

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Food Trust Names Mark Edwards as Chief Executive Officer

Lifelong Philadelphian Brings Proven Track Record of Success in Finance, Organizational Development and Programmatic Impact



Philadelphia, PA — The Food Trust’s Board of Directors has appointed community economic and workforce development executive **Mark Edwards** as chief executive officer, effective Oct. 30, 2020.

Edwards joins The Food Trust with an extensive background in community-focused leadership, having served most recently as Director of Workforce Strategies for the State of New Jersey’s Department of Labor, where he led the reform efforts of the WorkFirst New Jersey program for TANF and SNAP recipients. Previously, Edwards served as President and CEO of Philadelphia Works Inc., where he led the organization in modernizing and integrating its operations, expanding its use of data and technology, and significantly increasing both the number of employers using its services and the total number of placements annually. Under Edwards’ leadership, Philadelphia Works also deepened its strategic linkages with other key city agencies and raised over \$16.5 million for local neighborhood revitalization and economic development.

“Mark has dedicated his career to uplifting communities,” says Angel Rodriguez, Chairman of The Food Trust’s Board of Directors. “As our country faces staggering levels of food insecurity, Mark’s leadership and strategic vision are more important than ever as we work to ensure that healthy food is available, accessible and affordable to all.”



At the national level, Mark served as the 1st Vice President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) 2016 Workforce Development Council (WDC) Board of Trustees. The WDC works closely with mayors and their representatives to influence Congress, policy, and the U.S. Department of Labor in directing employment and training funds throughout the country.

Before moving to Philadelphia Works, Edwards served as Executive Director with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), where he led its Philadelphia office; during his tenure Philadelphia LISC the company implemented a five-year investment strategy that committing \$100 million to the Philadelphia market and raised and invested more than \$43 million in communities throughout Philadelphia. Edwards previously served as Senior Vice President and COO of Germantown Settlement, Senior Vice President of the Urban League of Philadelphia; and Deputy Executive Director, City of Philadelphia, Mayor's Anti-Graffiti Network from 1987 to 1996.

Edwards also served on the board of trustees for Pierce College and the Community College of Philadelphia, and on the board of advisors for PNC Bank Community Development and the Mayor's Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity. A Fellow for Temple University's Center on Regional Politics, Edwards holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College.

The Food Trust's CEO search was conducted by Diversified Search/Koya Leadership Partners, two recently merged national leadership recruitment firms. These agencies have placed leaders in a multitude of food insecurity and food access organizations, including Fair Food Network, Feeding America and the Community Food Bank of New Jersey; in 2019, Diversified was ranked among the nation's top executive search firms by *Forbes* magazine.

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