



On behalf of Urban Agriculture Cooperative, we extend our deepest gratitude to RWJBarnabas Health for their invaluable financial support made possible through New Jersey state appropriations, as well as their mentorship and connection to new opportunities. This partnership has been transformative for our organization and the communities we serve, enabling us to expand our programs and deepen our impact in addressing food security, health equity, and sustainable agriculture throughout our region. RWJBarnabas Health's commitment to supporting community-based solutions reflects a profound understanding that health begins with access to fresh, nutritious food and opportunities for communities to grow and thrive together - and that farmers are a critical link that must also be supported.

The resources provided by RWJBarnabas Health have empowered us to strengthen our farm and small grower supply chain, train and employ a local Newark workforce, and create pathways for community members of all backgrounds to engage directly with their food systems. This support turned Urban Agriculture Cooperative into a dependable organization in the Newark community and an important advocate and voice in the food justice movement in New Jersey as a whole.

Some highlights from the recent investments include: \$400,000 in purchasing from farmers in New Jersey in 2025 alone, all directly for low resource residents in schools, medical and non-profit settings; over 500 families per year supported by our *Farms and KidsFit to Families* combined nutrition and food access program in Newark Public Schools; and 6 full time, 6 part time and 10 apprentice/internship positions created in local food supply chain, urban farming, markets and logistics.

We are honored to have RWJBarnabas Health as a partner in our mission, and we look forward to continuing this vital collaboration to build a more equitable and sustainable future for all New Jersey residents.

Sincerely,

Emilio Panasci

Co-Founder and Executive Director

Urban Agriculture Cooperative

58 Crawford St Newark, NJ 07102

[urban.agco@gmail.com](mailto:urban.agco@gmail.com)

[www.urbanagriculturecooperative.org](http://www.urbanagriculturecooperative.org)