



**FOOD JUSTICE
GRANT PROGRAM
FINAL REPORT**

NOVEMBER 2024



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GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Sacramento established the Food Justice Grant Program. Led by the City's Food Justice Taskforce, an advisory body created by Mayor Darrell Steinberg and Councilmember Mai Vang, the Food Justice Grant Program aimed to assist vulnerable communities combat food insecurity by improving accessibility and investing in the local food system.

The \$1 million program was divided into two tiers: small grants and large grants, with small grants providing up to \$5,000 and large grants providing up to \$200,000. A total of 17 organizations received grants, with five small and 12 large grants awarded. The money was instrumental in enhancing the capacity of the recipient organizations to deliver essential food services to at-risk populations.



A COMMITMENT TO RACIAL EQUITY

Committed to an equitable recovery from the pandemic, the Food Justice Grant Program utilized racial equity best practices throughout each phase of the grant process. Actions taken to advance equity and inclusion included:

- **Grant Design Phase:**

- Convening a cross-departmental staff team to complete a racial equity analysis tool to ensure that the grant was thoughtfully designed. Grant design decisions made in direct response to either inequities identified or feedback received included:
 - No match requirement
 - Advance payments considered
 - Fiscal sponsors allowed
 - Solicitation open for longer than 30 days
 - Streamlined application process, especially for small grant applicants
- Seeking community input through multiple convenings of the Food Justice Taskforce

- **Grant Application Phase:**

- Devising an outreach plan in collaboration with the City's Community Engagement Team targeting historically underserved and disinvested areas of the City
- Ensuring language accessibility by translating outreach materials into Spanish, Hmong, and Vietnamese and hosting two information sessions featuring live translators

- **Grant Selection Phase:**

- Implementing a community review panelist application and selection process
- Offering a debrief to all applicants not recommended for funding

- **Grant Award Phase:**

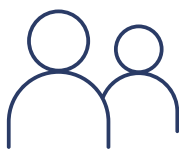
- Developing and providing a standardized reporting template for grantees
- Developing and administering a grantee demographic survey to better understand the composition of selected grantees
- Convening a grantee orientation and grantee meetings to share resources, updates, and feedback for City consideration
- Identifying capacity building and technical assistance opportunities



GRANT PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

METRICS

The following metrics highlight some of the impact that the 17 Food Justice grantees collectively had on the Sacramento community.



229,614

Individuals Served*



63,666

Households Served*



1,321,111

Pounds of Food Distributed



700+

Food Distributions Held



147,472

Fresh Meals Served



29,831

Food Bundles Distributed



3

Food Delivery Vehicles Purchased or Leased



4

Food Pantries Established

*Numbers are duplicated



OUTCOMES

In addition to the collective metrics, the Food Justice Grant Program resulted in the following outcomes:

- **Increased Food Distribution Capacity:** Many grantees utilized the funds to significantly boost their food distribution efforts. For example, Common Ground Covenant Church distributed over 455,000 pounds of food to 41,018 individuals, thanks to improvements such as the purchase of a box truck and enhanced food facility infrastructure. Similarly, the South Sacramento Christian Center served more than 290,000 pounds of food to 52,160 individuals through its weekly distributions.
- **Enhanced Access to Nutritious Food:** The grants enabled organizations to offer not just more food, but also healthier options. Alchemist CDC, for example, facilitated the use of CalFresh benefits at farmers' markets, resulting in \$1.089 million in fresh produce spending. Wellspring Women's Center incorporated farm-fresh eggs into their meal program, serving over 25,000 meals, with more than 9,100 containing this nutritious addition.
- **Supported Vulnerable Populations:** The funding directly supported various vulnerable groups, including low-income seniors, unhoused individuals, and culturally specific communities. Meals on Wheels by ACC delivered 27,221 meals to low-income seniors, with 83% reporting improved nutrition. Hmong Youth and Parents United hosted Harvest Market events and educational gardening projects, directly engaging 102 seniors and youth in these activities.
- **Improved Operational Infrastructure:** Several grantees invested in operational upgrades that will have long-term benefits for their food distribution capabilities. NorCal Resist Fund, for example, purchased a delivery van and expanded their community farm, enhancing their ability to distribute fresh produce. Mutual Housing California established four new food pantries at their affordable housing sites, enabling them to regularly serve more than 2,500 people over the course of the grant and hundreds each month moving forward.
- **Amplified Community Engagement and Education:** Beyond immediate food distribution, some organizations focused on long-term community engagement and education. The Health Education Council held cooking courses and cultural events for Afghan families, fostering trust and better nutrition outcomes through direct community involvement. This not only addressed immediate food needs but also empowered communities with knowledge and resources for sustained food security.

The following pages provide an overview about each grant and the individual metrics and outcomes achieved.



SMALL GRANTS: UP TO \$5,000



Small Grants

Capitol City Seventh Day Adventist Church	9
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Capitol City Seventh Day Adventist Church



Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$5,000
- **Target Population:** Vulnerable populations living in City Council District 6
- **Summary:** Capitol City Seventh Day Adventist Church operated a food pantry for food insecure individuals and households by providing free groceries.

Grant Outcomes

9,600 Duplicated Households Served

800 Average Number of Households Served Per Month

find
out
farms

Find Out Farms



Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$4,981
- **Target Population:** Vulnerable populations across Sacramento and those negatively affected by COVID-19
- **Summary:** Find Out Farms utilized the grant to improve operational capacity, which ultimately supported its urban gleaning program. The gleaning program harvests fruit overabundance and donates it to local food access organizations for distribution.

Grant Outcomes

22,300 Pounds of Fruit Gleaned

32.7% Increase in the Pounds of Fruit Harvested and Distributed from the Prior Year

30.6% Increase in the Number of Harvest Requests Fulfilled from the Prior Year

34.7% Increase in the Number of Volunteer Gleaners from the Prior Year



First United Methodist Church



Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$5,000
- **Target Population:** Unhoused populations in Downtown and Midtown
- **Summary:** First United Methodist Church operated a hot meal program to address access disparities to fresh meals for unhoused individuals.

Grant Outcomes

5,000 Hot Meals Served



Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center



Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$5,000
- **Target Population:** Vulnerable populations in Gardenland/Northgate
- **Summary:** Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center operated an emergency assistance program, which delivered crisis intervention services and emergency food assistance to low-income families.

Grant Outcomes

- 125** Low-Income Households Provided with Holiday Baskets Featuring Perishable and Non-Perishable Food and Gift Cards
- 40** Low-Income Households Provided with Crisis Intervention Services such as Case Management through an Agency Social Worker and Emergency Utility Assistance



Wellspring Women's Center



Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$5,000
 - **Target Population:** Vulnerable women and children in Oak Park
 - **Summary:** Wellspring Women's Center used the grant to introduce farm fresh eggs into its nutritious meal program for visitors of its drop-in center.
-

Grant Outcomes

25,037

Free Meals to Vulnerable Women and Children Served

9,120

Meals Served Containing Farm Fresh Eggs

The image features a dark blue horizontal band across the middle. Above it, three white \$1 vouchers are fanned out, each with a sunburst pattern and the text "\$1 or more". Below the band, a CalFresh voucher is shown, featuring the logo and text: "No Expiration", "Eligible Items include: fruits, vegetables, fruit, herbs, dairy, eggs, honey, plants which produce food", "This voucher is good for EBT eligible items at participating farmers", and "ONE DOLLAR Change Give". The background consists of a close-up of lemons in a blue basket at the top and oranges at the bottom, with a light blue curved graphic element on the left side.

LARGE GRANTS: UP TO \$200,000

CalFresh

No Expiration

Eligible Items include:
fruits, vegetables, fruit, herbs, dairy, eggs,
honey, plants which produce food

This voucher is good for
EBT eligible items
at participating farmers

ONE DOLLAR
Change Give

Large Grants

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Alchemist CDC



Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$93,967
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Individuals and families who rely on the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as CalFresh in California
- **Grant Summary:** Alchemist CDC operated CalFresh access booths at five farmers' market locations where CalFresh recipients were able to debit their benefit dollars in exchange for vouchers accepted by farmers' market vendors. Without this intervention, most CalFresh recipients would have been unable to utilize their benefit dollars at farmers' markets. Through other non-grant funding, Alchemist CDC also offered a match program to further incentivize spending on fresh and nutritious produce.

Grant Outcomes

72,793 Individuals Served
(duplicated)

1,300 Average Individuals
Served per Week

5,200 Average Individuals
Served per Month

38,234 EBT Transactions
Completed

+\$635K In CalFresh Benefit Dollars
+\$454K In Matching Funds

= \$1.089M In Farmers' Market
Spending



Common Ground Covenant Church



Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$77,953
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Residents of the Valley Hi neighborhood and surrounding South Sacramento communities
- **Grant Summary:** Common Ground Covenant Church used the grant to support its weekly food distribution program and community garden operations. Common Ground also completed several facility improvements including adding two water stations, a shade canopy, and two composting storage sheds. Lastly, Common Ground purchased a box truck that hauled over 400,000 pounds of food in 2023 to the grantee's distribution location, improving food access and stability.

Grant Outcomes

41,018 Individuals served

455,000 Pounds of Food Served

13,312 Households Served

1,500 Staff Hours Funded



Genesis Missionary Baptist Church



Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$74,000
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Vulnerable populations who live in City Council District 8
- **Grant Summary:** Genesis Missionary Baptist Church, Inc. distributed free grocery bundles to food insecure households in South Sacramento.

Grant Outcomes

1,200* Average Number of Food Bundles Distributed Per Month

425* Average Households Served Per Month

1 Truck Leased to Assist with Food Distribution

*Numbers based on monthly average as grant still operating at the time of report publication



HEALTH
EDUCATION
COUNCIL

Health Education Council



Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$65,890
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Afghan families living in North Sacramento
- **Grant Summary:** Partnering with Twin Rivers Unified School District, HEC organized focus groups that facilitated direct feedback from Afghan parents. The insights gained were used to adapt school lunch offerings to better meet the dietary needs of Afghan students, building a stronger relationship between families and the school nutrition services. HEC also developed educational videos and a digital database of school menu ingredients to increase transparency and trust in the school meal program among Afghan families. This work was in addition to hosting monthly food distributions, delivering two cooking courses, and a cultural event attended by more than 500 people.

Grant Outcomes

9,371 Individuals Served by 21
Food Distributions

37 Participants in Two Six-
Week Cooking Courses
Held for Community
Parents

580 Community Cultural Event
Attendees

25 Participants in Two
School Lunch Focus Groups



Hmong Youth and Parents United



Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$53,834
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Vulnerable populations in City Council District 2
- **Grant Summary:** Hmong Youth and Parents United hosted three Harvest Market events and distributed free food bundles consisting of fresh produce and culturally appropriate nonperishable staples. The grantee also expanded its educational garden project to engage youth and seniors in activities including gardening, nutrition, and cooking workshops.

Grant Outcomes

906 Produce Bundles Distributed

90 Unique Youth Engaged in Educational Gardening

736 Unique Individuals Served

12 Unique Seniors Engaged in Educational Gardening



Meals on Wheels by ACC

Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$149,715
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Low-income seniors aged 60 years and older who live in City Council Districts 3 and 4
- **Grant Summary:** Meals on Wheels by ACC delivered nutritious meals to low-income seniors living at Riverview Plaza in downtown Sacramento and who visit Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center's Senior Center in Gardenland/Northgate.

Grant Outcomes

27,221 Meals Delivered

407 Unique Individuals Served

83% Self-Reported Improved Nutrition

75% Self-Reported Improved Health

87% Self-Reported Improved Connection to Community



Mutual Housing California



Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$85,700
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Residents of low-income housing at Lemon Hill, Glen Ellen, Sky Park, and Lavender Courtyard
- **Grant Summary:** Mutual Housing California opened food pantries at four of their housing properties using assistance from the Food Justice Grant. Mutual Housing also hosted a Summer Eat, Read, and Play Program, offering eight weeks of free lunches and enrichments services. The grant funds were also used to improve volunteer engagement.

Grant Outcomes

2,546 Unique Individuals Served by Food Pantries

4 New Food Pantries at Affordable Housing Sites

100% Increase in Summer Program Participants

800 Participants Served through Summer Program



NorCal Resist Fund



Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$113,966
- **Target Beneficiaries:** The majority of NorCal Resist Fund's work takes place in South Sacramento, Del Paso Heights, Meadowview, Florin, and Arden Arcade – which are all census designated low-income and vulnerable communities
- **Grant Summary:** NorCal Resist used grant funding to increase the number of food-insecure families served through its food distribution events, at-home food deliveries, and community farm.

Grant Outcomes

13,580 Individuals Served

19,532 Pounds of Produce Distributed from Community Farm

32 Number of Food Distributions

1 Delivery Van Purchased with 199 cubic feet of hauling capacity



ReIMAGINE Mack Road Foundation



Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$30,000
- **Target Beneficiaries:** At-risk, low-income school-aged youth who live in City Council District 8
- **Grant Summary:** ReIMAGINE Mack Road Foundation operated a food access program for underserved youth who live in South Sacramento by offering free and healthy meals, snacks, and beverage items Monday through Saturday.

Grant Outcomes

388 Unique Youth Served

246 Food Distribution Events Held

3,229 Meals Served

1 Commercial Grade Refrigerator Purchased

1 Commercial Grade Freezer Purchased



Saint John's Program for Real Change



Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$45,379
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Formerly unhoused women and their children
- **Grant Summary:** Saint John's Program for Real Change used the grant to supplement its existing food service program, which offers three meals and two snacks per day to participants of its residential program.

Grant Outcomes

330 Unique Individuals Served

86,985 Meals Served

57,990 Snacks Served



The Salvation Army



Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$67,320
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Vulnerable populations across Sacramento and those negatively affected by COVID-19
- **Grant Summary:** The Salvation Army utilized the grant to support its food distribution operations, including the “drive-thru” and “client pantry” services. The program provided prepacked food boxes to families weekly, and offered a free “store” where clients could choose their own food two days a week inside the Grantee’s facility.

Grant Outcomes

36,285 Individuals served

440,060 Pounds of Food Served

9,961 Households Served

1,874 Staff Hours Funded



South Sacramento Christian Center



Grant Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$117,295
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Vulnerable populations who live in City Council District 8
- **Grant Summary:** South Sacramento Christian Center used their grant to support current food distribution staff, scale up staffing support in their warehouse and distribution center, and purchase a utility vehicle that assisted in food pickup and delivery.

Grant Outcomes

52,160 Individuals served

290,000 Pounds of Food Served

14,006 Households Served

1,253 Staff Hours Funded







CONCLUSION

The Food Justice Grant Program provided essential support to Sacramento's food assistance organizations during a critical period. The funding not only increased the quantity of food distributed but also improved the quality and accessibility of nutritious food to vulnerable populations. The investments in infrastructure, operational capacity, and community engagement will likely have lasting benefits, ensuring that these organizations are better equipped to continue their vital work in the community. The program stands as a model for how targeted funding can effectively address food insecurity and support community resilience in times of crisis.

THANK YOU



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