HEAL FOOD ALLIANCE

OCTOBER 2021

COVID-19 RAPID RESPONSE FUND IMPACT REPORT

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

OUR MISSION

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.

OUR RAPID RESPONSE FUND

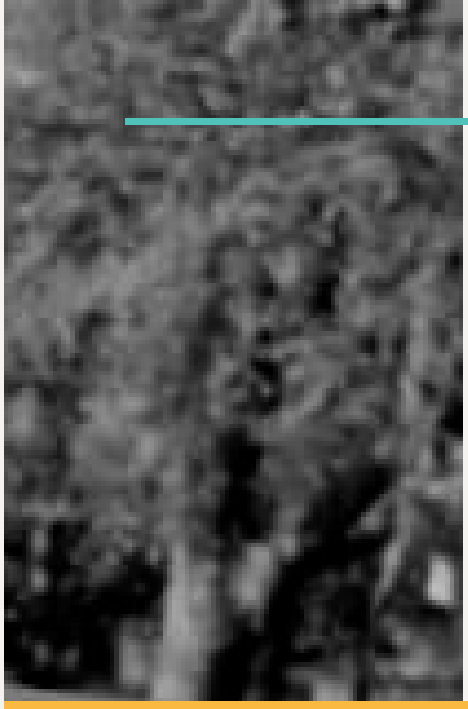
In 2020, during the height of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it became very apparent that the consolidated food system was simply unable to meet the needs of our communities. Meanwhile, HEAL members were on the ground, rooting in relationships and responding to the failures of the system through mutual aid and more. Our communities are deserving of abundant resources to do this important work. HEAL redirected 10% of our annual budget toward member organizations, including establishing a "Rapid Response Fund" to support our members bringing critical care to their communities.

We allocated a portion of grant funds as well as all of the award money from a prize HEAL received (the Jean Mayer Prize that HEAL from the Friedman School of Nutrition Science & Policy at Tufts University) for the first round of funding to provide emergency grants to member and ally organizations to address needs related to COVID-19, climate chaos, or civil response to political conditions. In this first round, grants were offered in the range of $3,000-$8,000, depending on the number of applications received.. To date, the Rapid Response fund has redistributed $40K to 10 food and farm justice organizations, and will continue to raise and distribute funding as needed.

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

BY THE NUMBERS

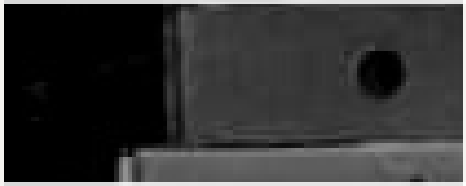
10	$75K	$40K
ORGANIZATIONS	REQUESTED	DISTRIBUTED



HEAL'S RAPID RESPONSE FUND GRANT RECIPIENTS

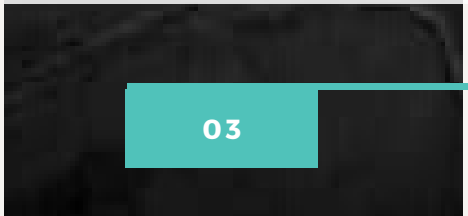
1. EARTHSEED LAND COLLECTIVE *(Durham, NC)*

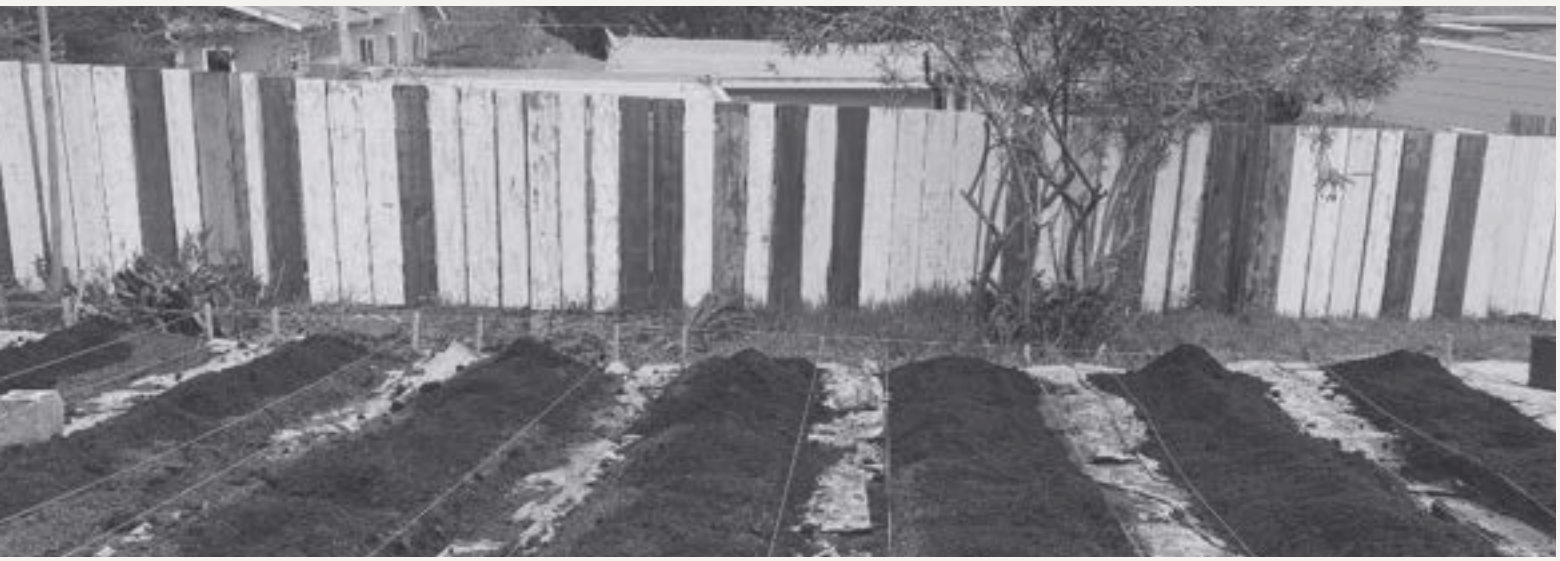
Earthseed Land Collective developed a CSA-style harvest program, offering subsidized shares to Black, Indigenous, and other families of color in their community. The produce came directly from Earthseed Land Collective's farm, Tierra Negra. Earthseed also created a community apothecary, through which they offer culture & healing spaces to their community.



2. FRESH FUTURE FARM *(Charleston, SC)*

Fresh Future Farm made infrastructure repairs to support their sliding-scale USDA grocery store. Additionally, they developed a $3 meal program for their community, composed of culturally relevant foods from local producers.





3. FARMS TO GROW *(Oakland, CA)*

Farm to Grow used purchased supplies and held food safety trainings in support of an urban farm in Oakland, CA.

"WHEN WE BUILD THE CAPACITY OF BLACK FARMERS TO GROW FOOD AND SUSTAIN THEIR FARMS, WE ASSIST IN SUPPORTING A GREATER CAPACITY FOR A LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM TO PROVIDE FOR THE FOOD NEEDS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES." *-Dr. Gail Myers, Co-founder, Farms to Grow*

4. THE COMEUP PROJECT *(Atlanta, GA)*

The Come Up Project graduated their first cohort of their six-month paid agribusiness training program for formerly incarcerated people, offering them economic and financial literacy, co-op business classes, group therapy and more.

5. NATURE'S GARDEN FOR VICTORY AND PEACE *(Tuskeegee, AL)*

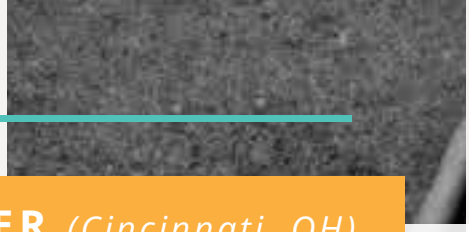
Nature's Garden for Victory and Peace developed the foundation to create a sustainable Coop Buyers Club rooted in mutual aid. After identifying key partners through community meetings, they established their model and have begun constructing a storage-shed that will temporarily house their Coop.

"WHEN THE COOPERATIVE BUYERS CLUB IS UP AND RUNNING IT WILL BE LIKENED TO A RENAISSANCE THAT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE THROUGHOUT THE 13 RURAL BLACK BELT COUNTIES IN ALABAMA."

-Muhjah Shakir, President & CEO, NGVP

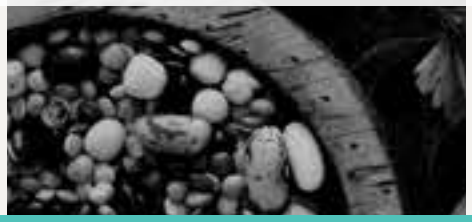
6.FARMWORKER ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA *(Apopka, FL)*

The Farmworker Association of Florida (FWAF) supported the farmworker community in central Florida, distributing PPE and food assisting with rent, utilities, SNAP, and medicaid applications, as well as vaccine outreach.



7. CINCINNATI INTERFAITH WORKER CENTER *(Cincinnati, OH)*

Cincinnati Interfaith Worker Center developed multiple food distribution sites in the city to keep their member base and immigrant communities fed during the height of the pandemic. Thanks to existing relationships with community partners, they were able to feed 5,200 families per week across the city.

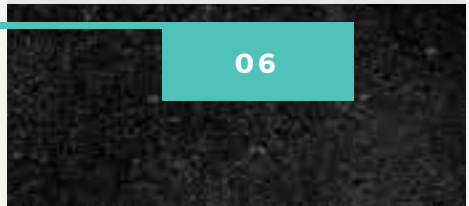


8. COOPERATIVE FOOD EMPOWERMENT DIRECTIVE *(National)*

"AFTER 10 YEARS OF EXISTENCE, WE HAVE FINALLY LAUNCHED OUR REGRANTING FUND – WE ARE DEEPLY HUMBLED AND PROUD THAT WE ARE FOLLOWING OUR MISSION TO RETURN WEALTH INTO THE HANDS OF BLACK, INDIGENOUS, LATINX, AND AAPI COOPERATORS IN THE FOOD SYSTEM."

-Suparna Kudesia, Co-Director, CoFED

CoFED launched CoFUND, a regranting fund to support Black, Indigenous and Cooperators of Color. They supported 13 grantees in Spring 2021, and were able to offer technical assistance and support. The HEAL Rapid Response process also inspired them to design their own regranting fund, of which they received 70 applicants in their initial round.



9.TRULY LIVING WELL CENTER FOR NATURAL URBAN AGRICULTURE *(Atlanta, GA)*

Truly Living Well used the funding to support repairs to their mobile truck, so they could continue their direct-service of produce delivery to communities in Atlanta where access to affordable, fresh food is limited. They also developed an emergency fund to support community members with immediate expenses who were facing distress and illness from the pandemic.

10. LAUNDRY WORKERS CENTER *(NJ/NY)*

Laundry Workers Center distributed 30 $200 gift cards to their member base in New York and New Jersey to support their members who were out of work during the height of COVID with with basic needs. Additional funds supported PPE distribution and vaccine training and outreach to their member communities.

"WE ARE ALSO VERY PROUD OF BEING ABLE TO CONTINUE IN OUR MISSION TO DEVELOP WORKER LEADERS TO BRING CHANGES TO THEIR WORKPLACE AND IN THEIR LIVES." *-Rosanna Rodriguez, Co-Executive Director, LWC*

GRANT RECIPIENTS

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Photo credit: Earthseed Land Collective

SUPPORT THE NEXT ROUND OF OUR RAPID RESPONSE FUND BY MAKING A DONATION ONLINE AT HEALFOODALLIANCE.ORG

Send a check to
Movement Strategy Center
436 14th Street Suite 425
Oakland, CA 94612
Note HEAL Food Alliance in the memo line