



Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute Planning Grants Awarded Spring 2013

“Achieving Healthy and Affordable Food Access in the Era of Climate Change”

Amount Awarded: \$10,000

Timeframe: July, 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

Community Partners: Shalini Gupta, Executive Director, Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy
Deborah Ramos, Director, Zenteotl Project

University Partner: Neeraj Mehta, Director of Community Based Research, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota

Focus of the Project:

The health issue this project will address is the impact a changing climate will have on affordable and healthy food access for low-income and communities of color in the Twin Cities. The partners will work to develop a proposal that focuses on the HFHL priority area of Food Policy, integrating the issues of urban agriculture, cultural knowledge, and health. The key question this team will be investigating is: **In the context of climate change, how can racial, low-income and cultural community food needs be best integrated into Minneapolis food planning efforts?**

“Development of a Community-University partnership to address school-based nutrition programs”

Amount Awarded: \$9,000

Timeframe: July 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

Community Partners: Teresa Ambroz, MPH, RD, LD, Health and Wellness Manager, Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation

Laura Perdue, MPH, RD, Health Promotion Specialist, Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation

Pamela Mink, PhD, MPH, Senior Research Scientist, Division of Applied Research, Allina Health

University Partners: Jamie Stang, PhD, MPH, RD, Associate Professor, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota

Focus of the Project:

This project aims to develop a research partnership between the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation (MHIF) to plan the assessment of a school-based nutrition initiative titled Food Explorers. This partnership will develop a strategy, in collaboration with local school districts, Allina Health and Bloomington Public Health, to assess the efficacy of the Food Explorers program and potential opportunities for improvement. Collaboration between researchers at the University of Minnesota, community educators at MHIF, school administrators and city public health professionals will enhance the process of planning this research.

“Development of a Community-University partnership to provide locally sourced foods from Hmong immigrant farmers as healthier menu options for patients in the University of Minnesota’s Fairview Medical Center”

Amount Awarded: \$10,000

Timeframe: July 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

Community Partners: Pakou Hang, Executive Director, Hmong American Farmers Association

University Partners: Michele Schermann, Agriculture Health and Safety Research Fellow, Bioproducts & Biosystems Engineering, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS), University of Minnesota

Mee Ching, Graduate Student in the Public Health Administration and Policy Program, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota

Focus of the Project:

This project will explore the feasibility of a working relationship among Hmong farmers in the Twin Cities, faculty members at the University of Minnesota’s School of Public Health and procurement staff at the University of Minnesota’s Medical Center Fairview (Medical Center). The purpose of the long term project would be to help the Medical Center design and provide healthier menu items for its patients in hopes of producing healthy eating habits, reducing diet related diseases and decreasing obesity. The long term project would examine if those goals can be achieved by buying locally sourced, fresh vegetables from well-trained, but low income, small scale immigrant farmers with farm plots in the metropolitan areas. However, in order to ensure the best chances for the long term project’s success, this team will begin working and testing the feasibility of a working relationship among all the players.
