

Food Justice Collective Impact Cohort

Invitation to Students

Food Justice addresses the immediate food access needs of communities as well as the institutions and systems that perpetuate food waste, unequal distribution of food, and poor treatment of food workers all along the production chain. Food Justice efforts support people's rights to grow, sell, and eat fresh, nutritious, affordable, culturally meaningful food.

Do you want to work together with other students as well as faculty and community partners to advance food justice? Apply to join a Collective Impact Cohort!

Collective Impact Cohorts bring together groups of undergraduate and graduate students with faculty and community partners to address DU Grand Challenges issue areas. Cohorts are designed to advance collaborative problem solving characterized by equity, mutual benefit, and public good impact. In addition, Cohorts create opportunities for student community-engaged signature work.

Signature work is a high impact practice through which students:

- Transfer their learning from classes to projects that address complex problems of importance to the student and the public good;
- Have agency and play a key role in defining and carrying out projects in which they immerse themselves;
- Receive individualized mentoring.

Community-engaged signature work emphasizes equitable collaboration with community partners to address public problems.

DU Grand Challenges issue areas include: improving daily living, increasing economic opportunity, and advancing deliberation and action for the public good.

In AY 2024-2025, a new Cohort will begin work on the issue of **food justice**.

- A facilitator will help the collaborative team to build shared agendas for change, take action, assess results, and iterate to create change together. The Cohort is supported by the Office for Public Good Strategy & Research and the Center for Community Engagement to advance Scholarship and Learning (CCESL).
- Student, faculty, and community partners who are members of the Cohort will work together across Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters in AY 24-25.

- During the first month, the Cohort will work to identify shared interests (e.g., food insecurity, food deserts, food workers' rights), root cause of problems (e.g., housing, nutrition education, racial justice), and collaborative action steps.
- In subsequent months, the Cohort will use their newfound knowledge to develop one or more projects. Projects should support *signature work* opportunities for students to:
 - Transfer their learning from classes to projects that address complex problems of the student and the public good;
 - Have agency and play a key role in defining and carrying out projects in which they
 - Receive individualized mentoring.
- The Cohort will be eligible to apply for DU funding to advance community-engaged signature work.

Roles and Expectations:

- All Cohort Members participate in the collective impact process to build shared agendas for change, take action, assess results, and iterate to make measurable change on public problems.
- Student members:
 - Commit to contributing a minimum of 6 hours per week during the AY and are eligible to enroll for internship credit (CENG 3980). If you are available only one or two quarters, please reach out to [Anne DePrince](#) to discuss.
 - Complete reflection activities, including one public reflection that can be submitted for publication in CCESL's *Public Good Impact*.

How do I show interest and apply?

Please follow this [link \(https://udenver.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3CcbL03OXtqka8K\)](https://udenver.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3CcbL03OXtqka8K) to fill out a short application, which asks the following:

Name:

87- Number:

Major(s)/Minor(s): Year at DU:

Email Address:

Application Questions:

1. Describe your interest and/or past experiences (including any coursework, projects, or other activities) that demonstrates your commitment to collaborating as a cohort member (up to 300 words).
2. Describe what you hope to gain from collaborating as a cohort member (up to 300 words).