

HEAL Food Alliance

RAPID RESPONSE FUND

IMPACT REPORT

2022



When we are all in for
all of us, we can
create a world in
which every one of us
can thrive.



ABOUT HEAL FOOD ALLIANCE

The HEAL (Health, Environment, Agriculture, Labor) Food Alliance is a multi-sector, multi-racial coalition building collective power to transform our food and farm systems. We are led by our member organizations, who represent over 2 million rural and urban farmers, fishers, farm and food chain workers, Indigenous groups, scientists, public health advocates, policy experts, community organizers, and activists.

Together we are growing our collective power to create food and farm systems that are healthy for our families, accessible and affordable for all communities, and fair to the people who grow, distribute, prepare, and serve our food — while protecting the air, water, and land we all depend on.



ABOUT THE RAPID RESPONSE FUND

In the chaos of 2020, HEAL piloted a Rapid Response Fund, knowing that our members were directing resources towards urgent needs in their communities. In that first year, HEAL raised and distributed \$40,000 across 10 member organizations. At the end of 2021 we did it again, devoting our end of year fundraising campaign to replenish the Rapid Response Fund. In six weeks, our community raised \$52,000 to support members working on the frontlines, enabling them to have access to more of the resources needed to continue to meet the moment.

We invited all HEAL members, and members of HEAL members, to apply to the fund. We especially encouraged organizations focused on base-building and/or from less well-resourced regions to apply, with priority given to organizations with a budget under \$1m. Recipients could use the funding for any urgent need related to COVID-19, climate chaos, or civil response to political conditions.

Eight organizations applied for the fund in 2022, all of which HEAL funded with grants ranging from \$4000-\$8000. Representatives from HEAL's Steering Council reviewed the applications and determined funding amounts based on the criteria above. Read all about the incredible impact of recipients below.

RAPID RESPONSE FUND

2022 GRANTEES

Farmworker Association of Florida | Apopka, FL

Operation Spring Plant | Oxford, NC

Nihikeya | Navajo Nation

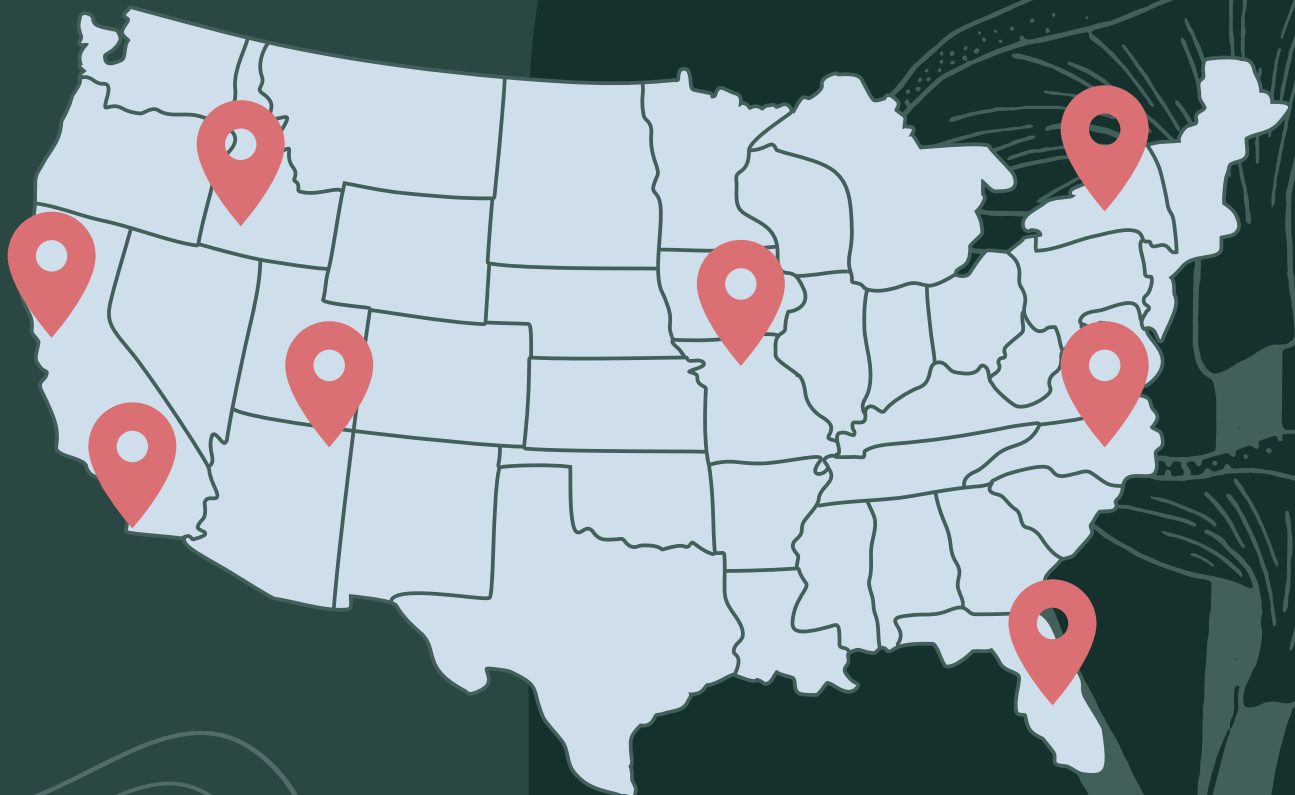
Idaho Organization of Resource Councils | Boise, ID

Rural Community Workers Alliance | Milan, MO

Workers Center of Central New York | Syracuse, NY

HOPE Collaborative | Oakland, CA

Cooperative Food Empowerment Directive | San Diego, CA



GRANTEE STORIES

FARMWORKER ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA

LOCATION: APOPKA, FL

Farmworker Association of Florida (FWAF), a farmworker advocacy group and returning grantee, used HEAL's rapid response funding to continue their urgent COVID response work within the farmworker community. FWAF supported their base through PPE distribution, COVID-19 and vaccine education, and assistance with accessing SNAP benefits, while continuing their organizing work around farmworker rights and workplace safety.

IDAHO ORGANIZATION OF RESOURCE COUNCILS

LOCATION: BOISE, ID

The Idaho Organization of Resource Councils (IORC) used funding from HEAL to support their ongoing work with farmworkers. This included community outreach, clothing drives for pesticide protection, and research and advocacy on pesticide levels and their impacts on farmworkers. They also created Project Milpa, cultivating and processing organic corn for sale to fund their work.



**"ONE
FARMWORKER
SAID THAT THEY
FINALLY FELT
SEEN AS ACTUAL
PEOPLE WHO DO
HARD AND
HONORABLE
WORK"**

Billboard placement in Idaho that reads 'Thanks to our essential workers.' Photo credit: IORC

GRANTEE STORIES

OPERATION SPRING PLANT INC

LOCATION: OXFORD, NC

Operation Spring Plant (OSP) is a grassroots, farmer-led organization that supports Black farmers, land stewards, and landowners across the Carolinas. With this grant, OSP boosted their harvesting and marketing capacity by subsidizing salaries for pickers, packers, and a driver, and enabling the purchase of needed materials. The award also subsidized Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification costs, allowing OSP to provide produce to COVID-19 Food Buying Programs, and sell to local school systems, which were previously inaccessible without the certification. With this funding, OSP's marketing arm, Olusanya Farm Hub, secured liability insurance for eight of their farmers, increasing their access to markets and strengthening their business and livelihood.



OSP assisting farmers with tomato and cucumber transplants for COVID-19 Food Buying Program. Photo Credit: Operation Spring Plant

GRANTEE STORIES

RURAL COMMUNITY WORKERS ALLIANCE

LOCATION: MISSOURI

Rural Community Workers Alliance (RCWA), an immigrant and refugee advocacy organization supporting meat processing workers at plants in Missouri, used rapid response funding to strengthen their capacity. RCWA hosts educational events focused on health and safety, discrimination, workers' compensation, immigration rights, the right to organize, and more, hosting leadership trainings and developing campaigns grounded in worker experience. Funding from HEAL strengthened their capacity to host workshops by providing needed materials and travel stipends.

"WHAT WE DO IS TO TEACH THEM HOW TO COME TOGETHER AS A GROUP, AND HOW TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION BY EITHER APPROACHING MANAGEMENT OR SENDING LETTERS OR COMPLAINING TO THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND TEACHING THEM THAT THEY HAVE RIGHTS."
- AXEL FUENTES

HOPE COLLABORATIVE

LOCATION: OAKLAND, CA

Health for Oakland's People and Environment (HOPE) Collaborative used the rapid response funding to extend their Community Food Distribution Project for five months, including community meals and stipends for their Resident Leaders. This project included paying a local and BIPOC-owned catering company to prepare 100 meals per month to deliver to community-sourced food pantries known as "Town Fridges" throughout Oakland, in addition to other work providing direct support to the community.

GRANTEE STORIES

WORKERS CENTER OF CENTRAL NEW YORK LOCATION: CENTRAL NEW YORK

The Workers Center of Central New York (WCCNY) used HEAL funding to provide direct economic assistance to members of their worker base and workers' families where possible. This included direct assistance to families healing from the death of a loved one involved in a workplace accident, and supporting members who feared retaliation for speaking out on their rights. In addition to their direct assistance programs, WCCNY also runs a food distribution program to increase food access to families experiencing economic hardship. Their program currently feeds 80-100 people on a monthly basis.

NIHIKEYA LOCATION: NAVAJO NATION

A HEAL School of Political Leadership Alum and long time organizer with the Black Mesa Water Coalition, Roberto Nutlouis re-launched a project focused on climate crisis response within the Diné community on Black Mesa. This year, the group has been organizing community strategy meetings to build resilient & regenerative food systems to restore watersheds. Funding from HEAL allowed them to improve their accommodation and hosting space, which strengthened opportunities for workshops, partnership meetings and scale up production.



Watershed restoration workshop led by Nihikeya. Photo credit: Roberto Nutlouis

GRANTEE STORIES

COFED (COOPERATIVE FOOD EMPOWERMENT DIRECTIVE)

LOCATION: SAN DIEGO, CA

CoFED, a QBPOC-led organization empowering young BIPOC leadership via food and land co-ops, supported three fellows leading food & land-based justice projects in California and New York, via their Just Leader Fellowship. Fellows worked with formerly incarcerated Black food growers, used GIS mapping software to encourage guerilla gardeners to grow and harvest food, and conducted participatory research to bring a farming curriculum to members of the community experiencing food apartheid. Funding from HEAL allowed them to scale up their cooperative education and leadership capacity by increasing stipends for fellows.



**THE HEAL FOOD ALLIANCE
RAPID RESPONSE FUND IS
DRIVEN BY INDIVIDUAL
DONORS.**

**TO SUPPORT THE NEXT
ROUND OF OUR
RAPID RESPONSE FUND,
VISIT
HEALFOODALLIANCE.ORG**



Photo credit: Idaho Organization of Resource Councils