# *Thank you for your commitment to green initiatives at the University of Illinois. One of the final steps in completing the terms of the funding agreement for your project is the submission of a Final Report with key information about your project. You will also need to submit a detailed report of expenses (if you don't list it within this document) as well as supporting photos to showcase your project.*

# *Please be as accurate as possible in describing the project (including possible setbacks or challenges in meeting the initial goals of the project). Not fully meeting your project's goals will not disqualify you from making future funding requests as long as your reports are as complete and accurate as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee, at* *sustainability-committee@illinois.edu**.*

**Project Name:** MFSTSA Talk-Series: Reimagining Our Food Systems

**Date of Report Submission:** 10/13/2022

**Project Purpose:**

Provide educational experiences for students on the UIUC campus to hear from food experts of color who have been impacted by the disparities in the American and/or global food system.

**Project Summary:**

We contacted food experts and faculty in Illinois that had diverse perspectives on food justice and various stories that we believed our UIUC community might benefit from. We supported these faculty members by reaching out to people all over campus and promoted the series as a talk-series to “Reimagine the Food System”. We supported these faculty by giving them funds for their extra work helping to advocate for their passion of food justice and educating students about their own community’s struggles.

**Summary of Project Expenditures:**

The total budget for the “Reimaging Our Food Systems” talk-series was $3,189. $109 was spent on posters, $500 for an off-campus speaker honorarium, and $1,680 for ASL interpreters. We also had $900 distributed equally among our three faculty guest speakers as recognition of their work.

**Problems/Challenges Encountered**

We were able to use all of the funds for their intended purpose and did not experience any immense challenges. We gave each of the faculty speakers $300 as Service In Excess payments, which took a while, but were able to process those payments.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

This event was open to all UIUC students and faculty, and since it was offered virtually, we were able to have students from other schools and communities as well. Our team of students helped plan this series and we got to hear from everyone about what was of interest to them as it relates to food justice. Our team of students helped shape this series into one that would tell an interconnected story made up of each speakers’ individual stories.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

We printed high quality posters of various sizes around the university, reached out to other social and environmental justice related organizations on campus, made an Eventbrite page free to the public, posted on social media weekly, and reached out to personal colleagues/faculty that would support our goals.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:**

Our talk-series centered on Food Justice, which addressed the systemic and institutional injustices against marginalized groups, especially people of color. Our speakers were all educators of color who have done their own research on race and food justice, who have also been impacted by the food system in their lived experiences. Our outreach for this event went out to people who may relate to these experiences, but also was meant to educate those who are unfamiliar with those experiences.

**Additional Comments:**

This talk-series was our organization’s first funding event and it went very well! We are really hoping to continue working with the SSC to promote food justice on campus and facilitate the awareness of related initiatives on campus. We want to use these funds to support diverse and underrepresented communities, while working on bigger projects in the future as the organization we have newly branded ourselves as (Food Justice Alliance).

In addition to the above fields, please provide a detailed accounting of how the funding was spent as well as pictures of the final project in an email to sustainability-committee@illinois.edu. Thank you again for your commitment to sustainability!