



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**New York State Health Foundation Awards
GrowNYC \$200,000 for
New York State Greenmarket Regional Food Hub**

New York, NY – GrowNYC has received a generous grant of \$200,000 from the New York State Health Foundation to support its food distribution programs, Greenmarket Co., Youthmarket, and Fresh Food Box, as the nonprofit organization prepares to break ground on the New York State Greenmarket Regional Food Hub.

Through its Building Healthy Communities program, the New York State Health Foundation seeks to improve health in neighborhoods with disproportionately high rates of obesity and diabetes, in part, by expanding access to healthy foods.

GrowNYC's wholesale distribution program, Greenmarket Co., distributes more than 2 million pounds of local food each year, with more than 60% distributed in under-resourced communities. In 2020, GrowNYC will open the NYS Greenmarket Regional Food Hub, a 75,000 sq. ft. distribution facility that will serve as Greenmarket Co.'s permanent home. The new facility will exponentially increase their capacity to benefit local farmers and communities left behind by our current food system. The Hub will quadruple GrowNYC's aggregation and distribution square footage, leading to greater access of affordable, healthy foods in underserved communities.

In particular, this funding from the New York State Health Foundation will allow GrowNYC to continue operating the Uptown Grand Central Fresh Food Box, as well as the Lower East Side and Brownsville Pitkin Youthmarkets, which together distribute more than 95,000 pounds of food each year.

"We are very grateful for this funding from the New York State Health Foundation," said GrowNYC President and CEO Marcel Van Ooyen. "Support like this is crucial as we work to increase access to healthy food in underserved communities at a scale not yet seen in the City's history."

"Access to fresh, nutritious and affordable food is a prerequisite for health," said David Sandman, Ph.D., President and CEO of NYSHHealth. "We should not expect our most food insecure neighbors to subsist on food that might actually be bad for them. Greenmarket Co. has

distributed more than 9 million pounds of food to date, with more than 60% going to under-resourced communities.”

"The Fresh Food Box program here on Harlem's historic 125th Street got its start four years ago, after the closure of Pathmark supermarket," said Carey King, director of Uptown Grand Central. "Since then, it has given area residents year-round access to fresh, seasonal produce, with one of the highest rates of EBT use across the city. We are so glad that the New York State Health Foundation and GrowNYC are partnering with us, to guarantee that this important food access point stays in place."

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GrowNYC is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that serves more than 3 million New Yorkers every year, providing opportunities to make NYC a place where every person can enjoy a healthier, more sustainable life. GrowNYC operates Greenmarkets, food access programs, recycling education, builds and maintains green spaces and engages young people in hands-on education. Learn more at www.grownyc.org.