

Rochester Food Recovery Program Is Awarded \$30,000 Grant

ROCHESTER - [Flower City Pickers Inc.](#) a food-waste recovery and redistribution nonprofit agency, was awarded \$30,000 from the Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative's Participatory Budgeting Program in March. Flower City Picker aims to develop local capacity to divert safe and edible food that would otherwise be wasted to receiving agencies that provide social services

The proposal from the Rochester-based non-profit was among five other winning projects voted to receive funding by over 2,600 residents of Monroe County. The local program used a ranked-choice system on a ballot containing over 20 other community proposals for how to reduce poverty.

"As an agency that has been able to divert 400,000 pounds of would-be food waste over four years, using only \$15,000 - being elected to receive funding puts wind in the sails of our mission to feed people, not landfills, the likes of which we have never experienced before," said Evan Zachary, Director of Development for Flower City Pickers Inc.

The passage of the New York State Food Waste Prevention and Diversion Act sets a promising landscape for Flower City Pickers. In addition, food rescue agencies all over the country are cropping up to provide nimble and localized networks for reducing food insecurity and food waste. Flower City Pickers is a member of [The Food Rescue Alliance](#) (FRA.) FRA is working to unify and accelerate the development of technical resources and peer-learning opportunities between different food rescue agencies in cities across the country.

