

Examples of Proposals that fit well within the Nutrition Initiative:

Perspectives, Inc.

Kids Café

Perspectives is the largest supportive housing program for women and children in Minnesota, housing over 75 women and over 130 children annually. Their services are extensive and span from recovery, mental health, and employment to children's academic, social, and nutritional enrichment. Perspectives is the only supportive housing program that provides 12-month, comprehensive, in-house academic, social, and nutritional programming for the children, known as Kids Connection.

PROGRAM:

Kids Café, located in the Family Center, is the nutritional component of Perspectives' Kids Connection. This nutritional and culinary program provides healthy snacks and evening dinners prepared by students under the direction of a full-time chef. The program operates 5 days/week, 12 months/year, serving 55-60 children each day (65 students K-8 are currently enrolled). USDA-approved meals are provided for students on a daily basis with special attention given to recommended nutritional needs. This amount of contact provides them with the time and opportunity to both provide nutritional meals/snacks through the Cafe, as well as to influence and engage parents.

Pillsbury United Communities

Oak Park Center Family Wellness Initiative

Pillsbury United Communities (PUC) is a multiservice, social entrepreneurial organization that addresses social problems with creativity, innovation, partnerships, and a relentless drive for change. PUC's mission is to create choice, change and connection for every individual that walks through its doors.

PROGRAM:

The Oak Park Family Wellness Initiative will:

- Increase access to healthy food in North Minneapolis. Through partnerships with a local gardening endeavor and the MN Landscape Arboretum, the Oak Park Family Wellness Initiative will emphasize the idea that healthy food is both accessible and affordable for residents of North Minneapolis.
- Expand the current after-school meal program and educate parents and families about how to prepare healthy meals at home. The Oak Park Center will increase capacity of the existing after-school meal program and summer meal programs to serve additional meals for children, and to include siblings and family members in evening meals.
- Fully incorporate a nutrition-related STEM curriculum into OST programming and engage parents and families. Oak Park's existing OST programming will be focused on addressing the math and science achievement gap faced by North Minneapolis children. Oak Park's STEM curriculum will be centered on issues of nutrition and engage participants in experiential learning

The Family Wellness Initiative will also teach children and parents about ways to bring healthy nutrition home; in child and parent healthy cooking classes using fresh food, a community gardening curriculum for children, and nutrition-focused STEM programming, healthy behaviors and good nutrition will be reinforced and made more accessible for both children and families.

Urban Ventures Leadership Foundation

City Kid Enterprises, Nutrition Matters

Urban Ventures mission is to reverse the cycle of generational poverty in the city one person, one family at a time. Children who don't receive the nutrition they need in their earliest years of life are prone to chronic health conditions ranging from obesity to asthma to autism. A lack of early learning delays the acquisition of language, reading and numeracy as well as a lack of attention span and self-control (detrimental to a child's successful start in school). Children who are hungry don't learn. Children with poor nutrition suffer poor health and miss more school due to illness.

PROGRAM:

Urban Ventures, City Kid Enterprise program targets the urban poor in the City of Minneapolis to address food insecurity, and basic nutrition understanding. Urban Ventures believes that early health and early learning directly impact an individual's long-term productivity and success. Urban Ventures kitchens are a nutrition-education site for inner-city youth (age 3-18) and their parents. This project targets the urban poor, 100% of youth in their programs receive free/reduced lunch.

The goal is to provide a solution to reducing hunger, increase nutritional education and eating habits, and provide a pathway to sustainability through job creation in the following ways:

- Doubling the amount of produce in 2013 (5 tons) to 12 tons in 2014
- Educate children (2-12 yrs. old) and parents to begin a new life of healthy eating habits
- Provide living-wage jobs for hard-to-employ adults that will give them financial resources to purchase nutritious food for their families and freeing them from dependency upon food shelves
- Hands-on cooking classes that students can translate back to their home kitchens.
- Exposed to eating nutritiously and expanded eating choices through sampling

The project will involve the scaling up of the amount of organic vegetables produced this past year by Growing Hope Farm as well as the addition of a 30'x 60' greenhouse on Urban Ventures property that will focus on producing 5,000 pounds of greens, year-round which translates into 6,000 additional meals. The food will be delivered in a Mobile Market truck that will accept WIC & SNAP vouchers and be available free-of-charge to school children.

Appetite for Change

Community Cooks Program

ORGANIZATION MISSION AND BACKGROUND:

Appetite For Change (AFC) is a community-based, food-justice organization in North Minneapolis. Their mission is to use food as a tool for facilitating health, wealth and social change, and their vision is for North Minneapolis to be a healthy, vibrant and economically stable place where families are socially connected through food and every child has the chance to grow, cook and eat fresh, nutritious foods and grow-up healthy and prosperous.

PROGRAM:

Community Cooks is Appetite for Change's flagship program bringing families together to cook, eat, learn and dialogue together about food, nutrition, and community health. The goal of this initiative is to execute programming that brings families, preschoolers, new and pregnant women, school-aged-children and fathers with one another to learn about and practice growing and cooking fresh, nutritious foods in a safe, friendly and community-led environment.

The objectives of the Community Cooks program are to:

- Increase participant's knowledge, interest in, or hands-on experience with growing and cooking food while learning basic nutrition concepts.
- Bridge social connections between individuals, families and community and build social capital around food.
- Partner with and service other agencies, groups, schools, and child-care centers by providing community cooks workshops.
- Building a curriculum and training kit that can be used to replicate the Fresh Start Garden Project at other childcare and preschool facilities.

Hunger-Free Minnesota

School Breakfast Program

ORGANIZATION MISSION AND BACKGROUND

Hunger-Free Minnesota is a statewide campaign to fight hunger in our communities. It unites a coalition of business people, community leaders, government policy specialists, communities of faith, food banks, food shelves, aligned agencies and thousands of community members in a challenge to close the missing meal gap in every county in Minnesota.

The mission of Hunger-Free Minnesota is to ensure that no Minnesotans go without food in their time of need. The goal of Hunger-Free Minnesota is to close Minnesota's gap of 100 million missing meals, annually and sustainably, for Minnesotans in need by 2015.

PROGRAM:

Hunger –Free Minnesota's child hunger and nutrition platform will accelerate the utilization and change trajectory of at risk children. This model will:

1. Promote successful models of making breakfast more accessible to children
2. Deliver customized evidence based solutions to targeted schools

3. Incentivize schools to increase breakfast participation by adopting new services models to increase participation