The Bellwether District
AN hrp PROJECT

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE BELLWETHER DISTRICT AWARDS $120,000 TO 24 ORGANIZATIONS SERVING SOUTH & SOUTHWEST PHILADELPHIA

Community-selected grantees are tackling workforce development, hunger relief, youth programming, health, and more

PHILADELPHIA, PA – November 16, 2026 – The Bellwether District today announced 24 grantees selected in the inaugural round of its Community Investment Fund. Each grantee will receive $5,000 to support programs or projects their organization is spearheading, for a total investment of $120,000 in South and Southwest Philadelphia. Grants will be distributed before the end of the year.

Each grantee meets a specific need in its own neighborhood. One is helping families put food on the table while another is helping a formerly incarcerated neighbor find steady work. Together, they form a network of support that reaches residents at every stage of life: students exploring robotics and earning scholarships, expectant mothers getting care, families managing diabetes, and

neighbors coming together to celebrate their community. Small grants, spread across many trusted hands, add up to a stronger South and Southwest Philadelphia, and a better Philadelphia for everyone.

“When we launched the Community Investment Fund, we made a promise that the people closest to the work would have direct input into where these dollars go, and our Advisory Board delivered,” said **Mia Fioravanti, Executive Director of the HRP Impact Foundation.** “Some of these grantees are household names, while others are grassroots groups that neighbors quietly rely on every day. Investing in both is how we make sure the growth at The Bellwether District is felt not just on our campus, but on the blocks around it. This first round is just the beginning, and we’re excited to keep building on it with our neighbors.”

The 2026 Community Investment Fund grantees are:

- Workforce Development: ACANA; On Chite for the People; Southwest CDC; and Unity in the Community
- Youth Programming: Children’s Scholarship Fund of Philadelphia; Discovery Pathways; Launch of Philadelphia, Inc.; Pennsylvania Oldtimers Community Sports Association; Philadelphia Robotics Coalition; and Universal Audenried Charter School
- Community Support: Bartram’s Garden; Millennial Juneteenth; Point Breeze Business Association; and Resident Action Committee II
- Health: Maternity Care Coalition; Nature Momz; and Sugga Mamas Diabetes Prevention and Management
- Hunger Relief: SHARE Food Program; St. Paul Metropolitan AME Church; and Tasker Street Baptist Church
- Community Safety and Reentry: The Fathership Foundation; Kingsessing Heals; Law Enforcement Mentor Club; and Men of Understanding

"Pregnancy, birth, and parenting are transformative journeys, and families deserve the support they need to birth with dignity, parent with autonomy, and raise babies that are healthy, growing, and thriving,” said **Marianne A. Fray, President and CEO of Maternity Care Coalition**. "This grant will help us bring that vital support directly to families in South and Southwest Philadelphia through a variety of programming and services, including community and parenting education, behavioral health support, home visiting, Early Head Start childcare, and doula and lactation support. We’re grateful to The Bellwether District and the community-led Advisory Board for investing in strong starts for our littlest community members and their families.”

“As the need for food assistance continues to grow, support from community partners like The Bellwether District helps Share Food Program provide critical resources to the network of food pantries and community organizations working to address hunger," said **Jessica Bautista, Chief**

Communications Officer of Share Food Program. "This contribution will help us supplement food resources and respond to the needs of individuals and families experiencing food insecurity, particularly as we enter the winter months when demand for assistance remains high. We appreciate The Bellwether District's commitment to supporting the communities where they live and work and are grateful for their partnership in our efforts to ensure more neighbors have access to nutritious food."

"The impact of gun violence stays with survivors, families, and entire blocks for years," said **Alexis Noland, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator of Kingsessing Heals.** "This funding lets us meet more neighbors where they are with trauma-informed mental health support, so they can begin to recover and rebuild. We're thankful the Community Investment Fund Advisory Board recognized that healing is part of violence prevention."

The Community Investment Fund was established as part of The Bellwether District's Community Benefits Commitment, a community-led plan released in 2024 to support sustainability, job creation, and local investment throughout the site's development. Rooted in the commitment's "Community First" priority, the fund puts decision-making in the hands of the community. An Advisory Board made up of members of the project's Community Advisory Panel (CAP) reviewed 69 applications from South and Southwest Philadelphia nonprofits.

"Nobody understands what our neighborhoods need better than the people who live and work in them, and that's exactly who sat at this table," said **Al Littlepage of Point Breeze Community Development Corporation** and member of the Community Investment Fund Advisory Board. "Reading these applications, we saw organizations of every size doing remarkable work, often with very little. Choosing among them wasn't easy, but it was an honor. This fund shows what's possible when a developer trusts the community to lead."

To learn more about the Community Investment Fund and The Bellwether District's community commitments, visit www.thebellwetherdistrict.com/community.

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About The Bellwether District

The Bellwether District is a 1300-acre state-of-the-art industrial and innovation campus in South and Southwest Philadelphia. HRP Group is transforming the former industrial site into a global model of sustainable development and design. For more information about The Bellwether District, visit www.thebellwetherdistrict.com.

About HRP Group

HRP Group is a vertically integrated, multi-strategy real estate investment company specializing in the transformation of obsolete industrial sites into modern logistics infrastructure, mixed-use destinations, and pioneering innovation hubs. The firm takes a holistic approach to value creation that prioritizes community, environmental, and economic sustainability.