

Economic Opportunities

Sprout! Regional Food Hub

Springfield, OR

Project Profile

SNAPSHOT

Activity Type – Economic development

Beneficiaries – By providing easy and affordable access to fresh and locally produced foods the market attracts families, seniors, and people from all socio-economic levels to downtown Springfield.

Project Total – \$2.4 million

CDBG Funds – \$211,570

Leverage Ratio – 1:10

Key Result – In its first full year, Sprout! had 30,000 visitors, provided nearly \$3,300 in SNAP match benefits to eligible families, and generated more than \$3 million in economic impact to vendors, nearby businesses, and the local community.

Words of Advice – This wrap-around approach of providing services to local consumers, entrepreneurs, and food producers strengthens the whole community for the long term.

More Information – www.sproutfoodhub.org/



PLACE

Ten years ago, downtown Springfield was struggling with a lack of community engagement and essential services. At the same time, there were five identified food deserts in the area where access to affordable and nutritious food was extremely limited.

PEOPLE

In the Springfield area, 27 percent of families receive food stamp (SNAP) assistance and 22 percent of families with children live below the federal poverty level. Economic hardship directly correlates to a person's ability to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

PROJECT

Sprout! Regional Food Hub grew out of a downtown farmers market started by the city and the Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO). As the market became more and more successful, NEDCO wanted to expand it into a more robust community resource. In 2011, with the help of an allocation of CDBG funds, NEDCO was able to purchase a former church property and renovate the building, tailoring it to needs identified by the community. Services include not only the region's only year round farmers market but also a certified commercial kitchen and business development program.

PARTNERS

The facility is a collection of innovative programs with the overall goal of increasing consumption of locally produced food and keeping millions of dollars circulating in Lane County every year. Key partners with the Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO) include Springfield Public Schools, Willamette Farm & Food Coalition, and the Lane Coalition for Healthy Active Youth.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Serving Low- and Moderate-Income Persons and Neighborhoods in the U.S.

