



2016 Impact Report

The Orange County Food Access Coalition (OCFAC) is a catalyst to support and expand access to healthy food. We work in partnership to define the gaps in services and resources that prevent healthy food access and ultimately help define and implement sustainable solutions to hunger. We have designed our programs and initiatives to focus mainly on long-term systemic change that will help establish critical policies, infrastructure, and collaborations to support a healthful and affordable food system for all Orange County residents.

OCFAC convenes and coordinates with local and regional partners to improve food access for low-income residents and identify opportunities for collaborative endeavors that enhance the equity and sustainability of our food system and the health of our community. We are excited to share our 2016 accomplishments with you.

2016 By The Numbers

- 1 Food Systems Conference
- 2 Advocacy Days of Action
- 9 Community Events
- 29 Food With Friends Cooking Classes
- 54 Workgroup & Task Force Meetings
- 176 Harvest Club Harvests
- 458 Volunteers Engaged
- 81,127 Pounds of Fresh Produce Harvested

Our Workgroups

OCFAC has developed several broad and varied task forces and workgroups to address food system issues strategically for long-term solutions. To join a workgroup email us at hello@ocfoodaccess.org.

Advocacy & Policy Workgroup

OCFAC is the food policy council for Orange County and this is where the bulk of that work takes place. This workgroup focuses on local, regional, state and federal level policies both by creating and supporting policy but also by educating community members and decision makers.

Highlights from 2016:

- Successfully lobbied the OC Social Services Agency, OC Office of Care Coordination, and the OC Board of Supervisors for the passage of the Restaurant Meals Program. This program allows elderly, disabled, and homeless individuals to utilize their CalFresh benefits on prepared foods.
- Trained and facilitated community members and partner organization staff for Sacramento & District level legislative visits for ENACT Day & Hunger Action Day.
- Participated in the passage of the Farm to Family Tax Credit, increased state minimum wage, \$5 million for CA Nutrition Incentives, Seed Exchange Democracy Act, and increasing monthly SSI payments.



Community Members and OCFAC staff visiting with Travis Allen's district staff for ENACT Day.

Farm to School Task Force

The OC F2STF meets with three specific objectives in mind: 1) increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables amongst K-12 students, 2) better connect students with the sources of their food through food literacy programs, and 3) increase procurement of local food which, in turn, supports local farmers.

Highlights from 2016:

- Surveyed all Orange County School District Food Service Directors to create the [State of Farm to School report](#) where we found that 100% of our school districts are participating in at least one Farm to School activity.
- Participation on the following School Wellness Committees:
Anaheim Elementary School District (K - 6)
Garden Grove Unified School District (K - 12)
Santa Ana Unified School District (K-12)
- Research and development of a Recess Before Lunch Toolkit.
- Facilitated a training session on how to use LCAP Funds for Nutrition Services with Melissa Cannon of CA Food Policy Advocates.
- Updates to the [OCFAC School/Community Garden Map](#)



Jerry Rivero, OCFAC Program Manager, attended the National Farm to School Conference on behalf of our task force in Wisconsin.

Urban Agriculture Workgroups

Currently we have two municipal-level urban agriculture workgroups: one in Anaheim and the other in Santa Ana. In 2016, these two groups started working together on projects and may merge into one group in 2017. The group is focused on increasing urban agriculture in our county to increase food justice.

Highlights from 2016:

- Development of the [Beginner's Guide to \[Sub\]urban Agriculture](#) in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- Food Matters Event: Starting (and Growing) Your Urban Ag Project where speaker topics ranged from just starting a garden to financing for your micro-farm.
- City Council & Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire on Local Food & Agriculture Policy sent to all candidates running in municipal races in the county.
- Report on the Best Practices in Community Gardens.

Food Providers Forum

This is a quarterly networking and capacity building opportunity for staff working for our emergency food provider agencies. Based on feedback received from participants in 2015, we focused on homelessness this year.

Topics from 2016:

- Services Available to Homeless Individuals and Families
- Services Available to Motel Families, Including School Rights
- Food Safety & Best Practices for Meal Services in Outdoor Spaces
- How City Net & the Anaheim Police Department Are Working Together on Homelessness

OC Farmers' Market Manager Workgroup

Farmers' Market Managers meet monthly to collaborate on projects and work together for a stronger farmers' market network in the county.

Highlights from 2016:

- Development of a [resource sheet](#) that was distributed county-wide listing Farmers' Markets that take EBT and those that take EBT and have a Market Match program.
- Farmers' Market pricing study that shows that fruits and vegetable prices are the same or cheaper on average than those at the grocery store.

Older Adult Food Security Task Force

This is OCFAC's newest workgroup and started mid-2016. The focus of this group is on OC's 60+ population which is growing substantially.

Highlights from 2016:

- Creation of a Senior Transportation Guide to aggregate various transportation options for older adults into one resource.
- Map of Senior Services allowing task force participants locate gaps in infrastructure and determine how we can fill them.

Buena Park Collaborative

Focused on Buena Park, this group is working to reduce the determinants of poverty in order to increase public health.

Highlights from 2016:

- Development of action groups focused on Homelessness, Education, Wellness, and Gang Prevention
- Focus group planning for a potential family resource center
- Collaborative members are participating in the development of the Clark Commons Community Center

Our Programs

The Harvest Club

The Harvest Club is our backyard gleaning program that redirects tens of thousands of pounds of excess fresh produce from residential growers to low-income families through community-based pantries, community centers, and soup kitchens. Learn how you can participate at our website: <http://theharvestclub.org>.

Highlights from 2016:

- Total Pounds Harvested: 81,127
- Total Number of Servings: 208,496
- Total Number of Harvests: 176
- Total Number of Agencies Delivered to: 77
- Total Number of Donations Made: 340
- Total Volunteers Participated: 458
- Total New Volunteers: 372
- Total Number of Volunteer Hours: 1,645.75



A Harvest Club volunteer in action.

Food With Friends

This program is part of our Real Meals Culinary and Nutrition series of classes. FWF focuses on the special dietary needs of our older adult population with special attention on reducing social isolation.

Highlights from 2016:

- Development of 15 quick and nutritious recipes that are easy to prepare.
- Translation of recipes and materials through our partner agencies into 6 additional languages.
- Program expanded to 4 low-income senior housing complexes in both North and South county.
- Provided 29 classes to over 300 participants.
- Through a partnership with Jewish Federation & Family Services, we were able to take 13 program participants on a farmers' market field trip where they learned tips and tricks for shopping there.



Food With Friends Field trip to the Laguna Hills Farmers' Market – Participants are from Heritage Villas in Mission Viejo

Community Events

Education and community engagement are essential for changing the food system in any area, but especially in Orange County. We do this by hosting our own events and co-hosting events with other like-minded partners, speaking in classrooms or to groups, and participating in outreach events.

Highlights from 2016:

- Grow Local OC was our first food system conference in OC. This two-day event featured speakers such as CA Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross and local urban farmer, Jeremy Samson of Cultivate Together. Day 2 highlighted the diversity and innovation of our county's urban agriculture sector.
- Kick-off of our Food Matters Educational Series with 2 events:
 - Starting (and Growing) Your Urban Ag Project
 - Homemade Food Policy Town Hall
- We held 7 events with the Central OC Food Swap with over 110 participants. We believe this is the largest food swap on the west coast but definitely know it is regionally.



Panelists from Food Matters: Starting (and Growing) Your Urban Ag Project

Other Collaborations

As you can tell from our workgroups and meetings outlined in previous sections, we work collaboratively to maximize our impact. Below, we cover some of the partner-led groups that we participated in this year.

- CA Food Policy Council
 - Advocating Member
 - Steering Committee Member
 - Policy Working Group Member
- Nutrition & Physical Activity Collaborative (NuPAC)
- NuPAC Parents for Healthy Neighborhoods Workgroup
- County Nutrition Action Plan (CNAP)
- OC Health Care Agency Obesity Workgroup
- Orange County Partnerships to Improve Community Health (OC PICH)
- Healthy Eating Active Living Zone - Anaheim (HEAL)
- Older Adult Strategic Plan Nutrition & Food Security Sub Group
- United Way Health Coalition
- Ecology Center Grow Your Own School Garden Coalition
- National Farm & Food Justice Coalition (GOAT)
- Center for Science in the Public Interest's National Alliance for Nutrition & Activity Coalition (CSPI - NANA)
- Healthy Beverage Coalition

2017 and Beyond

We already have a full 2017 [meeting schedule](#) put together for all our workgroups and task forces. We will continue our current programs, looking for ways to expand their reach in the county. Our policy and advocacy work will be even more important in the upcoming year, particularly surrounding federal policies such as Child Nutrition Reauthorization and the start of the 2018 Farm Bill process.

If you are interested in [participating](#) with us here at OC Food Access Coalition, join one of our workgroups, volunteer with one of our programs, or attend one of our Food Matters events!

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