



Cook County Department of Public Health Quarterly Report *to the Cook County Board of Commissioners in their capacity as the Cook County Board of Health*

Q4 -Cook County Good Food Purchasing Program

Progress Update

Presented December 2023



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Presentation Outline

Background: Review the public health challenge and a cross-cutting procurement strategy

Overview: Review Cook County Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP)

Update: Highlight progress with Cook County's GFPP implementation, equitable supply chain development, and good food culture

Leveraging ARPA: Share how CCDPH and our partners are advancing Cook County GFPP with additional resources

Key takeaways: Highlight key takeaways and next steps



Public Health Challenge

The U.S. food system is characterized by major disparities in both wealth and health



Racial wealth gap: People of color are disproportionately exploited in low wage and precarious work across the food system



Food insecurity: Healthy food access, especially in black and brown communities, has been made worse by the pandemic



Health and racial inequities: Communities with higher rates of food insecurity also tend to have higher rates of chronic diseases, like diabetes and hypertension

Latina and Black women working in the food sector only make 50-53 cents for every dollar earned by white men.

* Data reported by Food Chain Workers Alliance and Solidarity Research Cooperative

Food insecurity is overall 19% higher compared to pre-pandemic levels, it's 37% higher for Black households in Cook County*

* Data reported by Greater Chicago Food Depository



Cross-cutting Strategy: Good Food Purchasing Program

Aligning with County Policy Roadmap and WePLAN 2025



Economic Development

Works to address racial wealth gap



Good Government

Creates values-based, transparent food supply chain & greater accountability



Equity

Builds a more healthy, equitable & sustainable food system and access to good food for all

“GOVERNMENTS HAVE FEW SOURCES OF LEVERAGE OVER INCREASINGLY GLOBALIZED FOOD SYSTEMS, BUT PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IS ONE OF THEM.

When sourcing food for schools, hospitals, and public administrations, governments have a rare opportunity to support more nutritious diets and more sustainable food systems in one fell swoop.”

OLIVIER DE SCHUTTER

Former U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (2014)



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Cook County Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP)

Overview

Approved in May 2018

- Recognizes impact of est. \$15 million spent on food and beverages and over 8 million meals served/sold per year at CCH sites, JTDC, and CCSO Jail
- Establishes Cook County Task Force
- Identifies incremental actions for Good Food purchasing
- Encourages relevant Cook County agencies to institutionalize Good Food purchasing practices
- Cook County Department of Public Health and Chicago Food Policy Action Council identified as leads to strategically coordinate implementation

Centered on racial justice and incentivizes:

- Businesses located in and hiring from low-to-moderate income communities and persons with prior arrests or prison records
- Access to under-utilized and surplus County-owned land and buildings
- Farms growing organically and using bio-intensive methods





VALUES SHAPE POLICY

THE GOOD FOOD PURCHASING PROGRAM IS A COMMITMENT TO:

NUTRITION

Promote health and well-being by offering seasonal fruits and vegetables, using whole grains, reducing salt and added sugars, and eliminating the use of deep frying.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Source from producers that employ sustainable production systems that reduce or eliminate synthetic pesticides and fertilizers; avoid the use of hormones, antibiotics, and genetic engineering; conserve soil and water; protect and enhance wildlife habitat and biodiversity; and reduce on-farm energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Provide safe and healthy working conditions and fair compensation for all food chain workers and producers from production to consumption.

VALUED WORKFORCE

LOCAL ECONOMIES

Support small and mid-sized agricultural and food process operations within the local area or region.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Provide healthy and humane care for livestock.

Cook County Good Food Task Force

CCDPH and CFPAC launched the Task Force in 2018 to:

- discuss challenges
- share solutions
- celebrate successes
- identify collective opportunities to advance GFPP implementation in Cook County

Cook County Good Food Task Force Members

Cook County Gov. Entities

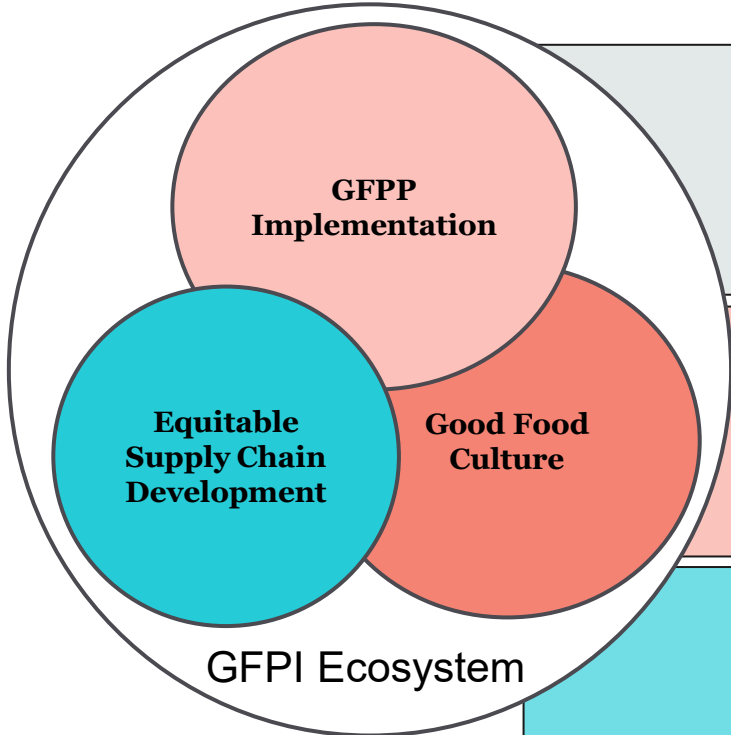
- Cook County Dept of Public Health
- Cook County Health
- Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center
- Cook County Dept of Environment & Sustainability
- Chicago Botanic Gardens, Windy City Harvest
- Cook County Land Bank
- Cook County Office of the President
- Cook County Commissioner Alma Anaya
- Cook County Sheriff's Office

Food System Stakeholders

- Real Foods Collective
- Proviso Partners for Health
- IFF
- University of IL Extension - Cook County
- Local Food & Small Farms
- West 40 (Intermediate Service Center)
- Illinois Public Health Institute, Alliance for Health Equity
- Illinois Tech, Food Systems Lab
- South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
- Illinois Stewardship Alliance



Metro Chicago Good Food Purchasing Initiative



GFPI Ecosystem: Build a clear leadership structure for GFPI that centers decision-making by those structurally excluded from the food system

GFPP Implementation: Leverage GFPP and institutional relationships to change procurement laws, policies, and procedures

Equitable Supply Chain Development: Leverage new funding opportunities to inject significant investments in local, BIPOC food workers, producers, growers, and suppliers

Good Food Culture: Leverage GFPP to shift culture around community food access sites to be responsive and accountable to meal recipients, workers, & food producers

Mission: Ensure that places that feed our communities purchase and serve food that advances a good food system for all



Progress Update: Cook County GFPP Implementation

Working with County's Food Procuring Departments to advance GFPP



The Karma Garden at the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center

- ✓ Completed GFPP Baseline Assessments – Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (2020), Cook County Sheriff's Office (2021), and Cook County Health (2022)
- ✓ Action plans in development or implementation phases at all County Departments
- ✓ Integrated GFPP goals & compliance into food services contracts and solicitations (JTDC and CCSO)
- ✓ Implemented menu changes (plant-based proteins, soliciting vendors for organic, sustainable items)



Progress Update: Equitable Supply Chain Development

Creating connection and building capacity of local food producers



Farmer Amelia Howard at the Dec. 2022 Buyer/Supplier Mixer.
Courtesy of Chicago Food Policy Action Council

- Launched the "[Buyer/Supplier Mixer](#)" event series in 2021.
- Released [Good Food Purchasing Initiative Guide for Growers & Food Businesses](#)



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Progress Update: Equitable Supply Chain Development

Investing in local, GFPP-aligned food producers and businesses

- Awarded \$234K in microgrants to 6 small farms/prepared meal providers to supply local, healthy food to emergency food access sites in suburban Cook between 2022-2023:
 - Centro de Trabajadores Unidos
 - Food Hero L3C
 - Grace United /It Takes A Village Farm
 - Health Policy Institute/Mother Carr's Farm
 - Roots, Eggs, and Greens/ CoGro Biodynamic Farm
 - Street Vendors Association of Chicago
- \$450K+ to be awarded through [GFPI Community Fund](#) to support food enterprises in supplying GFPP-aligned food



Between 9/2022-10/2023:

- 45,000+ local, healthy emergency meals delivered/distributed
- 12,000+ individuals reached with nutrition education content

Photo from It Takes a Village Community Farm (Grace United Church), microgrant recipient, located in Sauk Village



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Progress Update: Good Food Culture

Increasing public awareness and participation in our good food movement

- Host the [annual Chicago Food Justice Summit](#) for stakeholders to collaborate, learn, and build policy solutions for a more just & equitable food system
- Launched peer-to-peer network of healthcare institutions, including Cook County Health, to explore good food purchasing strategies



CFPAC Staff, Summit Leaders, and volunteers at the 18th Annual Chicago Food Justice Summit, held February 8-10th, 2023 both online and at UIC Student Center East in Chicago.



Leveraging ARPA to advance Cook County GFPP

Bringing additional resources to the County's food-procuring departments

- \$4.5 Million in ARPA to accelerate County's GFPP
- GFPP re-assessments and updates to action plans
- Scratch cooking audits & trainings for food service staff
- Food waste audits & waste reduction planning



Leveraging ARPA to advance Cook County GFPP

Aligning the County's procurement policy with GFPP

- Continue to strengthen County's food solicitation & contracts
- Support more BIPOC-owned & values-aligned businesses by recommending changes to County's procurement code
- Release Cook County GFPP dashboard to increase supply chain transparency



Leveraging ARPA to advance Cook County GFPP

Developing a more equitable food supply chain

- Support investment in GFPI Community Fund
- Support Buyer/Supplier Mixers & other relationship-building events
- Assist other anchor institutions with GFPP adoption and implementation
- Conduct trainings for suburban Cook food chain workers about GFPP and its impact on workers' rights/safety



Key Takeaways

In summary:

- GFPP is a cross-cutting procurement strategy that the County Board approved by resolution in 2018
- GFPP encourages County-run institutions to shift their food spend toward five core values: local, healthy, humane, sustainable, and equitably-produced food
- GFPP implementation underway and initial investments made in local food producers
- \$4.5 Million in ARPA funding being leveraged to accelerate County's GFPP implementation, while also developing a more equitable supply chain and good food culture
- [2023 GFPI Community Fund](#) awardees will be announced by beginning of FY24
- [19th Annual Chicago Food Justice Summit](#) will be held in early FY24



Additional GFPP Background



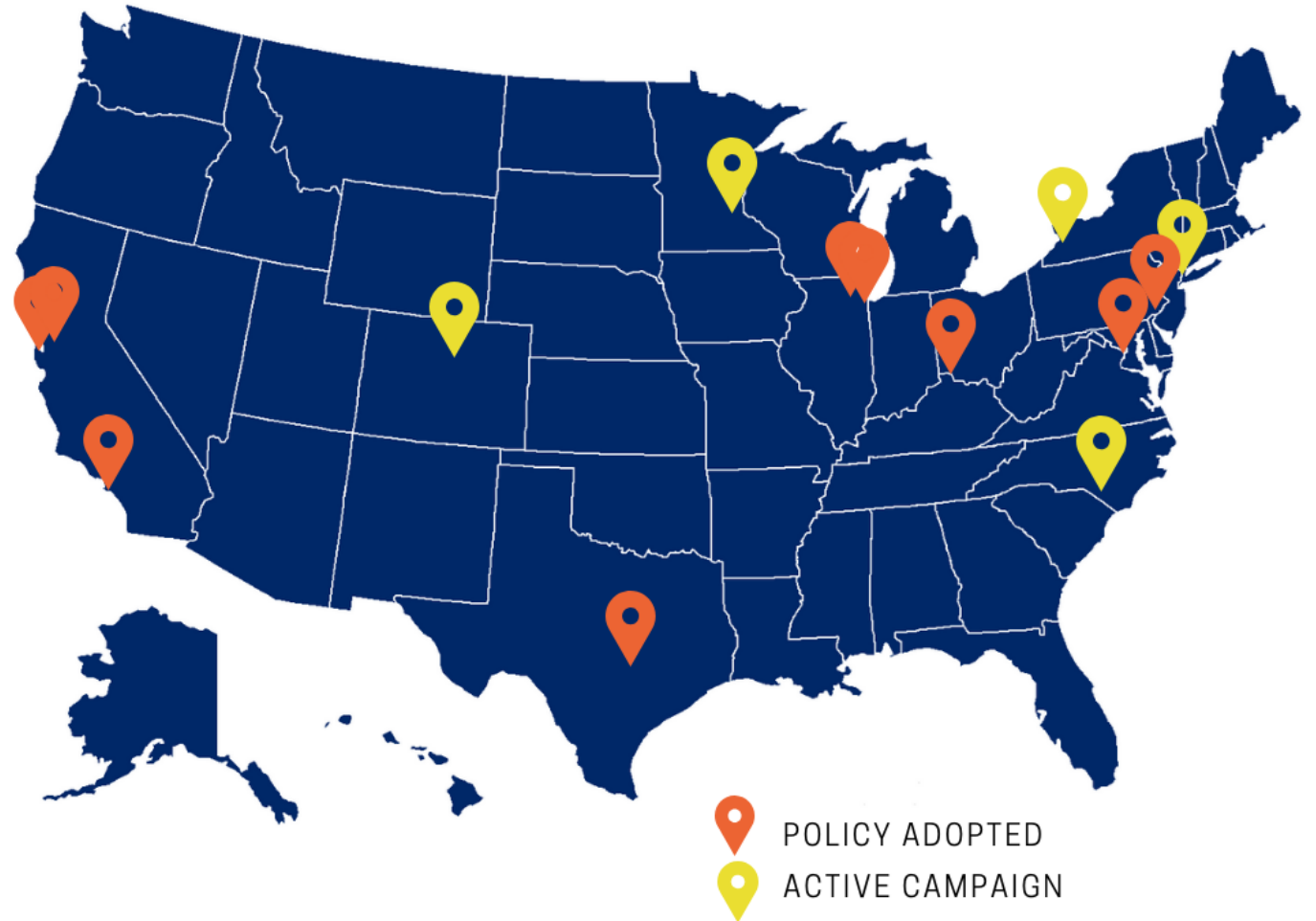
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National Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) Adoption

- National movement with 57+ institutions and 24 cities (and growing!)
- Support from the Center for Good Food Purchasing, Food Chain Workers Alliance, and HEAL Food Alliance
- Over \$1 billion in annual food spend currently enrolled in the program



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GFPP Process



Assess Baseline & Set Goals



Change Contracts & Shift Purchasing



Track Progress



Celebrate Success



Good Food Purchasing Executive Summary

Good Food Purchasing School District
Baseline Assessment Fiscal Year 2018

\$10,000,000 in Total Food Spend	Self-operated Enrolled in 2018	3 out of 5 Baseline Standards Met	Total Points Earned 11
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Progress Toward Baseline Goal and Qualifying Purchases by Value Category

		Baseline Goal ¹	Standard Points	Extra Points	Baseline Met
Local Economies	15.2% or \$1.52M	15% (\$1.5m)	1	2	✓
Environmental Sustainability	2.4% or \$240k	15% (\$1.5m)	0	1	-
Valued Workforce	5.91% or \$591k	5% (\$500k)	2	0	✓
Animal Welfare	3% or \$300k	15% (\$1.5m)	0	0	-
Nutrition	75.11% of applicable items met	51% met	2	3	✓

Sample GFPP Baseline Assessment



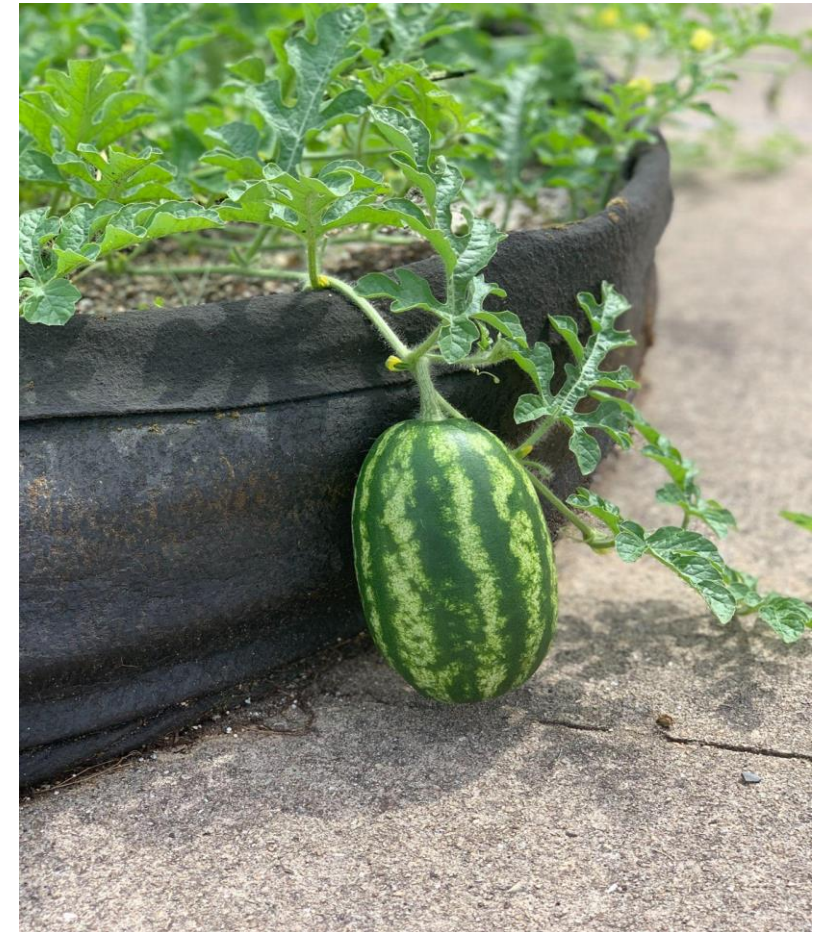
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Progress Snapshot: Juvenile Temporary Detention Center

- Completed GFPP Baseline Assessment in 2020
- Developed and implementing Good Food Action Plan (since 2020)
 - Menu review to reduce red meat, remove sugary snacks, integrate more whole grains
 - Garden and food education programming to engage residents in GFPP shifts
- GFPP goals integrated into food-related solicitations: 7 (!) contracts for food commodities have shifted to include GFPP aligned products
- GFPP re-assessment underway (anticipated completion in November 2023) and update action plan in FY24



Progress Snapshot: Cook County Sheriff's Office

- Completed GFPP Baseline Assessment in 2021
- GFPP goals and expectations integrated into new CCSO Food Service Management Contract in 2022 (*serves as a national model contract*)
- Developed Good Food Action Plan in 2022 and began shifting purchasing to GFPP aligned food products
 - Received first shipment of local apples purchased from Common Market (!) They will be supplying CCSO apples for the remainder of the 2023 growing season
- GFPP re-assessment and action plan to be updated in FY24



Cook County Jail's 2-acre garden



Progress Snapshot: Cook County Health

- Participated in Good Food in Healthcare Learning Collaborative (Organized by CFPAC and the Alliance for Health Equity), 2021-2022
- Completed GFPP Baseline Assessment in 2022
- Developing Good Food Action Plan in 2023 and will begin shifting purchasing to GFPP aligned food products
- Morrison Management, the contracted food service vendor, implemented the WasteNot program in 2022 to track and reduce their food waste



Overview of CDC Health Equity Grant Microgrant Awardees



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Microgrant Overview

- **Focus:** on healthy, locally sourced emergency meal distribution to suburban Cook County communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19
- **Eligibility** - Any Cook County-based business was eligible for this micro-grant if their project proposed providing emergency food assistance to suburban Cook County populations in priority communities that have been most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
- **Grant Project Period** – August 2022 to October 2023
- **Awarded:** \$234K in microgrants to 6 small farms/prepared meal providers to supply local, healthy food to emergency food access sites in suburban Cook

Apply Now:

Funding for Healthy Food Distribution to Suburban Cook County Communities



Up to \$25,000 will be awarded to small to mid-sized farms, food producers, food businesses, and/or cooperative projects serving their communities.

Applications due by July 15

Read the full request for proposals by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://bit.ly/food4SCC>

To learn more, attend a virtual info session on June 15.

Questions: email info@chicagofoodpolicy.com



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Centro de Trabajadores Unidos

Awarded \$39,000

Project focus:

- Provided prepared hot meals and educational materials through partnerships with community organizations serving Blue Island, Burnham, Calumet City, and Riverdale



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FoodHe.ro (New Vision Community Church in Cicero)

Awarded \$39,000

Project focus:

- Prepared and delivered culturally relevant meals for New Vision Community Church in Cicero
- Provided hands-on culinary classes to pantry clients that were created by a local nutritionist



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It Takes A Village Farm (Grace United in Sauk Village)

Awarded \$39,000

Project focus:

- Provided produce for distribution at the Grace United Church's food pantry
- Provided hands-on nutrition education classes to students in the Chicago Heights/Park Forest school district, in addition to participants in their 12-week intensive Growing Young Leaders Program, which focuses on green job training and leadership development



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Health Policy Institute (Mother Carr's Farm in Lynwood)

Awarded \$39,000

Project focus:

- Produced food for distribution at Nellie's Cupboard Pantry, which serves residents in Chicago Heights, Lynwood, and South Holland.



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Roots, Eggs & Greens (CoGro Biodynamic Farm in Chicago Heights)

Awarded: \$16,500

Project focus:

- Provided produce to a local organization that provides free meals to seniors in Ford Heights, Chicago Heights, and Bloom Township.



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Street Vendors Association

Awarded \$22,500

Project focus:

- Prepared hot meals for distribution in the Blue Island community
- Developed materials to accompany the meals that included nutrition information and tips on healthier alternative preparation techniques



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Microgrant Award Highlights

Reported Highlights through July 2023

- Approximately **45,889** emergency meals provided across **9** priority communities (Blue Island, Burnham, Calumet City, Chicago Heights, Cicero, Lynwood, Riverdale, Sauk Village, South Holland). (Original goal was 10,000 meals.)
- Approximately **12,230** individuals reached with nutrition education content
- Since the beginning of the program, **4** awardees have onboarded a new employee, **all 6 awardees** have developed/refined their business plans, **all 6** have hosted/attended a training in food production/processing/distribution, and **2** have received additional capital.



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