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At Seattle farmers markets, City-funded, Fresh Bucks vouchers match every dollar of food stamp purchases up to \$10, doubling the purchasing power of families receiving food stamp benefits. The program results in more customers for farmers markets and more access to healthy locally grown food for families receiving food stamp benefits.

The 2015 Proposed Budget included \$150,000 for the Fresh Bucks program, and Council added \$50,000 to for a total of \$200,000 in 2015. In the 2016 Endorsed Budget, the program funding level reverts back to \$150,000.

2016 represents a critical juncture in the viability and scalability of the program, as it significantly expands due to federal funding. OSE has been awarded \$1.58 million over 4 years (approx. \$300,000-\$500,000 per year from 2016-2019) in matching funds through the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) program. OSE reports that with the FINI grant, Fresh Bucks is now poised to expand beyond farmers markets and farm stands to also include venues such as Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares and brick and mortar food retail stores.

Yet the challenge in administering the grant is that 80% of the federal funds are designated for incentives for SNAP participants, meaning that there are hard costs to staffing, outreach and program marketing that federal funds do not cover fully.

City funding continues to be an essential component of the program, and resources are needed to fully implement expansion strategies and diversify outreach and marketing for the program in order to increase utilization by more low-income residents. Council expects that OSE will continue to collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders and evaluate the long-term role for OSE, the City, and key partners, as the FINI grant is applied over the next four years.

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Budget Action Transactions

Budget Action Title: Add \$50,000 of GSF to OSE in 2016 for additional support to the Fresh Bucks food assistance program

#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BCL or Revenue Source	Summit Code	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
1	Increase funding for the Fresh Bucks food assistance program				OSE	Office of Sustainability and Environment	X1000	00100	2016		\$50,000