



Funds to Feed: 2020 Success Stories

CARES Act funding to LISC Phoenix was sub-granted to four school districts and nine community-based organizations who collectively served more than 5 million meals from nutritious, locally sourced food to fill urgent needs during the pandemic. The community-based organizations provided meals through community building, culturally specific practices that will have long-term impact on individuals and neighborhoods. Their work is highlighted below.

School District Grantees

Alhambra Elementary School District, for their "Meals To-Go" program, they provided "take and bake" meals with frozen, refrigerated, and shelf stable items. Included in the bags were cooking instructions for the parents.

Cartwright School District provided meals on Mondays and Wednesdays. On Mondays they provided three days' worth of food, and on Wednesdays they provide four days' worth of food. The families receives bags of food for each child in their household who is 0-18 years of age.

Roosevelt School District provided a weekly curbside pick-up of meals. When students returned to on-site school four days a week, parents could pick up three breakfasts, three lunches, five snacks and five dinners each week.

Balsz School District provided food totes of ready-to-eat meals and snacks.



Food totes from Balsz School District

1n10

1,800 LGBTQ youth and families served | 5 new partnerships created

We enhance the lives of LGBTQ youth and young adults ages 11-24 by providing empowering social and service programs that promote self-expression, self-acceptance, leadership development, and healthy life choices. Previous to the Funds to Feed Grant we struggled to provide nutritional meals to LGBTQ youth, who are disproportionately impacted. Through the Funds to Feed Grant we were able to completely overhaul and improve many of our programs to better serve a diverse population of LGBTQ youth. We used the grant monies for two distinct programs: Drive Up Meal Packages and Delivery. The programs were culturally specific and shaped to provide meals for diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds and needs. The money allowed us to pay attention to the nuances, and therefore provide sustainable and equitable outreach to communities. Through these programs, we increased the diversity of our population and partnerships exponentially.

Throughout the programs, we worked with local growers and farmers markets for 80% of the food. Most of the local growers were people of color and from the LGBTQ community. We asked growers to share about the history and knowledge of the food so that the community could learn about local foods. We changed the types of foods in the meal kit to represent our clients' needs - Korean, Native American, African American, etc. The programs and meal kits were so successful that we partnered with other organizations and redistributed the kits to expand the reach of foods to LGBTQ communities.

Lastly, the Amazon delivery cards for families to buy their groceries online, allowed families to make their own choices. Our partnership with Amazon allowed families to choose their own foods from local and natural groceries. We provided cooking classes online through Zoom. We also allowed youth to come to the site to eat food and do art projects and learn about the history of food. We have received a great deal of positive feedback from families and partners about the Funds to Feed Programs through our organization.



The flyer is set against a background of fresh vegetables like cucumbers and carrots. At the top, it lists logos for Big Brothers Big Sisters, Joshua Tree, and New Pathways for Youth. The main text reads 'Starting Fri, 10/9 LETT'UCE EAT!'. Below this, it states 'No ID required. No income verification. No zip code restrictions. Drive-Thru Pick-Up. All Ages Welcome.' and 'Free meal kits filled with fresh produce and pantry staples that will create a nutritious meal that feeds a family of 2-3. Recipe card included with suggested meal idea.' The location and time are given as 'FRIDAYS | 12PM-3PM | 1101 N CENTRAL AVE | ACCESS PORTLAND AVE FROM 1ST ST'. At the bottom, there are logos for Fry's and Sprouts. A paper bag filled with groceries and a rainbow heart logo with 'one-n-ten' is shown on the right side of the flyer.

one n ten Lett'uce Eat! one • n • ten is offering free meal kits filled with fresh produce and pantry staples that will create a nutritious meal that feeds a family of 2-3. There's no age restrictions, no ID required, and no income verification for drive-thru pick-ups on Fridays 12-3pm. Access Portland Ave from 1st Street.

Cihuapactli Collective

7,500 individuals and 1,900 families served

As a women's Indigenous group who focuses on mother and cultural foods, the Funds to Feed Grant allowed us to serve a broad community of those heavily impacted by Covid. Being granted a Funds to Feed grant and working in collaboration with LISC Phoenix and InSite Consultants was a valuable learning experience for the Cihuapactli Collective (CC). We fed over 1,800 families with our Indigenous Care Packages. Not only did our urban Indigenous community directly benefit, but the CC was also able to secure an office, a space we now affectionately refer to as “the casita”. Remarkably, local community support and capacity building for small and up-and-coming businesses and non-profits was carefully curated into the granting process. The CC was humbled by the request to be a part of the team that provided input on equitable grant design because the emphasis was to amplify populations that are often overlooked. The cultivation of relationships is central to the CC’s mission and values. We are honored to be able to reify existing relationships while cultivating new ones. We hope that this grant process, one which could be viewed as both innovative and also based in Traditional Knowledge, becomes the standard for community based relationships between those served and those providing support.



Cihuapactlicollective Thank you to our community partners @teparbeans , @pinoleblue , @quetzalcoop and @sanasanafoods with @chefmariaparracano for these amazing indigenous food packs to support our community in need!! Tlazocamati 🙌🍴❤️ Many thanks to the hands that have contributed to these packs... from the growers, producers and CoMadritas who pack them for our relatives. #indigenousfoodsovereignty #indigenousfoodways #healing #foodmedicine

Diana Gregory Foundation

2,700 meals provided to veterans and seniors

Diana Gregory Outreach is a one-aisle mobile produce market which operates in senior communities without easy access to healthy food. The mission is to enrich lives. Through a holistic approach, including education to increase senior understanding and acceptance of making healthy food choices, community organizing and advocacy, Gregory's Fresh Market is working to restore meaningful food access and eliminate health disparities in under-resourced communities. Community-dwelling seniors who participate in Gregory's Fresh Market will not only have access to fresh produce, they will also have the opportunity to regularly participate in educational programs that teach simple solutions for healthy cooking, healthy eating and incorporating appropriate fitness. During COVID-19, GFM pivoted to a delivery service. Over 10,000 veterans and seniors received bags of fresh fruits and vegetables in 2020. We also provided a place for seniors and veterans to socialize and meet each other in safe and meaningful ways. The Funds to Feed Grant monies made sure that we were able to increase our services without interruption and reach more community members in need. One woman said to us, "Being able to get these bags of produce delivered is the difference between having a meal and starving."



Drinking Gourd Farms, Black Phoenix Organizing Collective

2,000 individuals served

In response to COVID-19, Drinking Gourd Farms is meeting this critical need for food for those black people most at-risk (elders, houseless folks, people with pre-existing health issues, and poor people) by delivering fresh organic fruits and vegetables (grown by black farmers), halal meats, and farm fresh eggs to black families. We are building gardens so black people have long term sustainable access to healthy food that is independent of the food system. This isn't just about food. We must continue to fight the systems that created this global pandemic and now worsen its impact through criminalization, eviction, and denial of health care at a time of crisis.

Each week, we work with a team of volunteers and grassroots Black leaders, gardeners and farmers to package healthy food. We conduct cooking classes, educational programs, and peer-to-peer learning for local back yard gardens. The Funds to Feed grant monies allowed DGF to expand both our reach to Black communities, and to expand our infrastructure of new gardens, volunteers and spaces for distribution. During 2020, we served fresh healthy food to over 5,000 Black families and helped Black families learn to eat and care for themselves in sustainable ways during a pandemic. Our work continues.

ICNA Relief

29,000 meals provided

ICNA Relief: Muslims for Humanity strives to uplift the underserved in the U.S. through a nationwide network of shelters, food pantries, health clinics, skill development programs, disaster relief services, refugee services and more. ICNA Relief works to build healthy communities, strengthen families and create opportunities for those in despair while maintaining their dignity and advocating for their basic human needs.

During the National State of Emergency due to the Coronavirus, ICNA Relief offices stepped up our services to address the current challenges that our disadvantaged community members may be facing. From hot meals distributions to the homeless, to food box doorstep deliveries, our teams are helping our neighbors in need while adhering to proper protocols and procedures given by health experts and public officials. Many of our elderly, widowed, refugee and low-income families do not have access to the basic living necessities that we so often take for granted. They are struggling to pay their monthly bills due to either being in self-quarantine or their jobs being adversely affected by the virus. Individuals simply call our office requesting specific items from the pantry and staff creates boxes or bags. Then, volunteers go to the recipient's home, ring the doorbell, and walk away to ensure no contact.

Before the pandemic we were mainly distributing non-perishable food, but during the pandemic there was the opportunity to be awarded with the USDA food boxes which included dairy and produce

products. That actually helps the community to get a little bit of everything. We got about \$2.4 million worth of food and we had to immediately rent the cold storage and refrigerated trucks. The Funds to Feed helped to pay for those rentals.

Karim's Cobbler Shop & Bakery

600 meals provided

Our program offered additional food resources to extended family members of students enrolled in Paidea Academy due to the schools nutrition program only offering meals to the students enrolled and not their parents, grandparents, siblings and/or other loved ones who may reside in the home and are impacted by food insecurity. We expanded our services over 10 x to meet the needs of a most Black, Latinx population with specific food support given to mothers and women heads of family.

Our project also offered vitamin supplements, breastfeeding equipment and quality food in the form of fresh produce and prepared meals to pregnant and parenting families enrolled in MODABA programs and services. We supported pregnant mothers who had difficulty getting to stores by providing food drop off and easy preparation recipes with healthy nutritious meals for families.

Native American Connections

475 families served | 4 new partnership with Arizona Native businesses formed

Native American Connections is improving the lives of individuals and families through Native American culturally appropriate health and food, affordable housing, and community development services. Since 1972, we have been changing lives, strengthening families, and building healthy communities. We began as a small grassroots organization operating one program for Native American men in recovery from substance use disorder. Today, Native American Connections owns and operates 21 sites throughout Central Phoenix offering a continuum of affordable housing, health, and community development services which touch and change the lives native people and families each year.

Covid-19 ravaged the native community in Arizona. We used the Funds to Feed Grant for two main reasons: To feed native families with traditional native foods, and to support housing of families. We provided Rental assistance for unsheltered people and those impacted by housing evictions due to Covid. Using the public kitchen [at Phoenix Indian School Visitor Center], we worked with Sana Sana Native Food Truck to distribute to native communities and students by delivery. Sana Sana used traditional native ingredients from Ramona Farms and other native local growers and farmers to distribute the Funds to Feed Grant to many native businesses. Feeding native people in the City of Phoenix, including elders and seniors, homeless native populations through delivery and walk-up distribution of tote-bags full of food. Worked with homeless locations to outreach to native people most impacted and at risk for Covid-19 to provide food, shelter, and Covid-19 safety masks, gloves and sanitizer.



sanasanafoods A small portion of the prepared meals for @nativeamericanconnections earlier today. Grateful to be able to support elders in the community during this time. 🙏🍴 #sanasanafoods #chefmariaparracano #fundstofeed

Orchard Community Learning Center

5,000 individuals and 1,500 families served | 7 new sustainable partnerships formed

South Phoenix has been neglected through environmental racism, food deserts, and policing. It is a cornerstone of our mission to acknowledge, learn about, and celebrate the "healthy roots" of families in our south Phoenix community. We know that these roots have been under siege from corporate interests which have corrupted the availability and/or marketing of healthy foods. For example, our Funds to Feed Project, the project chef (Maria Parra Cano) is an expert in indigenous traditions, including those around food. She is able to create meals and share menus that use traditional foods of which people in the community are familiar but without the unhealthy commodity, refined, or CAFO produced components.

New leaders participated in this work, one example is Tiffany Hughes, now the Roosevelt School District's lead social worker. She opened a food pantry at Lassen School during the project period and it continues on a much larger scale today. We maintain a strong partnership with Tiffany and the pantry. Another huge move forward, again at Lassen where the Orchard's school work is based, two Orchard Board members joined a school based team to design a "signature" school plan for the school. Lassen is now the Lassen School of Science in Food & Environmental Nutrition. The Funds to Feed Project certainly strengthened this relationship and has helped to contribute significantly to the new Lassen wellness and sustainability agenda and serving elementary school kids. The Funds to Feed Grant supported the following new projects and partnerships:

- Small scale urban farming;
- Managing the Fresh Connections project, delivering fresh produce totes into the community;
- A partner in the Spaces of Opportunity project;
- Operating the Healthy Roots Cafe, a youth-run plant based restaurant open Saturdays;

- Operating a booth at the Spaces of Opportunity Farmers Market;
- Assisting local schools/teachers in gardening opportunities and creating pollinator gardens;
- Advocating for justice and sustainability in food systems and K-8 student opportunities.

New opportunities in the Funds to Feed Project included:

- Expanded venues and school partnerships to deliver fresh produce into the local community;
- Ability to provide healthy, hot/fresh meals weekly to families in the community;
- Partnership with teachers in tandem with the fresh produce and hot meals to include healthy eating in the virtual curriculum.
- Awareness of and getting to know other community partners.



orchard911 100 lunches and 75 food totes off to the community pantry at @vhllassenschool (open on Thursdays to the public from 8 am-2 pm)! The lunches were made in a joint effort between The Orchard and @chefmariaparracano of @sanasanafoods and @healthyrootscafe. We are proud to partner with other organizations to better serve our community!

Social Spin

6,000 meals served | 10 new partnerships with women-of-color owned businesses formed

Social Spin is a small community-based laundromat that serves low-income families and unsheltered people. Our commitment is to serve people, regardless of their ability to pay for their services. We believe that everyone deserves clean clothes and a safe place to be with their family. The Funds to Feed Grant allowed us to expand our services in new and unprecedented ways - we started a laundry and food distribution service to support the community during the Covid pandemic. We served hot meals and free laundry services while people ate their food and socialized, and expanded our hours to accommodate more people.

Key to our program was to reallocate the funds to serve the most impacted population at every level of the project. We worked with local farmers markets and women-of-color run catering businesses to help bring in healthy food and shape accessible menus to our customers. This provided nourishing meals, as well as helped other businesses to stay open during the pandemic. We also provided meal kits and meal-backpacks for families and unsheltered community members, which lasted a week. Each package included local healthy meals that could be prepared at home or in informal places (depending on need), and recipe options.

Our work has continued after the grant funds and has become a new part of our services. We have joined a mutual aid group to provide space and refrigeration to others during this time. The grant monies allowed us to support our community, and other women own leadership in ways that have sustained us. These new partnerships were one of the most special parts of the experience.



Social Spin Laundromat We've been feeding our #ceopho neighbors a hot meal during our free, weekly laundry events since early September, thanks to short-term funding from our friends at LISC Phoenix. We're *excited* to share our overall impact soon. #staytuned

In the meantime, we're not diggin' the term, "All good things must come to an end."

We love feeding the bellies and souls of our customers, and frankly, their accessibility to a hot, nutritious meal hasn't changed just because our funding stopped.

So, we're turning to our amAZing #socialspinaz community to ask two things:

First, would you, your family, friends or a community group you belong to volunteer to feed our neighbors either one-time or on a rotating schedule? We're gauging interest now. As a volunteer, we'd ask you to purchase the ingredients and containers, prepare the meal and serve it on a Wednesday from 9 am - noon. It typically costs \$100 in supplies, a few hours to cook and a few hours to serve.

Second, we have this beautifully massive commercial fridge that we don't want to leave empty. And, we love, love the work of Jackson Heights Community Fridge. Do you know any community groups who'd like to partner with us to create a similar resource?

Any thoughts, connections, commitments are appreciated! Comment below or reach out privately.

Thanks, beautiful community!

PS - #shopsmall #shoplocal today (and always)!

FINAL 5-2021 Funds to Feed report to City

Zip code	# of meals
85003	5,183
85004	49,356
85006	33,084
85007	18,107
85008	79,667
85009	18,178
85012	19,156
85014	29,226
85015	211,772
85016	35,072
85017	327,866
85018	4,274
85019	231,182
85031	1,115,739
85033	894,325
85034	5,200
85035	786,754
85040	196,407
85041	566,949
85042	382,266
85043	22,226
85301	117,626
86018	16,191
Total	5,165,806