

**For Immediate Release**

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## **New Healthy Food Enterprise Awards for 2011 Announced**

ARLINGTON, Va. (July 14, 2011) – The Wallace Center at Winrock International today announced 17 new awards it will grant under its Wallace Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development (HUFED) Center. A total of \$630,000 in awards will be granted to 17 groups who propose innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to resolve barriers to healthy food access among the poorest in the country.

The 17 grantees will focus on a variety of strategies to strengthen or build access to healthy and regionally produced food in communities that are traditionally underserved and experience the highest rates of diet-related and preventable diseases, such as obesity. The strategies include improved processing and distribution options that are scale appropriate, improved aggregation and marketing with food hubs, mobile markets for rural and urban areas, and large-scale Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) models – benefiting both producers and consumers while bridging the gap between urban and rural areas to enrich regional economies and employment opportunities.

“The HUFED program has proved to be invaluable in LA CAUSA's efforts to create a community-based approach to addressing issues around food access,” says Robert Zardeneta, Executive Director of LA CAUSA, a 2010 HUFED grantee that is working on a “market makeover” called PALOMA, which aims to increase the availability of fresh, locally grown produce in East Los Angeles corner stores.

The 17 enterprises span the United States and total \$630,000 in support over the next two years:

- Black Oaks Center for Sustainable Renewable Living – Greater Chicago Area
- Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship (CADE) – South Central New York
- Detroit Black Community Food Security Network – Detroit, Michigan
- My Brother's Keeper – Jackson, Mississippi
- Santee Sioux Nation – Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska
- The Samaritan Women – Baltimore, Maryland

- Corbin Hill Road Farm – Schoharie County, New York and Bronx and Harlem, New York
- Detroit Economic Growth Association – Detroit, Michigan
- Lake County Community Development Corporation – Northwest Montana
- Puerto Rican Cultural Center – Chicago, Illinois
- Center for Innovative Food Technology (CIFT) – Northern Ohio Region
- Centro del Obrero Fronterizo – El Paso, Texas
- East Baker Historical Society – Southwest Georgia
- Farm to Family Naturally, LLC – St. Louis, Missouri
- Franklin County Community Development Corporation – Western Massachusetts
- Gourmet Gorilla, Inc. – Chicago, Illinois
- Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health – Santo Domingo Pueblo, New Mexico

The Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development Center, a USDA program created through the 2008 Farm Bill, is important to the Department's efforts to increase access to healthy and affordable food, including locally produced foods. According to Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan, "We're proud of the work being carried out by our partners like the Wallace Center and many other organizations in both urban and rural communities. These investments in healthy food access are creating jobs while contributing to healthy communities."

Visit [www.HUFED.org](http://www.HUFED.org) for information about the program or grantees. The website also serves as a resource center for tools, research, lessons learned, networking, and more on the topic of healthy food access for underserved communities.

**The Wallace Center** supports entrepreneurs and communities as they build a new, 21st century food system that is healthier for people, the environment, and the economy by focusing on making good food – healthy, green, fair, affordable food – an everyday reality in every community. [www.wallacecenter.org](http://www.wallacecenter.org)

**Winrock International** is a nonprofit organization that works with people in the United States and around the world to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity, and sustain natural resources.