

Southside Community Land Trust – Healthy Food Hub

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On June 24, Southside Community Land Trust (SCLT) celebrated the opening of its healthy food hub at 404 Broad Street in Providence, a \$5.8 million project that received financial support from Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (Neighborhood). The large facility features a Farm-to-Market Center where local produce is processed for distribution primarily in South Providence and other underserved communities. 404 Broad Street also houses three locally owned food businesses and SCLT's program and administrative offices.

Neighborhood President and CEO Peter Marino said, “Our commitment to addressing food insecurity and other social determinants of health is part of Neighborhood’s long history of serving the state’s most vulnerable populations and is what made this partnership with Southside Community Land Trust such a natural fit for us. We are always looking for smart, strategic ways to improve the health and quality of life of all Rhode Islanders – whether it be partnering with a data-science company to identify and assist members residing in food deserts to supporting organizations that bring healthy and culturally appropriate meals to diverse communities. Neighborhood’s support of Southside Community Land Trust to bring healthy and affordable food to Rhode Islanders struggling with food insecurity aligns with our longstanding mission to assist Rhode Islanders most at risk.”

SCLT was founded in South Providence in 1981 when residents built the city’s first community garden. Its footprint now includes 21 gardens and urban farms and two rural farms. 404 Broad Street marks a capstone event in SCLT's history: in addition to providing jobs and increasing the supply of affordable, healthy food, it advances SCLT's mission to build a more equitable local food system that benefits all Rhode Islanders.

