

■ MARKET CAFÉ AND COMMUNITY KITCHEN

11th Congressional District

Cleveland's "Food Desert" Blooms with Access to Fresh Food

Lower Kinsman neighborhood residents in Cleveland who live in a "food desert" without access to healthy food options are benefiting from a food production and education center developed with help from a \$100,000 economic development grant from Finance Fund.

Food deserts are found in impoverished areas that lack grocery stores, farmers' markets and healthy food providers. Because many area residents do not have transportation to outlying grocery stores, they tend to buy unhealthy food that is readily available at corner convenience stores and gas stations. Fast food is 4.5 times more accessible than larger scale supermarkets in these areas. Limited access to healthy food results in approximately 30 percent of Ohio's adults being obese.

Finance Fund awarded the grant to Burten, Bell, Carr Community Development Inc. to turn a strip mall in Cleveland's lower Kinsman neighborhood into a food education and production center called The Market Café and Community Kitchen. It offers a cooking classroom, a café, and cold storage facility where urban farmers and gardeners can prepare and package fresh produce. It will also host year-round garden club events.

A mobile food market used for neighborhood festivals and events will enable residents to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from a refrigerated truck providing healthy alternatives to typical festival fare. To help ensure success, food industry consultants manage and train café employees, and community partners help educate residents about healthy food preparation, nutrition and fitness.

The Market Café and Community Kitchen reaches two-thirds of Cleveland adults who fall short of the recommended five servings of fruits and vegetables per day.

It is part of a larger redevelopment project funded by a five-year, \$759,000 federal grant awarded to Burten, Bell, Carr Community Development. Most of the seasonal produce comes from the local Urban Agricultural Innovation Zone and Green City Growers Hydroponic Greenhouse.



FINANCE FUND INVESTMENT IMPACT:

- \$100,000 grant to create a Market Café and Community Kitchen that provides area residents with convenient access to healthy food and nutrition education
- Support for the creation of 5 full-time, 10 part-time, 60 temporary and 60 construction jobs in an area of high unemployment
- Continuing revitalization of Cleveland's poorest neighborhood



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