



PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION AT POMONA WELLNESS COMMUNITY

Fresh fruits and vegetables will be provided by Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and a live demonstration on how to select and prepare healthier beverages will be provided by Active San Gabriel Valley.

EVENT INFORMATION

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

750 S. Park Ave.

Pomona, CA 91766

12:00pm - 2:00pm

THE ISSUE

In Los Angeles County, food insecurity has been steadily increasing since 2021 and disproportionately impacts low-income and communities of color. Food insecure households have reduced access to healthy foods, which increases their risk for developing diet-related chronic diseases. Produce distributions provide an immediate response to the lack of affordability and accessibility of healthy foods in areas that face this issue (known as food deserts or food apartheid). However, meaningful policy changes are needed to improve the food system and provide more healthy food options in food deserts.

HOW IT IMPACTS THE COMMUNITY

Produce distribution events create alternative food hubs by providing food insecure patients with access to healthy food and reduces food waste by redistributing edible produce. Food waste has an environmental impact as well. When food breaks down in a landfill, it produces large amounts of methane, a greenhouse gas that is at least 28 times as potent as carbon dioxide. As such, connecting surplus food to those in need increases the amount of food for low-income communities and repurposes food so that it does not end up in landfills.

WHAT PUBLIC HEALTH IS DOING

Pomona Wellness Community is one of several County clinics that participate in the Los Angeles County Food Rx Collaborative, which is co-led by the Department of Public Health and the Department of Health Services. The collaborative supports the integration of food insecurity screening in County clinics, the provision of evidence-based and culturally appropriate nutrition education, and free surplus produce distribution to patients. This work is supported by CalFresh Healthy Living, which supports healthy, active, and nourished lifestyle through education and healthy community changes. To achieve our goals, DPH is partnering with eighteen organizations across Los Angeles County to provide a comprehensive public health approach to improve access to healthy food and prevent diet-related chronic diseases among Los Angeles County's low-income families.

Funded by USDA SNAP, an equal opportunity provider. Visit www.CalFreshHealthyLiving.org for healthy tips.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **More than 1 million households** in Los Angeles County now experience food insecurity.
- **In Los Angeles County, 1.7 million tons of food** is sent to landfills from businesses, schools, etc. annually, accounting for one-third of the state's total food waste stream.
- **Since 10/01/2020, there have been 1,587 produce distributions** reaching 704,240 people in all households.
- **Approximately 6.6 million** pounds of fresh produce has been distributed.

RESOURCES & SUPPORT

TELEPHONE:

- 909-802-2650

WEB:

- <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/chs/pwc.htm>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Email: NutritionProgram@ph.lacounty.gov
- Pomona Wellness Community Email: pomonawc@ph.lacounty.gov

