

April

2023



Santa Barbara School Garden with Bountiful Benefits During the Pandemic

Background

Santa Barbara County local health department (LHDs) educational project at Leonora Fillmore Elementary in Lompoc California includes direct education, indirect education and policy, systems and environmental (PSE) change support work that target the parents of school age children. The majority population at this elementary school is socioeconomically disadvantaged and includes many English language learners. The parents received direct education (pre-pandemic) using Project LEAN: Parents in Action lessons. Since receiving their education, they continued using the curriculum tools to plan and integrate additional changes at the school. The successful garden project was a direct result of using those tools and of the PSE change assistance provided by the Santa Barbara County CalFresh Healthy Living Program.

The Benefits of a School Garden during the Pandemic

Families and students from Leonora Fillmore Elementary benefited from having access to free organic vegetables grown in their school garden. The transformation of an abandoned and overgrown garden into a productive school garden was a complete success thanks to the technical assistance received from the Santa Barbara County CalFresh Healthy Living Program (SBCCFHLP), Fillmore school parent volunteers, and the school principal.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the school campus was closed, but parents realized there was a very large garden that could be utilized to provide free produce to students and families during this time of need, when many were unable to work due to the pandemic.

Unfortunately, the garden was in poor condition. Parents wanted to reinvigorate the once productive garden, but they were unsure of how to make this goal a reality.

Using the tools from Project LEAN and the SBCCFHLP staff, approximately 20 volunteers collaborated to create

an garden reinvigoration action plan that included:

- volunteer commitment
- garden based parent education lessons provided by the SBCCFHL staff
- acquiring access to the school garden when the campus was closed
- connecting with local businesses willing to support the school garden via donations of vegetable plantings, compost, and farm supplies
- collaboration with the school's Nutrition Services Director to utilize the harvested vegetables
- collaboration with the Lompoc Food Pantry to receive produce donations from the school garden


For three months, everyone worked together to achieve a bountiful harvest of romaine lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, tomatoes, butter lettuce, cilantro, kale, fennel, and onions. The produce was distributed as follows:

- 120 families participating in the summer lunch program
- 20 parent volunteers who worked in the garden
- Lompoc Unified School District Nutrition Services Department received over 400 pounds of produce for integration into the lunch program
- Lompoc Food Pantry Catholic Charities received over 300 pounds of produce.



"Fue maravilloso cumplir nuestra meta de tener acceso a vegetales frescos sin costo. [It was amazing achieving our goal of having access to fresh vegetables at no cost.]"

- Martha Oseguera (a garden parent volunteer and member of the English Learners Advisory Committee to the Lompoc Unified School District.)

Parents, school personnel and community members were very pleased with the success of the project. As a result, parents have continued cultivating the garden, parents are actively recruiting other families to participate and learn more about the school garden, local businesses committed to future donations for the garden, and the school principal is working with staff to create a student gardening club. 

KidsGardening.org Webinar Series - Culturally Inclusive Teaching in the Garden

KidsGardening.org is hosting a new webinar series in partnership with the Clif Family Foundation. The series is focused on *Culturally Inclusive Teaching in the Garden* and explores ways to “celebrate and center culture through garden-based learning.” The webinar series outline includes the following topics and past trainings were recorded and can be accessed using the link below:

January

Principles of Culturally-Responsive Garden Education: Honoring Diversity and Inclusion

February

Honoring Native American, Hawaiian, and Alaska Native Culture in Youth Gardens

March

Celebrating African American and Black Culture in Youth Gardens

April


Fostering Hispanic, Latinx and Spanish Origin Culture in Youth Gardens

May

Nurturing Middle Eastern and North African Culture in Youth Gardens

June

Featuring Asian and Asian American Culture in Youth Gardens

For more information, including links to access past webinar recordings, visit the [KidsGardening.org webinar series webpage](#). 

GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant Recipients Announced

KidsGardening.org has announced the [2023 GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant recipients](#)! One hundred and sixty (160) programs throughout the United States were awarded a combined total of \$95,000 to create or expand their youth garden programs. The following California organizations will receive the grant:

- Chula Vista Learning Community Charter High School (San Diego, California)
- EP Foster STEM Academy (Ventura, California)
- George Washington Carver Elementary School (San Diego, California)
- Indigenous Regeneration (Compton, California)
- Kingswood K-8 (Citrus Heights, California)
- Loma Vista Middle School (Riverside, California)
- Neighbor Program (Sacramento, California)
- New Leaf Collaborative (Martinez, California)
- Paradise Ridge Elementary School (Paradise, California)
- Santa Clara County Office of Education (San Jose, California)
- Sequoia Children's Center (Redwood City, California)

Congratulations to all receiving the grant to support the expansion of school gardening programs! 🧩



SNAP-Ed Materials Available

Did you know that you can order USDA select nutrition education materials? This is a last call for SNAP Government Printing Office material orders as this service will be discontinued in July 2023.

Click below for available materials.

<https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/node/2975>

For questions on these materials contact snap-edcnection@usda.gov. 🧩



More than a Meal: School Food Service Professional Development Training

What better time than in June during **Farm to Summer Week** to provide staff with ways to share nutrition education during meal service?

The Dairy Council of California has created a professional development opportunity for school foodservice professionals titled *More Than a Meal: Creative Ways to Share Nutrition Messaging with Kids* that is perfect for staff to complete during **Farm to Summer Week!**

In this no cost, interactive, pre-recorded training, foodservice professionals will learn the benefits of nutrition education and school meals. They will also identify ways to provide nutrition education at the time of meal service. The training course includes handouts, quizzes, and certificates; and participants can receive up to two continuing education credits. It can be done self-paced or offered as a group training through zoom or in person.

Interested in this training? Please contact Heather Berkoben htroska@HealthyEating.org 




Nutrition Policy Institute General Announcements

Interested in seeing your evaluation data in real time?

We are looking for five LHDs to help us pilot our data dashboard tool (Hub). Learn More about the Hub pilot: [Hub_Pilot](#).

Please contact Kaela Plank at: krplank@ucanr.edu if interested.

Upcoming Cross-Project Office Hours: June 15, 2023, at 11-11:45am.
Register in advance for this meeting: [Zoom Meeting](#) 



California Department of Public Health Connection
CalFresh Healthy Living, California Department of Public Health Training and Events Calendar

Sign In
Search this site

CalFresh Healthy Living Training Resources

Training Update

Check out the CDPH [Training & Events webpage](#) for the latest training information and calendar of scheduled events.

LHD Learning Communities – 3rd and 4th Quarter!

Two dynamic and engaging virtual events will be held later this year to support learning, networking, and resource sharing with your CDPH local agency community.

We want to hear from you!


Do you have a specific topic or activity you would like to learn more about? Let the CDPH Team know by emailing us at NEOPBTrainingSection@cdph.ca.gov.

ToP Strategic Planning Interest Survey

Interested in a ToP Strategic Planning course to take your organization and community beyond action plans to navigate more complex change? If so, please complete this short [survey](#) to show your interest! Possible training dates are subject to interest during the summer months. Stay tuned!



CalFresh Healthy Living Statewide Training Resources

For information regarding CalFresh Healthy Living Statewide Training events and resources, email CFHLStatewideTraining@leahspantry.org 




FNS Directive on CFHL Branded Shirts

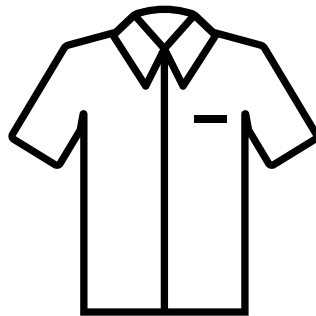
The United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) denied a request from the California Department of Social Services to allow CalFresh Healthy Living state and local implementing agencies to use Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) funding to purchase branded shirts. Therefore, branded shirts will not be considered an allowable SNAP-Ed purchase.

However, agencies can use non-SNAP-Ed funding to purchase branded shirts for SNAP-Ed staff.

Name Tags and Aprons

FNS did specify that SNAP-Ed funds **can** be used to purchase name tags for SNAP-Ed personnel and branded aprons for educators conducting recipe demonstrations and taste tests.

If you have any further questions, please contact your Project Officer. 



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