

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Common Market awarded \$5.7m contract through the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program to get fresh, nutritious foods to communities facing food insecurity**

*Food banks, community and faith-based organizations, and other nonprofits throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast, among partner-recipients.*

**PHILADELPHIA, PA – May 26, 2020** – The Common Market, a nonprofit food distributor, was awarded funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farmers to Families Food Box program in order to support farmers and feed communities.

The procurement contract allows its Mid-Atlantic and Southeast-based food hubs to purchase food, pack and facilitate weekly deliveries of up to 50,000 “Farm-Fresh Boxes”, containing local fruits, vegetables, and in some cases, dairy for six weeks. Food banks, churches, and various nonprofits sprinkled throughout New Jersey, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Atlanta, and Birmingham are among the groups of partner-recipients.

“It is dearly appreciated and needed here in Philly where the boxes are being given to various individuals in the community who are now living semi-independently or independently in the community after having histories of homelessness, institutionalization, and group homes,” shared James Piasecki, Ph.D., a director at Resources for Human Development, Inc..

Since 1970, Philadelphia-based Resources for Human Development has provided a wide range of human services for people with developmental disabilities, people with mental health challenges, people in addiction recovery, children and families, and people experiencing homelessness.

“Our staff pick the boxes up each Thursday morning and distribute the 70 boxes to these individuals on low, fixed incomes, most living in “food deserts.”

Money from the USDA contract is funding the purchase of surplus milk and other dairy products, as well as fresh produce from Mid-Atlantic and Southeast-based farmers, many of which lost markets for their products due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“During this time of uncertainty, we are honored to continue investing in our small- to medium-scale farmers, and in turn, nourish hungry communities,” says The Common Market Mid-Atlantic’s Executive Director, Yael Lehmann.

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For more information about The Common Market, visit [www.thecommonmarket.org](http://www.thecommonmarket.org).

### **About The Common Market**

The Common Market is a national nonprofit with a mission to connect communities to good food from sustainable family farms. The organization builds the infrastructure to support local and regional food systems. The Common Market is particularly focused on health and wealth outcomes for the most vulnerable—low-income communities, communities of color, and children and seniors.