



UPDATE: Food Access Initiatives In Austin

Edwin Marty, Food Policy Manager, Office of Sustainability

Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Committee

February 24, 2016



**OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY**

CITY OF AUSTIN

FY 2015-16 HHSD Funded Initiatives

- **Healthy Food Retail**
 - Expands access to healthy food at local corner stores
 - \$50K RFP for pilot project and \$50K RFP for evaluation
 - Contracts executed by March
- **Community & School-Based Farm Markets**
 - Continues 4 farm stands and creates 2 more at local schools
 - Two \$50K RFPs have been drafted
 - Contracts executed by April
- **Mobile Farmers Market**
 - Creates pilot market in area with limited food retail options
 - \$50K RFP has been drafted
 - Contract executed by April



Neighborhood Food Buying Coops

How they work:

- **Non-profit organization:**
 - Creates linkages between local farmers and neighborhood coops
 - Serves as distributor of local produce
 - Offers affordable prices through bulk buying
- **Community residents:**
 - Identify desired foods and price points
 - Identify locations / times for food drop-offs
 - Manages direct distribution of food within the community



Neighborhood Food Buying Coops

- **Benefits**
 - Micro-local focus
 - Driven by community-identified needs
 - Provides affordable healthy food
- **Challenges**
 - Prioritizing communities to serve
 - Ensuring longevity of operation
 - Guaranteeing acceptance of SNAP and WIC
 - Currently no resources to assist in development





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