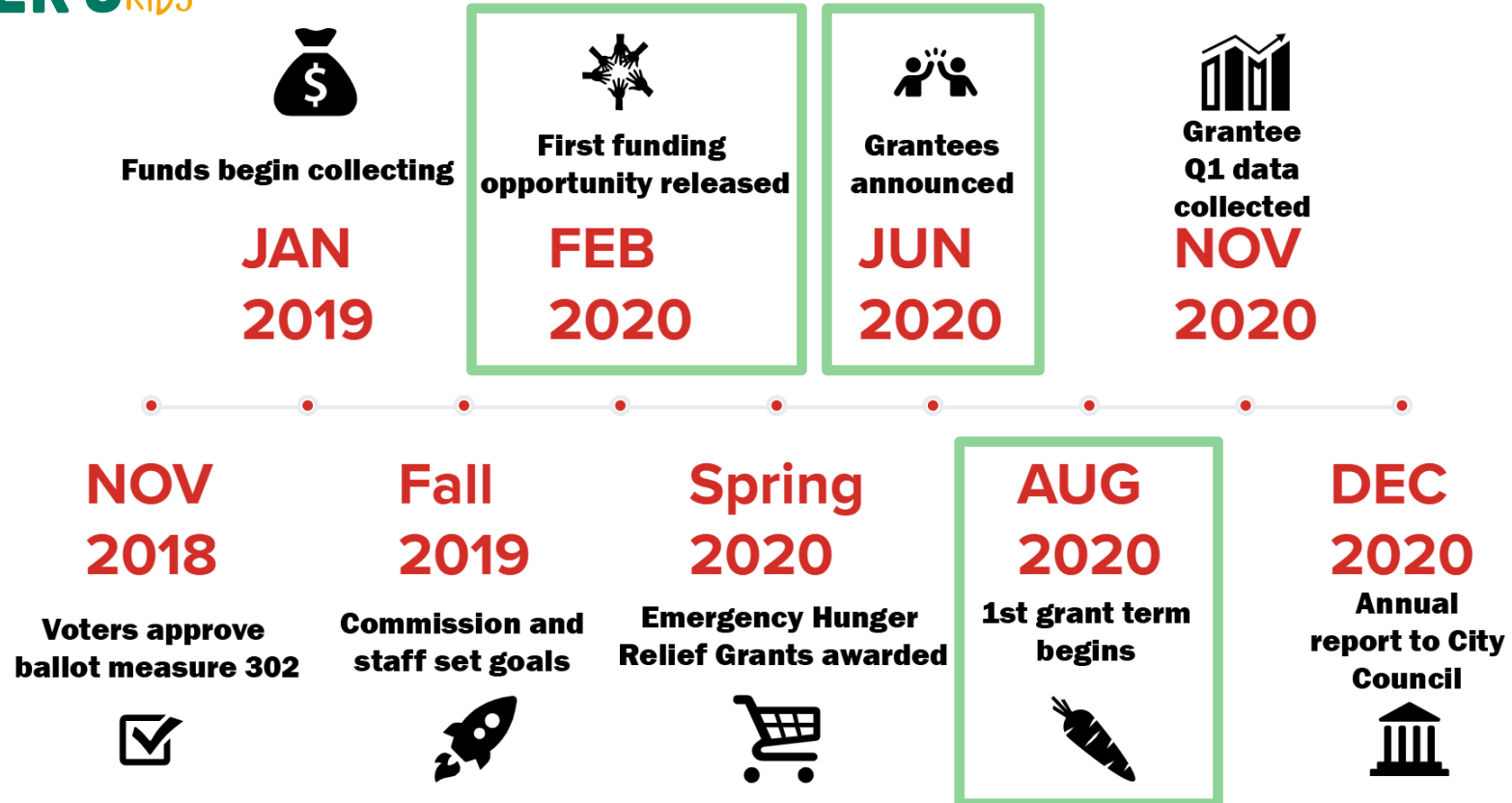
- EDI training and equitable grantmaking
- 80+ monthly meeting guests, 1200 Listserv subscribers
- Spanish-language interpretation & Facebook Livestreaming of monthly meetings

HFDK First Funding Opportunity

- First RFP opened February 13, 2020 (in English and Spanish)
- Application deadline extended to April 30, 2020 due to COVID-19
- \$10,000–\$1,000,000 grants for food access or education
- One-year grant term, option for two additional one-year renewals
- **38 applications received**
- 6 ineligible for HFDK funds
- **25 organizations selected to fund**
 - 16 nonprofits
 - 8 schools or DPS affiliates
 - 1 city agency (Denver Public Library)



HEALTHY FOOD FOR DENVER'S KIDS TIMELINE



Number of grantees: **25 orgs**

Total: **\$5.96 million**

Average grant size: **\$238,013**



Grantee photo
from The
GrowHaus
(pictured here:
the
granddaughter
of a GrowHaus
Promotora)

HEALTHY FOOD FOR DENVER'S Kids

Grantees



Career and College Success



METRO CARING
ENDING HUNGER AT ITS ROOT



DENVER SCHOOL of INNOVATION and SUSTAINABLE DESIGN



Discover a World of Opportunity™



Transforming Youth & Communities



Food & Nutrition Services
Feeding healthy futures



STRIVE Prep



A Program of Montbello Organizing Committee



2020 Grantee Example: Sun Valley Kitchen + Community Center

Grantee
photo from
Sun Valley
Kitchen +
Community
Center

Grant amount: **\$117,230**

Project overview:

// The HFDK funds allow us to expand and deepen the impact and reach of our Youth Employment + Professional Development, Youth Enrichment, and No-Cost Grocery Programs. The HFDK funds are also supporting lunches for youth attending in-person programming and virtual cooking classes for youth in our Sun Valley neighborhood, in partnership with Sun Valley Youth Center. //



From August-October 2020:

- Distributed 2,802 meals
- 1,523 families received food
- 10 (virtual) cooking/healthy eating classes, engaging 129 youth

2020 Grantee Quarter 1 Data (August-October)



18,104
Total youth
touchpoints



15,448
Meals served



40,282 Food boxes distributed to families and youth at 10 community sites (including community centers, nonprofits, and farms), 10 Denver Housing Authority facilities, and 64 schools

770,075 Pounds of rescued food



distributed to 12 schools,
11 community centers,
11 housing facilities



32 New gardens or farms engaging 21 youth

15,098 Pounds of produce



harvested from local food production sites,
a total value of \$43,431.30



17 New youth jobs

in the food system created,
including 1,573 hours worked
and \$23,067 paid to youth



24 Sessions of ongoing food courses

including 194 youth attendees



117

Food classes or workshops with 2,424 youth and 1,740 adults attending

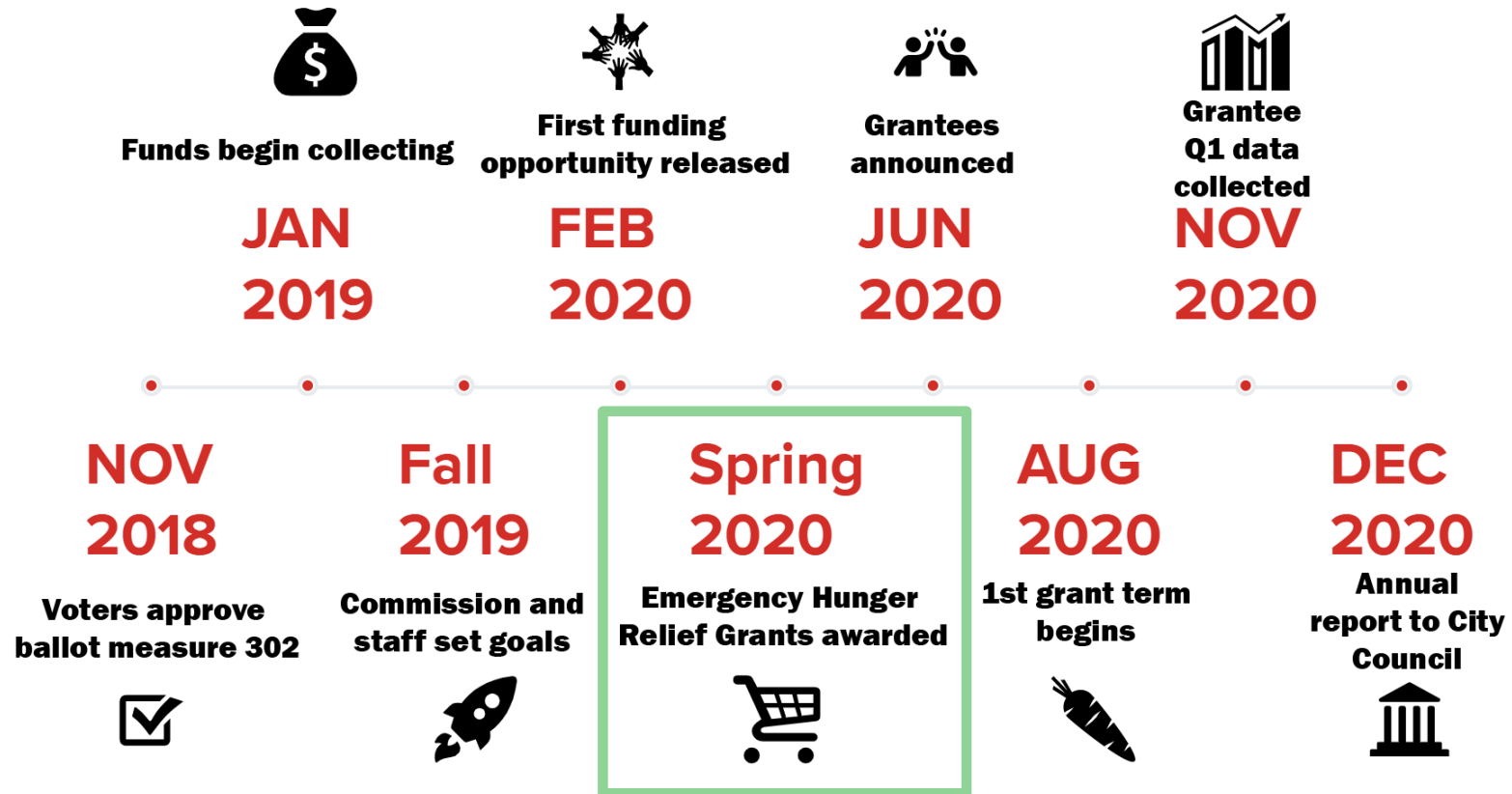
2020 Grants: Who will be served?

Across the 25 primary grantees:

~129,500 youth

**will be impacted by programs providing healthy
food access and food-based education**

HEALTHY FOOD FOR DENVER'S KIDS TIMELINE





COVID-19 Emergency Hunger Relief Grants

- March 2020, HFDK Commission approved \$1.11 million, including \$135k to DPS, to support emergency hunger relief needs, in partnership with the Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger
- Funds awarded to feed youth in Denver during the pandemic, supporting food procurement, distribution, PPE, sanitation supplies, payroll and outreach
- Grantees are located across Denver, including in communities of color and areas of high poverty and food insecurity

Emergency Hunger Relief

Number of grantees: **52 orgs**

Total: **\$880,903**

Average grant size: **\$16,940**



Emergency Grant Example: Venture for Success Prep

Grant amount:

\$10,000

Project overview:

Provided food boxes and hot meals to 320+ families; 90% of food went to the 80239 (Montbello) community, and 10% went to 80249 (Green Valley Ranch)

378 meals = 3,402 lbs of food went to 356 Denver youth, including low income, immigrants and those experiencing homelessness

We are fortunate for the support from the HFDK Emergency Hunger Relief Grant. The Far Northeast (Montbello) is home to thousands of children, many who fall below the federal poverty guidelines. Many of our enrolled families were already struggling financially and the pandemic has exacerbated their financial woes. Our volunteers have ensured that every child has a plate of food and a box of perishable and non-perishable items for each family. As the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to rise in communities of economic hardship, specifically communities of color, this grant has gone a long way to support more than 320 families with food.

**April-August 2020
Emergency Grants:
Who was served?**

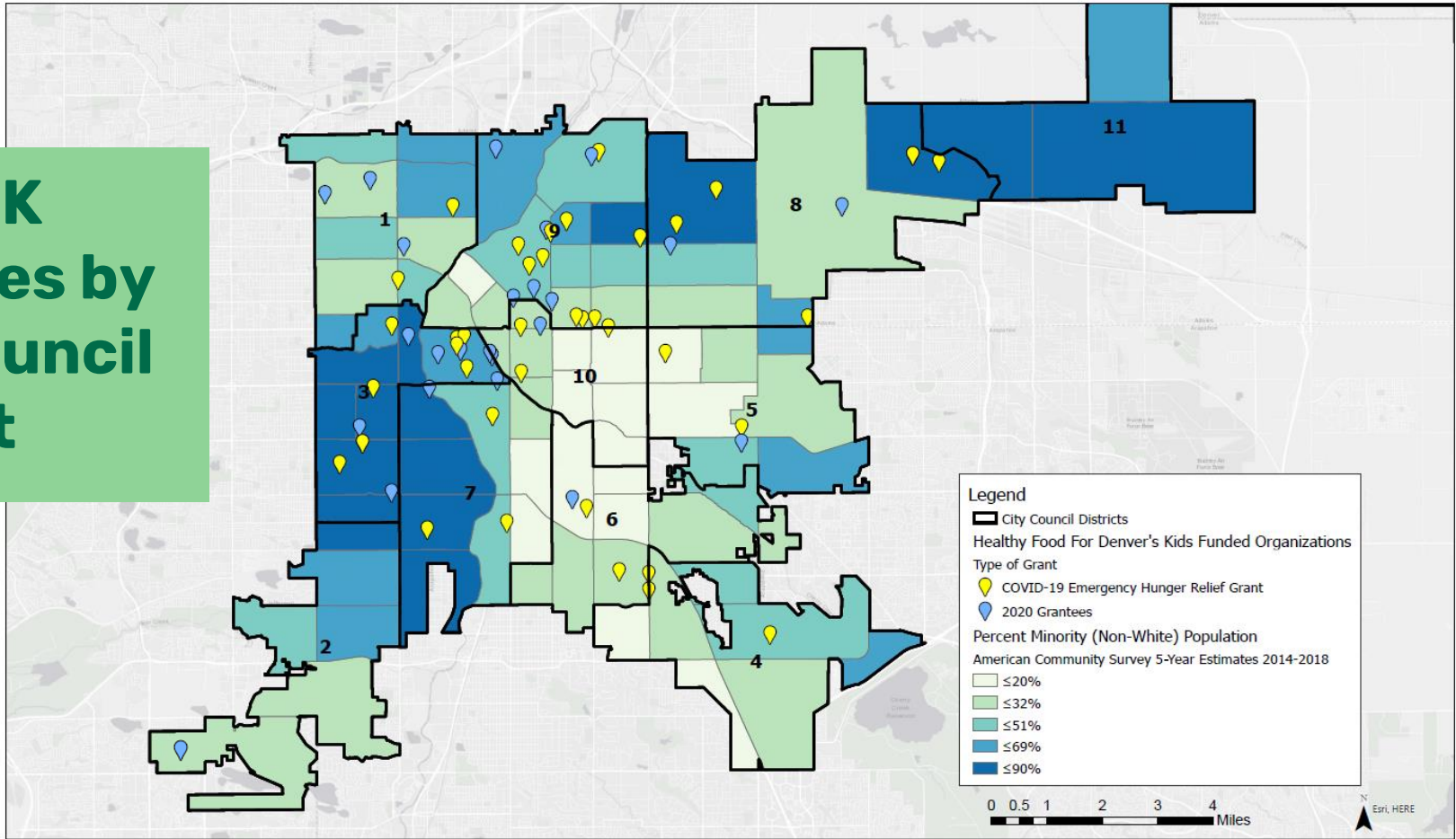
114,244 youth

3,539,235 meals

served through the emergency grants

Healthy Food for Denver's Kids 2020 Funded Organizations and Percent Minority (Non-White) Population

**All HFDK
Grantees by
City Council
District**



Evaluation

- Public RFP → Change Matrix evaluation partner brought on in February 2020
- Adaptive, participatory, culturally responsive and equitable approaches
- Deliverables:
 - Baseline Assessment
 - Social Network and Systems Map
 - Theory of Change
 - Macro-Evaluation Plan
 - Grantee and Cohort-level indicators and quarterly dashboards



Grantee photo from
Sprout City Farms



Grantee Technical Assistance

Meeting grantees where they're at

- Customized evaluation plans
- Relationship-based approach: 1:1 learning partner for each grantee

Learning opportunities

- Five webinars completed:
 - 1) Pandemic-EBT
 - 2) Food Procurement & Distribution
 - 3) Colorado Food Pantry Network
 - 4) Collecting Demographic Data
 - 5) Remote/Virtual Learning for Food Education

Grantee engagement

- 47 grantee-affiliated staff/individuals
- 24 grantees
- Cohort community building

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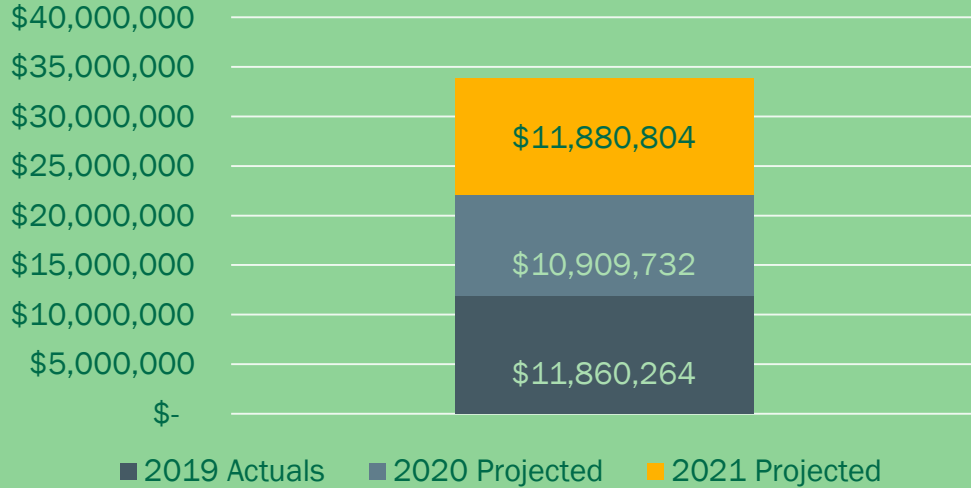
Partnerships

Internal and external organizations assist with technical assistance, leveraging resources, and thought partnership



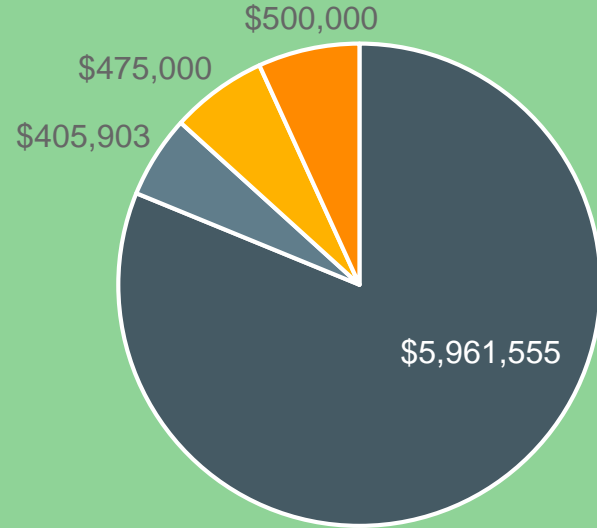
Vendors and food distributors are serving as key partners to many grantees.

HFDK Projected Revenue



In 2020, HFDK allocated \$7,342,458 in grants and program administration.

HFDK Encumbrances 2020



**HEALTHY
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Budget Update

- HFDK 2020 Grantee Funding
- COVID-19 Emergency Funding - Direct Funding
- COVID-19 Emergency Funding - Trailhead/Blueprint to End Hunger
- Budgeted Administrative Spend

Upcoming Funding Activities

\$10,000 or less grant requests,
reviewed and approved on a
monthly basis



Rolling Micro-Grants



Regular RFP Cycle



**Exceptional/
Emergency Grants**

For extraordinary
requests that arise
between regular RFPs

Establish a regular funding cadence

HEALTHY FOOD FOR DENVER'S **KIDS**



Thank you!

**For more
information,
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