

# School and Community Gardens

Communities Putting Prevention to Work is a program of the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency funded by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act from March 19, 2010 to March 18, 2012. The goal of the grant is to reduce chronic disease through policy, environmental, and organizational changes that target three focus areas: healthy physical activity, healthy nutrition, and healthy school environments.



## Focus Area: Healthy Nutrition

**Background:** The permitting process for establishing community gardens in San Diego County varies from city to city and can cost up to \$40,000, making the installation of community gardens difficult for local residents. Schools are generally supportive of school gardens but need long-term partnerships in order to sustain them year-round.

## Outcomes:

- Increase access to fresh produce grown in school and community gardens.
- Develop and implement policies in general plans, permits and/or ordinances to establish and sustain school and community gardens.

## Deliverables:

### *Regional Garden Education Centers*

- Establish five Regional Garden Education Centers to educate and train community garden managers, school staff and volunteers, and community residents.

### *School Gardens*

- Assist in the development and adoption of school district wellness policy language and joint-use policies that support school gardens.
- Assist with the integration of school garden activities into school curricula and after-school programs.

### *Juvenile Probation Facility Garden*

- Provide support for establishing a garden at one of the County Probation Detention facilities.

### *Community Gardens*

- Partner with three communities to develop policies in existing general plans, permits, and/or ordinances for gardens.
- Compile strategies to increase access to and utilization of community gardens by the general population.

### *Food System*

- Conduct two educational forums for school and healthcare food service directors to promote healthy food service environments and the use of local produce.

**Contractor:** University of California, San Diego (UCSD)

**Subcontractors:** Community Health Improvement Partners (CHIP)

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