

THE NASHVILLE FOOD PROJECT

Our Mission

Bringing people together to grow, cook & share nourishing food, with the goals of cultivating community and alleviating hunger in our city.

Our Vision

A just and sustainable food system where all Nashvillians have access to the food they want and need.

Historical Impact

Since becoming an independent nonprofit in 2011, TNFP has shared over 2.3 million meals, recovered more than 1.5 million pounds of food, and supported over 500 families in growing their own food.

The Need

Food insecurity in Nashville is not just about hunger, it is about systemic exclusion. Nearly half of households in Davidson County struggle to afford basic needs, and Black neighborhoods are, on average, more than a mile farther from a grocery store than white ones. Instead of full-service grocers, many low-income neighborhoods are flooded with fast food and dollar stores, a food swamp, not a food system.

The Nashville Food Project is responding to this by scaling our Community Agriculture Network (CAN), a growing constellation of neighborhood-based gardens and small farms in neighborhoods who need it most.

TNFP's Response: The Community Agriculture Network (CAN)

While emergency food assistance meets urgent needs, TNFP addresses systemic hunger by investing in community-rooted solutions. At the heart of this work is the Community Agriculture Network (CAN), a hub-and-spoke model of small-scale gardens, farms, and orchards in low-income, low-access neighborhoods. Each site is stewarded by local leaders, while TNFP provides infrastructure: compost, irrigation, tools, seedlings, training, volunteer power, translation services and coordination.

We currently support six active sites, each serving a unique role:

- **Community Farm at Mill Ridge (Antioch):** 3.5 acres, plans to expand to 7, with 65+ plots for immigrant and refugee families.
- **Growing Together Farm (South Nashville):** One-acre farm stewarded by Southeast Asian immigrant growers, hosts weekly farmers market, provides produce for a 129-member CSA.
- **McGruder Garden (North Nashville):** Established garden at McGruder Family Resource Center.
- **Southend United Methodist Church (Crieve Hall):** Teaching garden aiding local neighbors and food pantries, supported by a former pastor.
- **Our Hands Community Garden at Alameda Christian Church (Bourdeaux):** Volunteer-led garden with weekly harvest giveaways for aging congregants and low-income neighbors.
- **Farm in the City (John Henry Hale):** Early-stage partnership with MDHA and tenant leaders for a resident-led garden.





Short-Term and Long-Term Goals for CAN

Short-Term (2026–2027):

- Launch 2–3 new gardens and 3–5 community orchards.
- Train over 20 Garden Leaders and Orchard Stewards.
- Host 8 multilingual workshops on food growing and preparation.
- Expand food access via SNAP/EBT markets and CSA programs.

*Long-Term (2028 and beyond):

- Implement the hub-and-spoke model for scalable community agriculture.
- Build local leadership and infrastructure for sustainability.
- Position CAN as a national model for community-led food justice.
- Advance food policy, coalition-building, and ecosystem restoration in Nashville to make fresh food truly accessible to all.

Use of Grant Dollars and Implementation Plan

The Nashville Food Project is requesting \$100,000 from Impact100 to catalyze the growth and impact of the Community Agriculture Network. Funding would support:

- Planning and installing 2–3 new gardens and 3–5 orchards
- Stipends for immigrant/refugee growers and educators
- Multilingual interpretation and 8 seasonal workshops
- Tools, safety gear, SNAP signage, and EBT-accessible POS systems

Implementation starts in January 2026 and includes site selection, community engagement, infrastructure development, workshops, and evaluation over two growing seasons.



2025
IMPACT100
BUDGET

