

INDY FOOD FUND



Critical in Indianapolis, where 30% of adults are obese, 36% of residents have low food access, unemployment continues to rise, and environmental sustainability ranks low compared to peer cities, there is a need to strengthen Indianapolis' local food system. The Indy Food Fund strengthens the local food system by supporting healthy food-related initiatives that improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods, catalyzing the creation of a more sustainable and healthy city.

The Indy Food Fund goals are ambitious:

LOCAL FOOD: Increase the amount of food grown locally, create and serve the demand for local food;

HEALTH: Improve access to healthy food for Indianapolis residents;

JUSTICE: Eradicate food deserts and increase food security by committing to ending hunger in our communities;

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Create a sense of place, foster civic engagement, and beautify our neighborhoods through food-related initiatives.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Spur economic development and create jobs through food-related initiatives like farmer's markets, urban farms, farm-to-restaurant projects.

SUSTAINABILITY: Create a sustainable metropolitan area, with residents linked to their local food system, thereby reducing Indianapolis' carbon footprint and energy consumption.

The Indy Food Fund will begin its work by distributing grants to food-related initiatives which will be administered by LISC through their Catalyst Grant program and will be advised by diverse representatives from the food system and broader community. The Indy Food Fund will give: 1) grants ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 or 2) loans ranging from \$25,000 to \$2 Million with flexible terms for nonprofit and for-profit corporations. These projects may include, but will not be limited to, community gardens with market stands, value chain projects, food hubs, farmers' markets, farm-to-institutions projects, urban farms, healthy corner store initiatives, and marketing and consumer cooperatives.

The collaborators of the Indy Food Fund would like you to join us in support of this important initiative by contributing a gift towards our first grant cycle which will fund projects in the 2013 growing season.

Donations can be sent to:
Indy Food Fund c/o LISC
333 North Pennsylvania Avenue
Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204



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REFERENCES

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STATSIndiana (2011) "Labor Force Comparison" retrieved from http://www.stats.indiana.edu/laus_sa/laus_view2.html

Business Courier (2011). "Green City Index 2011" retrieved from <http://bizjournals.com/cincinnati/feature/green-city-index-2011.html>