

LA Food Equity Fund

Capacity-Building Analytics Report

September 2024 - February 2025

By February
2025...

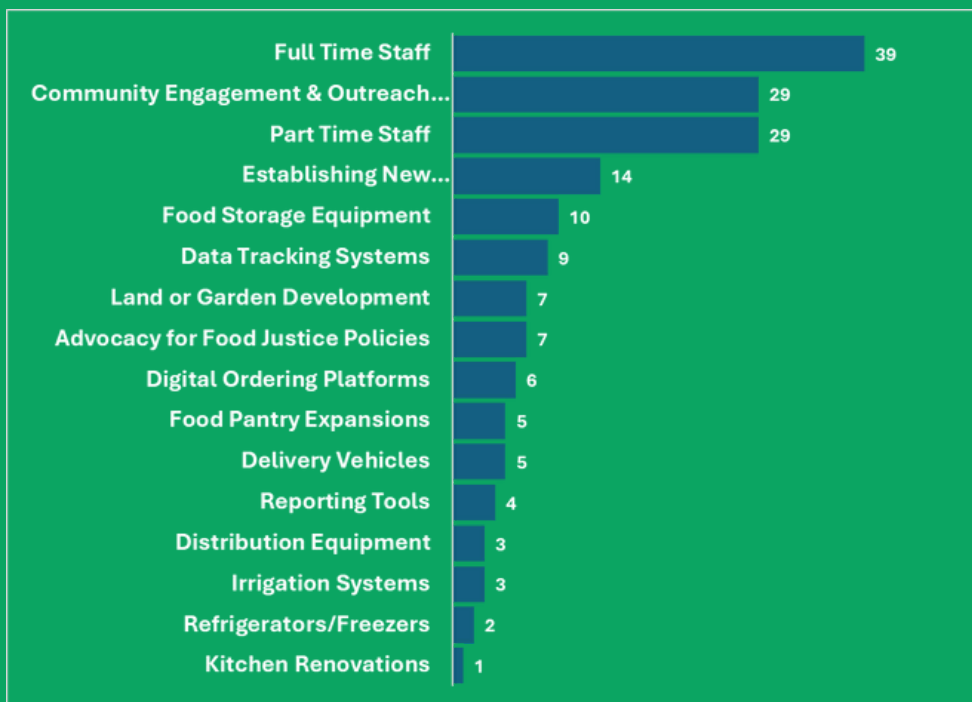
35
grantees
completed a year
of their projects

30
grantees
completed the
first five months
of their projects

\$2M+
spent by grantees
between September
2024 and February
2025



Capacity-Building Investments Made by Grantees



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Types of Investments

- Produce Vehicles & Haulers
- Gardening Space & Supplies
- Community Kitchen Space & Equipment
- Community Nutrition Education & Outreach



Over 5,700 residents were enrolled in public benefits programs (SNAP, CalFresh, WIC, etc.) through grantee programs

Number of grantees investing in staff

Funded Existing Staff to Support Grant Work

13

Promoted or Re-Assigned Existing Staff to Support Grant Work

6

Hired New Staff to Support Grant Work

5

27
organizations held
400+
workshops in these 6 months

More than 23,000
individuals attended these workshops/events

Examples of our current successful capacity building work includes the purchase of fridges for our hubs and smaller food recovery organizations, allowing for the acceptance of more recovered food. - **San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments**

In the days and weeks following the fire, this additional equipment was essential in our ability to provide over 3,000 hot meals and shelf-stable food boxes plus water, hygiene supplies and linkage to additional support for approximately 4,000 people affected by the Eaton Fire.
- **Union Station Homeless Services**

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Implementation of Projects

29

Grantees continued or expanded existing successful programs

24

Grantees hosted and supported new community events

20

Grantees are actively supporting community partnerships and coalitions



FoodCycle LA

“FoodCycle has been able to successfully add 36 partnering nonprofits that were on our waiting list to receive more food and who are feeding their communities. We have also been able to onboard 57 new businesses that are donating surplus food. These donors are located throughout Los Angeles, but they are providing us with additional food to direct to South Los Angeles. There is a lack of businesses that provide healthy food in this area.”

BreastfeedLA



“BreastfeedLA has partnered with LAC-DPH, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), local Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program agencies, and Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP) health centers. One client shares, “Since BreastfeedLA helped me with supplies for my new baby I have been able to get on my feet with breastfeeding and most importantly pumping. Without their help I don’t know that I would have my pumping game up to scratch to actually provide for my baby. It made all the difference in the world.”

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Community Stories

25

Grantees shared success or transformation stories from residents made possible by this grant

22

Grantees shared resident experiences accessing new services made possible by this grant



Hunger Action Los Angeles

“

Berta reported: "Veteran mom of 2 referred by EDD, she is worried about not having enough money for food to feed her family... Berta assisted her with CalFresh enrollment and gave her other helpful resource information. Despite her tough situation she said of Berta; " talking to her gave me hope & made me believe things were gonna be alright".

-Hunger Action Los Angeles

”

“

In a recent check-in call she shared the following testimony: “When I was diagnosed with cancer my friends and family pushed me away. I have no support at home and depend on your weekly meal deliveries. I trust that I will have at least one well balanced meal a day thanks to this program. I am truly grateful. Thank you for showing up.” -Health Consortium of Greater San Gabriel Valley, a program of Heluna Health

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Community Stories

8

Grantees shared resident excitement for food distributions

6

Grantees shared testimonials of increased resident confidence in public benefits enrollment

6

Grantees shared specific resident takeaways from nutrition education programs

“

Ms. J. had several misconceptions about CalFresh ... MCHA educated about CalFresh policies and clarified that the program does not impose such restrictions. This conversation gave her the confidence to reconsider CalFresh. After building her trust in the program, Ms. J decided to apply.
-Maternal and Child Health Access Project

”

Maternal and Child Health Access



Grow2Zero FARMS



“

The biggest success during this period has been the launch of our in-person program and the enthusiasm and engagement of our students. We have partnered with Sowing Seeds of Change, Farm Lot 59, The Farmer Ken and Feel Good Kitchen to develop and deliver a comprehensive food system curriculum that covers urban farming, harvest handling and storage and culinary arts. The program requires commitment to attending class almost every Saturday morning for six months and we have had a remarkable retention rate so far. The first cohort will graduate in June and then the program will run two more times through mid 2026. -Grow2Zero FARMS

”

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“When the wildfires began in January, Food Forward used our new geospatial mapping capacity to quickly map affected organizations and reach out to our extensive network of over 250 produce donors and hunger relief organizations to implement emergency response. With input from our partner organizations serving communities displaced by the wildfires, Food Forward tailored distributions of “hand fruit” and fruits and vegetables that could be consumed with limited kitchen availability to ensure people had access to nutrient-dense foods. We surpassed the volume of produce distributed over the same time period in 2024 by 40%.”

– **Food Forward**

“LA Más’ team has convened, facilitated, and supported the Northeast LA Food Justice Collaborate (FJC) – a network of 7 grassroots organizations working in food distribution and gift economies in Northeast LA. As part of creating a more connected food ecosystem, LA Más also opened up a new space in Cypress Park that has been the hub of community meetings and events. Of note was the hosting of Mercado NELA Comparte, a celebration of our local vendors and resources attended by 100+ residents. By participating in food distribution activities, our working class neighbors build a deep sense of belonging.”

– **LA Más**

“Nutrition and Food-Science students from CSUN are able to host a weekly nutrition booth at the market, facilitating discussions on nutrition and demonstrating healthy cooking recipes. Participants receive \$10.00 produce vouchers, allowing them to purchase the ingredients featured in the demonstrations. This approach has proven successful, leading to a steady increase in attendance at the nutrition booth and overall market sales. On a microeconomic level, all food vendors and artisans at our market are low-income community members enrolled in El Nido services. So far, we’ve assisted 26 community members in starting new businesses as market vendors, guiding them through obtaining necessary permits and insurance. We also provide consulting on their products and pricing, along with one-on-one marketing sessions where they create logos and set up social media accounts for promotion. Each of these 26 “Incubation Businesses” has successfully increased their family income through sales at our market, and at least six vendors have expanded to sell at additional markets and locations.”

– **El Nido Family Services**

LA Wild Fire Response



Regional Collaboratives and Strengthening Economies



Nutrition Promotion



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“The grant from the LA Food Equity Fund was like an early Christmas gift! Our kitchen was producing nearly 6,000 meals every day which put an enormous strain on our limited equipment to do the job. But thanks in great part to your support, we’ve been able to increase our weekly output of meals by about 1,500 so far, while also handling the additional demands to serve firefighters and victims of the wildfires that hit southern California so terribly in recent months. Hope the Mission received a recent visit by LA Mayor Karen Bass to review our food work. We also recently completed a Meatball Madness campaign in which hundreds of community volunteers helped prepare 250,000 meatballs for future meals. Hope the Mission provided thousands of meals daily to our frontline workers and victims of the wildfires. And we continue provide now about 6,200 meals every day which is more than LA Mission and Union Rescue Mission combined!” – **Hope the Mission**

LA Wild Fire Response



“Our urban agriculture work is innovative and sustainable and demonstrates what is possible while addressing nutrition insecurity. The Queen Park Learning Garden has served as a reliable food source for folks and a gathering place to learn and share. We also launched a Seed Library with the Inglewood Public Library so that many more people have access to resources for growing food right through their local library. The tower gardens are a hopeful demonstration of how to meet the needs of people in urban environments while addressing climate change and lack of access to land. We have been able to produce a lot of high quality food, and people are excited to learn about the system and get involved.” – **Social Justice Learning Institute**

Urban Agriculture in Action



“Our newly leased warehouse, located in Glassell Park, will continue our mission of expanding food access across L.A. County, doubling our refrigeration and storage capacity. We are entering this new space alongside mission and value-aligned partners – two non-profits, and a small BIPOC owned, for-profit organic farm – embracing an innovative model of cost, resource and space-sharing to amplify our collective impact: Polo’s Pantry, Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement, and Sunrise Organic Farms. Our partnership with these entities will allow for shared use of resources, not only in food storage and distribution, but also in collaborative fundraising efforts. As we transition into the new warehouse, we will deepen this collaboration to strengthen connections between surplus food, community-based organizations and individuals. Additionally, the partnership will create new opportunities for small farmers to connect with new institutional buyers in the region. Through this partnership, the Hub will improve logistics, broaden outreach, and increase our collective capacity to address food insecurity in Los Angeles.” – **Hollywood Food Coalition**

Food Hub Launches



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“We are thrilled to share that we have successfully purchased our tractor, which is expected to be delivered within the next two weeks. We purchased a Kubota LX4020HDSC and we are expected to have it delivered by June 30th, 2025. To celebrate this significant milestone, we will be hosting a gardening launch event where we will officially welcome the tractor to our garden and engage in planting activities. Over the past few months, we have conducted approximately 15 garden sessions, where we taught over 200 participants how to grow and produce food for their families. Currently, we are exploring the possibility of acquiring a refrigerated trailer instead of a van, as this option aligns better with our current funding. “ – **The WOW Flower Project**

Investment in Palmdale



“Union Station was able to purchase a new box truck delivery vehicle and to rent a refrigerated food storage unit, which facilitated new relationships with the Pasadena Convention Center and the Rose Bowl allowing us to access their surplus food and products as in-kind donations to our Community Meals Program. While this allowed us to reduce spending on food and kitchen products, it also helped us to pivot quickly in response to the devastating Eaton Fire in Altadena on January 7, 2025, during which we evacuated seven of our offices and facilities and moved our headquarter operations into a small office at our Adult Center shelter on Raymond Avenue. In the days and weeks following the fire, this additional equipment was essential in our ability to provide over 3,000 hot meals and shelf-stable food boxes plus water, hygiene supplies and linkage to additional support for approximately 4,000 people affected by the Eaton Fire.”

– **Union Station Homeless Services**

Serving Unhoused Communities



“Our Nutrition Classes have been particularly successful, with consistent attendance and positive feedback. Questionnaire responses indicate that participants are leaving the sessions more informed about healthy eating and are having a positive overall experience. Food demonstrations have emerged as some of our most popular events, with attendees expressing enthusiasm about learning new recipes and exploring different flavors. Additionally, our Crop Swaps are gaining momentum. These events have become valuable opportunities for community building and the exchange of experiential knowledge, while also encouraging participants to reconsider their relationship with food and the potential of their local food systems. Notably, our most recent Crop Swap was the best-attended event to date, with a growing number of participants returning regularly. “ – **Active San Gabriel Valley**

Crop Swaps: Community Engagement



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Appendix

Data Reported

Data reflected in this report is an aggregate of two progress reports submitted by capacity building grantees of the LA Food Equity Fund. The first cohort of grantees (34 submissions) reported project progress throughout September 2024 to February 2025. The second cohort of grantees (29 submissions) reported project progress throughout October 2024 to February 2025. Community Partners has met with two grantees with outstanding submissions.

Data Reported for Supervisorial Districts

“Projects serving SD# residents and county-wide” metrics were calculated by application question that asks grantees to, “indicate which Supervisorial Districts [will] funded work take place in.”

Supervisorial district maps reflect grantee application data. They are meant to provide context to progress report data.

“Capacity-building investments made for grantees serving SD #” and “Top activities reported by grantees in SD #” metrics reflect grantee progress made between September 2024 and February 2025.

The map legend label, “grantees headquartered in SD #” interprets grantee mailing addresses as organizational headquarters. “Grantee project areas (zip codes) in SD #” reflect grantee project zip codes of primary funded work (as indicated in their original application) that exclusively serve the Supervisorial District highlighted on the page.

Highlighted Metrics

“Implementation of Projects”, “Top activities reported by grantees in SD #”, and “Community Stories” metrics were produced via extensive qualitative coding and calculation. Community Partners’ Data Project Manager is more than willing to share the methodology with LA County Sustainability Office and Office of Food Systems.

