

March 2016

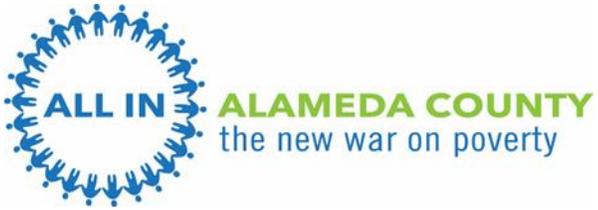
Quarterly Report

ALL IN Alameda County is an innovation hub *within county government* that leverages the insights and efforts of community residents, local businesses, grassroots organizing efforts, traditional nonprofits, and foundations to promote equity, opportunity, and the well-being of all county residents.

ALL IN is unique in its ability to inform state and local policy based on the direct experiences of county residents, as well as its capacity to innovate, pilot, evaluate, and scale solutions that work.

ALL IN's vision and goals are rooted in the belief that all families in Alameda County must be able to:

- Meet their basic needs for shelter, food, and safety,
- Earn an income that allows for self-sufficiency and asset building,
- Obtain a quality education that positions the next generation for academic and economic success.



QUARTERLY REPORT SUMMARY

ALL IN engaged community residents in a community listening process that concluded in January 2016. Through mini-grants, nonprofits and community leaders hosted 50 listening sessions with approximately 1,000 people across Alameda County to hear their concerns, priorities, and ideas for moving their communities forward. As 2016 begins, ALL IN is moving from ideas to action.

ALL IN hosted a Social Innovation Fair on February 5th, that brought almost 300 people together in seven different “challenge tracks” to explore solutions in the following areas:

- Affordable housing
- Cal-Fresh enrollment
- Food recovery
- Food as medicine
- Youth career development
- Entrepreneurship
- Advocacy

The workplans emerging from this day-long event are ALL IN’s implementation priorities in 2016.

This report presents the findings from the community listening sessions and the action plans developed at the Social Innovation Fair.



REPORT ON: COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

Overview

Seventeen mini-grants were made to a range of nonprofit organizations and community leaders, who held over 50 listening sessions in all regions of the county, including Berkeley, East and West Oakland, Alameda, Fremont, Livermore, and Pleasanton. These groups conducted sessions in Spanish, English, Chinese, ASL, and Farsi and reached seniors, people with disabilities, youth, and families throughout the county.

What People Are Saying About...

Meeting Their Basic Needs

Throughout the county, residents expressed concerns about the following issues:

- Affordable housing
- Affordable and reliable transportation services
- Affordable child care
- Affordable, quality, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food and fresh produce
- Safety of neighborhood- traffic, built environment, crime, violence, clean sidewalks
- Availability of information in multiple languages



Accessing Good Jobs

Alameda County residents would like to see job training programs, especially ones tailored for youth, women, and the elderly. Residents stressed the importance of linking training to job opportunities. Participants were also concerned about the unsustainable nature of part-time and seasonal jobs; they would like to see greater opportunities for full-time jobs with advancement opportunities as well as increased access to jobs that provide a living wage. There was also considerable interest from the community in building wealth.

An Excellent Education for the Next Generation

Alameda County residents want more afterschool programs for children and youth and better access to quality education and teachers. The community would also like to see more education opportunities, such as computer and English classes at the adult schools and more vocational training. Assistance with college applications and financial aid was another common interest among listening session participants.

Recommendations for ALL IN

The participants in the listening sessions offered the following recommendations to ALL IN for causes to champion in 2016:

- Raise Alameda County minimum wage
- Identify and support ways to increase access to healthy foods
- Support the Californians 4 SSI coalition
- Advocate for free bus passes for students and seniors
- Advocate for rent control and/or increase affordable housing
- Identify and support job training programs
- Develop a clearinghouse of information on programs and services

Most Important Outcomes of Community Listening Sessions

Participants feel heard, valued, and motivated to stay involved in helping their communities thrive. ALL IN learned about community priorities generally, and about specific issues regarding food security and economic well-being, and was able to document stories from community residents that illustrate communities' strengths, challenges, and ideas. Through this process, community residents have the opportunity to become active leaders in ALL IN Alameda County.

REPORT ON: SOCIAL INNOVATION FAIR

Overview

Using guidance from community residents' responses during the listening session process, ALL IN Alameda County offered the following Challenge Tracks and goals to guide participants in developing action plans at the February 5, 2016 ALL IN for Thriving Communities Social Innovation Fair:

- **Food Recovery:** Develop a comprehensive county-wide food recovery system
- **Food as Medicine:** Provide 500 food prescriptions for moms and seniors
- **CalFresh:** Enroll 100% of eligible Alameda County residents in CalFresh
- **Youth Career Pathways:** Provide 200 youth with career-related jobs and connect them with bank accounts they can use to deposit their paychecks
- **Affordable Housing:** Increase the number of residents with vouchers finding permanent housing within 3 months
- **Entrepreneurship:** Support 50 local entrepreneurs from concept to launch within a year
- **Advocacy:** Join advocacy efforts to raise the living wage, increase the SSI cap, and expand early childcare and education

For more information on our partners and their work, please check out the links under “Essential Partners” for each Challenge Track.



Food Recovery

What Is Food Recovery?

Food recovery refers to efforts to divert useable surplus food from landfill and compost bins and redistribute it to people in need. For example, grocery stores routinely take food off their shelves that has passed the “sell by” date, even though this type of food usually can still be consumed safely. A food recovery initiative would identify strategies to get surplus food such as this to food pantries and nonprofit organizations that can provide it to their clients.

What We Have Learned So Far

There is a great deal of unused food in Alameda County, and simultaneously, high levels of food insecurity (defined as someone not knowing where their next meal is coming from). However, the county lacks a reliable infrastructure for transporting surplus food to people who could use it. Additionally, many food producers are unaware of the rules and regulations that allow them to donate, and they may be concerned about liability. There are small-scale pilot efforts by nonprofit organizations that have been successful, and several efforts to study the problem are underway. Outside of Alameda County, there are several jurisdictions that have developed highly successful, full-scale efforts. In many cases, successful food recovery projects involve technology, such as a smart phone app that links food donors, distributors, and recipients. It is also important to recognize the diversity in our community and match the donations to the recipients with cultural sensitivity. Relying solely on volunteer labor is unsustainable, and a revenue model with paid staff is needed to guarantee a reliable distribution infrastructure.

What We Would Like To See

Leadership that brings together all of the key stakeholders in food recovery is essential for designing a comprehensive food recovery system. A single county app, and a common marketplace and communication hub to distribute food throughout the county would greatly reduce food insecurity. The first step is to **create a map of the food recovery ecosystem** including producers, transportation, and distribution sites to determine what our next steps are in building a county infrastructure for food recovery.

- **Essential Partners:** [Alameda County Public Health Department](#), [Alameda County Environmental Health](#), [StopWaste](#), [FoodShift](#), [Northern CA Recycling Association](#), [Waste Management](#)



CalFresh

What is CalFresh?

CalFresh is California's version of the federal program Supplemental Assistance to Needy Families (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps.

What We Have Learned So Far

We know many people who are eligible for CalFresh are not participating due to lack of awareness, misconceptions, or stigma surrounding the use of the program. The length of the application form can also be a barrier to eligible residents despite efforts to streamline the process. Additionally, there can be a high caseload of CalFresh approvals for eligibility workers in the Social Services Agency, and processing cases can take time. Highly successful collaborations do exist that increase enrollment, for example, the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) provides a great deal of CalFresh outreach to low-income residents throughout the county.

What We Would Like To See

Collaboration between the Social Services Agency and the ACCFB will continue and expand, with the goal of enrolling thousands of families who are already enrolled in Medi-Cal into the CalFresh program as well. This increased enrollment would result in thousands of additional dollars coming in to our county from the federal government to be spent at local retail outlets and farmers' markets.

In addition to this ongoing outreach, our goal is **to partner with local farms to deliver boxes of fresh produce (CSA boxes) to seniors who are eligible for CalFresh, and to leverage a federal dollar match called "Market Match"** to increase the value and utilization of CalFresh benefits by seniors.

- **Essential Partners:** [Alameda County Social Services Agency](#), [ACCFB](#), [California Association of Food Banks](#), [Ecology Center](#), [Namu Farms](#), [Acta Non Verba](#), senior living communities, [Area Agency on Aging](#), [Justice in Aging](#), Senior Centers, [Healthy Homes](#), other senior serving organizations



Food as Medicine

What is Food As Medicine?

Medical providers and nutritionists know that good food promotes good health, and also that certain chronic diseases, from diabetes to heart disease to obesity, can be dramatically improved through healthy eating. However, many people in our county who could benefit most from the health benefits of good nutrition lack access to fresh, healthy food. For the Food as Medicine initiative, medical providers from clinics across the county will plan together with urban growers and food distributors to provide “food prescriptions” to hundreds of families that can be “filled” at local farmers’ markets, community gardens, and food stands, or through bags of fresh produce delivered straight to their doorstep.

What We Have Learned So Far

Previous initiatives to provide healthy food to families as a health promotion strategy have been funded by national philanthropic organizations. These projects were highly successful, and well-liked by everyone involved. Important lessons were learned through these early initiatives. For example, providers realized that families will not necessarily “fill” a food prescription, nor do parents necessarily know how to prepare meals using fresh produce. At several hospitals and clinics around the county, medical providers and food growers and distributors are continuing to experiment with various models for getting healthy food to patients.

What We Would Like To See

Our goal is to **design a system for the delivery of food as medicine in Alameda County**, starting with at least 500 pregnant and nursing moms, and senior citizens. We are working to engage health providers, and match them with food distributors, as well as health educators, nutritionists, and cooking instructors. Alameda County Dept. of Public Health will provide culturally relevant cookbooks, and classes/demos for patients. We are exploring the development of a smartphone app that can be used to help patients and doctors in follow-up and assessing progress.

- **Essential Partners:** [Alameda County Department of Public Health](#), [Dig Deep Farms](#), [Mandela Marketplace](#), [Alameda County Community Food Bank](#), healthcare providers, [WIC](#), [First 5](#), [Head Start](#), [Fresh Approach](#), senior centers, neighborhood orchards, faith-based groups, [Hope Collaborative](#)

Youth Career Pathways

What Are Youth Career Pathways?

Youth jobs or youth unemployment is often a focus area for local policymakers. The idea of “youth career pathways” goes beyond the notion of “jobs for youth,” and asks us to consider what job and educational opportunities will prepare young people for future careers that will enable them to prosper economically and grow in their contributions to their communities.

What We Have Learned So Far

Hiring youth can be seen as an unnecessary burden to employers due to misconceptions around youth work ethic, lack of experience, or liability issues. Young people can lack information or access to resources that would help them market themselves to potential employers, as well as a lack of information about how to find available jobs, and which jobs might help prepare them for a meaningful career.

What We Would Like To See

Our goal is to **develop a youth-centered smartphone app** that provides real-time job postings, career building tools, and an effective referral service – imagine a “LinkedIn” for young people. The success of this app relies on partnerships with local employers who are willing to mentor and train youth, and provide them pathways to careers.

- **Essential Partners:** Youth development nonprofit organizations, Workforce Investment Boards, local Chambers of Commerce, local neighborhood business associations, school districts, municipal leaders, Alameda County youth



Affordable Housing

Why Affordable Housing?

Alameda County, like much of the rest of the Bay Area, is facing a true crisis in housing availability and affordability. Median rents and home prices have skyrocketed very quickly, and low income families and individuals are being displaced from their long-term homes, and priced out of other housing. The county offers a variety of supportive services to help families find housing, ranging from shelter services to Section 8 housing vouchers. However, even families with vouchers are having trouble finding landlords who will rent to them, because the landlords can make so much more per month on their properties on the open market.

What We Have Learned So Far

There is a lack of incentives for landlords to take subsidies, as rules and requirements can feel burdensome, and there is often a stigma about tenants who receive subsidies. Landlord engagement has been happening to build trust and relationships to support programs, but it has not been done to scale, and absentee and corporate landlords have been more difficult to engage than local “Mom and Pop” landlords.

What We Would Like To See

Our goal is to **increase landlord incentives by streamlining the process and creating sustainable and flexible funding sources**. We will also formalize local landlord relationships and provide recognition and engagement for those who participate in voucher programs. Our goal for the tenants is to **provide training and workshops for getting and retaining housing**. We will provide them with “one stop housing shops” to educate and assist the tenants with credit reports, the application process, interviews, and appeals. We will support both these goals with community education and engagement to advocate for funding and increased affordable housing.

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- **Essential Partners:** Federal, State, County, Cities, CBOs, NPOs, Landlords, Housing Authorities, Tenants, [Attitudinal Healing Connection](#), [Eden I&R](#), [Bonita House](#), [BOSS](#), [East Bay Community Law Center](#), Housing Authorities, housing providers, funders ([United Way](#)), colleges, current advocacy groups, faith community

Entrepreneurship

Why Entrepreneurship?

Investing in the local entrepreneurs boosts the local economy – these business owners are friends, neighbors, and family, who shop and play in the same neighborhoods. Entrepreneurial endeavors offer residents an opportunity to provide services to their communities in addition to providing sustainable incomes.

What We Have Learned So Far

Many budding entrepreneurs face challenges as they try to take their ideas from concept to reality. Young entrepreneurs especially need more tools to navigate the requirements of writing a business plan, procuring licensing, and finding seed funding.

What We Would Like To See

Our goals are to **develop a pilot entrepreneurship/co-op curriculum in three high schools** through a student club that results in students creating at least five co-ops in one year and **create a resource guide with five steps to start a business**. To create the pilot program, we will adapt the existing entrepreneurship/co-op curriculum to youth in high schools, and teach the adapted model through clubs, elective classes, and projects in existing math and economics courses. We will leverage smartphone technology, possibly at the Hackathon, to develop an easily-accessible online resource guide to start a business. Promotion of these materials and entrepreneurship as an option will be done through community groups such as faith based organizations, schools, coffee shops, public offices, and social media.

- **Essential Partners:** [Workers Co-op Academy](#), [Island High School](#), teachers, School Boards, Grant/Donors, [Mandela Marketplace](#), [Roots for Success](#), faith based organizations, employment training groups

Living Wage

Why a Living Wage?

Too often, low-income employees are forced to work a patchwork of minimum wage jobs to make ends meet. The stress of balancing multiple jobs, families, and community engagement is burdensome, and full time jobs with sustainable wages are an important step towards economic equity.

What We Have Learned So Far

Minimum wage jobs, meant to reflect the lowest wage one could live on, no longer cover basic living expenses. A patchwork of legislation from the state and individual cities has led to small increases in recent years, but not enough to reach a living wage in Alameda County. Leaving the minimum wage up to each individual city has proven difficult, especially in areas less receptive to wage increases, and a \$15/hr wage polls well among Californians state-wide.

What We Would Like To See

Our goal is to **pass a statewide minimum wage which reaches \$15/hr** in 2021 with yearly COLA from 2022 onward. We need to maximize voter turnout and percentage of “yes” votes throughout Alameda County.

- **Essential partners:** [SEIU](#), low-wage workers

Early Childcare

Why Early Childcare?

The first few years of a child's life are instrumental for educational and behavioral development, which lays the foundation for a child's future physical and mental health. Early childcare provides early education, which is proven to help children succeed, and is an important tool in breaking the cycle of poverty.

What We Have Learned So Far

We know the challenges facing early childcare access are funding resources and a waitlist with an estimated 10,000 children on it.

What We Would Like To See

Our goal is to **convene players to articulate a request for revenue generation** by budget or by ballot by June 2016.

- **Essential Partners:** Early childhood advocates, [Alameda County Early Childhood Policy Committee \(ACECPC\)](#), early care and education providers, parents, [Parent Voices](#), [Bay Area PLAN \(Parent Leadership Action Network\)](#), [First 5 Alameda County](#), [Bananas](#), [4Cs](#), LPC, [Children Now](#), [Brighter Beginnings](#), Hello Baby, [Head Start](#), [Youth Hub Fellowship](#)

SSI Funding

Why SSI Funding?

SSI is supplemental security income, a federal supplement designed to aid seniors, blind, disabled, and low-income people in meeting their basic clothing, food, and shelter needs. \$889 is not enough to survive on for the 1.3 million seniors and people with disabilities.

What We Have Learned So Far

Investment in SSI funding has not been a priority in the past; however, after continued advocacy, state legislators and the Governor now have plans to increase SSI funding. This increase is still not enough as people are hungry, on the brink of homelessness, and cannot afford basic household items.

What We Would Like To See

Our goal is to **achieve at least \$21 increase in SSI benefit by June 15** by targeting state legislators in Alameda County. We need to mobilize essential partners and community residents through petitions, meetings with legislators, and potentially, a mobilization day in Sacramento.

- **Essential Partners:** [CA4SSI](#), senior serving organizations, seniors on SSI, disability organizations, people with disabilities on SSI



STAY INVOLVED!

- Attend ALL IN membership meetings:
 - Thursday, May 19, 11 am-1 pm
 - Thursday, June 16, 11 am-1 pm
 - Thursday, September 15, 11 am-1 pm
 - Thursday, November 17, 11 am-1pm
- Action teams are forming around the seven challenge track topics. Your participation and leadership are appreciated! For more information or to join an action team, contact Sarah Oddie at Sarah.Oddie@acgov.org.



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