

EL PASO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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County Approves Grant for Heritage Farm in Socorro

Court unanimously awards \$63,400 HFFI funds to farm located on Mission Trail

EL PASO, TX: On February 24, 2020, Growing with Sara Farms received one of the first grants given under the County's Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI). The grant will be used to renovate an existing structure on the property which will serve as a farm stand.

Growing with Sara Farms is located on the Mission Trail in Socorro, TX. Its owners have been restoring existing adobe structures on their property which date back to the 1890s. Currently, the farm functions as a food hub for area growers and is home to artist residencies adjacent to a soon to open café and gallery space. Sara Farms intends to restore a 300 sq. ft. building using traditional adobe construction methods so that they can provide farm-direct produce for retail sale year round.

"This grant will allow Sara Farms to continue their work in preserving the culture and heritage of the Mission Trail while addressing food scarcity in the region," said Andrea Hutchins, Economic Development Director.

In 2019, El Paso County set aside \$500,000 to fund projects aimed at expanding access to healthy foods in areas of the community where healthy, affordable food options are scarce. Sara Farms joins two other companies in the first round of HFFI grants, where a total of \$232,000 in funds were awarded.

"Our Farmer's Stand will provide access to fresh, locally grown and healthy food in an area where it is much needed. We are happy to know that we can make a difference in our community," said owner Marty Loya.

[The El Paso County Economic Development Department](#) administers programs which seek to enhance the business operating climate and promote heritage tourism throughout El Paso County. These efforts serve to enhance the quality of life for all residents.

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