



October 7, 2022
414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Mayor Gainey and City Council Members,

We the undersigned 78 organizations and 199 individuals from across the City of Pittsburgh request your support for the creation of a Food Justice Fund.

Pittsburgh has many neighborhoods that are experiencing food apartheid. The City's own FeedPGH Report, released in 2020, identified 23 Healthy Food Priority Areas (HFPAs), based on food availability, vehicle ownership, income level, and rates of diet related diseases. Of these 23 HFPAs, 18 are in predominantly Black neighborhoods. Indeed, while 33% of Black Pittsburghers live in an HFA, only 5% of white Pittsburghers do.

A food insecure household cannot adequately provide enough food for its members to lead a healthy life. This has adverse impacts on individual as well as community health and well being, education, and security. In order to create a Pittsburgh that works for all, all Pittsburghers need to be able to access and eat fresh, nutritious, culturally appropriate foods.

The pandemic has revealed the critical need to increase our City's capacity to produce food, support food businesses and workers, and uplift community-led food insecurity solutions.

We ask the City to establish a \$10 million fund to be spent over four years - only 3% of the \$335 million of the City's American Rescue Plan Act funding. A simple application process would make grants from the fund accessible to Pittsburgh-based organizations and individuals living or working to make improvements to our local food system. Projects that are led by and/or benefiting people of color would be given highest priority.

This aligns well with the priorities outlined in the administration's transition team report. Specifically, the Food Justice Fund would address the cross-cutting themes of equity and community engagement, as well as the recommendations to "Allocate funds to develop and create public health and food justice initiatives" and "Support and expand the healthy food infrastructure."

The Food Justice Fund would enable unique and creative community endeavors to address food apartheid by increasing equitable access to opportunities to grow, learn about, and eat healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant foods. Among the many exciting possibilities this Fund could support include projects that:

- Expand urban farming
- Develop community markets and/or mobile markets

- Aggregate local farm fresh foods
- Reduce food waste
- Deliver cooking demonstrations and nutritional education
- Build capacity and provide technical support for farmers, business owners, and other food related organizations

Now is the time for the City to invest in solutions to the persistent challenges of food apartheid. By working together to create the Food Justice Fund, we can create a food system for all.

Sincerely,

Organizations

1Hood Power	East End Food Co-op
412 Food Rescue	Ecotone Renewables
Allegheny Health Network	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Hunger Team
Black Women's Policy Center	Fineview Citizens Council
Bread for the World, Southwest Pennsylvania Team	Fishes and Loaves Cooperative Ministries
Bridgeway Capital	The Food Trust
Bunnys Limited Liability Company	Freeman Family Farm & Greenhouse
California Kirkbride Neighbors	Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Carbon Compost	Grounded Strategies
Casa San Jose	Grow Pittsburgh
Catapult Greater Pittsburgh	H3ART Farms
CIVAL SAVAGE 501c3	Harvie
Common Threads	GH-CARED, Greater Hazelwood Coalition Against Racial and Ethnic Disparities
Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center	Healthy Teeth, Healthy Me Research Study Pitt University
CRAFT - Center for Regional Agriculture, Food, and Transformation, Chatham University	
De-bias, Inc.	

Hill District Consensus Group	Perry Hilltop Citizens Council
HOPE 1212, Inc	Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse
Human Rights City Alliance	Pittsburgh Chamber of Cooperatives
Just Harvest	Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
Larimer Consensus Group	Pittsburgh Food Policy Council
Lettuce Turnip the Beet Sustainability Collective	Pittsburghers for Public Transit
Miss Agriculture America	Plant it Further
Monterey Pub	P.O.O.R.L.A.W., People of Origin Rightfully Loved and Wanted
Mwanakuche Farm	Praise Temple Deliverance Church
National Council of Jewish Women, Pittsburgh Section	Project Love Coalition
Northside Leadership Conference	PS Associates
Oakland Planning and Development Corporation	Repair the World Pittsburgh
One Pennsylvania	The Restaurant Opportunities Center of Pennsylvania (ROC PA)
The Open Door Church	Scratch & Co.
Operation Better Block	Sol Patch Garden
Out of the End, Incorporated	Sol Refill
Pasa Sustainable Agriculture	Spring Hill Civic League
PHRESH, Pittsburgh Hill/Homewood Research on Neighborhood Change and Health	Summer Hill Citizen Committee
Pittsburgh Mennonite Church, Peace and Justice Commission	Sustainable Pittsburgh
Pennsylvania Certified Organic	Unified Fields
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light	Upstream Pittsburgh
	UrbanKind Institute
	The Wellness Collective

Individuals

Sara Innamorato - Representative, 21st District Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Dan Frankel - Representative, 23rd District Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Lindsey Williams - Senator, 38th District Pennsylvania Senate

Kelly Amis
Katherine Anderson
Albert Andrew Garcia
Janice Bahary
Emily Bailey
Emma Barinas-Mitchell
Dwayne Barker
Pamela Barroso
Jennnifer Baumann
Ruth Bender
August Bicket
Jesse Billimack
Eli Billimack
Daniela Bloch
Marcy Bloom
Stacy Bodow
Joan Bondira
Christine Brill
Sarah Buranskas
Jonathan Burgess
Felecia Bute
Laura Byko
Francis Carter
Samantha Chan
Emily Cleath
Amy Clemente
Olivia Coghe
Matthew Colantonio
Teaira Collins
Heather Conrad
Laura Cramer
Stephanie Creasy
Eric Cresley
Tessa Deems
Joe Defazio
Joanna Deming
Dana Dolney
Joy Dore

Karen Dreyer
George Dunsey
Sarah Durney
Fred Egler
Naami Eisenberg
Jennifer England
Colleen Ereditario
Clare Erwin
Emily Evangelista
Collin Farone
Stephanie Fello
Lauri Fink
Tao Flaherty
Emily Foster
Melanie Frank
Janis Franklin
Debra Freeman
David Friedman
Samantha Gallagher
Rev. Stephanie Gannon
James Geisler
Heather Geisler
Helen Gerhardt
Carol Gerner
Allison Glanxey
Ellyana Gomez
Dontae Gordon
Elijah Goodfriend
Janet Gunter
Jon Hanrahan
Heather Hanus
Hannah Hardy
Emily Henry
Laura Hudson
Deborah Hughes
Peter Humphrey
David Hunt
Debra Huntley

Ginny Iadicicco
Redding Jackson
Andrew Jacobson
Bryanna Johnson
Diondre Johnson
Jackie Joseph
Deirdre Kane
Anukul Kapoor
Emily Kauchak
Deirdre Keller
Cynthia Kenderson
Julia Kemner
Nancy Kenny
Kelly King
Cristina Kulik
Karlin Lamberto
Paula Lamberto
Lena Leghart
Dawn Lehman
Kurt Lindsey
Bobbi Linskens
Carla Lukehart
Mike Madsen
Julie Maher
Linda Malinowski
Gregory Manley
Heather Manning
Constance Martin
Cari Maslow
Sam Maslow
Megan Massanelli
Sara Mastrine
Kristen Matthews
Anne McCafferty
Paige McChrystal
Kathleen McDonough
Tyler McFadden
Liz McFarlin-Marciak

Jodi McLaughlin
Dennis P. McManus
Maura McManus
Margaret McManus
Deaglan McManus
Kelly Mednis
Kirsten Michaelson
Patti Michaud
Karen Miyares
Tess Monks
Karen Morine
Sol Moure
Eliza Mross
Julie Mull
Chris Murakami
Rev. Michael Murray
Shaun Myers
Stephanie Noyes
Amanda Pagniello
Shay Park
Bruce Parr
Dee Parr
Shawn Pastor
Rae Patton
Billy Pepmeyer
Lisa Porter
Juan Powell
Genevieve Prichard
Kevin Pujanauski

Rachel Rakovan
Holly Ramey
Rhonda Rankin
Desiree Reddix
Ken Regal
Max Reiver
Quentin Rice
Renee Robinson
Teresa Rodgers
Kara Michelle Rubio
Erin Ruscoe
Caroline Sefcik
Michael Schenz
Caitlin Schroering
Miriam Seidel
Valerie Shafer
Sarah Silk
Tom Slater
Meghan Speer
Debra Smit
Harriet Smith
Jean E. Snyder
Jonathan Speicher
Erna Spela
Lara Stunkel
Rich Surdyk
Kelly Tatone
Mahogany Thaxton
Emily Toal

John Todd
Rosemary Trump
Stephanie Ulmer
Tori Vallana
Candy Vazquez
Reiss Veltri
Sarah Vine
Alex Walsh
Ryan Walsh
Kevin Walsh
Erin Ward
Barb Warwick
Natisha Washington
Kristie Weiland Stagno
Matt Weiss
Bill Wekselman
Erica Wells
Chris West
Henry Wiens
Megan Winters
Skukura Woods
Roy Wotring
Lenore Wossidlo
Barbara Yergin
Brynnaiza Young

Food Justice Fund Committee Members

Rev. Lutual Love, co-chair
Ann Sanders, co-chair

Sam Applefield
Sarah Buranskas
Jamie Christian
Joanna Deming
Dana Dolney
Joy Dore

Denele Hughson
Louis Mennel
Jodi McLaughlin
Dennis P. McManus
Sol Moure
Zinna Scott
Joy Stanilka
Emily Toal
Lavette Wagner

cc:

Councilman Bobby Wilson, City Council District 1
Mohammed Burny, Chief of Staff, City Council District 1
Councilwoman Theresa Kail Smith, City Council District 2
Kim Salinetto, Chief of Staff, City Council District 2
Councilman Bruce A. Kraus, City Council District 3
Bob Charland, Chief of Staff, City Council District 3
Councilman Anthony Coghill, City Council District 4
Blake Plavchak, Chief of Staff, City Council District 4
Matt Singer, City Council District 5
Councilman R. Daniel Lavelle, City Council District 6
Daniel Wood, Chief of Staff, City Council District 6
Councilwoman Deb Gross, City Council District 7
James Murray, Chief of Staff, City Council District 7
Councilwoman Erika Strassburger, City Council District 8
Emilie Yonan, Chief of Staff, City Council District 8
Councilman Rev. Ricky V. Burgess, City Council District 9

Mayor Ed Gainey
Jake Wheatley, Chief of Staff
Felicity Williams, Assistant to the Chief of Staff
Lisa Frank, Director of Operations
Kyle Chintalapalli, Chief Economic Development Officer
Jake Pawlak, Deputy Mayor & Director OMB