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Apple Street Market Receives Grant to Improve Healthy Food Access in Cincinnati

Cincinnati, OH, August 27, 2019 – Apple Street Market was among 23 grantees announced today as receiving financial and technical assistance awards through the Healthy Food Financing Initiative's (HFFI) inaugural grants program. Funding for the HFFI grants program is provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. Ten projects received a total of \$1.4 million in financial assistance and another 13 projects received a total of \$400,000 in technical assistance awards.

Apple Street Market, which will create a full-service, community and worker-owned grocery store at 4145 Apple Street in Cincinnati's Northside neighborhood was awarded \$80,000 under the program.

"Besides the convenience of shopping here for all neighbors, the owner/worker union model provides a sustaining wage, keeping the money spent at the Market within Northside and under the control of local residents/workers."

-Claire Darley, Apple Street Owner

"The quality of my diet would be greatly increased by grocery access, maybe yours would too."

-Tim Burns, Apple Street Owner

Awardees were selected through a competitive process that was open to eligible fresh food retail projects seeking financial and technical assistance to overcome the higher costs and initial barriers to entry in underserved areas. More than 240 applicants from 46 states, territories and the District of Columbia applied for financial assistance grants with a total request of \$42.5 million.

As the National Fund Manager, Reinvestment Fund administered this inaugural funding round for healthy food retail projects to expand access to healthy foods in underserved rural and urban areas, to create and preserve quality jobs, and to revitalize low-income communities.

"Access to healthy food is about more than making sure all Americans have easy access to nutritious, affordable food—it is also about strengthening local economies and community infrastructure," said Don Hinkle-Brown, President and CEO

of Reinvestment Fund. “The response to this funding opportunity is indicative of the immense need and the innovative approaches communities are undertaking to support equitable access to fresh, healthy food for everyone.”

Apple Street Market will:

- Create a community- and worker-owned, full service grocery store to serve the needs of a diverse population.
- Ensure food access for the underserved neighborhoods of Northside, South Cumminsville, Camp Washington, and College Hill.
- Create dignified, family-sustaining jobs for local residents.
- Create a hub that strengthens the local food economy with purchases from local farms and other producers.
- Create a model for ensuring food access in food deserts across the country.

Financial assistance grant recipients comprise a broad range of healthy food retail projects that need support with a variety of aspects of development, and expansion. In addition to the 10 projects receiving financial assistance in the form of direct grants, 13 projects were selected to receive technical assistance. A full list of awardees is available at www.investinginfood.com.

To be eligible for assistance, healthy food retail project applicants had to: 1) plan to expand or preserve the availability of staple and perishable foods in underserved areas with low and moderate-income populations; and 2) accept benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

While new at USDA Rural Development, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have invested in healthy food projects through Community Development Financial Institutions and Community Development Corporations since 2010. To date, federal support has totaled \$267 million in grants and has leveraged an estimated \$1 billion in additional financing. It has also supported nearly 1,000 grocery and other healthy food retail projects in more than 35 states across the country, revitalizing economies, creating jobs, and improving health.

About Reinvestment Fund

Reinvestment Fund is a catalyst for change in underserved communities. We integrate data, policy and strategic investments to improve the quality of life in underserved neighborhoods. Using analytical and financial tools, we bring high-quality grocery stores, affordable housing, schools and health centers to the communities that need better access—creating anchors that attract investment over the long term and help families lead healthier, more productive lives.

Learn more at reinvestment.com

