

# The Food Trust

Ensuring That Everyone Has Access To Affordable, Nutritious Food



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Food Trust Launches the Center for Healthy Food Access**

*New collaborative project aims to increase access to and demand for healthy foods and beverages in underserved urban and rural communities*

PHILADELPHIA, PA — [The Food Trust](http://TheFoodTrust.org), with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is launching a national collaborative effort – the Center for Healthy Food Access – that will work to ensure that every child in the United States has access to nutritious, affordable food.

Serving as a catalyst to test groundbreaking ideas and share lessons learned, as well as to secure the progress that has been made over recent years, the Center focuses on the following efforts:

- Strengthening federal nutrition programs including SNAP, WIC and SNAP-Ed.
- Improving the food and water quality in schools.
- Creating jobs and economic development by bringing grocery stores and other healthy food businesses to underserved areas.
- Working with hospitals and healthcare systems to prevent diet related disease in low-income communities.
- Partnering with businesses to focus marketing efforts on healthier choices.
- Expanding SNAP Incentive programs that provide support to make healthier food more affordable for those on food stamps.
- Promoting [healthyfoodaccess.org](http://healthyfoodaccess.org) so organizations and businesses can share successes with one another.
- Providing \$1 million in grants to more than 15 organizations across the country. For a full list of partners, go to [centerforhealthyfoodaccess.org](http://centerforhealthyfoodaccess.org).

“Through our 25 years of working on these issues, we know that accessing healthy food is still a challenge, particularly for children and families in low-income neighborhoods, communities of color and rural areas,” says Yael Lehmann, executive director of The Food Trust. “Now more than ever, it’s important for diverse stakeholders to come together to demonstrate our support for programs and policies that can make the healthy choice the easy choice in every neighborhood.”

"Ensuring that all children have access to affordable and nutritious food is one of the cornerstones of building a culture of health in our diverse society, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is proud to support this new endeavor," says Jasmine Hall Ratliff of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

“Every community is different, and each has unique challenges that can stymie efforts at making fresh, healthy, affordable food choices,” says Angela Glover Blackwell, CEO of PolicyLink, the national policy advocacy organization and key partner in this new effort. “This is critically true of low-income communities and communities of color, where the paucity of healthy food outlets is exacerbated by limited transportation options. The Center for Healthy Food Access enters this void not only to expand access but to lift up and share the full range of nutrition, jobs, and economic development issues associated with health and wellbeing across the country.” For more information about the Center for Healthy Food Access, visit [centerforhealthyfoodaccess.org](http://centerforhealthyfoodaccess.org).

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## **About The Food Trust**

The Food Trust, a nonprofit founded in 1992, strives to make healthy food available to all. Working with neighborhoods, schools, grocers, farmers and policymakers, The Food Trust has developed a comprehensive approach that combines nutrition education and greater availability of affordable, healthy food. To learn more about The Food Trust, visit [thefoodtrust.org](http://thefoodtrust.org).

## **About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**

For more than 40 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve health and health care. We are working with others to build a national Culture of Health enabling everyone in America to live longer, healthier lives. For more information, visit [www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org). Follow the Foundation on Twitter at [www.rwjf.org/twitter](http://www.rwjf.org/twitter) or on Facebook at [www.rwjf.org/facebook](http://www.rwjf.org/facebook).