



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 26-001**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services
Resource Staff: Ruth Noordegraaf, Director, Community Development,
Wellbeing & IIDEA
Date of Meeting: December 16, 2025
Subject: Food Framework Updates and Funding Recommendations

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: 4. Foster a Caring and Inclusive Community

Goal: 4.2 Help address food insecurity and sustainability.

Executive Summary:

This report provides an update on the work supporting the Food Framework approved by Council on May 20, 2025 ([Report Number 25-120](#)). The framework is organized around five interconnected pillars of food access, infrastructure and distribution, education and literacy, production and governance, with each addressing distinct aspects of the system but functioning together to ensure holistic impact.

Staff summarized progress updates for each area including updates on the plant-based food procurement [motion](#) that was passed in October 2024; new food infrastructure and programs initiated in 2025; overall food framework coordination, engagement with community; and data collection.

In the 2025 operating budget Council approved a total of \$300,000 for food programming, combining a one-time \$200,000 contribution with \$100,000 in remaining 'Fines for Food' funds. Between August and October 2025 staff launched a funding application process with four streams (meal provision, food access, small capital improvements and innovative projects) to support initiatives that improve access to healthy, affordable and culturally relevant foods.

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The funding received strong interest, with 42 applications requesting a total of \$830,027. The process also affirmed the need to work more collaboratively on key themes in the food system such as access to kitchens and kitchen infrastructure, scaling food literacy and training and scaling up bulk buying efforts and including more culturally appropriate food options. Staff have provided an overview of the proposed funding disbursement, and next steps for this fund in 2026 with the themes emerging from the application and the food system.

Some of the applicants requested funds for a vehicle to support with food programming. The City has vehicles that are retiring from the fleet that could be instrumental for these initiatives; therefore, staff are also recommending in this report the donation of up to two vehicles from the City fleet to support agencies with food programming.

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the food funding grant recommendations as described in Exhibit A of Report Number 26-001, for a total of \$300,000 from the 2025 operating budget; and

That Council waive the asset disposal requirements included in the City's Vehicle Operating Policy and approve the donation of up to two passenger vans retired from the City's fleet to not for profit providers to assist with program delivery of food programs.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Jennifer Campbell,
Commissioner, Community
Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Growth & Development Services

Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate & Emergency Services

David Fell, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston Not required

Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer

Jenna Morley, City Solicitor

Ian Semple, Commissioner, Transportation & Infrastructure Services Not required

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Options/Discussion:**Background**

In May 2025, Council approved the Kingston Food Framework ([Report Number 25-120](#)). The framework aims to strengthen Kingston's local and regional food system by mapping existing programs, identifying collaboration opportunities and creating a structure to monitor progress. Its purpose is to build a resilient, inclusive and sustainable food ecosystem that guarantees equitable access to healthy, affordable and culturally relevant food for all residents, while supporting local economic growth, fostering community engagement and promoting environmental stewardship.

The framework is organized around five interconnected pillars of food access, infrastructure and distribution, education and literacy, production and governance, with each addressing distinct aspects of the system but functioning together to ensure holistic impact. Integration across these pillars is essential to tackle root causes of food insecurity, improve resource efficiency, and enhance economic and environmental resilience. These pillars collectively address public health, social equity and sustainability, ensuring that nutritious food is available, affordable and supported by robust infrastructure, informed choices, local production and strong governance.

Analysis

Between May and December 2025, staff worked on advancing activities within the five pillars of the framework. A detailed description of these activities and their outcomes follow in this report.

Food Production

The scope of this pillar is encouraging local and urban agriculture, community gardens and other initiatives that increase food self-sufficiency and, in this pillar, staff are highlighting updates on the launch of the vertical farm, the neighbourhood climate action champions and the community garden program.

Growcer Vertical Farm Launch - Supported by the Fines for Food program, the Growcer project launched in the fall of 2025, establishing a new indoor vertical farm in Kingston to increase local food production and reduce food insecurity. Using innovative growing technologies, the farm produces fresh, nutritious vegetables year-round, supporting community needs and strengthening local supply chains.

Through a partnership with the Partners in Mission Food Bank, harvested produce is distributed directly to those in need. This collaboration enhances access for underserved populations and reinforces the local food system. Currently, the farm produces approximately 50 kg of fresh leafy greens per week, equivalent to about 350 bags of greens.

Neighbourhood Climate Action Champions - The Neighbourhood Climate Action Champions program empowers Kingston residents to take climate action within their communities. Supported by climate-science training and \$2,000 in funding from the City of Kingston, many

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champions focus on food security and urban forestry through adaptation projects. Examples of these projects are gardens, green balconies, tree plantings, and pollinator habitat restoration. In the 2024–2025 cohort, 18 champions are completing their initiatives, with April 2026 as the final deadline. Looking ahead, the 2025–2026 cohort will include 26 champions, many of whom plan to advance climate adaptation through their projects.

Community Garden Program - In 2025, the City supported 16 community gardens and six edible forests on municipal property, engaging 23 volunteer garden coordinators and more than 600 members across Kingston. The gardens have become important hubs for connection, learning and growing food locally. Several new gardens were established this year, expanding opportunities for residents, especially newcomers and marginalized communities, to participate in sustainable food production and environmental education.

The work, led by staff from Community Development, Wellbeing & IIDEA and in coordination with Facilities Management & Construction Services, Recreation & Leisure Services, Public Works, Forestry and Environment has been critical in improving infrastructure, with coordinated efforts on soil testing, water access and tree layout design, making sure each site is set up for long-term success.

Looking ahead to 2026, the focus will shift towards evaluating and understanding the community impact of existing garden and edible forest sites while developing additional locations in underrepresented neighbourhoods. This next phase will prioritize accessibility, inclusion and climate resilience to grow the garden network, fostering food literacy, strengthens community connections and builds local capacity for environmental stewardship across the City.

Food Infrastructure & Distribution

The scope of this pillar is supporting the systems and logistics that move food from producers to consumers efficiently and sustainably. In this pillar staff are highlighting updates on the Kingston Public Market, the Culinary Strategy and the visioning work for the Community Food Redistribution Warehouse.

Kingston Markets - The Kingston Public Market on Springer Market Square continues to play an important role in the City's food system, supporting 74 food producer, artisan and casual vendors, while welcoming thousands of residents and visitors each season. The market contributes to stronger access to fresh, local and culturally relevant foods. Staff surveyed market visitors in 2025 and results showed clear demand for farm produce, baked goods, prepared foods and culturally diverse products. This work is supported through close collaboration with various City departments and external partners such as Facilities Management & Construction Services, Recreation & Leisure Services, Public Works & Solid Waste, Arts and Culture, the Kingston Downtown Business Improvement Association and Tourism Kingston to improve safety, coordination and the overall visitor experience.

Planning for 2026 builds on this direction by exploring ways to increase participation from local farmers and small food businesses, expand newcomer and equity-deserving vendor pathways, and strengthen collaboration with community partners to create a clear pipeline for small

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business incubation. Work is also underway in improving the administrative processes of the market management, ongoing promotion and advertisement and the development of stronger evaluation tools to track impact, participation and outcomes to support a resilient, inclusive and sustainable market system.

The Memorial Centre Market remains a vital part of the local food system. As outlined in Report 25-164 on the revisioning of the Memorial Centre site, the City has committed to maintaining the market's year-round operation, including both its outdoor and indoor components and this has been identified as a criteria for the design visioning of the site that is starting in 2026.

Updated Culinary Strategy and integration with Food Framework - Tourism Kingston launched an updated [Culinary Strategy](#) in the fall of 2025. City staff were consulted in the update. The strategy continues to position Kingston as a leading culinary destination while reinforcing the principles outlined in the City's Food Framework. The strategy emphasizes local food sourcing, culinary tourism, and partnerships with producers and hospitality businesses which directly support the framework's goals of building a sustainable, inclusive and resilient food system. By aligning tourism initiatives with community food priorities, this approach not only enhances visitor experiences but also strengthens local supply chains, promotes economic development, and advances shared objectives around food security and sustainability.

Community Food Redistribution Warehouse – Visioning - The Community Food Redistribution Warehouse (CFRW), established in 2021, continues to play a vital role in reducing food waste and improving access to nutritious food across Kingston. With the current lease and funding set to expire in 2026, City staff and the United Way convened strategy sessions this fall with partners and agencies that are recipients of the program. The goal of the sessions was to assess the state of food recovery and distribution in the community and to develop a roadmap for the future. Key priorities include strengthening collaboration among partners, scaling recovery efforts and improving logistics to meet growing demand. These discussions reaffirmed the CFRW model as an important model within the local food with opportunity for continued innovation and impact.

Next steps involve developing a comprehensive business plan for 2026 that aligns the warehouse's needs with broader food hub initiatives, ensuring a coordinated and sustainable approach to strengthening Kingston's food system.

Food Access

The scope of this pillar is ensuring all residents have equitable access to healthy, affordable and culturally relevant food. In this pillar staff are highlighting updates on the Fresh Food Market and the City support in the establishment of two new key food infrastructure capital projects with the opening of the new Foodbank location and the St. Vincent de Paul Centre.

Fresh Food Market Pop-Ups - [The Fresh Food Market pop-ups](#) continue to make a significant difference in improving access to fresh and affordable food across Kingston. In 2025, the nine market locations have seen over 19,000 visits so far, averaging roughly 1,700 visits each month. The scale of participation reflects the program's accessible, barrier-free design and its role in

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easing financial pressure for many households, helping residents bring home healthy produce and strengthening local connections.

The most frequented market sites are Rideau Heights Community Centre, Artillery Park Aquatic Centre and the YMCA on Wright Crescent. These locations have become vibrant community hubs where residents shop for fresh produce, exchange recipes and connect with neighbours. Looking ahead, City staff will continue to work with Lionhearts and community partners to explore opportunities for expanded access and enhanced programming in 2026.

Food Infrastructure Capital Projects - Partners in Mission Foodbank - The Partners in Mission Food Bank has moved to a new, purpose-built facility at 4 Harvey Street in April of 2025, nearly doubling its space to 17,500 square feet. The City supported this new facility with a \$250,000 capital contribution and a \$1.5 million transitional loan until the sale of the 140 Hickson Avenue property (old location). The expansion includes a 3,000-square-foot shopping area and introduces a client-choice shopping model, replacing the traditional pre-packed hampers. Now, clients can select their own food items based on household size, promoting dignity, choice and reducing waste. The new model also features innovations like colour-coded freezer sections for different family sizes and improved storage for fresh produce, making the experience more welcoming and efficient. This shift reflects a broader trend toward empowering clients and responding to growing demand as the foodbank now serves over 9,100 people annually. The foodbank has started collaborative purchasing with other local food providers and have been able to utilize the larger warehouse space to store food for other partners.

Food Infrastructure Capital Projects – St. Vincent de Paul - The City supported the development of St. Vincent de Paul's new community building at 595 Bagot Street through [Report Number 24-111](#). The building is designed to expand services for clients and the broader community. This modern facility will serve as a hub for food access and broader community programming, including a social market offering food options without stigma, as well as space for other non-profit organizations and services. The centre has opened its doors in December 2025, with a phased rollout of expanded food and community programs in early 2026.

Food Education & Literacy

The scope of this pillar is promoting knowledge and skills around nutrition, food preparation and sustainable food practices. In this pillar staff are highlighting updates on the Harbour Community Kitchen the work on a 'Foodpreneur' program and community and commercial kitchen mapping.

Portsmouth Olympic Harbour - Harbour Community Kitchen - The Harbour Community Kitchen (HCK), operated by KEYS Employment and Newcomer Services (KEYS), has become a cornerstone of inclusive local economic development by providing affordable, commercial kitchen space and wraparound entrepreneurial supports. Since opening in 2022, following renovations and leasehold improvements, the facility has supported women from equity-deserving communities, such as newcomers, Indigenous women, women with disabilities and those with low incomes. to launch and grow food-based businesses that would otherwise be out of reach. With capacity for 35 active users and integration with other supportive programming,

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HCK functions as a hands-on training and business incubation hub that connects participants to mentorship, financing pathways, community services, and revenue opportunities through catering and event rentals.

The program has demonstrated strong and measurable outcomes: to date, 27 women launched or scaled businesses through HCK, 14 graduated to larger spaces, and more than 6,000 community members have been served through 67 on-site events featuring HCK entrepreneurs. Participants have been able to open storefronts, secure product placement in regional retailers, increase revenues, and accessed farmers' markets and film-industry contracts. The initiative is further supported by an Advisory Working Group and strengthened through national recognition as one of only 12 projects selected for the RBC Social Impact Leadership Program, which has contributed to a long-term sustainability plan and elevated Kingston as a model community for inclusive social enterprise.

As part of [Report Number 25-164](#), Council directed staff to renew existing lease and licensing agreements for tenants at POH for terms of up to three (3) years, with the option of up to two (2) additional one-year extensions, to align with the upcoming visioning and capital planning process for the site. Staff will renew the lease with KEYS and will be able to sustain this initiative while maximizing the use of municipal infrastructure. Continued operation of this program reinforces the City's broader Food Framework commitments to food education and literacy and local production and inclusive local food entrepreneurship.

Explore the Development of a 'Foodpreneur' Training Program - City staff, in collaboration with regional partners, are exploring a Foodpreneur Training Program to support local food-based entrepreneurs. This proposed 16-week hybrid initiative would guide aspiring and early-stage food businesses, farmers creating value-added products and small-scale processors from concept to commercialization. Delivered through seven modules, the program would build skills in product development, food safety, regulatory compliance and market readiness, combining workshops, virtual learning, demonstrations and mentorship. Specialized partners such as the South East Health Unit, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Kingston Economic Development Corporation, KEYS and St. Lawrence College would contribute expertise. While details are still in development, the program aims to strengthen Kingston's local food sector, enhance entrepreneurial pathways and align with municipal priorities under the Food Framework. Staff will continue assessing feasibility, partnerships, resources and funding opportunities to ensure sustainability and impact.

Community and Commercial Kitchen Mapping - City staff, with community partners, are mapping community and commercial kitchens across Kingston to identify available infrastructure and identify and address a key barrier: limited access to affordable, licensed kitchen space for programs and food entrepreneurs. The inventory will be published online in early 2026 and include a process for regular updates, ensuring it remains a useful resource for organizations and small businesses. This work will help improve coordination, maximize existing assets, and support the City's Food Framework goals for local food production.

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Food System Governance

The scope of this pillar is: establishing policies, partnerships and oversight mechanisms to coordinate and guide food-related initiatives. In this pillar staff are highlighting updates on the establishment of an interdepartmental working group, participation in the Food Policy Council, the plant based municipal food procurement motion implementation, data collection, metrics and mapping, the Official Plan update and the local food system, and the update of the business by-law.

Interdepartmental Working Group - Staff established an interdepartmental working group to oversee implementation of the Food Framework and ensure alignment across municipal initiatives. This group meets quarterly and reviews key actions, monitors outcomes and identifies opportunities for collaboration and resource optimization. This structure strengthens accountability, supports integrated decision-making and ensures that food system priorities remain embedded in broader municipal strategies.

Food Policy Council - City staff participate in the [KFL&A Food Policy Council](#), a collaborative that brings together partners to advance regional food system priorities. Through this staff are, where applicable, connecting the municipal Food Framework with the work the Food Policy Council is currently undertaking on the development of a regional food strategy.

Plant Based Municipal Food Procurement - Staff have taken concrete steps to integrate plant-based food into its procurement practices for municipal events. In October 2024, Council approved a [motion](#) directing staff to report back with a draft strategy for implementing plant-based municipal food procurement; and that plant rich options be promoted by ensuring they are given a primary position when food is offered such as at the front of a buffet table. This directive aligns with Kingston's broader climate action and sustainability goals, recognizing that food choices significantly impact greenhouse gas emissions.

City staff are currently:

- Reviewing current catering contracts and food vendor agreements with intentions of updating guidelines, if deemed appropriate, to ensure plant-based menu options are available to offer.
- Collaborating with local community partners to promote education and awareness campaigns on the benefits of plant-rich diets, including health and environmental impacts.
- Showcasing plant-based foods at City events, such as staff events and meetings, to normalize and encourage sustainable eating habits. For example, The Mayor's Annual BBQ already meets plant-based procurement standards by offering vegetarian and vegan dishes alongside meat, Halal and gluten-free options.

To further improve visibility and accessibility, staff are exploring the use of clearly marked menu boards at City hosted events. Plant-based items could be highlighted with a green leaf icon or similar visual cue. This adjustment would reduce hesitation for attendees when requesting

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specific options and encourage more residents to choose plant-based meals, helping to lower food-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Data Collection, Metrics and Mapping - Throughout the development of the food framework, metrics have been identified that are essential for tracking progress toward measuring impact. These metrics provide an initial overview to begin to monitor progress towards outcomes such as access, affordability, infrastructure and education. This process involves ongoing evaluation and development of the key performance indicators to ensure that the framework remains responsive to emerging needs and local contexts, while capturing community impact.

By integrating community engagement, regular feedback loops and data-driven insights, staff are working towards a dynamic tool to support the framework that guides policy, programs and collaborative action. This work includes the development and ongoing maintenance of a community food resources map that will support future analysis of food deserts and efficient allocation of food resources in the community. This resource is available on the City of Kingston Open Data Portal - [Community Food Resources | Open Data Kingston](#).

In the Fall of 2025, the City conducted two surveys to inform framework recommendations and rural economic development initiatives. A 'Farmers and Food Producers survey' focused on local production capacity, sales practices, and infrastructure needs among local growers and producers and a 'Restaurant and Food Services survey' explored how local food is sourced and integrated into menus, examined barriers to procurement and asked about opportunities for partnerships.

Both surveys aim to understand how municipal resources and partnerships would support the production and sales of local food in Kingston. The surveys were promoted on digital platforms including social media channels, partner newsletters and Get Involved Kingston. Direct outreach was conducted to relevant partners including farmers' markets, members of the National Farmers' Union, Tourism Kingston and the Rural Working Group.

Feedback from these surveys will be shared with Council in the first quarter of 2026 and inform current municipal programs including agricultural business support and collaborations with local economic partners, as well as support the development of the previously mentioned Foodpreneur training program.

Official Plan Update and the Local Food System - The integration of local food systems in planning policy is essential for promoting community well-being, economic resilience and climate change mitigation. From a well-being perspective, a robust local food network is crucial to addressing food insecurity and inequity, ensuring that all residents have access to healthy, sustainable food with access to emerging local food initiatives such as social markets or pantries. From an economic resilience perspective, food grown by local producers contributes significantly to the local economy, keeping financial resources within the local economy and supporting new economic growth opportunities for existing and new businesses throughout the local food supply chain. Improving the vibrancy of local food minimizes carbon footprints associated with transportation due to the much shorter distance local food travels relative to

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food supplied through the global supply chain, reducing dependence on high carbon imported food.

The draft Official Plan supports all forms of local food production, processing, distribution and sales to provide residents with various opportunities to grow, share, sell and buy local food. Policies of this plan support agricultural uses, agriculture-related uses, on-farm diversified uses and agri-tourism uses to support a thriving local agri-food network within the rural community, with policies that support innovation in agriculture such as vertical farming. Urban agriculture, community gardens, rooftop gardens, farmers markets and farm-to-table initiatives are supported in the urban area, with enhanced permissions for local food distribution and sales through complete communities permissions in all neighbourhoods across the City.

Business By-Law Update – Waiving Fees for Social Enterprises - In November 2025, Council passed a new business licensing by-law. The new by-law gives the Director of Licensing and Enforcement Services the authority and discretion to waive licence fees for a business if, in the Director's opinion, the business is a "social enterprise". A "social enterprise" is a business that (a) primarily operates for the purpose of achieving social, cultural or environmental objectives consistent with Council's strategic priorities; (b) generates revenue through the sale of goods or services; and (c) reinvests most of its profits into its social, cultural or environmental missions. Staff will create a policy to guide decisions to waive or not waive licence fees for a social enterprise.

Food Funding Recommendations

As part of the 2025 operating budget, a one-time \$200,000 contribution to food programs was approved. This is in addition to the \$100,000 in remaining 2025 'Fines for Food' funding, bringing the total food program budget for 2025 to \$300,000. Based on the findings and recommendations across the framework and the engagement with partners, staff proposed to launch a funding application process with four (4) funding streams: meal provision and food access, small capital and infrastructure enhancement, innovative projects and pilot initiatives. The program was promoted through a City-wide call-out and targeted outreach to community organizations, social enterprises, business partnerships with tangible community benefit and neighbourhood partners. The goal was to encourage broad participation, collaboration and support both new and established initiatives that improve access to healthy, affordable and culturally relevant foods.

The program received strong interest, with 42 applications requesting a total of \$830,027. The table below is an overview of the funds requested for each stream.

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Table 1 – Funding Streams and Financial Ask

Funding Stream	Applicants	Total Requested
Food Access (Ongoing operations)	17	\$160,524
Food Access (Pilot Funding)	9	\$253,365
Small Capital & Infrastructure	10	\$320,838
Innovation & Pilot Projects	6	\$95,300
Total	42	\$830,027

Applications reflected a wide range of community-led projects focused on increasing food access, strengthening infrastructure and testing new approaches to food system challenges.

Review Process and Emerging Themes - Applications were reviewed by a cross-departmental team and in collaboration with the United Way and the Community Foundation of Kingston and Area, using criteria aligned with the Food Framework including community impact, equity, sustainability and collaboration. Several themes emerged across submissions, including increased demand for meal, hamper and gift card programs, expanded transportation and delivery supports, and the need for cold storage units like freezers and fridges. Community pantries also surfaced as an important area of growth, offering a low-barrier, volunteer-supported way for residents to access non-perishable items at any time. These operated on a “take what you need, leave what you can” approach that helps reduce stigma, encourages shared responsibility, and fills gaps not met by traditional food programs. Their simple design, constant availability, and emphasis on mutual support reflect the broader shift toward local, community-led food solutions.

In selecting projects for funding, the review committee balanced proposals that address immediate food access needs while also creating pathways to longer-term, coordinated solutions. Funded projects include those that increase access to food through direct supports, pilot new models for volunteer coordination, expand nutrition and cooking education, and build on proven concepts that can be scaled or connected to broader food system initiatives. This balanced approach supports both urgent community needs and the development of a more resilient and collaborative food system for Kingston.

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With initial successful applicants identified, staff will work closely with recommended funded organizations to coordinate efforts, reduce service gaps and strengthen collaboration across the local food system.

Staff have also identified a portion of the funding to be directed by no later than the end of the first quarter of 2026 to three areas that emerged from the funding applications, as these projects require some additional coordination and alignment with multiple community partners and applicants involved. The recommended areas are scaling of food education and literacy, develop a more targeted bulk buying approach and the creation of a stronger system of kitchen access, and infrastructure program and food and meal provider coordination.

Some of the applicants requested support for vehicle purchases to assist with food delivery. Instead of funding new vehicles, staff recommend working with the two eligible agencies, Martha's table and Ryandale Transitional Housing, to assign a retiring City fleet vehicle. This approach meets operational needs while stewarding resources responsibly and reinforcing the emphasis on shared infrastructure across the system.

The Funding Summary in Exhibit A outlines all recommended recipients and the total allocation for each project.

Together, these actions position the City to address immediate food access needs while strengthening the long-term systems that support food security, cultural inclusion and local capacity. They also align with the framework's commitment to equitable, sustainable and community-driven food initiatives across Kingston.

Insights from this pilot year will be used by refining application criteria, improving communication with partners, and better aligning services and resources for the 2026 food funding from the Fines for Food program.

Public Engagement

Staff are continuing engagement with members of the public in 2026 and are launching the "Where Does Your Food Come From?" public engagement campaign inviting community members to share information about the food they consume and where it comes from. The goal of this campaign is to engage community members in conversations about the local food system, identify gaps and opportunities and build awareness of the diversity of food sources – from grocery stores and farmers' markets, to restaurants, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), online delivery services and more.

Residents will have the opportunity to submit stories on Get Involved Kingston, add food sources to a digital map and share photos on social media. The campaign will be promoted on digital platforms and in person at events, with incentives for participation. Staff are developing a series of educational videos, to coincide with the campaign launch, which will highlight initiatives and programs related to the Food Framework, including food access programs, community kitchen rentals, edible forests and more.

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Staff will categorize contributions and analyze the data to identify gaps and opportunities, as well as examine themes such as convenience, affordability, sustainability and cultural connection. Results from this engagement will be used to help prioritize and advance the Food Framework recommendations in 2026.

Climate Risk Considerations

The Food Framework advances Kingston's climate adaptation and mitigation goals by making the local food system more resilient and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from food production, distribution and consumption. Key strategies include promoting local food production and plant-based procurement to cut transportation emissions, investing in infrastructure like cold storage and shared kitchens to ensure continuity during climate disruptions, and integrating food systems into land-use planning to support urban agriculture and green spaces. These actions reduce emissions, diversify supply chains and strengthen community resilience, aligning with Kingston's Climate Adaptation and Climate Leadership Plans.

Indigenization, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility (IIDEA) Considerations

The implementation of the Food Framework will continue to apply an IIDEA lens. Actions will focus on improving food access, supporting diverse traditions and creating inclusive economic opportunities, while recognizing Indigenous knowledge as vital to a resilient local food system.

Existing Policy/By-Law

None

Notice Provisions

None

Financial Considerations

The total of \$300,000 for food programs was approved in the 2025 operating budget combining a one-time \$200,000 contribution with \$100,000 in remaining 'Fines For Food' funds, coming out of the Parking Reserve Fund.

The City's donation of two passenger vans represents a total of \$18,000 based on the estimated fair market value of the vehicles at the time of transfer.

Contacts:

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

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Lauren Desroches, Communications Officer, Communications & Customer Experience

Brent Fowler, Director, Corporate Asset Management & Fleet

Brent Funnell, Manager, Procurement, Financial Services

Andrew Reeson, Senior Legal Counsel, Legal Services

Exhibits Attached:

Exhibit A Food Systems Funding – Summary of Recommended Allocations

Food Systems Funding – Summary of Recommended Allocations

Food Access Stream		
Project	Proposed Amount of Funding	Alignment to Food Framework Pillars
Lunch By George – Program Support and Expansion	\$9,569.79	Food Access
Martha’s Table – Program Support for meal service	\$10,000	Food Access
St. Vincent de Paul – Food for Meal Program	\$10,000	Food Access
Bloom Skills Centre - Community Pantry at Lakeside Community Garden	\$5,000	Food Access
The Mess Studio – Community Pantry	\$5,000	Food Access
Sexual Assault Centre of Kingston – Community Pantry	\$5,000	Food Access
QUEENS University West Campus/Nourish Q - Community Pantry	\$5,000	Food Access
Kingston Interval House - On-site food pantry, and expanded community meals	\$8,259	Food Access

<p>Farmers Market Association of Kingston – Weekly collection of surplus produce from the Memorial Centre Farmers and delivered to the Community Food Redistribution Warehouse for redistribution.</p>	<p>\$5,000</p>	<p>Food Access</p>
<p>Subtotal – Food Access:</p>	<p>\$62,828.79</p>	
<p>Food Access Pilot Projects Stream</p>		
<p>Project</p>	<p>Proposed Amount of Funding</p>	<p>Alignment to Food Framework Pillars</p>
<p>Kingston Community Health Centres – Wide Open Kitchens: Cooking workshops and shared meals for vulnerable communities across partner sites.</p>	<p>\$49,991.80</p>	<p>Food Access, Food Literacy and Education</p>
<p>Ryandale Transitional Housing – Volunteer Coordination & Food Access Operations: Coordination of a volunteer-supported network to improve food distribution, share resources and streamline logistics across multiple partner agencies.</p>	<p>\$24,500</p>	<p>Food Access, Infrastructure and Distribution</p>
<p>Subtotal – Food Access Pilot Project:</p>	<p>\$74,491.80</p>	

Capital/Infrastructure Stream		
Project	Proposed Amount of Funding	Alignment to Food Framework Pillars
Tipi Moza Iron Homes – Fridges for Indigenous Housing: Replacing aging fridges in Indigenous housing units for safe food storage and improve household food security.	\$30,426.14	Infrastructure and Distribution
Innovation Projects Stream		
Project	Proposed Amount of Funding	Alignment to Food Framework Pillars
The Food Sharing Project – Lunch is Ready! Secondary School Food Hub: <i>A pilot hub that activates unused secondary school cafeterias to provide free lunches and skills building while testing a scalable model for other schools.</i>	\$37,600	Food Access, Literacy and Education
Future Program Growth & Capacity		
Project	Proposed Amount of Funding	Alignment to Food Framework Pillars
Three initiatives will have funding assigned by the end of Q1 2026 to address	\$94,653.27	Literacy and Education, Food Access,

<p>overlapping applications and emerging themes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further expand food literacy and education programs, ensuring cultural relevance, hands-on learning, and accessibility for residents with disabilities. 2. Develop a targeted bulk-buying model that builds on collaborative purchasing and meets identified cultural food needs. 3. Advance kitchen infrastructure, improve coordination among meal providers, and repurpose retiring City fleet vehicles for operational support.” 		<p>Infrastructure and Distribution</p>
<p>Grand Total</p>	<p>\$300,000</p>	