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**Alchemist CDC Awarded Funding to Cook-Up a Food Business Incubator in Sacramento**

SACRAMENTO: Alchemist Community Development Corporation (Alchemist CDC) announced today that it was awarded federal funding to plan for a food business incubator (Alchemy Kitchen) in Sacramento.

Alchemy Kitchen will provide new jobs for low-income residents; new revenue for local farms and

low-income communities, and increased access to locally-produced healthy foods for everybody in the Sacramento region.

Through their Local Food Promotion Program, the USDA awarded one of only 19 planning grants nationwide to Alchemist CDC. With strong support from community organizations and working in partnership with local experts, Dr. Kristin Kiesel, a UC Davis Faculty member in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics; and Capsity, Inc., a California Benefit Corporation, Alchemist’s planning process will lay the foundation for a successful and sustainable food business incubator.

Sacramento is home to one of 13 federally designated Promise Zones, encompassing one of the economically hardest-hit areas in the nation. As America’s Farm to Fork Capital, our region is also known for our abundant and diverse food, yet, as determined by SACOG’s Rural Urban Connection Strategy, only two percent of the food consumed in the region comes from local sources. Alchemist CDC seeks to address these disparities by creating Alchemy Kitchen and providing needed resources for low-income food entrepreneurs and local farmers who want to create value-added food products.

*“The Farm-to-Fork movement in Sacramento should be inclusive of all residents,” said Congresswoman Doris Matsui. “This grant will help open up access to affordable and fresh local food to underserved communities, and provide opportunities for job creation through the Alchemy Kitchen. Alchemist CDC has demonstrated tremendous leadership in Sacramento, and I look forward to working with them in their mission to ensure every family has access to a healthy future in our region.”*

Alchemist CDC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting Sacramento area residents in their efforts to create vibrant, equitable, healthy and diverse communities. As shared by Executive Director, Davida Douglas, “Alchemy Kitchen represents the next step in the evolution of Alchemist’s food access work over the past decade, supporting those most affected by the shortcomings of our food system.”

**Helpful information:**

A food business incubator supports local food entrepreneurs by offering needed resources such as low-cost access to a licensed commercial kitchen, assistance complying with health regulations, business planning support and opportunities to grow their local food business successfully.

View USDA’s award announcement: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/press-release/usda-awards-268-million-support-farmers-markets-and-local-food-promotion-programs>

Sacramento Area Coalition of Government (SACOG) Rural Urban Connection Strategy: http://www.sacog.org/rural-urban-connections-strategy