



June 2018
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CO4F METRICS

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

\$8,300,000
Total Capitalization

\$2,796,307
Funds Available

\$5,178,693
Total Funded and Committed

Colorado Fresh Food Financing Fund (CO4F) improves access to healthy food in underserved Colorado communities by financing grocery stores and other forms of healthy food retail.

CO4F Partners Learn About Public Market/Mercado Concepts

CO4F partners, CHFA and P.U.M.A., are part of a local team exploring the potential for bringing a new public market/Mercado to a city in the Denver metro area. A public market is a locally-based entity that offers community



Pictured: Portland Mercado in Portland, OR, visited by CO4F representatives.

development opportunities, as well as food and other retail based on an area's unique needs and culture.

As part of their efforts, representatives from CHFA and P.U.M.A. joined Cultivando, Growing Home, Regis University, and Mile High Connects on a "Public Market/Mercado Learning Journey." The team visited existing public markets and their partners in Portland, Oregon and Minneapolis, Minnesota. The learning journey informed the group on best practices of successful community-driven public markets.

"The visit emphasized for us how important it is to engage the community early on in the process and choose a location trusted by residents," said Tim Dolan, Senior Commercial Loan Officer at CHFA, who participated in the Portland trip.

The team learned about defining the needs and opportunities of the community, and how to incorporate resources and services to meet those needs. For example, public markets the team visited offered financial coaching, training, technical assistance, recipe development, and other culturally-relevant services.

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"Each market utilized an incubator model to support existing businesses while building capacity for new business owners. We believe this model could help build community wealth and strengthen neighborhoods from within. In Colorado, a market like this could also work to retain culture in rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods," said Erin Lyng, P.U.M.A. Associate Vice President, who visited Minneapolis. "We were also glad to learn that healthy food access was a part of the public markets' strategies. A carniceria (meat market), fruit stand, deli, and farmer's market-style retail were among the offerings at sites in both states toured by the group."

CO4F is interested in this concept as a way of increasing access to fresh foods in underserved communities, while also supporting local community development.

Food Access Resource: Summer Meals for Kids

Summer programs are underway to provide children with access to free food in communities nationwide. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds the Summer Food Service Program to ensure that kids and teens up to 18 years old have nutritious food available outside of the school year. In Colorado, the program is administered by the Colorado Department of Education and Colorado Department of Human Services.

The program helps schools and other community-based organizations offer free meals to youth all summer long. According to Hunger Free Colorado, many Colorado sites also offer engaging activities for children. To find, sponsor, or manage a site, and/or for more information and how to raise awareness, visit the [USDA's Food Service Program webpage](#).

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