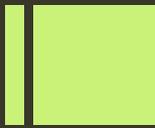


# Hunger Action LA

# Social Determinants of Health

## Rising Food Insecurity in Los Angeles County—July 2015





# Findings of LA County Health Survey:

Populations with higher rates of food insecurity

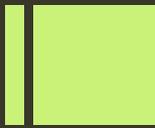
- African American Adults
- Unemployed persons
- People with less than high school education
- Non-Citizens

Note: 47% of those in “food insecure” households reported they were employed

# Who's Hungry in LA County?

- 2011 Study: More than half a million LA CO families living under 300% poverty level couldn't afford food at one point (FPL in 2011 was \$22,350 for family of 4)
- **A 40% increase since 2002: effects of 2008 continue**
- **Kids : LA County 25% of low income kids are “food insecure”. Their families are never sure they'll have enough money or benefits to make it to the end of the month.**
- **Homeless**
- **Seniors**





# Lifelong Impacts of Hunger

- Increased odds of hospitalization among children
- Higher rate of depression among adolescents
- Stress, depression, and increased prevalence of chronic disease among adults
- People in poverty may have fewer resources for healthy food and purchase more processed food high in sugar and fat



# And More.....

“when a fetus or small child is undernourished, it is programmed to anticipate food shortages for the remainder of its life. If food later becomes plentiful, the metabolic mismatch can lead to diabetes, obesity and heart disease. “

“An excellent study last year from the National Bureau of Economic Research followed up on the rollout of food stamps, county by county, between 1961 and 1975. It found that those who began receiving food stamps by the age of 5 had better health as adults. Women who as small children had benefited from food stamps were more likely to go farther in school, earn more money and stay off welfare. “

# Why are People Hungry?



# Housing Costs Impact Food Budget

- LA: Median income family spending 41% of income for rent
- Rents today are 15.2 percent higher than they were at the end of the recession in 2009 (Source: Reis, a real estate firm)

# Why Are People Hungry in LA?

- Low wage jobs:

Some large retailers even encourage their employees to apply for CalFresh (food stamps) and MediCal health insurance, so that they don't have to pay them as much



# Labor Issues Disproportionately Affect Immigrants

- Foreign-born Latino workers had the highest minimum wage violation rates of any racial/ethnic group. (Source: AFL-CIO)
- LA Survey: Almost 30 percent of the L.A. workers sampled were paid less than the minimum wage in the work week preceding the survey, Source: **Institute for Research on Labor and Employment University of California, Los Angeles 2010**
- In the South, 41% of Latino guest workers say they have experienced wage theft: 32 percent of Latinos surveyed reported on-the-job injuries with only 37 percent of those reporting that they received appropriate treatment. Source: Southern Poverty Law Center, **Latino Workers in South Face Rampant Abuse**

# (Some) Current Issues

- Senior Hunger
- Farmers Markets: EBT and Nutrition Incentives
- Creating Urban Ag Incentive Zones
- Student Hunger
- Preventing Food Waste
- Homelessness

# Policies That Fight Hunger

## Benefits for Seniors And Disabled:

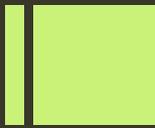
- SSI/SSP benefits are \$889/month
- 1.3 million Californians receive SSI/SSP
- SSI/SSP benefits have been cut or frozen for many years
- The 1.3 million are all below the poverty level



# Policies That Fight Hunger

- EBT at Farmers Markets
- Nutrition Incentive Programs





# HALA Market Match Program

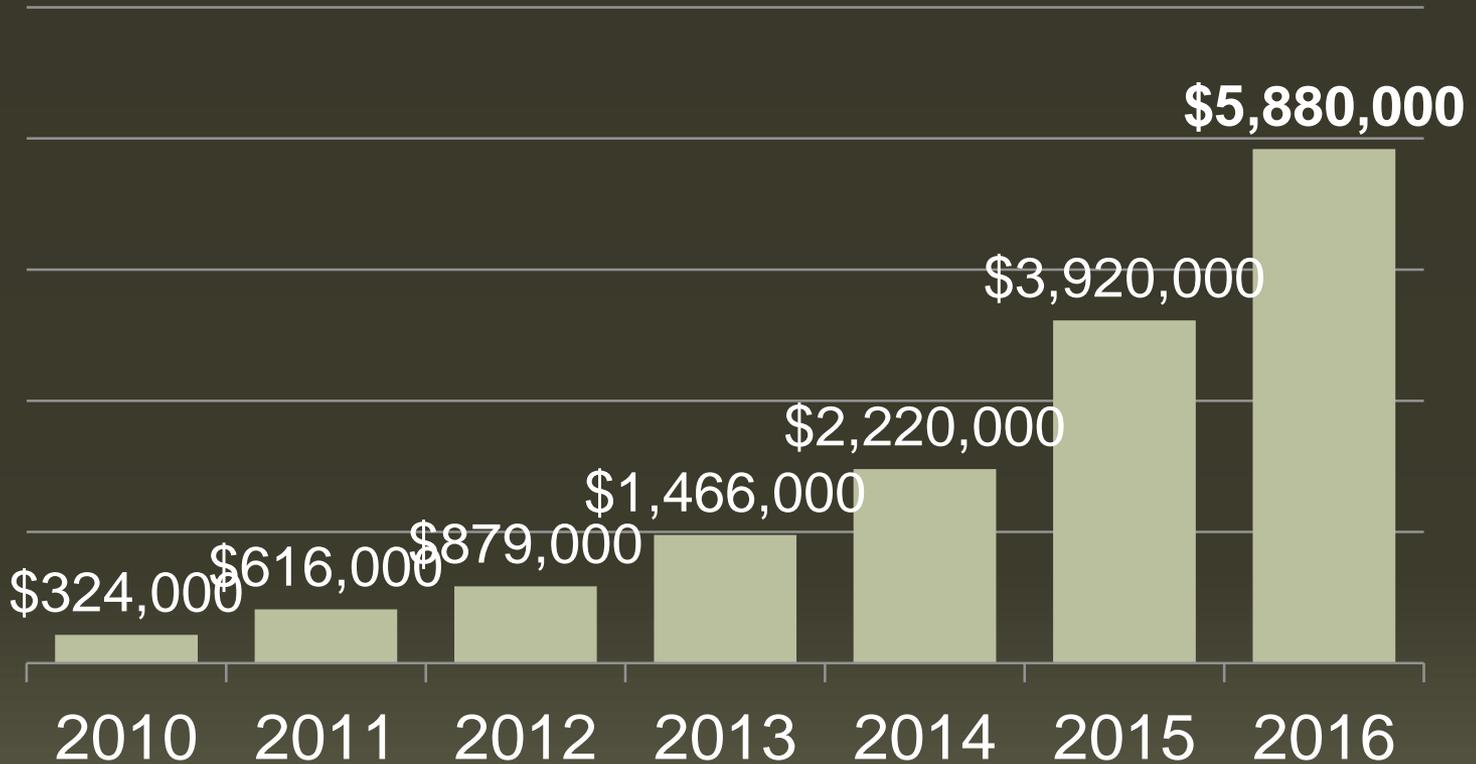
- 20 Farmers Markets
- People using CalFresh (Food stamp) benefits get up to \$10 additional to spend on fruits and vegetables
- Also serving seniors, disabled and WIC participants
- Volunteers welcome

# How it works

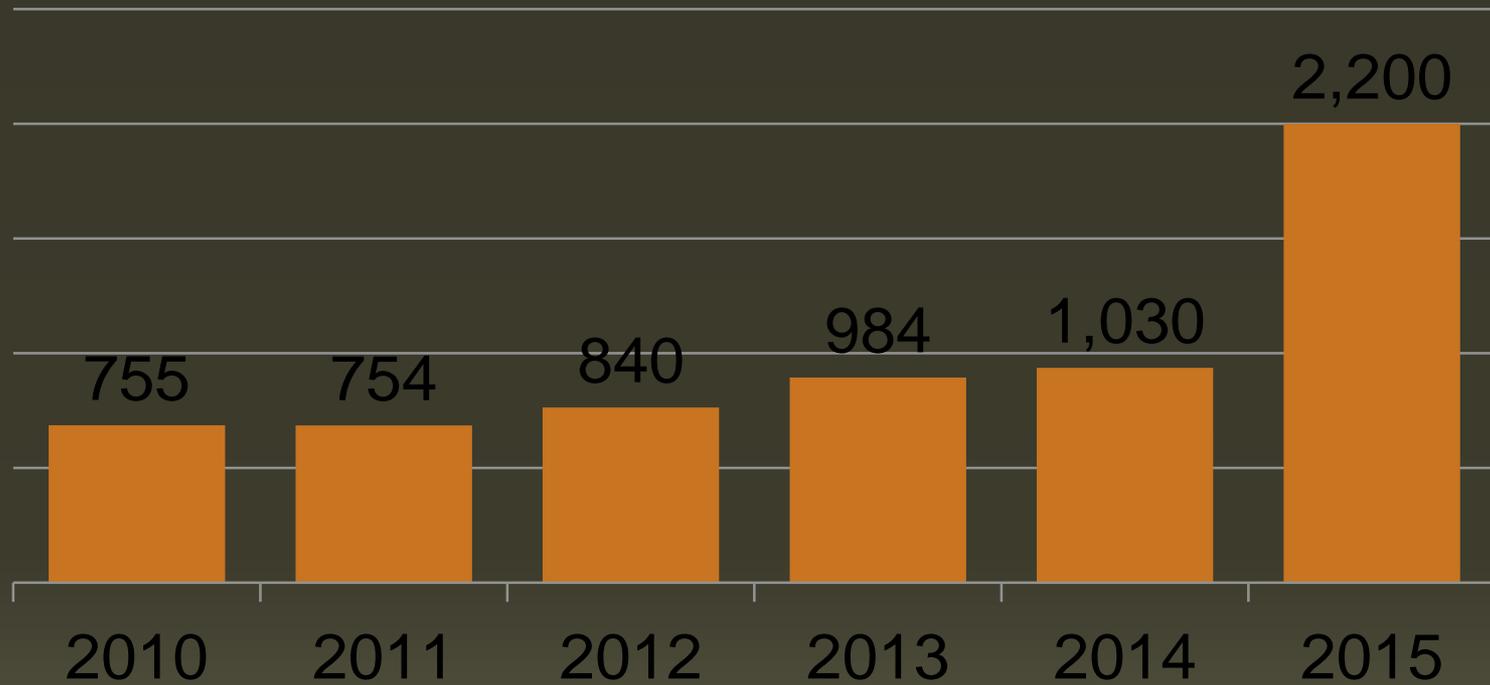
- Who Qualifies:  
CalFresh participants,  
WIC participants,  
SSI/Social Security  
recipients
- CalFresh =Up to \$10  
bonus in vouchers
- Cash match for  
qualifying participants  
who don't have EBT
- Simple ID card



# Farm-Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Purchased



# Farmers Served by Market Match



# California Market Match Consortium

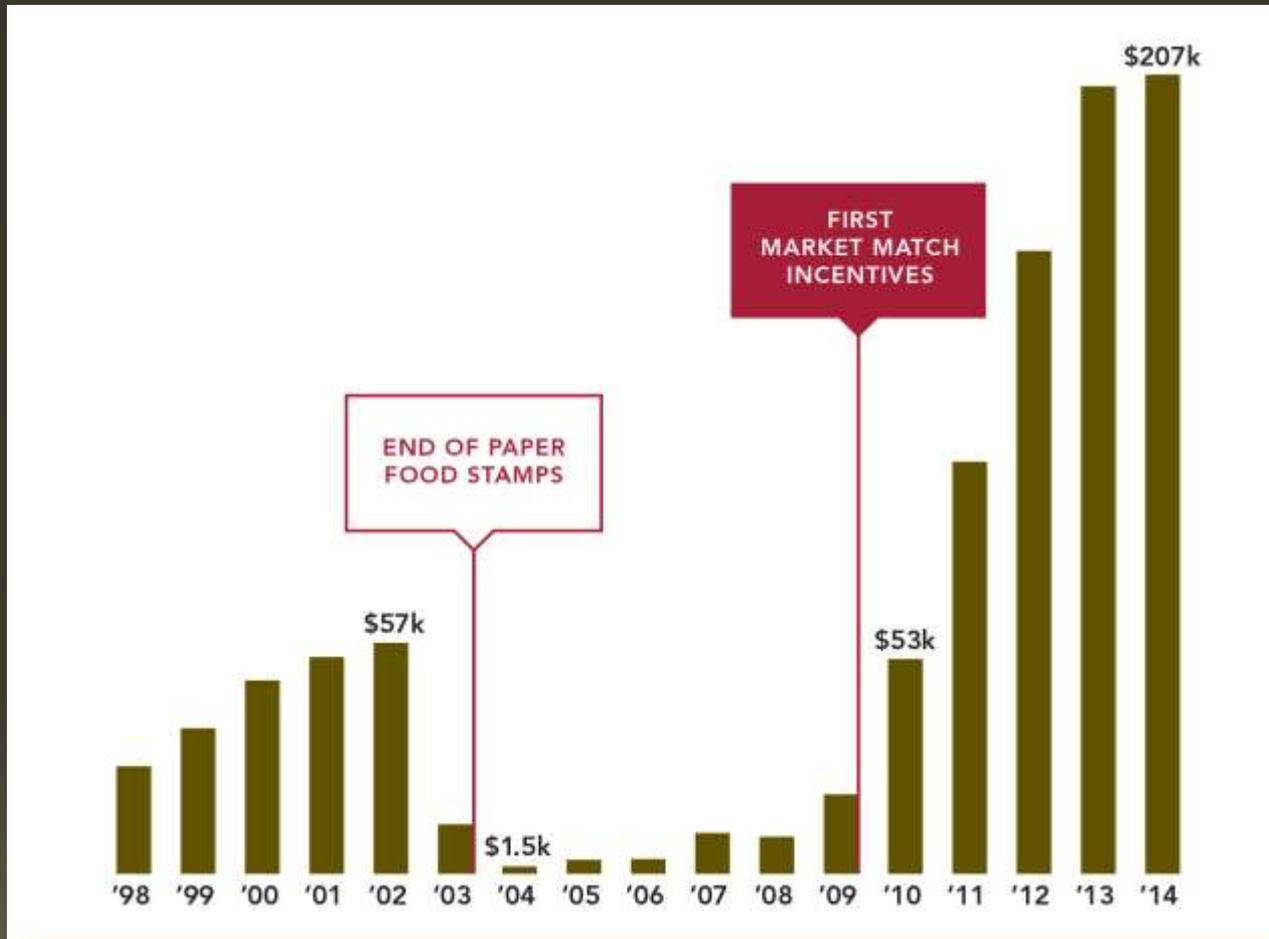
- Led by the Ecology Center
- Including 30 partner groups (3<sup>rd</sup> parties and market operators)
- CMMC members have varying levels of capacity and reach
- Offering MM at 230+ sites in 31 counties



800 Seniors a month are served by HALA's Market Match program

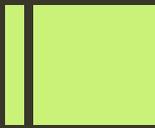


# Impacts of EBT & MM Incentives on SNAP Sales



HALA and SEELA partnered with Public Health Foundation WIC in a spectacularly successful promotion at a dozen farmers markets, 2014- present





# USC Price School of Public Policy

## August 2016

- After one year of FINI funding, Market Match has served 105,518 CalFresh shoppers, who spent \$2.46 million in CalFresh and Market Match, which went to 1,602 small farmers across the state.
- Out of 844 shoppers surveyed, 74.1 percent reported increasing the quantity of fresh fruits and vegetables purchased, and nearly 80 percent indicated that their family's health had improved as a result.



# Urban Ag Incentive Zones

- Tax breaks for owners who let their property be used for urban gardening
- County has created its policy: LA City must follow



# Student Hunger

- There are new rules for CalFresh coming from state legislation two years ago
- This year, AB 1747 was passed providing assistance to food pantries on college campuses and CalFresh access



# Preventing Food Waste



- AB 1826 calls for businesses to reduce landfills: businesses must recycle organic waste on and after April 1 2016
- Good Samaritan Act allows for food donation
- Tons being donated by various groups (Food Finders, Food Forward, others)

# Policies That Fight Hunger

- Protect rights of homeless people including right to share food in public
- City of LA says it will dedicate \$100 million to ending homelessness



# Hunger Action Day Each May

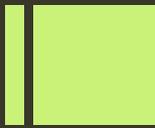
Each May, California Hunger Action Coalition, comprised of over 50 groups around the state, convene advocates in Sacramento to urge passage of important anti hunger legislation.





# Results of State Advocacy

- \$3 Million Was Included in State Budget for Nutrition Incentives (Market Match)
- AB 1747 was passed (Student Hunger relief)
- A very small one time increase in SSI/ SSP payments, but Governor vetoed restoration of annual Cost of Living Allowance
- Governor vetoed bill that would have allowed Dreamers to receive food assistance (Deferred Action for Child Arrivals)



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