



Homies Organizing the Mission to Empower Youth

HOMEY

Community for Self-Determination - Culture-Empowerment-Education
homey-sf.org



June 16, 2020

Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee
San Francisco Department of Public Health
25 Van Ness Ave, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Urge Continuity of SDDT Emergency Fund Go Toward Food Security

Dear Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Homies Organizing the Mission to Empower Youth (HOMEY), a 20 year old frontline violence prevention and community empowerment program that serves over 1,000 youth, young adults and their families each year in San Francisco. We want to share our success and deep gratitude for the opportunity to work with The San Francisco Market's Emergency Food Program which is funded by the Sugary Drinks Distributors Tax.

Since March 23rd, HOMEY has distributed a total of 1,634 bags/boxes of food in our community as a result of the Covid-19/Shelter-In-Place order. Last month, HOMEY developed a partnership with Janna Cordeiro and the food program through a referral from our sister agency La Raza Community Resources Center.

This amazing program connection gifted us the ability to purchase food directly from a great Latino vendor who obtains food from farmers market vendors and delivers fresh wonderful produce and food items. With the help of 16 amazing volunteers from Faith in Action and HOMEY, we are able to provide nutritional food to families in dire need because of the Covid-19 crisis. What a powerful eco-system of sharing the resources and supporting local businesses and helping our community! Big shout out to 'Arcadio Produce', Janna Cordeiro, and your committee for helping us provide over 600 bags of food over the last two weeks to our community members right here of Mission Street out of the HOMEY office.

We urge your committee to continue an allocation of funds to this program as we are providing food to hundreds of families that are in desperate need of food at this time. We are providing food to undocumented families, monolingual Mayan speakers, disabled mothers, elders living in SROs, extremely poor families with young children under 5 years old and so many more. This is a critical moment in our city's history and we desperately need your help to serve our community. We hope that you will continue to support this critical work to serve our community in a caring, compassionate, and community-led way as we have always done in the city of St. Francis.

Warm regards,

Roberto Eligio Alfaro, M.A. Education Administration, Executive Director
Community Cultural Promoter, Maya Lenca Nation, Tribal ID#: SVO2100511-C