



Detroit Area Agency on Aging receives support from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan to Improve Health through Enhanced Food Access for Seniors

Hundreds of seniors in Detroit, Highland Park, Harper Woods, Hamtramck and the five Grosse Pointes do not have consistent access to healthy foods.

Detroit, MI – The Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA) received one of 20 grants from Healthy Food Connect, a regional initiative of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. The initiative supports 72 organizations working to improve health by increasing access to nutritious food for seniors.

The Detroit Area Agency on Aging was awarded \$72,000 to expand the use of existing available commercial kitchens to provide more congregate and home delivered meals to seniors. The program's goals are to develop a Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) site toolkit that will host best practices, expansion guidance, evaluation of kitchen expansions and program development resources that address nutrition education. With the grant, DAAA will also plan and implement a Healthy Food Expo that will focus on presenting the "Toolkit" to potential new NSIP providers.

Hundreds of seniors in our service area do not have consistent access to the foods they need to live healthy lives. Over the last decade, it has been determined that food insecurity is one of the most pressing needs for low-income people in DAAA service areas.

Research shows that seniors who lack access to enough food complicates already-present diseases, limits their ability to complete basic daily activities and can lead to depression.

***DAAA** is a private, non-profit agency that serves older persons age 60 years and over, adults with disabilities and caregivers in the City of Detroit, the five Grosse Pointes, Hamtramck, Harper Woods and Highland Park. Services are funded through the federal Older Americans Act of 1965 as amended and state Older Michigianians Act funding as well as other resources.*

***Healthy Food Connect** seeks to improve health for children and seniors throughout southeast Michigan by connecting them to the people, places, programs and services necessary to ensure they have nutritious food options every day. It is an initiative of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and the Michigan Health Endowment Fund that supports collaboration of 72 organizations across all seven counties in the southeast Michigan region: Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, Livingston and St. Clair. For more information, please visit www.cfsem.org/initiative/healthy-food-connect.*

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan is a full-service philanthropic organization leading the way to positive change in our region. As a permanent community endowment built by gifts from thousands of individuals and organizations, the Foundation supports a wide variety of activities benefiting education, arts and culture, health, human services, community development and civic affairs. Since its inception, the Foundation has distributed nearly \$843 million through more than 57,000 grants to nonprofit organizations throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, St. Clair and Livingston counties. For more information, please visit www.cfsem.org.

For more information contact Detroit Area Agency on Aging at 313-446-4444

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