

**CONTACT**  
Michael Altfest  
Alameda County Community Food Bank  
(510) 635-3663 x330

## **Alameda County Community Food Bank Makes Food Justice Investment with Dig Deep Farms**

*Incubation of Dig Deep Farms places ACCFB at the intersection of food, economic, racial, and climate justice*

**OAKLAND, Calif. – August 8, 2024** – Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) today announced that it has made a multi-year investment to develop the operations of Dig Deep Farms and will serve as its incubator and 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor. Formerly run by Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs’ Activities League (DSAL)—and a key component of Alameda County’s ALL IN initiatives to address hunger and poverty—Dig Deep Farms (DDF) is a non-profit farm that grows and distributes organic produce in Alameda County and has been a critical supplier of nutritious food for the local food as medicine initiative Recipe4Health.

In assuming this role Alameda County Community Food Bank is committing to building the sustainability of the formerly County-run farm while simultaneously taking major steps in its work to promote and advance food justice as a core element of its mission to end hunger.

“We look forward to working with the Food Bank as they help build capacity with Dig Deep Farms, helping them reach independence and sustainability while providing our community with foods that improve our health and training and experience in urban farming and its management,” says Alameda County District 3 Supervisor Lena Tam, who formerly served as a member of the ALL IN steering committee. “The late County Supervisor Wilma Chan saw that truly ending poverty would take an All In approach of engaging the whole community, building upon our collective strengths. We are excited to join ACCFB on this next part of the journey.”

This investment and the subsequent partnership in the farm align with many of the Food Bank’s current and emerging strategic priorities, including:

- Investing in equitable food systems;
- Promoting local economic growth;
- Supporting BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) farmers;
- Advancing climate justice;
- Ensuring stronger supply chains for its emergency food distribution;
- And offering high-quality, nutritious food to help people with chronic illnesses manage their conditions.

“Opportunities that are this mission-aligned—and as beneficial to all the partners involved—do not come around that often,” says Regi Young, executive director of Alameda County Community Food Bank. “We are in this work to end hunger in Alameda County. For us that means investing in impactful and sustainable efforts that advance food justice—which itself is at the intersection of many interconnected issues including economic, racial, climate justice, healthcare, and so much more. Investing in Dig Deep Farms is the perfect opportunity for our food bank to make enormous strides toward ending hunger for good.”



In its role as DDF’s nonprofit fiscal sponsor the Food Bank assumed the lease agreements of two farm sites—including 53 acres at Ardenwood Historic Farm—from DSAL. ACCFB will also provide all necessary logistics, human resource, and financial support to afford the 18 farmers currently cultivating through DDF the ability to focus on growing their core business.

“Partnering with the Food Bank gives us room for growth and the ability to bring each other along—and that can give all of our famers the right livelihood,” says Troy Horton, co-farm director at Dig Deep Farms. “The Food Bank’s sponsorship allows us farmers to focus on boosting crop production and realizing our production and sales capacity—and the incubation is going to help us stand on our own two feet in a couple of years. We’re eager to partner closely with the Food Bank to build a sustainable future and are excited for what the next two years will hold.”

“We live in a hub of innovation in the Bay Area so it makes perfect sense for a local non-profit like ours to invest in incubating a program which has huge potential for the future of food justice,” added Young. “Success with this incubation will mean much more than improving our local food system in Alameda County; it’ll teach us and other food banks more about the impact we can have as food justice organizations. I truly believe the potential here is far greater than we can currently imagine.”

Alameda County Community Food Bank was initially approached by multiple Alameda County stakeholders in November 2023 about the prospect of absorbing Dig Deep Farm’s operations. The Food Bank subsequently undertook a rigorous 6-month due diligence project to assess the opportunity’s potential—and to ensure it would not compromise the Food Bank’s ability to carry out its current core work, including emergency food distribution. The Food Bank’s Board of Directors approved the plan on May 22, 2024, and the organization assumed fiscal sponsorship on July 1, 2024.

Alameda County Community Food Bank has committed to a two-year fiscal sponsorship—through June 30, 2026, to coincide with DDF’s current lease term with East Bay Regional Parks District—with the goal of developing sufficient infrastructure for the farmers to independently run the farm at the completion of the term. The Food Bank maintains the option to remain Dig Deep Farm’s fiscal sponsor for a third year if needed.

###

**About Alameda County Community Food Bank**

Alameda County Community Food Bank has been at the forefront of hunger relief efforts in the Bay Area since 1985. The Food Bank serves a community in which 1 in 4 residents experiences some level of food insecurity. The Food Bank’s core work includes distributing food through a network of approximately 400 food pantries, meal programs, and other community organizations, as well as direct distribution programs including school-based and home delivery distributions. This year, the Food Bank will distribute the equivalent of 48.8 million meals worth of food. In addition to its extensive emergency food programming, ACCFB’s hunger-relief efforts include California’s largest CalFresh (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) outreach department, anti-hunger advocacy, food as medicine, and food recovery and sustainability efforts. Alameda County Community Food Bank was named Feeding America’s Food Bank of the Year in 2016, and for 16 consecutive years has received Charity Navigator’s top rating — Four Stars — ranking the organization among the top 1 percent of charities nationwide.

**About Dig Deep Farms**

Dig Deep Farms is a Black-led and BIPOC farming operation based in the heart of Alameda County. Our farming enterprise is focused on increasing equitable public health and economic opportunities through regenerative agriculture. Dig Deep Farms works directly with our community members to create farm jobs and other career opportunities that provide true living wages. At Dig Deep Farms we understand that food is medicine and therefore work diligently to grow the tastiest, nutrient-rich produce possible for sustainable distribution throughout the Alameda County community. We believe in a local, circular, and integrated food ecosystem to help improve the resiliency and sovereignty of our local food supply.