

# LA COUNTY GROCERY VOUCHER PROGRAM

The Los Angeles County Grocery Voucher Program, supported by the LA County Department of Public Health, was established to address rising food insecurity due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



## PROGRAM PARTNERS



### LA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

LA County's Department of Public Health (LACDPH) led the program in the development of the project design, program and contract monitoring, and reported to the LA County Board of Supervisors.



### CENTER FOR WELLNESS AND NUTRITION

The Center for Wellness and Nutrition (CWN), a program of the Public Health Institute, provided overall management, leadership, and oversight of the program. This included program design, development of the RFQ, selection and oversight of community-based organizations (CBOs) and grocery vendors, as well as delivery of training, technical assistance, and evaluation services.



### FOOD VENDORS

Albertsons, Northgate Gonzalez Markets, and Misfits Markets provided restricted grocery voucher cards and food box delivery to program participants.



### ROOTS OF CHANGE

Roots of Change (ROC), a program of the Public Health Institute, provided co-leadership and oversight in collaboration with the team from the Nutrition and Physical Activity Program within LACDPH. ROC focused on strategic communications, program design, monitoring, continuous improvement, and fostering effective collaboration among partners throughout the initiative.



### COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Eight CBOs were selected based on their experience and ability to reach target populations to enroll participants in the program.

## PROGRAM DESIGN

- The program aimed to increase the percentage of food- and nutrition-secure households specifically within historically underserved communities in LA County.
- Cash value benefits in the form of grocery vouchers or gift cards were provided to low-income, vulnerable communities for the purchase of food for themselves and their families.

# PROGRAM EVALUATION & OUTCOMES

In a highly food-insecure population, the financial support provided by food vouchers through the Los Angeles (LA) County Grocery Voucher Program was associated with improved access to healthy food and reduced food insecurity.



## Program Impact

Over the 15-month duration of the LA County Grocery Voucher Program, the Public Health Institute's Center for Wellness and Nutrition **enrolled 19,596 participants, reaching more than 76,000 individuals.** A total of **\$15.4 million in grocery benefits** was distributed to participants.



### FOOD SECURITY

The percentage of **participants experiencing food insecurity dropped significantly from 82% to 73%** after participation in the program.



### HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

The percentage of **participants who reported that eating healthy was not difficult increased from 18% to 27%.** Following participation in the program, fewer individuals cited cost, lack of nearby healthy food options, or limited transportation as barriers to accessing healthy foods.

## Building Programs to Improve Nutrition Security and Community Resilience

A comprehensive white paper was developed, offering model policies to support state and local leaders in integrating local procurement, community-based investment, and equity-driven strategies into food and nutrition programs.

### Key Takeaways:

- Identify and engage a network of community-based organizations and optimize roles.
- Integrate wraparound services that address multiple social determinants of health into programs.
- Expand and diversify local food access to strengthen community resilience.