



Nourish DC

Nourish DC Collaborative Year One Impact

APRIL 2023

In Washington, DC, a foundational element of fostering equitable and healthy communities is building a more equitable food ecosystem.

The Nourish DC Collaborative seeks to grow a robust and equitable ecosystem of locally-owned food businesses across the District of Columbia by providing financing, technical assistance, and grants. The goal is to foster an inclusive food system that provides access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food — particularly in communities impacted by historic disinvestment and structural racism — and promote economic opportunity, enabling locals to establish or grow their food businesses and create jobs for others in the community.

Plum Good Foods

“Nourish DC has given hope, vision, and life and much-needed financial support to community approaches to an integrated ecosystem of hyper-local food prep and production in Ward 8.”

— **ANGELA CHESTER-JOHNSON**
*received TA and a grant through
Nourish DC*



Overview

- Launched in 2021 in partnership with the District of Columbia government and advised by the DC Food Policy Council.
- Provides flexible loans, technical assistance, and grants to emerging and existing food businesses in the District.
- Supports the entire food value chain including grocery stores, food incubators, corner stores, cooperative businesses, farmers markets, food delivery, urban farms, food processors, food hubs, restaurants, and caterers.
- Collaborative structure draws on expertise of six local Community Development Financial Institutions and technical assistance providers.

Leveraging a Public-Private Partnership

- The initial \$1 million grant from the District government leveraged an additional \$15 million in private philanthropy and financing.

Circle 7 Food and Grocery Market

“Nourish DC is saving small businesses hit hard by the perfect storm of COVID, the labor and supply shortage, and inflation — businesses that otherwise might have ended up closing in the circumstances.”

— **TESFOM BOCKREZION**
received a grant through
Nourish DC



Collaborative Members

Nourish DC Collaborative Partners include Capital Impact Partners, Washington Area Community Investment Fund (Wacif), the Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC), City First Enterprises, CDC Small Business Finance, EatsPlace, and Dreaming Out Loud. Collectively we meet the needs of food entrepreneurs by offering multiple loan products of all types and sizes, a range of technical assistance (TA) services, and grants to new and existing businesses.

Year One Impact



Offers a range of financial products and loans (\$500-\$8 million) to meet the needs of all types of food businesses.

**MORE THAN
\$14.9 MILLION
DEPLOYED.**



Provides technical assistance including workshops, cohort trainings, webinars, access to a food incubator.

**MORE THAN
200 FOOD
BUSINESSES
RECEIVED 1:1
OR GROUP TA.**



Disperses grants to support businesses that are increasing food access and creating quality jobs.

**\$400,000
GRANTED TO
9 BUSINESSES
OWNED BY
PEOPLE OF
COLOR IN
WARDS 5,7,
AND 8.**

Nourish DC Collaborative Partners



Nourish DC Collaborative Funders



Three Part Harmony Farm

“Whoever wrote the (Nourish DC) grant description and eligibility information really took the time to understand how to make it possible for a production farm to take advantage of the opportunity”

“I think the best word to summarize the impact of this grant is ‘confidence.’”

— GAIL TAYLOR

received TA and a grant through Nourish DC

