

EMBEDDING RACIAL EQUITY: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FOOD JUSTICE GRANT PROCESS

Aimée Zenzele Barnes, Office of Diversity and Equity, Human Resources

Ginger Weagraff, Office of Innovation and Economic Development

Mayor Pro Tem Mai Vang, City Council District 8

Mikel Davila, Office of Innovation and Economic Development

January 24, 2023

Presentation Purpose

- Summarize efforts to integrate racial equity practices into the City's **ARPA Food Justice Grant Program**
- Share lessons learned and identify opportunities for improvement

Presentation Overview

1

Background

2

Grant Development

3

Awards

4

Grant Implementation

5

Lessons Learned

1.

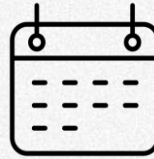
Background

Local Food Justice Context



2020

- The City's responded to the pandemic with a myriad of food access programs, including **Great Plates Delivered**, which distributed \$20M worth of prepared meals to seniors quarantined at home
- The City received support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop a Community Action Plan around three Food-Anchored Resiliency Hubs



2021

- City Council appropriated **\$1 million** in ARPA funds to food justice
- City Council adopted the **Interim Rapid Response Tool (IRRT)** to apply to ARPA projects/programs



2022

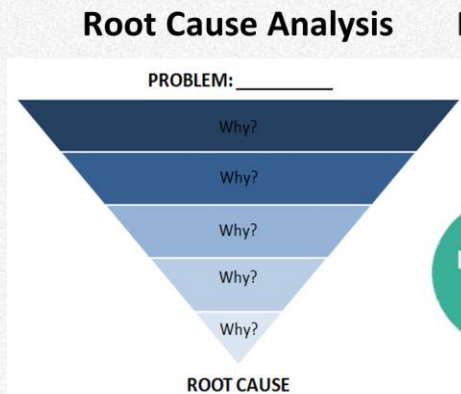
- The **Food Justice Task Force** held its first meeting
- **ARPA Food Justice Grant Program** **launched** with input from the Food Justice Task Force

ARPA Interim Rapid Response Tool (IRRT) is a Racial Equity Tool..

..A Racial Equity Tool Are Sets of Questions

Guiding Principles:

- We must center efforts on populations at highest risk in this health pandemic and most susceptible to the compounding effects of the impending economic crisis.
- Equity-based decisions happen faster when equity practitioners, subject matter experts and the most impacted communities are regularly in the decision-making spaces.
- Monetary relief and aid packages should go directly to individuals or community organizations reflective of lessons learned from the previous allocation of federal relief funds.



Racial Equity Lens



ARPA IRRT – DRIVING QUESTIONS



CLARIFYING THE PURPOSE

- What does the proposal seek to accomplish?
- Will it reduce disparities or discrimination?



EXAMINING THE CAUSES

- What factors may be producing and perpetuating racial inequities associated with this issue?
- How did the inequities arise?
- Are they expanding or narrowing?
- Does the proposal address root causes? If not, how could it?



IDENTIFYING SUCCESS INDICATORS

- What are the success indicators and progress benchmarks?
- How will impacts be documented and evaluated?
- How will the level, diversity and quality of ongoing stakeholder engagement be assessed?

2. Grant Development

Applying the IRRT to the ARPA Food Justice Grant Program

Convened a cross-departmental staff team for input:

- **Clarifying the Purpose:** Address health and transportation equity and provide culturally appropriate-foods
- **Examine Causes:** Fractured policies, lack of investments, supermarket redlining, the pandemic exacerbated existing structural issues
- **Identify Success Indicators:** Areas of high SNAP eligibility and enrollment, low-income and low food access, racial/ethnic demographics of service area, etc.

If your organization would like to participate in the Food Justice Taskforce, contact Asia Lee at amlee@cityofsacramento.org

FOOD JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Though Sacramento may be America's Farm-to-Fork Capital, here in our own backyard many of our families and residents go hungry. Together, we can build a more robust and resilient food economy for our region, ensuring that there is sufficient, healthy, and accessible food for all.

City of
SACRAMENTO
OFFICE of MAYOR DARRELL STEINBERG

 **MAI
VANG**
SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

WHY A FOOD JUSTICE TASKFORCE?



- The City must have a Food Justice Taskforce to guide its policy making.
- Food justice cannot be achieved without a broad and powerful coalition of advocates who understand the forces we're up against and have the resources we need to act locally.
- This taskforce is not time-bound. It's an ongoing initiative to center equity in our local food system.
- Food justice is racial justice, demanding a clear understanding of how our current system has shaped our food systems – nationally, and right here in Sacramento where Black, Latinx, Indigenous and AAPI communities have not enjoyed equal access to nutritious and culturally relevant foods, good food jobs, economically vibrant neighborhoods, and the opportunity to thrive.

Two Top Priorities for ARPA

1. Increasing Access Points to Healthy Food

Programming & Activities May Include:

- Culturally relevant farmer's markets
- Expanding food literacy and taste education programs in both K-12 schools and for adults.
- Funding to support community garden programming in neighborhoods
- Food delivery centered around specific populations, housing sites, and/or neighborhoods
- Local market support for underserved communities
- Healthy corner store programming
- Healthy mobile food trucks and/or market

Two Top Priorities for ARPA

2. Investing in our Local Food System Economy

Programming & Activities May Include:

- Assistance for Small Farmers/Food Entrepreneurs/Restaurants
- Capital investment grants to level up or startup an urban farm or delivery business (food system infrastructure)
- Technical assistance to build organizational capacity in addressing food insecurity
- Funding for apprenticeship programs and/or training programs in agriculture, food production and ag-technology
- Supporting application where applicable to be used a matching funds for larger grants
- Subsidized initial leasing for private vacant land / city land

Authorized Activities & Application Tiers

Tier 1: Micro Grants

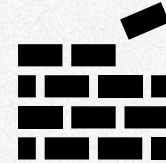
Maximum request = \$5,000
Maximum number of awards = 20

Tier 2: Large Grants

Maximum request = \$200,000



Services and
Programs



Fixed Assets
& Equipment



Operational
Support



Capacity Building
& TA

Grant Design

- No matching requirement
- Advance/start up payments considered
- Focus on high need areas and those impacted by COVID
- Eligible applicants are nonprofit or for profit
- NOFA open for >6 weeks
- Fiscal sponsors allowed
- HQ can be located outside of city boundary, so long as services benefit Sacramento residents/families/youth
- Streamlined application, including checklist of required information.

Outreach and Engagement



- Devised an outreach plan in collaboration with the City's Community Engagement Team
- Translated outreach materials into three threshold languages of Spanish, Hmong, and Vietnamese
- Hosted two information sessions featuring live translators

3.

Awards

Review Panel and Selection Process

- Implemented a community review panelist application process modeled after a similar effort by the Office of Arts and Culture
- Three community members experienced in the food industry served on the review panel
- Conducted orientation for review panelist that included racial equity onboarding such as sharing the City's racial equity statement and definitions, and the results of IRRT.
- Convened a four-hour, in-person review panel deliberation meeting.
- Offered a debrief to applicants not recommended for funding

Awardee Summary

[Introduction/Program Desc.](#)

[Meet Our Inaugural Grant Recip...](#)

[Putting ARPA Funds to Work in ...](#)

[Food Justice in the News](#)

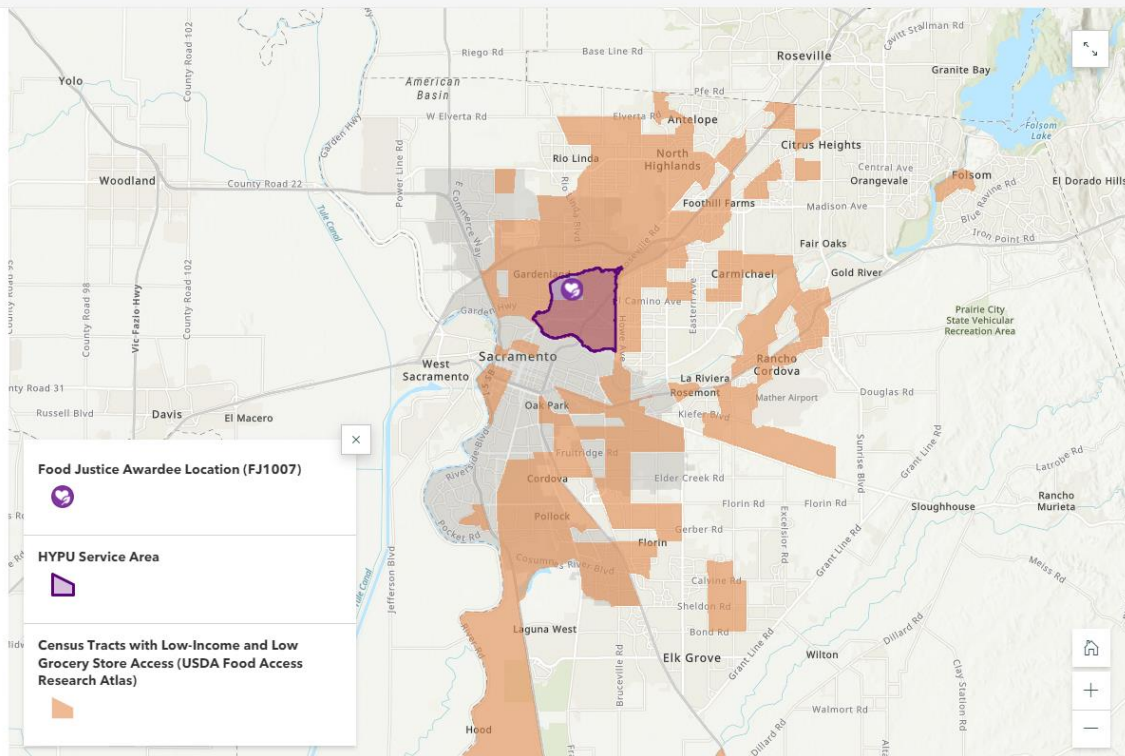


Hmong Youth and Parents United (HYPU)

Grant Funded Program: Hmong Youth and Parents United will host three Harvest Market events and distribute free fresh produce bundles. The grantee will also expand its educational garden project to engage youth and seniors in activities including gardening, nutrition, and cooking workshops.

Target Population: Vulnerable populations in North Sacramento and City Council District 2.

People Served Annually: HYPU anticipates serving approximately 900 individuals annually, which equates to 300 individuals per Harvest Market event. The grantee also plans to engage at least 30 youth and 10 seniors in educational gardening



4. Grant Implementation

Reporting & Ongoing Program Management



- Implementing a standardized reporting template
- Designing a grantee demographic survey
- Convening a grantee orientation and quarterly grantee meetings to share resources, updates and feedback for City consideration
- Identifying capacity building and technical assistance opportunities beyond what's included within individual grant agreements
- Advancing funds to meet immediate grantee needs

5. Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned

Pre-award process

Utilize a more user-friendly application platform

Add an office hours component

Award process

Create a citywide application process/database for community review panelists

Add an interview/presentation component

Post-award process

Evaluation of systems change impact is difficult within timeline; identify pre and post grant data sources to measure success

Right-size financial and administrative process to grantees needs

Overall

Build in extra time for all phases as advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in grantmaking requires intentionality and collaboration

THANK YOU

For additional questions contact:

Aimée Zenzele Barnes, abarnes@cityofsacramento.org

Ginger Weagraff, gweagraff@cityofsacramento.org

Mikel Davila, mdavila@cityofsacramento.org