

Trump Administration to Support Community Revitalization in Hopewell, Virginia

Hopewell, VA -- The Trump Administration has announced that Hopewell is one of 16 communities selected to participate in Local Foods, Local Places (LFLP), a federal initiative that helps communities reinvest in their neighborhoods and improve quality of life as they develop the local food economy. Through LFLP, a team of agricultural, environmental, public health and regional economic development experts will work directly with the Hopewell Downtown Partnership and other community leaders to help grow food entrepreneurship and provide better access to local, healthy foods.

“The power of local value-added products is becoming more apparent every day,” says Evan Kaufman, Executive Director of the Hopewell Downtown Partnership. “Farmers are realizing that there is an immense earning potential by turning their crops into a value-add product like hummus, salsa, jam, and even beer. In downtown Hopewell, we want to create an entrepreneurial eco-system that incubates new small food businesses creating local jobs and filling vacant storefronts.”

“America’s farmers and ranchers are some of the nation’s first environmentalists,” said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. “We look forward to helping our community partners develop local food enterprises that support local farmers, improve public health, protect the environment, and grow local economies.”

This year, LFLP is supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Delta Regional Authority. The 16 Local Foods, Local Places communities were chosen from more than 75 applicants. Since its launch in 2014, LFLP has helped 78 communities across the country develop local food enterprises, such as farmers markets, community gardens and cooperative grocery stores, that improve environmental, economic, and health outcomes.

“Downtown Hopewell has gained tremendous momentum with the rehab of over a dozen historic properties and the inclusion of many new food-related businesses including a coffee roaster, coffee shop, pie shop, and soon to open donut shop and micro-winery,” says Vice Mayor Jasmine Gore, who worked with Kaufman on the grant. “This new partnership with the federal government will help take our downtown revitalization effort to the next level.”

For more information about Local Foods, Local Places: <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places>

For more information about LFLP communities selected in 2018: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-05/documents/2018_summary_report_05-21-18-508.pdf

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