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PRESS RELEASE

Council of Development Finance Agencies
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Announcing the King County, Washington Strategic Food Systems Financing Plan

—Creative Financing Strategies to Support and Enhance King County’s Local Food Economy—

Columbus, OH — The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) and King County, Washington are excited to announce the completion of a strategic food systems financing plan to facilitate investment in the local and regional food system. This plan focuses on how King County can use development finance tools to unlock capital for food and agriculture-related businesses, projects, and infrastructure to generate economic prosperity while advancing racial and social equity. CDFA worked with King County to establish a set of recommendations that position the county to be the leader in supporting the further restoration of the local and regional food system now and in the future.

“CDFA is proud and honored to have the support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation as we launch our first ever strategic food systems financing plan,” states Toby Rittner, DFCP and President & CEO of CDFA. “Over the last year, we have worked in collaboration with King County, Washington to navigate and develop financing programming to support King County’s local food system as a catalyst for sustainable economic development.”

CDFA’s recommendations for King County are informed by background research — demographics, geography, and economic development activities across the region — along with survey-based data and a two-day strategic planning process. These recommendations work together to help King County better support access to financing for food and agriculture-related businesses in the region.

“King County is committed to expanding our local food economy and this financing plan is a major step forward in allowing us to do just that. Investments in our regional food system create local jobs, grow our small businesses, and increase access to healthy, affordable food in low-income communities,” said King County Executive Dow Constantine. “I am grateful for the support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, CDFA, and the local farmers, organizations, and community partners who participated in this study. Together we are building a more resilient and sustainable food economy in King County.”

In November, CDFA will be hosting a webinar “Restoring Local Food Systems Through Finance” as part of the Food Systems Finance Webinar Series. This webinar will illustrate the Reframe, Build, Plan framework which outlines three key success factors to expand financing and drive capital into local and regional food systems. We will highlight King County’s success in using this approach, give an update on the progress in implementing the strategic plan, and facilitating investment in the regional food system.

With funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, CDFA has been researching how development finance agencies can become more engaged in developing local and regional food systems. CDFA aims to advance opportunities and leverage existing financing streams to scale local and regional food systems by increasing access to healthy foods and creating new living wage jobs in communities across the country. For those interested in getting engaged in CDFA’s efforts to unlock capital for food and agriculture infrastructure and small businesses, please contact CDFA.

The **Council of Development Finance Agencies** is a national association dedicated to the advancement of development finance concerns and interests. CDFA is comprised of the nation’s leading and most knowledgeable members of the development finance community representing public, private, and non-profit entities alike. For more information about CDFA, visit www.cdfa.net.

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