



Incredible Opportunities Lay Before Us. Add Your Voice!

Greetings!

The serious challenges of our time are moving thoughtful leaders to listen as never before to our proposed solutions. Tens of billions of dollars could flow to support transformations of food systems and rural economies. California will have an unprecedented budget surplus (up to \$80 billion) and there is bipartisan support for smart food, agriculture



and health equity investments. Governor Newsom's latest budget proposal contains many elements we pushed for, using some language we have proposed. At the federal level, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and potential other investments in families and infrastructure might sustain action for years. ROC is diligently advocating to realize the many opportunities before us. **Listen to this week's podcast to learn about our \$772 million California budget request and see briefs below on our projects and policy work and how you can help.**

Photo credit: Doris Meier

Flipping the Table Podcast Season 3 Episode 3

**Hear a conversation
about our boldest
campaign ever!**

I am joined by Andy Naja-Riese of the Agricultural Institute of Marin, Cesar



Lara of the [Monterey Bay Central Labor Council](#) and Jeanne Merrill from the [California Climate and Agriculture Network](#). We describe the policy, the coalition behind it, prospects for success and how you can help us win. Check it out!



#LetsFeedLA

We completed the COVID-relief nutrition program. Along with our allies [Wholesome Wave](#), [Public Health Institute](#), [Center for Wellness & Nutrition](#) and the [Tangelo app](#), we are thrilled that **100,000 people received nearly \$22 million in food benefits.**

Our keys to success were 19 front-line organizations that enrolled over 29,000 families in only 8 weeks for which they received \$1.8 million in funding. In June look for our podcast with some of the key leaders and the final report documenting our success. Stay tuned, more to come from our partnership with Wholesome Wave.



Photo credit: Joel Muniz, Unsplash

Niche Meat Processing White Paper



In response to the pandemic and climate disasters impacting the meat supply chain, we have worked with the [UC Davis Food Systems Lab](#) and a ROC-CCOF coalition, to analyze challenges and opportunities and to offer recommendations. Our goal is to generate more wealth for rural communities by leveling the playing field for small and mid-sized producers. Our research included

interviews with 30 individuals involved in the high value meat sector. In June, we will deliver the report to policy makers, the coalition and make it available to

you all.

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Ventura County Achieving Resilient Communities

We are into supporting farmworker community resilience. Our team includes, PHI's [Tracking California](#), [Public Health Alliance of Southern California](#), [CAUSE](#), [Lideres Campesinas](#) and [MICOP](#). Our engagement with farmworkers and other stakeholders has spawned a resilience campaign called *Cool Communities*.

We seek to increase shaded and cool spaces in farmworker neighborhoods and effective heat and smoke protections at work. We share our own current funding and have successfully won more grants for our front-line partners. This month we begin a dialogue with farmers and farmworker advocates in the hope they will join hands to strengthen the campaign. More on this later this summer.

Photo credit: davispigeon0, Pixabay



Policy Advocacy Priorities



For full details on all our advocacy, hit this [link](#)

AB 125 The Equitable Economic Recovery, Healthy Food Access, Climate Resilient Farms and Worker Protection Bond Act -

With bipartisan support, our coalition of 17 sponsors, backed by 143 supporting organizations, has advanced this groundbreaking \$3.3

billion bond proposal through the Assembly Ag Committee.

TAKE ACTION- Make your voice heard in this campaign, please click [HERE](#)

Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grant Program -Working with California Assembly Budget Committee Chairman, Phil Ting, our strongest champion for many years, we are seeking \$15 million to provide grants for refrigeration units

that will be placed in corner stores across the state. The Governor is requesting \$20 million.

California Nutrition Incentive Program (CNIP) - Back in 2016, with Assemblymember Phil Ting, ROC spawned creation of the matching grant program managed by the Office of Farm to Fork at CDFA. We join Ecology Center in supporting Mr. Ting's request for another \$20 million to continue this highly successful program. The Governor is offering only \$15 million. We need your help.

TAKE ACTION- Make your voice heard in this campaign, please click [HERE](#)

Health Equity Fund - We are part of a Public Health Institute led coalition to create a health equity fund pilot program that would invest \$180 million in several communities to reveal how to prevent disease and lower health care expenditure for the state. Nutrition incentives, school food and other nutrition access initiatives guided by communities are part of the ask.

For a full rundown on our advocacy, hit [this link](#).

Please Become a Contributor to Our Work

Our change agenda is immense. We simply cannot do it without your contributions. Please donate what you can to keep our momentum up.
Thank you!

Photo credit: Amber Avalona, Pixabay



Click here to
DONATE NOW

June PULSE

We'll share episode 4 of Flipping the Table focused on the #LetsFeedLA program.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Hill". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Michael Reid Dimock
President
Roots of Change
A Program of the Public Health Institute



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