

Food insecurity is an issue that impacts all of us – Both in Iowa and beyond.

LSI Global Greens collaborates with local communities and national partners to create a sustainable model for equitable, community-focused food access.

Inspired by the traditional skills of recently arrived refugees, Iowa has been the perfect place to reconnect to the land, provide food for our communities, preserve agricultural heritage, and build wealth. Today, we impact thousands of families by:

- 1 growing culturally relevant food using sustainable farming practices
- 2 supporting new farmers as they start and grow their farm businesses
- 3 improving land use and stewardship through partnership and education



State and federal funding is needed to continue to expand this work to create a healthy, sustainable food system and provide opportunities for small business development and growth.

LSI Global Greens 2024 Impact



Over a million pounds

of produce grown by Global Greens farmers to be consumed, sold, and donated



273 Families

producing sustainable food in gardens and farms



7,649 Customers

accessed healthy and affordable locally grown food through Global Greens Market and CSA

Issue 1: Land Access for Farmers

Land Access is the most critical piece for small-scale farmers and also one of the most difficult because of land prices and competition near metro areas. We have a waitlist of over 200 families eager to get their hands back into the earth and begin making a living for themselves.


Solution: Support pathways and creative models to land ownership to make more land affordable and available for people to build profitable, sustainable businesses that support the Iowa economy.

- 1** Invest in protections for farmland around cities and require city planners to include more green space and community gardens.
- 2** Remove or change zoning restrictions that make growing food difficult in urban areas.
- 3** Create low barrier “turnkey” grants for diverse and historically underserved food farmers and incentives for land owners looking to transfer land to beginning farmers.

Issue 2: Existing Food Systems DO NOT Promote Food Equity and Self-Reliance


Food banks and nutrition programs do a good job of temporarily relieving hunger for those who need emergency food assistance. However, those services do little to build equity or self-reliance for the people they serve.

Solution: Invest in farmer education and local food markets to promote sustainable food systems that encourage food equity, provide opportunities for small business development, and improve the health of Iowans.


- 1**  **Invest in local and regional food markets.**

By investing in local food markets like the Global Greens Farmers Market, the state promotes local and small businesses, encourages local commerce, and supports entrepreneurial opportunities for immigrants and refugees.

Global Greens International Market is one of Iowa's largest farmer's markets,

Customers from out-of-state and local communities make the market a consistent resource for families looking for culturally appropriate food.
- 2**  **Maintain and expand SNAP/DUFB. .**

The Global Greens Farmers Market supports SNAP and DUFB programs, **ensuring low-income individuals in Iowa have affordable access to culturally appropriate food.**

Incentivizing vegetables consumption improves the health of our low income consumers.
- 3**  **Invest in gardening as a means of self sufficiency**

Teaching individuals to garden and providing a starting point **promotes farming culture, improves health outcomes (physical and mental), increases green space, and offers a long-term solution to hunger.**

