

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **In partnership with the City of Albany, Flint River Fresh is launching the Fresh Start Program through a 100 Fresh Start Garden Kits Giveaway**

**Albany, GA** – Flint River Fresh launched its Fresh Start program in partnership with the City of Albany Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and a 100 Fresh Start Garden Kits Giveaway. The food garden kits include four seedlings and four seed packets that include vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Each kit contains enough seeds and seedlings to fill a 4X8 garden space, and a growing guide at no cost to income eligible City of Albany residents. “The City of Albany DCED is excited to enter into this partnership with Flint River Fresh to assist in providing access to fresh, affordable, and healthy food for our community,” said John D. Hawthorne Jr., the City of Albany’s Director Department of Community and Economic Development.



The City of Albany DCED awarded Flint River Fresh, Inc. a \$10,000 public service grant to help increase access to fresh, affordable, and healthy food to at-risk community members. The Fresh Start garden kits giveaway kicks off the broader initiative that includes installing bucket container garden stands at a community food site and more raised garden beds at the JC Odom, Jr. Fitness and Wellness Center Community Garden. Additionally, Flint River Fresh will support an after-school gardening program that will grow kids through an interdisciplinary program combining academic achievement, gardening, nutrient-dense food experiences, physical activity, and family engagement based on the International Junior Master Gardener Program with monthly fresh produce boxes to youth taking part in the program.

The City of Albany CDBG funds support the first 100 approved applications from city residents. However, all Dougherty County residents should apply and reserve a free Fresh Start Garden Kit today at [www.flinriverfresh.org/foodaccess](http://www.flinriverfresh.org/foodaccess). When supplies are exhausted, approved applications are waitlisted to receive kits as funding becomes available. Flint River Fresh selects participants on a first-come first-served basis.

Flint River Fresh is a 501(c)(3) organization that aims to make fresh, locally-grown produce accessible and affordable for people throughout the Flint River Region, while empowering community and youth through education and outreach opportunities. Visit [www.flinriverfresh.org](http://www.flinriverfresh.org) to learn more.

The Fresh Start Program is partially funded with CDBG funds and income eligibility is based on the current year established HUD Income Limits.