



Giving Thanks and Looking Towards a More Resilient Future

Greetings!

We have lots to be thankful for this year, and, first and foremost, **we want to thank you**, our loyal readers, for supporting our work and for heeding our calls to action - we cannot do this important work without you!

We are particularly grateful for the unprecedented funding that is being made available to fix the food system in California. This gives us a lot of optimism that real progress will be accomplished on many fronts in the coming years.

Photo credit: John Hain, Pexels



Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund



Roots of Change is a co-leader for the **California Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund** which will provide resources to community initiatives to:

- 1) reduce unfair, disproportionately high rates of preventable illness and death in communities of color and low-income communities, and
- 2) transform community conditions and institutional government systems to promote racial justice.

The final agreement in the CA Budget Act of 2021 (AB129), "delays for one-year allocations of funding for local health jurisdictions, health equity and racial justice innovation grants, and public health workforce development programs, with \$300 million General Fund allocated annually to these needs beginning in 2022-23."

ROC and allies are pressing for the Legislature and the Governor to fulfill their commitment and **dedicate at least \$100 million of the \$300 million for grants to community based initiatives. Join us in the campaign.**

Help spread the word!
Here are links to an overview / FAQ and ways to
take action and support the fund:

Overview /
FAQ

All Network Call
PDF

Social Media Tool
Kit

A California Meat Processing Innovation Committee to Launch In January

The ROC-UC Davis Food Systems Lab [white paper](#) on meat processing in California was issued in September. The CCOF-ROC led coalition has since agreed with the staff from CDFA's [Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch](#) to collaborate on improvements for small- and mid-scale producers and processors based on recommendations offered in the white paper. Governor Newsom did sign [AB 888](#), which greatly improves the regulations related to on-farm slaughter of animals directly sold to consumers.



The Innovation Committee will form working groups. They will focus on effective implementation of AB 888; workforce training; local landuse and waste treatment guidances; expansion of processing infrastructure as well as marketing systems that highlight regional producers. Finally, the Committee will seek to engage USDA to improve regulations currently constricting California's system for custom exempt plants from easily accessing markets. Committee members include producers, processors, UC Cooperative Extension livestock advisors and advocates for meats sourced from regenerative, organic and grassfed operations.

Photo credit: Walter Bieck Pixabay

Achieving Resilient Communities Project Continues to Expand Impact

We are working with three community-based organizations, and three sister PHI programs, on the ARC project. We continue to work toward protecting farmworkers from climate impacts in their neighborhoods and in the fields where they work. Our team has helped [MICOP](#), [Lideres Campesinas](#) and [CAUSE](#) to raise \$310,000 in additional dollars for their budgets to implement projects that protect workers and we have submitted



grants for an additional \$500,000. With funds previously raised, we are monitoring temperatures in neighborhoods to make the case for planting of more trees in community parks.

We are providing workers with education on their rights for enhanced breaks and more water when temperatures rise. We are working with a "brain-trust" of farmers and farmworker advocates to undertake

several additional short and long-term projects including enhancement of access to training for field supervisors, with emphasis on the new CalOSHA protections from the recently signed [SB 606](#), as well as a path to develop a heat warning system that would be broadcast via radio and cell phones when temperatures become harmful to worker health.

We are also about to expand our footprint to include Kern County where we will again work with BIPOC-led frontline groups serving farmworker communities. We will keep you posted as our plans there evolve.

Photo credit: Tim Mossholder, Unplash

Thanksgiving is Around the Corner!

We can't guarantee that there are any turkeys left but here are some suggestions of where to buy organic turkeys for your Thanksgiving dinner:

- North Bay: [Oliver's Market](#)
- San Francisco: [Oliver's Butchery](#), [Avedano's](#)
- Bay Area: [Vic Farm Meats](#)
- Central Valley: [Diestel Family Ranch](#)
- Los Angeles: [Marconda's](#)
- San Diego: [Stehly Farms Organics](#)
- Anywhere: [Mary's Turkeys](#)



Photo credit: Jill Wellington, Pixabay

Please Donate

You can help build our momentum! Our team simply cannot do it without contributions. Please donate and see how far we can go with your support. Thank you!

Photo credit: Amber Avalona, Pixabay



Click here to
DONATE NOW

Wishing you and your loved ones a very happy Thanksgiving!



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

**Roots of Change**



mail@rootsofchange.org | www.rootsofchange.org