

Community Food Project Grant

Year 2, Quarter 2 Update

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.

During this last quarter, the **Food Bank** distributed nearly 388,000 pounds of produce through its programs. Although less than the same quarter last year (due to a closure for inspections), the Food Bank is still on track to meet the goal for this year. Five Family Farmers' Markets were held, distributing over 15,000 pounds of produce to 496 households. Over 33,000 pounds of produce were delivered to 3483 children through the Children's Farmers' Market. GleanSLO volunteers (183 for the last quarter!) harvested 33,744 pounds of produce this quarter. GleanSLO have been developing plans to engage more farmers, and are looking into other avenues for produce recovery.

Food Bank and **Promotores** held 6 food demonstration classes during the last quarter, which included roasted Brussels sprouts, applesauce, carrot fries and pumpkin parfait. Promotores also held a workshop on "How to read labels", which had 11 participants. Promotores have also been volunteering at Senior Centers (although the site is not part of this grant program). Promotores have been actively working to make sure community members are aware of Food Bank distributions and other community support programs. They have also been providing good feedback to the Food Bank about the interest and demand of food products for the Latino families.

During the past quarter, **UC Cooperative Extension** held 6 food tastings through the Harvest of the Month Program, reaching over 1,200 students! They are on track to reach their grant goal of 3,200 educating students about local produce and the food system. UCCE has been working with Shandon and Oceano Elementary schools to coordinate farm visits to take place this spring, although they have experience challenges with schools ability to fund transportation to the farms. UCCE has also been working with Master Food Preservers who will provide food demonstrations at Food Bank distribution sites.

SLO Public Health continues to work with Promotores to incorporate train-the-trainer nutrition lessons into the quarterly meetings. Public Health has also continued their work on

the smarter lunchroom program with Shandon Elementary School, where a dietitian has been working with the principal and food service director to increase nutrition lessons at the school.

Affordable Housing Paso Robles (AHPR) held 6 cooking and nutrition classes during the past quarter. Twenty-four students, including three new students, worked in the garden and all received stipends for their work. Fourteen new planter boxes were built in the new garden space. Thirty students received cooking classes, 13 of which were new students, with topics including baking and creating pasta sauce from scratch. The cooking classes are so popular that AHPR is seeking new volunteer instructors.

During the last quarter, **One Cool Earth** continued to hold their educational events, reaching a total of 740 students, and have exceeded their grant goal! These events included 5 Library on the Lawn events, 10 garden based activities, and 8 food tastings. One Cool Earth has been developing an advisory group for their organization, and focusing on building relationships with partners and new school districts to support and expand garden based education in SLO County.