

From the Louisville Business First:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/news/2014/09/19/west-end-food-hub-to-create-170-jobs.html>

West End food hub to create 170 jobs

Sep 19, 2014, 2:35pm EDT

Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer today announced a partnership between **Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Government** and Seed Capital Kentucky Inc. to create a 24-acre West Louisville Food Hub.

Seed Capital Kentucky, a nonprofit organization that supports the local food economy and regional farmers, will develop the site, which is between Market Street and Muhammad Ali Boulevard at 30th Street.

The West Louisville Food Hub will focus on bringing together businesses that aggregate, distribute, process and store food, according to a news release. The effort could bring nearly \$50 million in investment and 170 new jobs to Louisville's West End.

"This project is a green, job-creating machine that has multiple benefits, including helping revitalize the neighborhood and connecting farmers with processors and customers," Fischer said in the release. "It is a model public-private partnership for our city."

Seed Capital Kentucky is seeking tax credits to pay for the construction of a warehouse, commercial kitchen and office space on the site, The Courier-Journal



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A partnership has been formed between Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Government and Seed Capital Kentucky Inc. to create a 24-acre West Louisville Food Hub.

reported. The estimated cost of the first phase is \$45 million, according to the news report.

According to the news release, project partners so far include:

KHI Foods, a food-processing company in Burlington, Ky.;

The Weekly Juicery, a cold-pressed juice producer;

Jefferson County Extension Service, which will relocate from its current location and operate a demonstration farm onsite;

Village Capital, a business accelerator focused on agricultural startups;

and Nature's Methane, an anaerobic digester that will convert organic waste to energy.

Discussions are under way with businesses that could add operations, including a controlled-environment growing farm, a kitchen incubation program and a food bank, as well as multiple retail operations.

“We want this project to serve as a model partnership between government, nonprofits and for-profit businesses to give our community the projects our citizens want most, “ Seed Capital Kentucky Founder Stephen Reily said in the release. “It will require the best efforts of each sector to make this project succeed.”

Construction crews will break ground on the project in early to mid-2015, the release stated. Some businesses will open before the end of 2015, and the majority should be open by the end of 2016.