



**San Diego Food Funders
RFP OVERVIEW
December 2017**

San Diego Food Funders will provide funding to increase access to nutritious meals before, during, and after school for youth of any age throughout San Diego County. Projects will serve low and middle income youth and the change will be sustainable over time.

Background

San Diego Food Funders (SDFF) is a funder collaboration facilitated by San Diego Grantmakers that supports the creation of an equitable food system by addressing hunger and other challenges. In June 2016 SDFF brought together a group of school district food services and nutrition leaders, County Health & Human Services, technical assistance providers and funders to discuss how to increase participation in and consumption of federal school meals programs.

Encouraged to learn that one-time support by philanthropy could fuel ongoing government funding of expanded or improved programs, SDFF conducted research about the most impactful ways *philanthropy* has supported programs nationally and locally. High-impact opportunities include: equipment/ infrastructure, staff capacity, and building youth's ability to advocate for themselves. Funding skilled assistance to access government funds was also noted as a potential leveraging strategy.

Impact

Outcomes for youth: Improving access to and nutrition of meals consumed by youth not only combats hunger and improves nutrition, but can improve young people's social-emotional and educational development. Of nearly 500,000 students ages 5-17 in San Diego County, 49.7% receive free or reduced-price meals in school¹. Thus, nearly a quarter-million youth can be impacted by this effort; more if we increase enrollment and/or include children ages 0-5.

Leverage: We aim to provide an 8:1 leverage through this pool. An investment of \$100,000 combines with other SDFF participation of \$300,000 to reach 4:1. Applicants will be required to demonstrate a cash or in-kind match, and the initial \$100,000 becomes \$800,000 (8:1).

Evidence-based interventions, confirmed by community: Research by SDFF shows that lack of kitchen infrastructure and staffing are the main impediments to increasing the volume of meals served and the nutritional content (e.g., more hours or a special oven are required to cook food from scratch or use fresh produce). Sources include the Orfalea Fund; The California Endowment; and analysis by The Pew Charitable Trusts and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In the June 2016 gathering of San Diego practitioners, this was confirmed. We also know that state and federal grants and programs to increase enrollment of eligible youth are available and that opportunities are being missed because programs do not have the capacity and/or expertise to apply.

A smooth process for meal providers and funders: By funding collaboratively, San Diego Food Funders eases the burden on school and community based organizations to access funding dollars. In addition, funders coordinate their grants to avoid duplication, minimize the combined effort to assess requests, gain information about how to measure success and the impact of these types of investments, and learn how to make continued grant-making in this area more effective.

¹ CA Department of Education, Free/Reduced Price Meal data: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/sd/filespp.asp>

Population Served / Grant Parameters

- **Income:** Supported programs must serve low and middle income youth/free and reduced price lunch recipients.
- **Geography:** Internal targets to be regionally diverse (i.e., North, Central, South, East County grantees). Members will actively recruit applicants from diverse regional sites.
- **Age:** Invite proposals for programs that serve all ages, acknowledging that strategies will apply differently to different age groups.
- **Buy-in:** Require an indication of top-down buy-in from the school, understanding that while the Food Services Department budget is independent, administrators can pledge time/promotion.

Funding Profile

- Initial funder participants: 4-6
- Projected funds: \$400,000+
- Committed (as of Nov 30): \$225,000
- Matching funds: 50-100% (cash and in-kind, e.g., technical assistance via County or nonprofit)
- *Additional match:* USDA Farm to School has interest in additional infrastructure funding match
- Pooled & aligned funds: some funds are contributed to a pool and distributed through an agreed upon decision-making process; others might support proposals independently, but with connected goals and in coordination with the overall effort

Members of the San Diego Food Funders currently participating in RFP discussion

Alliance Healthcare Foundation; Lynn Family Fund; Moxie Foundation; Rancho Santa Fe Foundation; Parker Foundation; Price Philanthropies; County of San Diego HHSA