

UPSTREAM RESOLUTION of ALIGNMENT
Aligning THE REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK Practices and Activities
With the Upstream Investments Initiative

RESOLUTION of THE REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK

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, Twenty-two **indicators of success** will inform the community about the success of Upstream Investments.

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Reduced child maltreatment | 12. Improved higher education |
| 2. Reduced youth binge drinking | 13. Improved housing affordability |
| 3. Reduced youth drug use | 14. Reduced homelessness |
| 4. Reduced youth depression | 15. Reduced juvenile arrests |
| 5. Reduced youth tobacco use | 16. Reduced adult arrests |
| 6. Reduced teen births | 17. Reduced domestic violence |
| 7. Reduced obesity | 18. Reduced gang membership |
| 8. Improved pre-school attendance | 19. Improved youth connectedness |
| 9. Improved 3 rd grade reading | 20. Reduced poverty |
| 10. Improved 3 rd grade math | 21. Reduced unemployment |
| 11. Improved high school completion | 22. Improved health insurance rates |

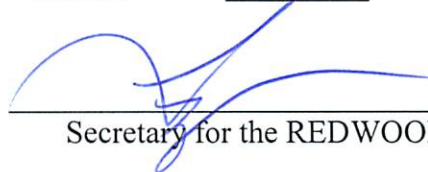
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that THE REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK shares the Upstream Investments **mission, goals**, commitment to improving the **indicators of success**, and **vision** and has aligned its organizational practices with the Upstream Investments Initiative as follows:

- ✓ The Redwood Empire Food Bank has served people in need throughout Sonoma County for 25 years. Our mission is to end hunger in our community. As the hub of a network of programs and community-based organizations in our county, we provide food to 78,000 low-income people every month including approximately 34,000 children. For children, hunger saps their energy and learning abilities, often setting the stage for lifelong difficulties.
- ✓ To effectively reach people struggling with food insecurity in Sonoma County, the Redwood Empire Food Bank operates three strategic hunger initiatives - Every Child, Every Day, Senior Security, and Neighborhood Hunger Network. These prevention-focused interventions for children, families, and seniors increase equality, promote opportunities, and reduce future monetary and societal costs for Sonoma County.
- ✓ Hunger prevention from the Redwood Empire Food Bank's programs improves each and every one of the Upstream Indicators of Success, above. Without adequate food, few problems facing people can be overcome, whether it is homelessness, unemployment, poor health, failure in school, or any number of other serious problems.

- ✓ The Redwood Empire Food Bank makes a commitment to submitting the Organization's programs to the **Portfolio of Model Upstream Programs**, and will post a link to Upstream Investments Initiative on our web pages: www.refb.org.
- ✓ The Redwood Empire Food Bank is the hub for 149 agencies that operate 229 programs located in every city, town, and unincorporated area of Sonoma County. Most of the groups aligned with Upstream Investments acquire food from the Redwood Empire Food Bank to support their programs. For example, the Redwood Empire Food Bank is the primary source of food for homeless service providers from all four corners of the county. The Redwood Empire Food Bank is a leading advocate to end hunger and collaborates with the California Association of Food Banks, the Food Research and Action Center, the Community Activity and Nutrition Coalition (CAN-C) of Sonoma County, Feeding America, and builds many other partnerships to eradicate hunger.

Approved and adopted the 26th day of March 2012. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK Board of Directors.

Following Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 18
 Nos: 0
 Absent: 0

 Lynn Weznicki
Secretary for the REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK