



Fair Food Fund

Message from our Team

As we closed 2025, we're reflecting with gratitude and pride on what this year has meant for Fair Food Network — and for the communities and entrepreneurs we serve.

In the last year, we deepened our investment in the people and businesses growing a more inclusive and resilient food system. With your support, our team deployed more than \$1.2 million in capital to 15 businesses, leveraged an additional \$1.8 million from external funding sources, and provided more than 1,000 hours of technical assistance to more than 100 businesses in Michigan and across the country. Every one of these investments reflects our belief in the power of food to grow community health, wealth, and resilience.

In the fourth quarter, we took on a unique opportunity — activating a bridge loan strategy in partnership with the State of Michigan to support five local businesses awarded federal Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) grants. These grants required recipients to front significant costs for equipment — a barrier for many small and mid-sized operations. Our team stepped in with short-term financing that allowed the five Michigan food businesses to access the state funds, keeping their projects on track and their momentum strong. It's a powerful example of how we work: rooted in community needs and ready to move when the moment calls for it.

Looking ahead to 2026, we're excited to do what we do best: support food and farm entrepreneurs and grow a network of partners that helps them succeed. We'll continue to advance our vision of a strong local food economy in Michigan: where people are healthier, farmers and food businesses thrive, and communities grow more resilient in the face of enduring challenges.

With expanded staffing and deeper capacity, we're ready to make an even greater impact in the coming year by leaning into new partnerships and priorities, including expanded engagement with innovative retail grocery models, rural businesses, enterprises connecting farmers and consumers, and Indigenous- and tribally owned food businesses. These are communities and components of a healthy food system that have long been excluded from traditional capital — not for lack of potential, but for lack of access — and they are central to the future of a more equitable food system.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. Your partnership makes this work possible — and together, we're building something lasting.

With gratitude,
The Fair Food Fund Team



Quarterly Highlights

- Fair Food Fund and Michigan Good Food Fund issued bridge loans to five Michigan businesses awarded reimbursable grants through the USDA's Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) program, administered by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). These loans provided upfront capital for critical equipment purchases while businesses awaited state reimbursement. Loan recipients included Agape Organic Farms, The Kilted Farmers, Torch Lake Co-op, Mitchell's Patch of Blue, and Cultured Ferments Company.
- Damian's Craft Meats received a second loan from Fair Food Fund to support their long-term vision of opening a USDA-inspected slaughter and processing facility in Manchester, Michigan. This facility will strengthen the local meat supply chain, reduce dependence on distant processors, and create more opportunities for regional producers. Fair Food Network is providing technical assistance alongside capital to help Damian's navigate the project's development and build out their capital stack.

Events

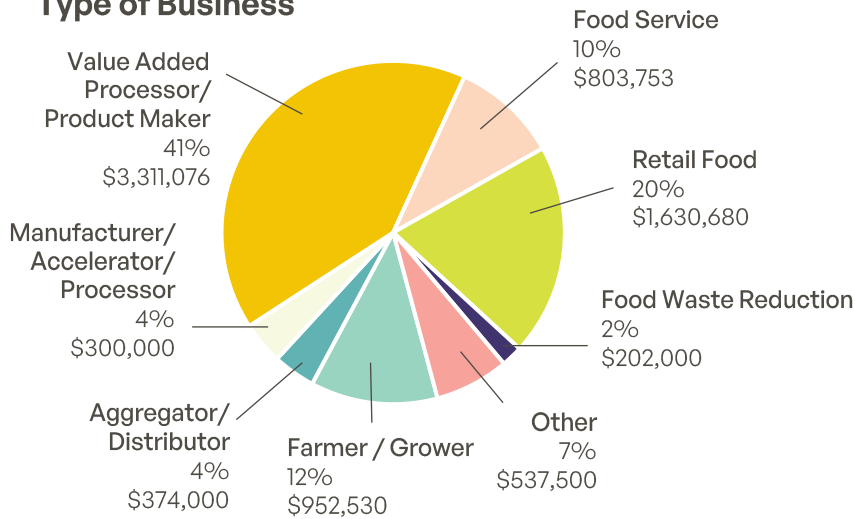
- Fair Food Network is a sponsor of the 2026 Farm Stop Conference, taking place February 12–15 in Ann Arbor, MI. Fair Food Network will participate as both speaker and attendee.
- Fair Food Network will also join the Confluence Philanthropy 16th Annual Practitioners Gathering in Asheville, NC, March 3–5, 2026. Hope to see you there!

Portfolio Overview (Fund Lifetime)

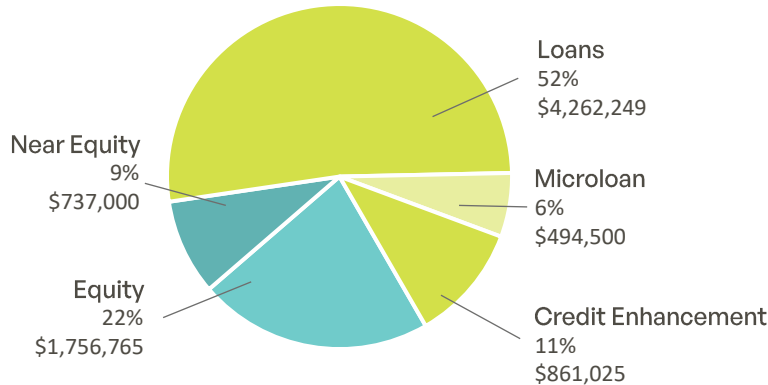
Financing Invested	\$8,111,539
Financing Outstanding	\$4,443,692
Investment Income	\$1,982,287

Loss Rate: As of December 31, 2025, the annualized loss rate since the Fund's inception (2012) is .91% or 12.5% cumulatively. This includes all realized write-offs on an investment capital pool of \$10.8 million.

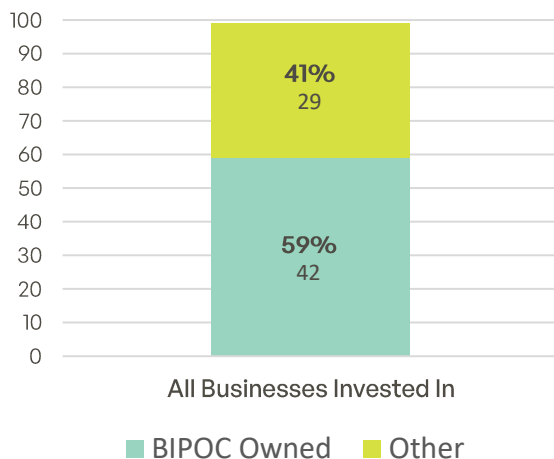
Type of Business



Type of Structure



Portfolio by Demographics (Race)



Investment Spotlight

Fair Food Fund provided critical bridge loans to a group of small and mid-sized businesses awarded reimbursable grants through the **USDA's Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI)** program. These federal funds were administered by the **Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)** and offered a rare and significant opportunity to strengthen local food systems.

Although eligible for sizable grants, recipients of RFSI funds were required to pay for equipment costs upfront before being reimbursed — a barrier that could exclude many high-potential food businesses from accessing the funds. Many of the entrepreneurs we work with don't have that kind of capital on hand. But our bridge loans were able to fill the gap and keep projects moving.

By providing short-term, flexible financing, Fair Food Fund enabled these businesses to respond quickly, make essential purchases, and qualify for their full MDARD reimbursements. This approach didn't just solve a cash flow issue — it unlocked a major public funding stream for local entrepreneurs who might otherwise have been left out.

Loan recipients include:

- **Agape Organic Farm** (Dansville, MI): veteran- and Black-woman-owned pastured pork and poultry business
- **The Kilted Farmers** (Concord, MI): producer of hand-made shelf-stable pastas using locally sourced ingredients
- **Torch Lake Co-op** (Bellaire, MI): farmer-owned nonprofit agricultural producer cooperative aggregating and distributing local food
- **Mitchell's Patch of Blue** (Bangor, MI): a family-owned farm expanding processing capacity
- **Cultured Ferments Company** (Traverse City, MI): a woman-led kombucha brand scaling regional distribution

These investments reflect how Fair Food Fund's community-rooted approach transforms how capital flows — ensuring that federal dollars not only make it to the local food economy, but that they are reaching the people they were designed to serve.