



Food:Land:Opportunity
Localizing the Chicago Foodshed

TEN YEARS OF SUPPORTING THE CHICAGO REGION'S FOOD SYSTEM

Impact: Support for a Maturing Food System

Over the past ten years, the Chicago region's food system has matured. No longer working in "start-up" mode, the people who make up the system understand challenges, solutions, and where to experiment next. Overall, the food system is in a middle stage of development and needs new strategies for support.

Similarly, organizations and businesses have matured, shifting to fill niches when necessary, stepping back when others are ready to step in. Individuals, too, have taken leadership roles, forged new and fruitful connections, and participated in a web of mentorships and support roles.

Impact: Collaborative Approaches

Just as the food system itself has grown more collaborative over the past decade, so too has the approach of philanthropic support. FLO works closely with other funders and impact investors to strategically pool funding and create a flow of support dollars that is broader, strategic, and more efficient.

Responding to the severe disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chicago Region Food System Fund builds on the strong structural support of Fresh Taste. Both are national models.

Impact: Innovative Solutions

FLO is unafraid of risk and experimentation, which provides space to support evolving needs within the food system.

When it was clear that access to capital for food and farm businesses was a major need within the system, FLO researched and developed a new model of impact investing, which became Proofing Station. With Proofing Station, FLO's reach extends to new parts of the larger food system.

TOTAL GRANTMAKING TO DATE: \$42,153,500