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For Immediate Release

Local Non-Profit to Transform Vacant Superior and 67th Property into Urban Farm

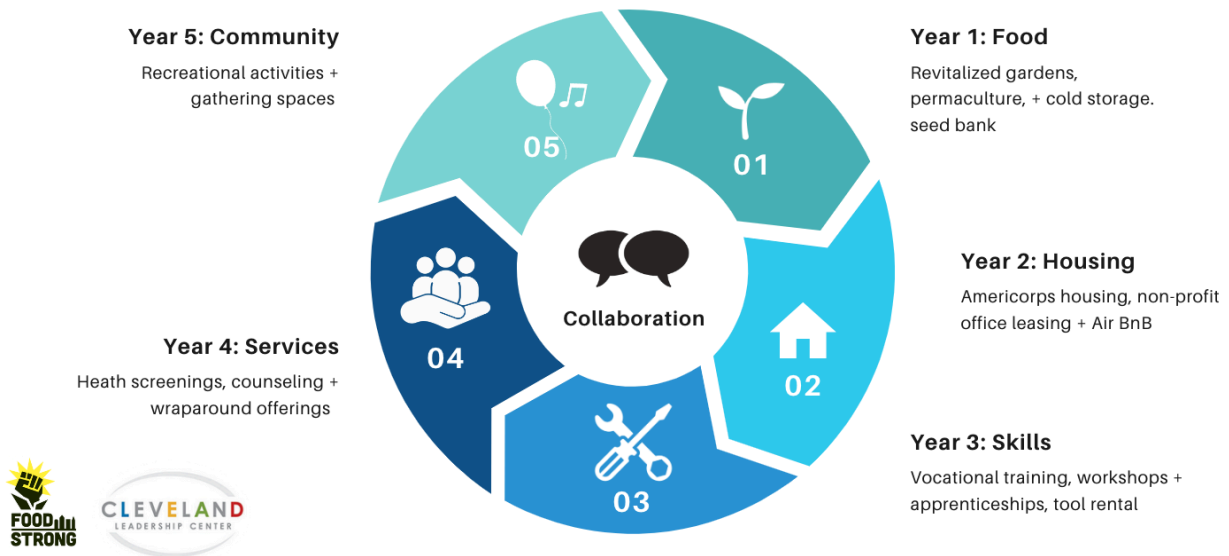
“Fix-Up” will deliver year-round produce, training and health services to city residents

[CLEVELAND, OHIO, NOVEMBER 29, 2024] According to nonprofit Feeding America, one in eight Ohioans and one in seven Ohio children do not have enough to eat. The Cuyahoga County Planning Commission and Board of Health also found that more than 230,000 Cleveland residents (59% of the total City population) live in so-called “food deserts” – low income areas more than ½ mile from the nearest supermarket. To combat this growing problem, now referred to as [food apartheid](#), Northeast Ohio-based nonprofit Food Strong today announced a 5-year plan to restore the former [Community Greenhouse Partners](#) headquarters at Superior and 67th into its headquarters and community-based urban farm and gathering place.

In addition to providing year-round access to fresh, locally-grown produce, the new Food Strong headquarters will offer affordable volunteer housing and nonprofit office space, vocational training, and critical wellness services for Cleveland residents, including free health screenings, nutrition education, and addiction counseling. The initiative, which Food Strong is calling the Superior Farm FixUp, is part of the 6-year-old non-profit’s plan to focus its resources and energy on one Cleveland neighborhood to better measure and maximize its impact.

“For five years we’ve been educating students about how to grow and use fresh food, helping local leaders restore vacant urban lots, and providing cooking demos and free health screenings through our Care-a-Van events across Northeast Ohio,” said Sara Continenza, Founder and Executive Director of Food Strong. “The Farm Fix-Up is our opportunity to focus our expertise, resources, and energy over five years on building an enduring food system in one Cleveland neighborhood to truly show the difference ground-up support and shared purpose can make in our community.”

SUPERIOR FARM FIXUP: 5 YEAR PLAN



The 5-Year Plan

Each year, Food Strong will work with residents and nonprofits to develop and launch a new offering at the Superior Farm, starting year one with the restoration and expansion of the existing gardens to grow and distribute fresh produce year-round. Years 2-5 will add non-profit office space and volunteer housing, vocational training, health services, and recreational venues, each providing valuable services for residents and sustainable funding for Food Strong.

“We believe access to fresh, locally grown foods is the foundation for community health, fueling us physically and mentally and unlocking our neighborhoods’ economic and cultural potential,” said Continenza. “Our goal is to create a model for ground-up urban restoration that empowers residents to help establish their own vision for a thriving neighborhood, then work together to bring it to life.”

To ensure its neighbors have input into the future of the property and its services, Food Strong will be hosting listening sessions and [bimonthly volunteer days](#) at the property to give residents a voice and a role in restoring the property. Food Strong is also working with Cleveland Leadership Center’s 2025 Bridge Builders class to create the Year One operational plan, including a community engagement and funding strategy. A groundbreaking is scheduled for **March 24, 2025**, at which the organization will share its Year One plans and input from the community with local leaders and media.

How You Can Help

Food Strong welcomes volunteers, in-kind contributions and donations of materials, private financial support, and corporate sponsorships. To get involved, please visit <https://bit.ly/FarmFixup> or email Food Strong's Community Outreach and Marketing Manager, Heather McCormick at Heather@FoodStrong.org.

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Founded in 2018, Food Strong is a 501(c)3 nonprofit cultivating food justice in Northeast Ohio from the ground up. Food Strong offers youth education programming at its learning gardens and in Cleveland schools. It has led more than 20 urban restoration projects through the support of Cuyahoga County and collaboration with Cuyahoga Land Bank and the Rid-All Green Partnership. Food Strong also offers free health screenings, cooking demos, and fresh produce through its monthly Care-A-Van events at Coit Farmers Market in East Cleveland and across Northeast Ohio.