Final RHIP Mini-Grant Report for Seed to Table

"Biblioteca en Camino Partnership"

Reviewed by the Physical Health & Upstream Prevention Workgroups

Summary of Results:

- Seed to Table was invited to collaborate with the Deschutes Public Library Servicios Latinos (DPLSL) to distribute fresh produce to local Latinx communities through an innovative program that sets up community resource distribution points in low-income neighborhoods.
- Through the partnership, produce was distributed in identified low-income neighborhoods, to contribute to a resilient system where diet-related diseases can be prevented through improved access to fresh vegetables while fostering a more welcoming and inclusive Central Oregon.
- In collaboration with other community-based organizations, Biblioteca en Camino served as local access points for thousands of families who experience barriers to essential items, including fresh foods. S2T set up a free farmers market across 8 sites, traveling each Wednesday to the designated neighborhoods.
- Seed to Table, and partners, helped decrease barriers to fresh produce to a total
 of 53 families with access to free, farm-fresh produce that was fitting within their
 cultural preferences.
- At each of the 8 sites, 2 to 15 families took home between 100 to 300 pounds of fresh produce. Site participation varied greatly depending on established relationships. A total of 2,400 pounds of veggies were distributed.
- For neighborhoods involved, the program helped overcome the barriers of families feeling unsafe and unwelcome in food banks, libraries, and other public spaces and on fostering relationships with the community by working directly in their neighborhoods.

Story:

I started to unload the Seed to Table truck when I heard many voices behind me. It was a group of neighborhood children who screamed out "the veggies are here!" They all swarmed over with the rollerblades on, eagerly helping set up the produce stand so they could help feed their families. One girl said "I will get all of the vegetables because I would like to try eating more salad, maybe my mom can make chef salad tonight? Oh!

What about Cesar dressing... yes she will like that!"