

Healthy Food for Denver's Kids (HFDK) Initiative

Executive Summary

Overview: The Healthy Food for Denver's Kids Initiative (Ordinance 302) proposed to increase taxes to establish a fund for healthy food and food-based education for Denver's youth. The ballot measure was approved by voters in November 2018 and went into effect in January 2019. The 0.08% increase in sales and use tax within the City and County of Denver is expected to generate approximately \$11 million dollars annually for ten years. The money will be disbursed through competitive grants to agencies of local government and non-profit organizations. The funding will be aimed primarily at low-income and at-risk youth, and funding decisions will be made by a Commission made up of non-profit, government, and community member volunteer appointees.

Purpose of the Funds:

- Help Denver's kids (primarily low income or at-risk) have year-round access to up to three meals and healthy snacks per day
- Hands-on experiential education and public health programs about farming, gardening, cooking, home economics, nutrition and healthy eating
- Preferential procurement of food from Colorado farms, ranches, and food manufacturers
- Organizations must conduct the majority of their activities within the City and County of Denver, and principally benefit the city and its residents
- Grantees must provide regular reporting on activities funded
- Some funds can cover administration for applicant organizations, but no more than 10% can go towards City administration costs

Contracts:

- Six contracts submitted for resolution requests are renewals from the first round of grants that were awarded. The grantees were selected through a competitive selection process (RFP) and had the option for an additional year of renewal. The renewal requests were done through an extensive review process by the HFDK Commission review committees through new budget submissions and presentations. The programs include providing food and food education to Denver's youth.
- One contract submitted for new approval is with Denver Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services to build a greenhouse to grow fresh produce and be utilized as a space for classes.