

CERES COMMUNITY PROJECT



Sonoma County Upstream Investments Resolution of Alignment

Aligning Ceres Community Project's Practices and Activities With the Sonoma County Upstream Investments Initiative

WHEREAS, the County of Sonoma is sponsoring a community-wide strategic initiative called Upstream Investments with the following **mission**: To facilitate the implementation of prevention-focused policies and interventions that increase equality and reduce monetary and societal costs for all residents of Sonoma County.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments **vision** for all residents of Sonoma County is that poverty is eliminated and all people have an equal opportunity for quality education and good health in nurturing home and community environments.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative is designed to target the following **factors**:

Social and economic factors

Poverty and racial/ethnic disparities
Community conditions
Public opinion, public policy, and laws

Family and individual factors

Family dysfunction
Negative peer influences
Early antisocial behavior

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative seeks to promote four community **goals**:

1. The whole community is engaged in supporting the healthy development of children.
2. Community members have access to education and training and are adequately prepared for the challenges of the future.
3. All community members are well sheltered, safe, and socially supported.
4. Sonoma County has a thriving diverse economy that produces economic security for all.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative seeks to expand **funding** for Model Upstream Programs and also seeks to promote **organizational practices** that support the Upstream Vision.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Strategic Initiative promotes the implementation of **outcomes-based practices** including Evidence-Based Practices, Promising Practices, and Emerging Practices.

WHEREAS, the following 26 **indicators of success** will inform the community about the success of Upstream Investments:

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| 1. Reduced child maltreatment | 15. Reduced juvenile arrests |
| 2. Reduced youth binge drinking | 16. Reduced adult arrests |
| 3. Reduced youth drug/alcohol use | 17. Reduced domestic violence |
| 4. Reduced youth depression | 18. Reduced gang membership |
| 5. Reduced youth tobacco use | 19. Improved youth connectedness |
| 6. Reduced teen births | 20. Reduced poverty |
| 7. Reduced childhood obesity | 21. Reduced unemployment |
| 8. Improved pre-school attendance | 22. Improved health insurance coverage |
| 9. Improved 3 rd grade reading | 23. Improved fruit and vegetable consumption |
| 10. Improved 3 rd grade math | 24. Improved physical activity |
| 11. Improved high school completion | 25. Improved dental visits |
| 12. Improved higher education | 26. Decreased hip fractures |
| 13. Improved housing affordability | |
| 14. Reduced homelessness | |

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Ceres Community Project shares the Upstream Investments **mission, goals, commitment to improving the indicators of success, and vision** and has aligned its organizational practices with the Upstream Investments Initiative as follows:

1. The Ceres Community Project builds healthy communities by restoring fresh, whole and organic food to its place as the foundation of health, and by connecting people in heart-centered ways to themselves, others and the earth. Our service approach includes the following: (a) Supporting individuals dealing with serious illness and their families with free, delivered, nutrient-rich prepared meals, nutrition education, and a community of caring; (b) Involving teens as volunteer gardeners and chefs, giving them hands-on experience of the difference that fresh, healthy foods and community make, and of their own capacity to contribute, while building life skills and workforce readiness; (c) Educating the broader community, including health professionals, about the connection between fresh, healthy food, strong social networks, healing and wellness; and (d) Connecting people of all ages and backgrounds to one another, and to their value as an integral part of the community. Since 2007, we have provided 200,000 free nutrient-rich meals to approximately 1,000 client families in Sonoma County. We support clients through a team of volunteer Client Liaisons who personally meet with each client then stay in touch weekly by phone. Our average client receives food from us for 4 months. Approximately 60% are alone with little or no support system, all are struggling through treatments to heal cancer and other life-threatening illnesses, and 77% are economically challenged with household incomes below \$45,000 (29% have household incomes below \$10,000). Over 900 teens from 51 Sonoma County schools have participated in the program, developing their cooking skills, gaining an understanding of the link between their diet and their health, developing leadership and career skills, and discovering the joy of giving to others.

2. Ceres Community Project's programs positively impact the following Upstream Investments indicators of success:
 - a. Improved fruit and vegetable consumption
 - b. Reduced childhood obesity
 - c. Reduced youth alcohol/drug use
 - d. Reduced youth depression
 - e. Reduced youth tobacco use
 - f. Improved high school completion
 - g. Improved youth connectedness

3. Ceres Community Project is committed to submitting both its *Healing Meals for Healthy Communities* and *Youth Mentoring* Programs to the Portfolio of Model Upstream Programs.

4. Ceres Community Project dedicates 100% of its funding to providing programming that supports the Sonoma County Upstream Investments community goals.

5. Ceres Community Project's planning practices, organizational policies, budgeting, resource deployment, and contracting all reflect the Upstream Investments mission and vision.

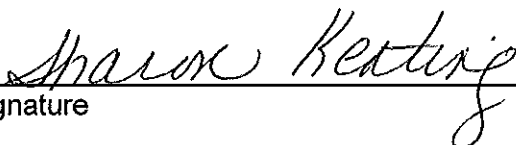
6. Ceres Community Project collaborates with Sonoma County Cradle to Career, the Youth Network, Health Action, the Sonoma County Office of Education, the Sonoma County Health Department, and Sonoma County Food System Alliance in a partnership that promotes Upstream Investments.

7. Ceres Community Project promotes community-wide knowledge and understanding of Upstream Investments by linking to SonomaUpstream.org; including our alignment with Upstream Investments in our organizational publications; mentioning our Upstream Investments alignment in presentations to community organizations; and sharing our Upstream Investments alignment with our staff, volunteers, clients and community stakeholders with whom we interact.

Approved and adopted the 4th day of November 2013.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of Ceres Community Project.

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| Following Roll Call Vote: | Ayes: | 7 |
| | Nos: | 0 |
| | Abstains: | 0 |



 Signature

Sharon Keating, President, Board of Directors
Ceres Community Project