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**URBAN HARVEST RECEIVES REBUILD TEXAS GRANT
TO IMPLEMENT DOUBLE UP HOUSTON**

SNAP Incentive program will aid low-income families in accessing fresh, healthy foods, and increase income for local family farms and businesses

HOUSTON, TEXAS — Urban Harvest has received a \$347,000 grant from the Rebuild Texas Fund to implement Double Up Houston, a regional SNAP incentive program at 19 participating farmers markets and farm stands across the Houston area. Double Up increases SNAP shoppers' purchasing power for fresh fruits and vegetables while supporting Houston-area growers.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, offers nutrition assistance to over 637,000 low-income individuals in Harris County, and increases food access for communities in need. Double Up Houston connects SNAP recipients to farmers markets and fresh, local food across the region.

How it works: When shoppers spend their SNAP benefits at participating farmers markets, they receive a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$20 a day that they can spend on local produce, so they can bring home \$40 worth of healthy food for just \$20.

"Urban Harvest is excited to lead this collaborative effort to uniquely address our region's food insecurity, making both our communities and food sources more accessible and resilient," says Janna Roberson, Urban Harvest Executive Director. "We are grateful for the work of our partners in helping to make this new initiative possible."

This is the first program of its kind in Houston and the first food-focused recovery project funded by the Rebuild Texas Fund, which supports the recovery of Texas communities devastated by Hurricane Harvey. Additional funding support is being provided by the William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation and Texas Hunger Initiative. Double Up Houston will open new pathways for low-income Houstonians to get to know their farmers and access fresh, healthy, and local products, directly from their source.

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Urban Harvest receives Rebuild Texas grant to implement Double Up Houston

With program partners Houston Food Bank, Houston Health Department, Texas Hunger Initiative, and Fair Food Network, Urban Harvest will roll out the first phase of the Double Up program in April 2019 to 11 farmers markets and farm stands that currently accept SNAP benefits.

Urban Harvest will also work with Common Market and the Northeast Next Door Redevelopment Council to create a new, SNAP-based farmers market in Northeast Houston, a community that was severely impacted by Hurricane Harvey. This market, which will address food insecurity in the area, is expected to open in the fall of 2019.

The second phase of program implementation will extend the Double Up program to seven additional farmers markets and farm stands that are interested in accepting SNAP benefits but have not yet enrolled in the program.

In total, Urban Harvest and its partners expect to serve 2,000 food-insecure families at these 19 farmers markets and farm stands, 16 of which are located in neighborhoods affected by Hurricane Harvey. Local growers and farmers—a group also hard-hit by Harvey—are expected to gain new customers and sell more produce, with participating farms projected to see a 30 percent increase in sales.

Farmers markets and farm stands participating in the first phase of Double Up Houston are:

- Urban Harvest Saturday Farmers Market, 2752 Buffalo Speedway
- East End Farmers Market, 2800 Navigation Boulevard
- Get Moving Houston Farmers Market, Acres Homes Multi-Service Center, 6719 West Montgomery Road
- Get Moving Houston Farmers Market, Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center, 6402 Market Street
- Get Moving Houston Farmers Market, Magnolia Multi-Service Center, 7037 Capitol Street
- Get Moving Houston Farmers Market, Northeast Multi-Service Center, 9720 Spaulding Street
- Get Moving Houston Farmers Market, Southwest Multi-Service Center, 6400 High Star Drive
- Get Moving Houston Farmers Market, Sunnyside Multi-Service Center, 9314 Cullen Boulevard
- Hope Farms, Farm Stand, 10401 Scott Street
- Palm Center Farmers Market, 5400 Griggs Road
- Plant it Forward Farms, Farm Stand, 4030 Willowbend Boulevard
- Northeast Houston Farmers Market, location TBD

About Urban Harvest

Founded in 1994, Urban Harvest cultivates thriving communities through gardening and access to healthy, local food with three core programs: Education, Community Gardens, and Farmers Markets. [Urban Harvest](#) has garnered a well-deserved reputation as a leader in the local food movement. In 2019, Urban Harvest celebrates 25 years of changing the way Houston eats.

About the Rebuild Texas Fund

The Rebuild Texas Fund is a collaborative project of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and the OneStar Foundation, established to support the rebuilding efforts in communities impacted by

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Hurricane Harvey. The Rebuild Texas Fund works alongside organizations within the impacted communities that are making an impact in the following six focus areas: community and economic development; health; housing; education and childcare; transportation and workforce; and capital for rebuilding small businesses. The Rebuild Texas Fund will continue to fund projects and organizations within these areas through the end of 2019. Funding through the Rebuild Texas Fund is provided to eligible nonprofit, government, corporate, and philanthropic organizations working on the ground in Texas communities, that have been affected by Hurricane Harvey. More information about the Rebuild Texas Fund is available at www.rebuildtx.org.

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