



Communities for Healthy Food NYC

Communities for Healthy Food (CfHF) NYC is an innovative approach to expanding access to affordable, healthy food in five of New York City's economically challenged communities. The initiative integrates access to healthy and affordable food into every aspect of our comprehensive community development work – through resident outreach, nutrition education and cooking classes; creating new or improved healthy food outlets and generating food-sector jobs. A comprehensive evaluation is underway with the CUNY Institute for Urban Food Policy (formerly the NYC Food Policy Center).

In 2014 Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), an effective community development intermediary with strong neighborhood organization relationships and the ability to leverage capital and programmatic funds, launched the CfHF program with Community Development Corporation (CDC) partners, who own and manage affordable housing and other commercial and community spaces, deliver an array of programs and services, and have close ties to neighborhood residents. CfHF builds on the existing work of LISC and its CDC partners to revitalize struggling communities and improve overall quality of life. A toolkit is being developed this year to guide community-based organizations through the process of incorporating healthy food programming into their work.

The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund provided \$644,000 to expand CfHF in 2016 and 2017 to allow the program to enhance and deepen its work in the initial four New York City neighborhoods and add one additional high-need neighborhood in partnership with a local CDC, Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association, in Hunts Point in the Bronx. In Fiscal Year 2016 and 2017, this funding was complemented with \$1 million to support CfHF initiative funding from the New York City Council. The grant builds on an initial philanthropic donation of \$1.6 million from the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund.

IMPACTED NEIGHBORHOODS

Program Partners & Area of Focus

- 1 Cypress Hills LDC** in Cypress Hills/East New York, Brooklyn
Districts 37 and 42
- 2 New Settlement Apartments** in Mt. Eden, the Bronx
Districts 12, 14, and 16
- 3 Northeast Brooklyn Housing Development Corporation** in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn
Districts 33, 36, 37, 40, and 41
- 4 West Harlem Group Assistance, Inc.** in West Harlem, Manhattan
Districts 7 and 9

Additional Neighborhoods in Queens

Districts 29, 30, 31, and 32

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 5 Far Rockaway | 8 Ozone Park |
| 6 Glendale | 9 Richmond Hill |
| 7 Lindenwood | 10 Woodhaven |





These program partners are embedding healthy food strategies into community development work to:

- 1) Increase the availability of high quality, affordable, and nutritious foods;
- 2) Create new or improved healthy food outlets and venues;
- 3) Educate residents and community service providers about nutrition, healthy food preparation, and gardening;
- 4) Enable economic development opportunities through creating or expanding food-related jobs, improving or creating healthy food venues, and fostering food related enterprises;
- 5) Provide support services such as health screenings, enrollment in nutrition assistance programs, and food budgeting help; and
- 6) Implement a comprehensive neighborhood outreach and awareness campaign.

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided more than 350,000 pounds of emergency food for close to 45,000 pantry clients.
- Held CfHF program activities for more than 9,000 neighborhood residents this includes: farm shares, youth programming, cooking and nutritional classes, farmers market and grocery store tours, and cooking demonstrations.
- Trained close to 3,000 neighborhood residents, CDC staff, or partner organizations on healthy food resources and services in the neighborhood, the importance of healthy eating, and nutrition and gardening skills.
- Referred/enrolled nearly 1,500 families in public nutrition assistance programs, like the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formally known as food stamps.
- Trained 23 residents to become Community Chefs and created 23 Community Chef positions.
- Trained and hired over 60 youth and adults to become urban gardeners, farmers market staff and healthy food leaders/educators.



Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation (CHLDC) - Cypress Hills, Brooklyn

Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation's mission is to build a strong, sustainable Cypress Hills and East New York, where residents achieve educational and economic success, secure healthy and affordable housing and develop leadership skills to transform their lives and community. We serve over 10,000 local residents each year, many of whom are immigrants, through affordable housing development, sustainability planning, housing counseling, community organizing, college access and persistence programs, career and education programs, and youth and family services. CHLDC owns and manages affordable housing, commercial and community spaces; delivers an array of social and economic development programs and services; and has close ties to the neighborhood residents. We are working with LISC NYC to increase access to healthy food for community members through comprehensive community development work. Our strategic interventions are integrated into existing programming and locally-owned assets that are designed to address food demand and supply side issues.

New Settlement Apartments (NSA) - Mount Eden, the Bronx

New Settlement Apartments is a community development organization based in the Mt. Eden community of the Southwest Bronx, with a 25-year demonstrated commitment to increasing preparedness and access to high-quality public and post-secondary education and sustainable employment, and expanding opportunities for healthy and active living and safe and affordable housing. New Settlement is reshaping the neighborhood food landscape by implementing a comprehensive and coordinated approach that engages children and families. New Settlement advances community wellbeing by embedding holistic education around food issues into local institutions, developing community leadership, and integrating healthful, sustainably sourced, and fairly produced food into the food environment. Hands-on education through cooking and gardening is provided to 120 students during out of school time programs and to 600 elementary school campus students annually. Community members tackle food justice issues through youth-led projects and Stirring up Community Change, an adult leadership group. New Settlement supports the implementation of a healthier menu at a school campus that serves 800 students three meals every weekday. In 2017 New Settlement is launching a farm stand that will provide a source of affordable farm fresh fruits and vegetables 20 weeks of the year.



Northeast Brooklyn Housing Development Corporation (NEBHDCo) - Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn

A leading NYC affordable housing developer since 1985, NEBHDCo has developed and self-manages 960 residential units and 17 commercial units in 98 buildings in Central Brooklyn. NEBHDCo also offers an array of social and economic development programs and services, and has close ties to the neighborhood residents served, including seniors, youth, families, and adults. As one of five CDCs in LISC NYC's Communities for Healthy Food initiative, NEBHDCo effectively implements healthy food interventions in partnership with local residents, business owners and stakeholders through their comprehensive community development work. Communities for Healthy Food program highlights include: free cooking demos and culinary courses taught by paid community resident chefs; a year-round schedule of stipended youth programs that offer food justice education and training in cooking, gardening, and job skills; worker-owned cooperative business training and development.

West Harlem Group Assistance (WHGA) - West Harlem

West Harlem Group Assistance, Inc. (WHGA), a community-based development corporation was established in 1971 to revitalize the under-invested West and Central Harlem communities riddled with dilapidated and abandoned buildings. Since 1971, WHGA has developed 1,693 units of affordable housing and owns 43,676 square feet of commercial space in West Harlem. WHGA owns and manages affordable housing and other commercial and community spaces; delivers an array of social and economic development programs and services; and has close ties to the neighborhood residents, allowing the organization to effectively infuse healthy food access programs and activities into their comprehensive community development work. In 2014, with the support of LISC NYC, WHGA redeveloped one of their vacant storefronts on Lenox Avenue now called the West Harlem Community Healthy Food Hub, serving as a portal to improve access to healthy food and advance educational prospects related to health and nutrition for seniors, youth, families, and adults. The Hub services over 1,000 persons monthly and has forged partnerships with City Meals on Wheels, Housing Works Health Care, the NYC Department of Health and Winn Residential.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) – NYC

LISC NYC's mission is to help resident-focused, community-based development organizations transform distressed communities and neighborhoods into healthy places to live, do business, work, and raise families. Over the last 34 years, LISC New York has invested approximately \$2.3 billion in more than 75 New York City community development corporations and other local, nonprofit organizations. With our support, these organizations have developed over 34,600 affordable homes and more than 2.3 million sq. ft. of community and commercial space. For CfHF, LISC NYC continues to provide technical assistance and program support through convening CDC staff to share best practices and cross-site learnings, completing a comprehensive program evaluation with the CUNY Institute for Urban Food Policy (formerly the NYC Food Policy Center), and creating a toolkit guide to illustrate program replication through case studies, lessons learned, and highlight evaluation outcomes.