



COMMUNITY HEALTH
IMPROVEMENT PARTNERS

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PRESS RELEASE

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Farm to Institution Council to Serve as a Community Cornerstone for the Good Food Movement

Council formation is an exciting step toward engaging collaboration among diverse institutions and local growers

San Diego, CA—There is a growing movement toward buying and eating local, healthy, and sustainably-sourced foods in San Diego. As reported in the [State of Farm to School in San Diego County Report](#), dozens of San Diego County school districts source locally and regionally grown products valued at over \$6 million. A rapidly increasing number of school districts, hospitals, preschools, universities, and restaurants are also looking to join the movement, as local sourcing is an evidence-based practice for promoting healthy eating. Buying local, healthy foods not only supports our local farmers and the economic development of San Diego as whole, but also brings good food to the people. It may come as no surprise that San Diegans eating good food is a major driver of change toward reducing obesity and improving other health outcomes.

The support for good food has grown to the point where institutions are starting to *fundamentally rethink* their food procurement plans. This momentum toward institutions (universities, school districts, hospitals, local government, etc.) procuring local, healthy food will be enhanced by the formation of the San Diego County Farm to Institution (F2I) Council. The F2I Council is led and facilitated by Community Health Improvement Partners (CHIP), a San Diego non-profit organization with the mission of advancing long-term solutions to priority health needs through collaboration and community engagement. CHIP has been a longstanding proponent of supporting good food through increasing local procurement.

The F2I Council will bring together people working within the institutional food supply chain (food service directors, nutrition directors, distributors, farmers, etc.) to collaborate and solve common problems hindering growth in local procurement. The collaborations will center around three key areas: 1) sharing best practices and strategies between institutions, 2) bridging the gap between local farmers and institutions, and 3) building awareness of local farms and foods among key populations. The overall goal of the F2I Council is to increase procurement of healthy food grown or produced locally or in other areas of California.

CHIP sees F2I Council meetings as a space where institutions and growers will meet to discuss challenges and successes supporting good food procurement in the region, as well as to foster more in-depth solution-based collaborations among consortium members. This latter point is key to the F2I Council's value: to serve as a launching point for building a better institutional local food supply chain in San Diego. CHIP has created similar successful collaborative groups among schools with the San Diego County Farm to School Task Force and among hospitals with the Nutrition in Healthcare Leadership Team. With the F2I Council, CHIP is planning to utilize the diversity of the group to create more channels for learning and growth in local food procurement and the good food movement as a whole.

More to come soon in kicking off the Council!

CHIP's food systems core funding:



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About Community Health Improvement Partners

Community Health Improvement Partners (CHIP) is a San Diego non-profit collaboration of organizations who envision communities where everyone achieves optimal health. The mission of CHIP is to advance long-term solutions to priority health needs through collaboration and community engagement. CHIP members include hospitals, health plans, community clinics, community-based organizations, physicians, universities, and the County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency, among others. CHIP facilitates the San Diego County Farm to School Taskforce and Nutrition in Healthcare Leadership Team, two countywide consortiums comprised of institutional food services, growers, distributors, and other key stakeholders working to increase local, sustainable procurement in schools and hospitals. CHIP's farm to institution efforts are supported by The Leichtag Foundation and the California Department of Food and Agriculture. For more information, visit www.sdchip.org or contact Prem Durairaj, CHIP Director of Food systems and Research, at pdurairaj@sdchip.org or 858-609-7862.