

EL PASO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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County Approves \$150,000 Grant for Desert Spoon Food Hub

Court unanimously awards HFFI funds to food distribution company

EL PASO, TX: On February 24, 2020, Desert Spoon Food Hub received one of the first grants given under the County's Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI). The grant will be used to build a new distribution warehouse in central El Paso.

Desert Spoon Food Hub helps local family farms grow by offering a combination of production, distribution and marketing services. The organization increases fair market opportunities and access to healthy foods through institutional procurement, direct-to-consumer retail programs and wholesale accounts. The HFFI funds will help Desert Spoon build a new distribution warehouse and micro-grocery store in central El Paso and expand their online direct-to-consumer programs.

"Desert Spoon makes it easier for local growers to sell their healthy produce and food products to local consumers," said Andrea Hutchins, Economic Development Director. "This grant will help them make a bigger impact in the health and well-being of County residents."

In 2019, El Paso County set aside \$500,000 to fund projects aimed at expanding access to healthy foods in areas of the community where healthy, affordable food options are scarce. Desert Spoon joins two other companies in the first round of HFFI grants, where a total of \$232,000 in funds were awarded.

"As a food hub, we play a critical role in the overall food ecosystem of our region. With the new infrastructure and program development we strive to bring healthy local foods back into our homes, one farmer at a time. Knowing that we are doing something good and fulfilling a great need in making healthy foods accessible in a food desert area, is the best part of this." said Adriana Clowe, President of Desert Spoon Food Hub.

The [El Paso County Economic Development Department](#) administers programs which seek to enhance the business operating climate and promote heritage tourism throughout El Paso County. These efforts serve to enhance the quality of life for all residents.

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