



## Social impact entrepreneurs: American Heart Association looking to fund Food Access Solutions in Chicago

- *Bernard J. Tyson Impact Fund will invest in community-led social and economic solutions to improve food insecurity in under-resourced populations*
- *Seeking expressions of interest in Chicago communities*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO, November 19, 2020 — The American Heart Association (AHA), the world's leading nonprofit organization focused on heart and brain health for all, today announced more than \$4.5 million available in social impact funding from the Association's [Bernard J. Tyson Impact Fund](#). Businesses and nonprofits that are working to sustainably address food insecurity for residents in Chicago are encouraged to submit expressions of interest.

The nationwide fund is focused on supporting evidence-based, community-driven entrepreneurial solutions that address food insecurity by increasing access to affordable and healthy food. Expressions of interest may be submitted at <https://heart-impactfund.fluxx.io/> through December 11.

A virtual informational "town hall" event will also be offered where community members will discuss the challenges and opportunities to addressing food insecurity with American Heart Association staff to ensure funds are distributed to areas of greatest need and impact.

Chicago Tyson Impact Fund Town Hall  
December 3, 2020  
10 a.m. CST  
[Register here](#)

"Racial inequalities have a dire impact on the health and lifespan of people of color," said Lisa Hinton, Metro Chicago Executive Director at the American Heart Association. "Through the Bernard J. Tyson Impact Fund, social entrepreneurs will be able to accelerate the development of sustainable community-based solutions to make a meaningful, measurable impact on food insecurity and nutrition here in Chicago. And those entrepreneurs will gain access to immediate and substantial funding to help scale their businesses quickly, making a positive financial impact on their communities."

Since its launch in June 2020, the Bernard J. Tyson Impact Fund has supported 11 social entrepreneurs and nonprofits in New York, San Francisco and Oakland, Calif. The fund honors the late Bernard J. Tyson, long-time American Heart Association volunteer and

former Kaiser Permanente CEO. Tyson worked tirelessly to overcome structural and systemic barriers to support social justice and equitable health for all.

Learn more about the Bernard J. Tyson Impact Fund [here](#).

To submit an expression of interest for upcoming funding, [click here](#).

#### Facts About Food Insecurity:

- About half of deaths from heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes in the U.S. is linked to a poor diet.<sup>1</sup>
- About 40 million Americans live in households that don't always have enough food for everyone in the family.<sup>2</sup>
- Working-age adults who often go without enough food are at least 40% more likely to suffer from long-term health problems, according to a study for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.<sup>3</sup>
- Children who face food insecurity experience gaps in cognitive development and school achievement.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> BCBS Zip Code Effect, JAMA, "[Association Between Dietary Factors and Mortality From Heart Disease, Stroke, and Type 2 Diabetes in the United States](#)"

<sup>2</sup> BCBS Zip Code Effect, United States Department of Agriculture, [Key Stats & Graphics](#)

<sup>3</sup> BCBS Zip Code Effect, United States Department of Agriculture, [Food Insecurity, Chronic Disease, and Health Among Working-Age Adults](#)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4096937/>

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#### About the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. We are dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities. Through collaboration with numerous organizations, and powered by millions of volunteers, we fund innovative research, advocate for the public's health and share lifesaving resources. The Dallas-based organization has been a leading source of health information for nearly a century. Connect with us on [heart.org](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1.

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[heart.org](#) and [strokeassociation.org](#)