



**Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute  
Planning Grants for Community-University Research  
Awarded Spring 2014**

***“American Indian Cancer Foundation (AICF) and the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change (ICGC) [and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs] HFHL Planning Grant Program Proposal for Community-University Partnerships”***

**Amount Awarded:** \$9,836.00

**Timeframe:** June 1, 2014 – December 1, 2014

**Community Partners:** Kristine Rhodes, MPH, Executive Director, AICF

**University Partners:**

Karen Brown, Ph.D, Director of the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change (ICGC), U of M Global Programs and Strategy (GPS) Alliance

David Wilsey, Ph.D, Coordinator, U of M Master of Development Practice (MDP) program, Global Policy, Humphrey School of Public Affairs

**Focus of the Project:**

Rates of heart disease and diabetes vary widely among Native communities though, generally, rates for American Indians in the Great Lakes region are relatively high compared with other Native American communities. Minnesota Native Americans suffer five times the rate of diabetes--related death of their white peers and almost twice the rate of African Americans. The impact of these diseases on community health cannot be overstated and extends beyond public health. Food is at the center of this discussion and identifying barriers to healthy eating is essential for developing successful interventions to confront these challenges to public health, to the environment, and to the communities' social and economic systems.

Notable work has been done in these areas and some excellent early lessons suggest directions for future efforts and best practices. Strong and effective partnerships between communities, food system actors, and researchers represent one essential element, and require investment in the building and maintenance of relationships. The practical objective of this initiative is development of strong partnerships able to support a food system project that has roots in a number of recent and related endeavors. In effect, the planning grant will support an extended period of consultation among project partners and community participants to develop the actual contours of a longer--term project.

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***“The Midway Nest”***

**Amount Awarded:** \$9,695

**Timeframe:** June 1, 2014 – December 1, 2014

**Community Partners:**

Kate Mudge, Hamline-Midway resident

Kim K. McKeage, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Hamline School of Business, Hamline University

**University Partners:**

Courtney Tchida, Student Programs Coordinator, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, MISA, CFANS, U of M

Valentine Cadieux, Ph.D., Research Associate, Departments of Sociology and Geography, Environment and Society (CLA), U of M

**Focus of the Project:**

The Hamline Midway Local Food envisions a community-centered space, located in the growing Hamline-Midway neighborhood of St. Paul, where the intersection of healthy foods and sustainable enterprise meet. We call this space the “Midway Nest” - a local foods business where residents may gather to enjoy a meal at the storefront bakery/café, to collect and distribute local CSA produce, and afford start-up food entrepreneurs an area in which to craft and market their ideas. We also envision a community meal center, which unites residents regardless of their income, race, or age to share and explore our neighborhood foodways. Many needs have been identified by community members in recent years: an incubator kitchen, a storefront for food products, a tool lending library, artist studio space, and a greenhouse for extending seasons for local gardeners and food producers. The HFHL Planning Grant will enable us to refine our understanding of our community’s needs and make this vision a reality.