

# Austin Fresh 2023 Grantees

The **Austin Fresh funders collaborative**, [Builders Initiative](#), [The Christopher Family Foundation](#), [Food:Land:Opportunity](#), [The Lumpkin Family Foundation](#) and the [Walter Mander Foundation](#), reviewed applications for year four of Austin Fresh's five-year commitment to work collaboratively with partners **to expand healthy retail options, support community gardens and local food production, grow food enterprises, and protect and strengthen food assistance programs in the Austin neighborhood on Chicago's West Side**. The Austin Fresh funders made nine grant awards for 2023.

## Projects being funded this year are:

- [Austin Coming Together](#) — for Austin Eats, a coalition working to strengthen the healthy food ecosystem in Austin by increasing the collective impact of its member organizations to improve education and economic development outcomes for the community. **\$450,000** (second year of a grant previously approved in 2022)
- [Beyond Hunger](#) — for its Fresh Produce Initiative that will forge partnerships with local farms and produce suppliers to increase access to fresh produce for food-insecure older adults living in Austin. Funding will deepen the organization's work with [Forty Acres Fresh Market](#), while allowing it to seek new local producers to establish purchasing agreements. **\$70,500**
- [BUILD Inc.](#) — for the expansion of Austin Grown programming and staffing at a new facility and farm and for renovations to their outdoor education center allowing for year-round utilization, and a hydroponic garden. The greatly expanded facility will enable BUILD Inc. to serve over 45 youth BUILDers and feed hundreds of families in the surrounding Austin community, helping to shape healthy habits for years to come. **\$215,000**
- [Chicago Austin Youth Travel Adventures, Inc. NFP](#) — for its CAYTA CARES - ChiTown Soul Trolley Fresh Food Tours, a program dedicated to providing Austin Community residents with discovery journeys of food and history. Funds will support expanding the ChiTown Soul Trolley Black Restaurant & History Tours, a participant food consumption evaluation and customized healthy meal planner, cooking classes and fresh produce and meals on the tour. **\$30,000**
- [Food Access Project](#) — for its Coordinated Delivery for Individuals with Disabilities living in the Austin Community project providing monthly grocery deliveries and fresh produce to disabled individuals facing food insecurity in and around Austin. The project cohort is composed of local businesses and community organizations so that investments in the program stimulate economic development and local job growth. **\$150,000**
- [GSJ Family Life Center](#) — for its Austin Community Incubator Kitchen: Operations Ramp Up, 2023-2024 project, which seeks to provide healthy and local food-centered, community-driven entrepreneurship and nutritional education opportunities for Austin neighborhood residents through the establishment and operation of a community kitchen. This project builds on the work that Greater St. John Bible Church and Faith in Place have collaborated on since 2020. **\$43,500**
- [NeighborSpace](#) — for its Austin Community Gardens: Catalysts for Feeding and Connecting Communities/Phase 3 project. Funds will allow the Austin Garden Collective to increase its capacity to distribute

and manage seven to ten sub grants for garden repair and infrastructure projects; seven to ten sub-grants for garden programming; and stipends for community outreach and engagement. **\$200,000**

- [Root-Riot Harambee](#) — general operating support to assist Root-Riot Harambee in achieving its long term sustainability goals, including enhanced programming, staffing, consultants, capital improvements, and/or the development of new programs at the Harambee garden, one of the longest-running volunteer gardens in Austin. **\$50,000**

- [The Evolved Network](#) — for its Holistic Healing for Youth through Culinary Arts and Gardening project which provides holistic healing with experiential programming through culinary arts and gardening, equipping youth in systematically oppressed communities with transformative healing, skills and support needed to evolve into masters of their unique gifts. **\$30,000**