

## **Community Food Project Grant Update**

Year 1, Quarters 1 and 2 (October 2016 to March 2017)

The second round of 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.

**Food Bank Coalition** is on track with all of its goals.

-- Increase delivery of produce: In Q2 the Food Bank distributed 451,785 pounds of produce, including Family Farmers' Markets: 94,169; Children's Farmers' Markets: 44,460; GleanSLO: 42,076. In January 6, Promotores attended nutrition training with Magi Mejorado from SLO County Public Health. For the goal of increasing Latino community participation, four distribution sites were run by Promotoras from each local community where the food distributions took place. The Promotoras were instrumental in building awareness in their community.

**GleanSLO** For the period of Jan 2017- March 2017, GleanSLO collected 42,076 pounds. In the first quarter, GleanSLO gleaned 79,037 pounds.

**SLO Public Health** started their nutrition education trainings for Promotores, who will provide outreach to recipients at food bank distribution sites. Public Health has also begun working with schools to implement smarter lunchroom strategies. A new dietitian will be starting in April, who will help further this program. Public Health is working with dietary students at Cal Poly to develop outreach and educational material to support Harvest of the Month programs that teach students about healthy eating and the food system. The Cottage Food Law outreach has also continued since the last grant; since August, 27 handouts were provided to CCRC families.

**SLO Food System Coalition** will support farmers and entrepreneurs in SLO County to increase institutional purchasing and aggregated sales. In working towards their goal, FSC attended a Farmers Guild monthly meeting to invite local farmers to the April Coalition meeting to connect them to SLO County public school Food Service Directors, and assisted Slow Money SLO in planning a farmer-buyer mixer for summer 2017. The FSC has also been working with a professor and students at Cal Poly to create an updated list of farmers' markets

in the County and developed outreach efforts to increase EBT acceptance at County farmers' markets.

**One Cool Earth** has made a lot of progress towards their goals to expand garden programs at elementary schools in Shandon and Paso Robles, already reaching 300 students, which is 90% of their annual goal! The majority of their work has been at Winifred Pifer Elementary School (WPES) in Paso Robles, where they are working with a FoodCorps member who works on site two days a week. So far their work has included hosting 17 food tasting and 20 garden-based educational activities, 2 garden workdays with 50 volunteers, and 2 school open house events to reach parents, they have doubled the garden space, and developed plans for an orchard, pumpkin patch and tool shed. At Shandon Elementary, One Cool Earth has been developing relationships with the school community, repairing basic garden infrastructure, and securing funding to increase activities next year.

**Affordable Housing Paso Robles (AHPR)** already exceeded their goal of building 3 additional YouthWorks farm beds- they built 7! Twenty-seven of the YouthWorks participants received cooking and nutrition classes. AHPR also worked with 25 low-income students in the YouthWorks garden, who receive stipends for their work, reaching 50% of their four-year goal. They have been surprised by the number of youth in their program who want to learn how to cook and are considering it as a career path.

**Central Coast Grown** has continued to work with Pacific Beach Continuation High students at City Farm. The program has grown since last year- they have nearly 60 students, already reaching 50% of their four-year grant goal! Since the start of the grant they have worked with the students on developing crop plans and soil preparation (planting has been delayed due to the wet winter.) Their produce will be sold at a farmstand on site and at the Transitions-Mental Health Association farmstand in Santa Maria.

**UCCE** In the first quarter of this grant, elementary schools in Shandon, Oceano, and Paso Robles were identified to participate in monthly tasting programs. A total of 1,179 students will be reached annually with these agreements, which will exceed the requirement of 3,200 students served over a four year period. Monthly tastings began in Oceano in October, while they began in Shandon by November. The Paso Robles school is scheduled began in February. Additionally, formal student leadership promoting peer-to-peer nutrition education takes place at Oceano Elementary School (SNAC /Student Nutrition Advisory Council). In the second quarter, UCCE conducted 8 monthly tastings and 5 food demonstrations. Farm visits are scheduled for Shandon and Oceano.

Results from the **Promotores** program will be reported next quarter.