

HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS / FOOD JUSTICE RESOURCE GUIDE

FOR BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

If you're a food business or an organization distributing food or meals in your community or a group trying to start or maintain a community garden or farm, here are some resources that may help support and grow your food access and food justice work.

PROGRAMS FOR FOOD BUSINESSES

Philadelphia Department of Commerce Programs for Businesses

- **Business Coach Program** – Providing one-on-one coaching for small businesses.
- **Business Security Camera Program** – Funding for businesses to get surveillance cameras.
- **Commercial Real Estate Acquisition Loan (CREAL) Program** – Funding small businesses to purchase commercial property or real estate.
- **InStore Forgivable Loan Program** – Helping businesses buy equipment and make interior improvements.
- **Storefront Improvement Program** – Helping businesses and property owners to upgrade their storefronts.
- **Business Resource Finder** – Looking for guidance or support? Connect with organizations that can help you start, run, and grow your business.
- Latest **Grants, Programs and Resources for Small Businesses**, Department of Commerce
- Join the **Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) Registry** to apply for or renew certification as a minority, woman, or disabled-owned business. The City of Philadelphia allows businesses to bid on contracts. Businesses can search for contracts using **Contracts Hub**.

The Enterprise Center – provides one-on-one advisory services and group workshops that businesses need to maximize their efficiency, adaptability, and revenue growth, helps finance eligible small businesses that have difficulty obtaining loans for start-up capital and business growth, partners with residents, local businesses, and community groups to lead community engagement and neighborhood revitalization projects, and offers specialized resources for high-growth businesses and businesses in the culinary, transportation, construction, and janitorial industries.

Temple University Small Business Development Center – provides the community with no-cost business services and solutions such as classes on business planning, no-cost consulting, business webinars, digital/e-commerce solutions and construction management

PIDC – Philadelphia's public-private economic development corporation. PIDC provides financing and real estate products to businesses, nonprofits, and developers in all neighborhoods of Philadelphia.

Open Access Philadelphia: Opportunities and Research for Food Business Entrepreneurs

Resources to plan, launch and grow your food business.

Drexel University launched a post-baccalaureate **Certificate Program in Food Innovation & Entrepreneurship!** Industry experts within Drexel University will teach you all the steps to conceptualize, design and launch a food product that is competitive in the food marketplace. This program is 100% online and open to anyone, not just current Drexel students. For more information or to submit a free application, **click here**.

Community Development Corporations (CDCs) across the city work to improve economic and social conditions at the neighborhood level through housing and business assistance. Your local CDC can help you find resources that best fit your situation and plans for your business. **See a list and map** of members of the Philadelphia Association of CDCs.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESOURCES

Share Food Program – supports food distribution to pantries, seniors and children; also works with Philly Food Rescue and provides education and advocacy around ending hunger for good; you can express interest in partnering with them by filling out this ***form***.

Philabundance – supports food distribution, reducing food waste, increasing access to nutritious meals, and tackling the root causes of hunger through programs such as the Philabundance Community Kitchen. ***Apply*** to become a community partner.

Sharing Excess – rescues and redistributes over 400,000 pounds of food every week in partnership with grocers, retailers, wholesalers, and farmers. They make it easy for any business to donate food. They provide transportation, coordination, donation receipts, and even help you access valuable tax benefits. ***Contact*** them to learn more.

Caring for Friends – shares food and friendship with homebound, homeless and hungry people in greater Philadelphia. ***Learn more*** about how to become a distribution partner.

Food Connect Group – helps deliver food and create thoughtful programming to build healthier, more sustainable communities; contact them if you need support with donating or delivering food or want help with other food programming needs

Coalition Against Hunger Victory in Partnership Project – connects food pantries and soup kitchens within Philadelphia so they can coordinate resources. VIP members are also offered mentoring opportunities that train them in finding funding and other leadership skills. To register for an upcoming VIP meeting or to request a VIP membership form, please email Gavin at gperez-canto@hungercoalition.org.

Food and Meal Finder – Find free food, nutrition services and public benefits. View a map of food sites, meal sites and places to access food assistance and benefits.

URBAN AGRICULTURE RESOURCES

Farm Philly – connects residents to the natural world and supports the self-determination and sovereignty of communities to grow their own food. Provides programming and material support to community gardens, farms and residents located across the City.

Neighborhood Gardens Trust – dedicated to preserving and supporting community gardens and other shared open spaces across the city. Works with self-organized gardeners, community organizations, property owners, and the City of Philadelphia to secure ownership or long-term leases for community-managed open spaces to prevent the threat of development or other reuse.

Penn State Nutrition Extension – provides practical knowledge to work the land, develop skills, grow your business, serve your community, steward the environment, and raise healthy families. Choose from thousands of in-person workshops, online courses, publications, and onsite consultations on topics that matter to you.

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society – works in partnership with community members to promote the benefits of gardening and connect people in our region with gardening-related experiences in their neighborhoods and across the region. We welcome everyone to partner with us and together create beautiful, healthy and sustainable communities.

Philadelphia Orchard Project – works with community-based groups and volunteers to plan and plant orchards filled with useful and edible plants in formerly vacant lots, community gardens, schoolyards, and other spaces, primarily in low-wealth neighborhoods where people have limited access to fresh fruit. We provide orchard design assistance, plant materials, and training in orchard care.

USDA Service Center – locations where you can connect with Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or Rural Development employees for your business needs. For the Philadelphia Farm Service Agency, contact Nina.berryman@usda.gov. For the NRCS, contact kefeni.kejela@usda.gov.

Garden Justice Legal Initiative of the Public Interest Law Center- provides pro bono legal support, policy research and advocacy, and community education to community gardeners and market farmers in the Philadelphia region. They also maintain an online tool, **Grounded in Philly**, which provides data on vacant land throughout Philadelphia, community forums, and resources to individuals interested in starting or preserving community-based vacant land projects.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Local foundations may have funding opportunities available – check websites for up-to-date individual information.

- Allen Hilles Fund: <https://hillesfund.org/apply/>
- Claniel Foundation: <https://claneil.org/what-we-fund/community-fund>
- Merck Family Fund: <https://www.merckff.org/>
- Philadelphia Foundation: <https://www.philafound.org/nonprofits/available-grants/>
- Philanthropy Network Food Funders: <https://philanthropynetwork.org/food-funders>
- Pierce Foundation: <https://piercefamlyfdn.org/>
- Regional Foundation: <https://www.regionalfoundation.org/>
- William Penn Foundation: <https://www.willampennfoundation.org>

Federal and state government grant opportunities (availability varies- check websites for timelines)

- **USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture** – links to a list of open, upcoming, and closed funding opportunities.
- **USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service** – several grant programs to support growers, producers
- PA Department of Agriculture, **Specialty Crop Block Grant Program** – aims to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, which are defined as “fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).”
- **America’s Healthy Food Financing Initiative** (HFFI) – administered by Reinvestment Fund- offers resources including grants, loans, technical assistance services, programming, and other forms of support to eligible projects that will improve access to fresh, healthy foods in underserved rural and urban areas.
- **Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative** – administered by The Food Trust- helps business owners open or expand healthy grocery outlets in communities throughout the commonwealth.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION OR WOULD LIKE YOUR ORGANIZATION ADDED AS A RESOURCE TO THIS LIST, CONTACT JENNIFER.AQUILANTE@PHILA.GOV



Department of
Public Health
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA