

Community Food Project Grant

Year 4, Quarter 1 Update (September – November 2019)

The Community Food Project Grant, "Access for All, from Field to Fork," began in August 2016, bringing together a number of organizations to: 1) increase the availability and consumption of fresh, local produce by low-income residents while deepening community connections to the local food system; 2) strengthen communities by increasing capacity for self-sufficiency in meeting food needs, producing and distributing food, and building relationships; and 3) work towards long-term economic stability for small food system entrepreneurs and farmers who contribute jobs and healthy food to the local community.

The **Food Bank** distributed over 329,000 pounds of produce through its programs in the last quarter. This was done through 50 Children's Farmers' Markets, where they distributed nearly 37,000 pounds of produce to children and their families, and Family Farmers' Markets, where they distributed over 12,200 pounds of produce. GleanSLO hosted 61 gleaning events, assisted by volunteers who gave almost 500 hours helping pick produce from eight local farms. The Food Bank is still hoping to attract new commercial growers to participate in their programs. Reach out to them if you have any ideas!

In addition to all their work distributing healthy, local food, the Food Bank also partnered with **Promotores** last quarter to host a nutrition demonstration at a food distribution site, sharing recipes with about 60 people. The Promotores also attended a series of three nutritional classes called "Living a Healthy Life, Vive Sanamente," to help them with their community health and outreach work. This training was put on with the help of **Public Health**.

One Cool Earth held nine garden based educational activities, reaching 270 students. Over 2,000 students participated in school-wide taste tests. One Cool Earth also gave 12 in class Healthy Food Tastings, which reached 840 students. During the last quarter, they have worked hard to engage more teachers in their programming.

The **SLO Food System Coalition EBT Workgroup** hosted a panel discussion of local and state experts to discuss using EBT at farmers' markets and successful strategies to increase use, which was attended by about 30 people, several of whom were new to the Food System Coalition.

Six new and nine continuing students worked in the **Affordable Housing Paso Robles** garden, which consists of 14 garden beds built through this grant. All students received stipends for their work.

Central Coast Grown held 24 classes for 18 students during the last quarter. This work was supported by 45 volunteers, giving 300 hours to help the organization. Central Coast Grown also held three work parties and a Fall Harvest Festival, which had approximately 1,000 people in attendance. CCG is currently run by volunteers and is looking for funding to hire staff support.

Slow Money SLO worked with six farmers and six food entrepreneurs during the last quarter. Additionally, Slow Money hosted a farm-to-table dinner with 125 attendees. Although they have surpassed their grant goals, Slow Money continues to mentor and offer financial assistance to local farmers and food entrepreneurs. They have limited volunteer capacity, so if you'd like to support their work please contact them!

During the past quarter, **UC Cooperative Extension** offered two monthly tastings for 210 students, and 18 food demonstrations for 42 people. They have also been working with Rutiz Farm who will be hosting an upcoming farm field strip for students at Oceano Elementary. UCCE started partnering with Oceano Elementary 4-H SNAC, an afterschool program, which will be helping with monthly tastings, food demonstrations, and will participate in the farm field trip.