



January 5, 2012

Beth Low
Director
Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition
300 East 36th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Dear Ms. Low:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of your proposal to the American Heart Association for our groundbreaking efforts to advocate for improving access to healthy, affordable food in under-served communities in Greater Kansas City through the Food Deserts Initiative.

I have been involved with the efforts of the Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition (GKCFPC) around the Food Deserts Initiative since it was adopted by the Coalition in the spring of 2011. In the intervening months we have made real progress toward the goal of changing policies, strengthening community efforts, and creating new food retail points to improve access to fresh, healthy, affordable foods. The initiative work plan is a robust mix of short and long term strategies which build upon the strengths and assets of the participating organizations and targeted communities. I have been pleased to see the GKCFPC's partners in this work increasing in number as we move forward through the work plan. The initiative has momentum, and I believe that our ongoing collaboration will result in meaningful improvements in healthy food access locally.

Improving access to healthy, affordable food in local food deserts is important to Greater Kansas City LISC because of the critical role it plays to ensure overall health and sustainability of our Kansas City neighborhoods. I believe the Food Deserts Initiative addresses a critical need in our community, and that is why we intend to continue collaborating with the GKCFPC to advocate for policies which promote a healthier food system for all. The next steps in the work plan will require additional resources which I believe are critical for its success. I hope that the American Heart Association will help us gain the resources we need to continue our efforts.

In conclusion, I fully support your efforts to secure additional funding to support the work of the GKCFPC. Everyone in the Greater Kansas City area – from at-risk to the affluent – should be able to access, afford, and prepare fresh, healthy food. The work of the FPC will help make that a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ashley Jones Wisner'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley Jones Wisner
Director of State Policy
Greater Kansas City LISC