

The JPMorgan Chase Foundation

PRO Neighborhoods: ReFresh Initiative

Ohio, Florida, Colorado, California

Challenge

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 29.7 million Americans live in communities where a healthy diet is out of reach. Low income communities have fewer grocery stores and other healthy food retail outlets that provide a wide selection of affordable, nutritious foods.

Innovation

ReFresh is a national network of practitioners engaged to improve access to healthy food across the United States where longstanding barriers exist that make it difficult for residents to live healthier, more stable lives. The goal of ReFresh is to share expertise and pursue opportunities so that practitioners can finance more food access projects that benefit low-income communities, improve healthy food options, and contribute to economic revitalization.

Overview

With a grant from JPMorgan Chase, ReFresh was launched with four inaugural partners: the Finance Fund Capital Corporation, the Florida Community Loan Fund, the Colorado Enterprise Fund, and the Northern California Community Loan Fund. The grant enabled Reinvestment Fund to deliver capacity building and technical assistance services to the four ReFresh partners to develop new or expand existing healthy food financing programs in their service areas of Ohio, Florida, Colorado, and Northern California and its Central Valley. Inclusive of Reinvestment Fund, the ReFresh network now includes 19 Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). All four partners leveraged the JPMorgan Chase grant 1:1 with public and private grants, each attracting over \$400,000 in additional funding for their healthy food programs. At the end of the JPMorgan Chase grant period, the ReFresh network had grown from the four partners to include 19 CDFIs. This national network, seeded by JPMorgan Chase, is leading the way in how to collectively use financing and technical assistance tools to improve healthy food access in urban and rural communities across the country.

PUBLIC-SECTOR PARTNERS

U.S. Department of the Treasury CDFI Fund, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority.

OTHER PARTNERS

Reinvestment Fund, Finance Fund Capital Corporation, the Florida Community Loan Fund, the Northern California Community Loan Fund, the Colorado Enterprise Fund.

