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COALITION FINDS 425 JOBS, \$127 MILLION ANNUAL RETURN FOR NEW COMMISSARY KITCHEN

Today a coalition of economic development and workforce organizations announced the findings of an impact study for a planned central kitchen that will produce meals for public programs.

Philly Cooks for Philly, the organization behind the study, proposes the construction and staffing of a large central commissary kitchen in Philadelphia. The kitchen will produce up to 20 million meals per year for schools, child care programs, and other publicly-funded meal programs operating in Philadelphia. The kitchen will focus its hiring efforts on Philadelphia residents who struggle to find long-term employment with family sustaining wages by providing on-the-job training and career development opportunities.

Philly Cooks for Philly formed in response to the lack of competition for public contracts for meals at schools, afterschool programs, and summer camps. Meals are currently made out-of-state and shipped to Philadelphia, compromising quality, bloating the environmental footprint, and exporting millions of taxpayer dollars out of our region.

Philly Cooks for Philly engaged MFR Consultants, a Black-owned, woman-owned Philadelphia consultancy, to produce a feasibility study and impact assessment of the proposed kitchen and workforce center. The study was funded by Philadelphia Works, the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia, and the Leo and Peggy Pierce Family Foundation.

The study found that the proposed facility would produce:

- 425 jobs to support the central kitchen
- \$127.4 million in annual output from operations
- 260 full time employees for the facility construction
- \$48.4 million output from facility construction
- \$1.26 million in wage/tax revenue

Bob Reusche, co-founder of Philly Cooks for Philly, said, “We are pleased that MFR’s careful evaluation of our proposed project yields meaningful impact to Philadelphia families, workers, and the economy. The construction and operation of a central commissary kitchen, paired with workforce development and production of nutritious meals from responsible sources, is a meaningful and necessary effort to improve Philadelphians’ lives today and in the future. We welcome interested collaborators to join us in making our vision a reality.”

Patrick Clancy, CEO of Philadelphia Works, said “As a primary funder of the Philly Cooks for Philly impact study, Philadelphia Works supports this common sense, smart workforce solution which combines immediate employment opportunities with training-supported career progression in the local food economy. The success of this valuable initiative will be critical for scores of Philly residents and Philadelphia Works is pleased to continue as a partner and advocate.”

Jeff Hornstein, Executive Director of the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia, said, “The Economy League of Greater Philadelphia was proud to sponsor the Philly Cooks for Philly feasibility study, done by a local WMBE-owned firm, MFR Consultants. The study’s findings—quality jobs and economic growth in communities that need it—fully align with our mission of fostering equitable and inclusive growth and shared prosperity. We look forward to working with Philly Cooks for Philly to bring this timely and impactful project to fruition.”

An Executive Summary of the study is available on the Philly Cooks for Philly website: phillycooksforphilly.org.