
HEALTHY FOOD FOR DENVER'S KIDS

Denver City Council
July 26, 2021

Bill Request for Modification to Ordinance 302

Empowering Denver's communities to live better, longer

Healthy Food for Denver's Kids 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 and local government agencies, including Denver Public Schools
- Aimed primarily at low-income and at-risk youth

Summary of HFDK Proposed Ordinance Changes

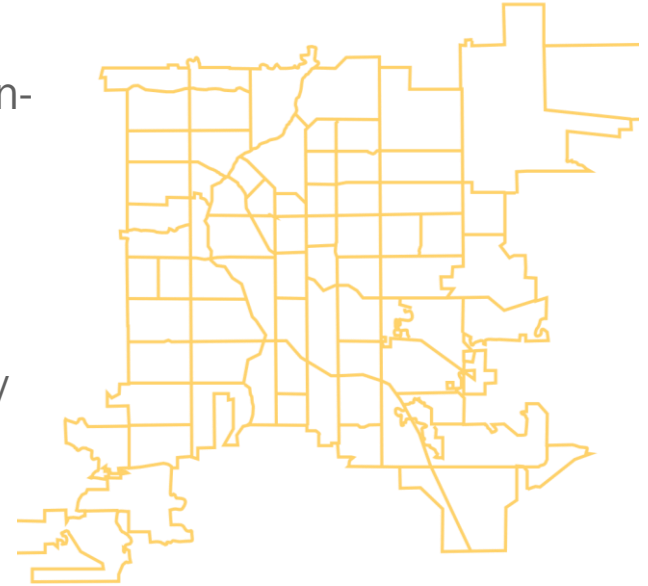
Currently, the ordinance is restrictive for both organizations and commissioners. The Commission is recommending the following changes to improve the ability of the HFDK Initiative to disburse funds more widely, effectively and equitably.

- Change “under 18” to “18 and under”
- Change a “majority of activities” to “qualifying programmatic activities”
- Clarify that distributed grant funds (rather than organizations overall) need to principally benefit Denver residents
- Clarify that “public schools in Denver” can apply (including individual DPS schools and charter schools), in addition to DPS as an entity
- Change the requirement that Commissioners “be a resident” of Denver to “live or work” in Denver
- Remove the Commissioner minimum age requirement of 21 years

Note that 9 votes and a public hearing are required to amend a voter-approved initiative

Impact to the City from Changes

- **Program expansion:** The proposed modification will expand the number of organizations eligible for grant funds
- **Neighborhoods:** Proposed changes will allow more non-profits in different neighborhoods to receive funding
- More inclusive and equitable by allowing more organizations to apply for funds.
- Greater inclusion and diversity in terms of age and residency for representatives appointed to the Healthy Food for Denver's Kids Commission.
- More consistency and accessibility for community stakeholders



To better serve Denver's youth

Data on Eligibility from 2021

- 30% of interested organizations working on food or education for kids were not considered eligible under current language
- Of these, 80% would be considered eligible if changes are approved
- Examples of future eligible organizations:
 - Wrap-around services and basic needs support
 - Crucial mental health services
 - Colorado food access leadership
 - Affordable housing
 - Youth empowerment and leadership
 - Education
 - Support for refugees and immigrants
 - Environmental health & wellbeing

HEALTHY FOOD FOR DENVER'S **KIDS**

Thank you and Q+A

For more information,
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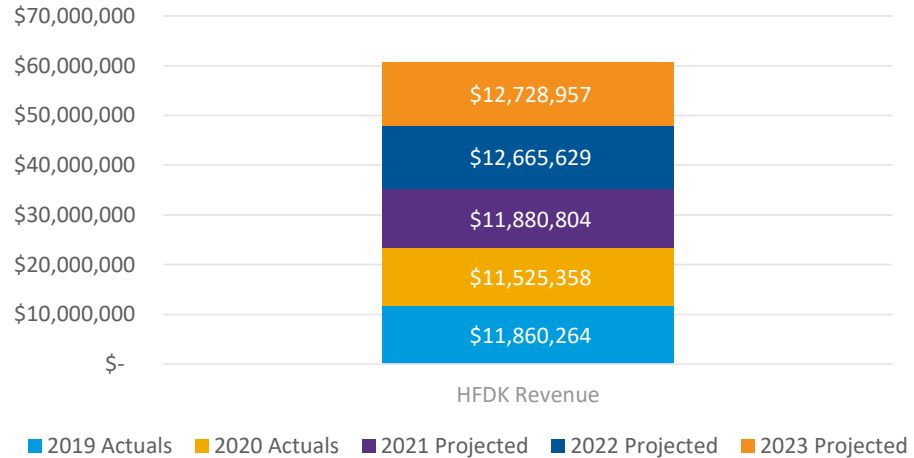
Appendix

Healthy Food for Denver's Kids Financial Overview

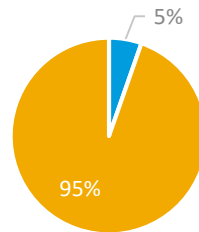
HFDK Grants Expenses and Encumbrances (2019-2023)

- COVID Emergency Funding = \$895,715
- HFDK 2020 Grantee Funding (1st RFP) = \$10,800,000
- HFDK 2021 Grantee Funding (2nd RFP) = \$5,900,000
- HFDK 2020 and 2021 Grantee Funding Set Aside for Renewals (through 2023) = \$15,600,000
- HFDK 2022 and 2023 Future Funding Available for New RFPs = \$20,000,000

HFDK Revenue (2019-2023)



Program and Administrative (Actual) Spend (2019-2021)



■ Administrative Spend ■ Program Spend

HEALTHY FOOD FOR DENVER'S Kids 2020 Grantees



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
METRO DENVER



METRO CARING
ENDING HUNGER AT ITS ROOT



Career and College Success



Food & Nutrition Services
Feeding healthy futures



STRIVE Prep



Contracted HFDK Grantee Data for Q1, Q2 & Q3 (Aug 1, 2020 - April 30, 2021)



192,616
Total youth touchpoints



52,060
Meals served



129,446
Food boxes distributed to families and youth



2,202,712
Pounds of food rescued
and distributed to **79 schools**,
21 community centers, and
28 housing facilities



170
New gardens or farms
engaging **1,289 youth**

15,098



Pounds of produce

harvested from local food production sites,
a **total value of \$43,431**



38
New youth jobs
created in the food system
including **4,950 hours** worked
and **\$69,051 paid** to youth



62
Sessions of ongoing food courses
including **1,155 youth attendees**
and **271 youth completing**



579
Food classes or workshops
with **7,769 youth** and
5,631 adults attending

Proposed Ordinance 302 Changes

Sec. 2-242. - Appointment, qualifications, and terms.

(d) Each commissioner must ~~be a resident of~~ live or work in the City and County of Denver, ~~over the age of twenty-one (21) years,~~ not currently be a volunteer or paid staff person of an organization applying for Healthy Food for Denver's Kids Initiative funding, and willing to disclose any potential conflicts of interest.

Proposed Ordinance 302 Changes

Sec. 2-243. - Powers and duties.

(c) At the minimum, criteria shall include the following:

- (i) The requirement that all distributions of revenues shall help Denver's kids, primarily Denver's low income and at-risk youth, through year-round access for up to three (3) healthy meals and healthy snacks per day for Denver's youth ~~under the age of 18~~ **age eighteen (18) and under**; hands-on experiential education and public health programs associated with farming, gardening, cooking, home economics, and healthy eating; and preferentially procuring food from Colorado farms, ranches, and food manufacturing businesses so long as they are less than ten (10) percent more expensive than comparable out-of-state foods.

- (ii) The requirement that revenues be distributed by the Denver food commission only to organizations which conduct ~~a majority of their activities~~ **qualifying programmatic activities** within the city and county of Denver, ~~and which so long that distributed revenues~~ principally benefit the residents of the city and county of Denver.

Proposed Ordinance 302 Changes

Sec. 2-243. - Powers and duties.

(d) The Denver food commission shall only distribute monies from the Healthy Food for Denver's Kids Initiatives fund to recipients who are either non-profit organizations in good standing that have a determination letter in effect from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service confirming the organization meets the requirements of 26 USC 501(c)(3) and ~~whose primary purpose is to that~~ provide healthy meals and healthy snacks for Denver's youth ~~under the age of 18~~ **age eighteen (18) and under**; hands-on experiential education and public health programs associated with farming, gardening, cooking, home economics, and healthy eating; or the preferential procurement of food from Colorado farms, ranches, and food manufacturing businesses so long as they are less than ten (10) percent more expensive than comparable out-of-state foods; or agencies of local government, including Denver Public Schools **and public schools in Denver**, that have programs directly furthering such purposes.

Community Engagement about Funding

- In 2020, HFDK staff presented at 7 RNO community meetings (Eastside Unified, La Alma Lincoln Park, Villa Park, Sun Valley Community Coalition, Barnum RNO, West Colfax, and Northeast Park Hill Coalition) and 6 HRCP Commission meetings (African American, American Indian, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Latino, Immigrant and Refugee, LGBTQ)
- In 2021, HFDK staff gave 13 presentations about the funds including to RNOs (Athmar Park, Barnum, East Colfax, Five Points, Northeast Park Hill, Ruby Hill), City Council groups (District 9 Food Desert Solution Advisory Committee), DPS Garden and Sustainability Forum, Mayor's Youth Commission, and the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council

DDPHE has received feedback from community members that the eligibility requirements are confusing, and people were unsure if their organizations would be eligible or were clearly ineligible.