

## **Food Hub Partner Overview**

MARS Community Development Corporation (MARS CDC) is seeking strong community, agricultural, business, nonprofit, and public-sector partners to support the New Jersey Food Hub concept. The Food Hub is designed to strengthen local food systems by connecting farmers, growers, food producers, distributors, institutions, community organizations, and families through a coordinated network focused on food access, market opportunity, and supply chain support. Through strategic partnerships, MARS CDC aims to help improve access to fresh, healthy, and locally sourced foods while creating economic opportunities for small farmers, food entrepreneurs, and community-based businesses.

Partners play an important role in helping the Food Hub concept become a practical and sustainable resource for New Jersey communities. Farmers and producers may benefit from expanded market access, distribution support, and new buyer relationships. Nonprofit organizations, schools, senior programs, food pantries, and community agencies may benefit from stronger connections to fresh food sources and coordinated delivery options. Public agencies and local governments may support planning, outreach, infrastructure development, workforce training, and community wellness strategies. Business partners may contribute through logistics, storage, transportation, procurement, technical assistance, sponsorship, or investment.

MARS CDC's partner approach is centered on collaboration, shared benefit, and community impact. The goal is to build a network that supports both food access and economic development by reducing barriers between local producers and the communities they serve. Potential partner activities may include coordinating food distribution, supporting nutrition and wellness education, creating workforce pathways in agriculture and food logistics, assisting with emergency food response, identifying community food needs, and helping connect local products to schools, retailers, institutions, and neighborhood markets.

By working together, MARS CDC and its partners can help build a more resilient, equitable, and community-centered food system. The Food Hub partner network will support families facing food insecurity, help local producers grow their businesses, encourage entrepreneurship, and strengthen regional supply chains. MARS CDC welcomes partners who share a commitment to health, opportunity, sustainability, and long-term community development across New Jersey.