

Partnerships & Multi-Sector Coalitions

Local health departments' (LHDs) CalFresh Healthy Living (CFHL) programs engage in partnerships and coalitions to leverage resources and enhance sustainability. These collaborations are especially important for supporting policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) change efforts.

Partnerships occur formally or informally between LHDs and other entities involved in CFHL programming during a given year.

Coalitions are groups of individuals and/or organizations who commit to joint action over an extended period.

PARTNERSHIPS

LHDs reported **565 partnerships** in FFY25. Nearly all LHDs (89%) reported at least one partnership, and a quarter (16 LHDs) reported 10 or more. Among reported partnerships, 18% (100) were newly established.

Partners reflect the settings where CFHL programs are implemented and the organizations that support these efforts. Common partners included:



As mutually beneficial partnerships, LHDs provided assistance to their partners as well as receiving assistance in return. Assistance commonly included:

Assistance Provided	Assistance Received
Materials (78%)	Space (58%)
Planning (56%)	Human resources (52%)
Program implementation (54%)	Planning (50%)
Human resources (54%)	Program implementation (46%)

MULTI-SECTOR COALITIONS

LHDs reported participation in **180 multi-sector coalitions** in FFY25. Nearly all LHDs (90%) reported at least 1 coalition with 2 or more members. On average, coalitions were 6 years old and LHDs reported having participated in them for an average of 5 years.

Coalition membership can help us understand how LHDs work together with other sectors to collectively impact their audience. In FFY25, coalition membership:

- Ranged from 2 to 62 members per coalition (median = 7)
- Comprised 1 to 9 diverse sectors (median = 4)
- Included at least 5 diverse sectors for 34% (62) of coalitions
- Included at least one Community-Based Organization for 66% (118) of coalitions

LHDs reported having various goals for their coalitions. The most common of these goals included:



- 50%** Influence development or revision of a site, organization, or community level policy
- 42%** Help establish a new community service to improve community health
- 24%** Support implementation of a new law or policy
- 16%** Help establish a new government service to improve community health
- 15%** Develop a monitoring system for community changes adopted previously

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LHDs attributed a wide range of accomplishments to their collaborations. A handful of these include:*

"Yolo County partnered with several local housing communities to deliver tailored nutrition education supporting residents' unique needs. Through single-session and series-based lessons drawn from the Food Smarts and Waste Reduction curricula, participants gained practical skills in healthy eating, food budgeting, cooking, and food waste reduction. These flexible, community-based partnerships help residents—including families, seniors, veterans, and individuals in recovery—make sustainable, informed choices that support their overall well-being."

– Yolo County



"Community School Liaisons at two elementary Schools provide programming that connects foster youth, homeless youth, and families in transitional housing with nature-based field trips incorporating physical activity and nutrition. Partnering with Liaisons facilitates our work because they schedule directly with teachers and ensure PSE work can be done in these two schools."

–Humboldt County



"The Riverside County Nutrition Action Partnership focused on building capacity and strengthening cross-sector collaboration to advance CFHL initiatives. The coalition held dedicated skill-building sessions on effective community engagement strategies, equipping partners with practical skills to strengthen outreach and implementation of policy, systems, and environmental change efforts across the county. Members were also introduced to county food security initiatives, including produce distribution through pantry programs, new incubator farming opportunities, and the development of a regional food hub. The coalition also promoted and supported outreach for USDA programs, including the WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Programs. These activities deepened partner engagement, increased awareness of available nutrition resources, and strengthened local capacity to support food security efforts. The coalition intends to continue to meet and work on projects beyond the sunset of SNAP-Ed."

–Riverside County



"Participating in Community Schools meetings and conducting resident surveys has helped us better understand the unique needs of each neighborhood. These insights allow us to better serve both youth and adults in our community."

–Fresno County



"The Madera County Breastfeeding Coalition hosted their 2nd annual milk drive in December 2024 to raise awareness about the importance of donor milk for premature or babies who need it. The MCBFC hosted their 1st Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Walk and Celebration in August 2025 to highlight the importance of breastfeeding, bringing together families, healthcare providers, and community organizations to celebrate collective efforts that support maternal and child health."

–Madera County



**Quotes may be edited slightly for brevity and clarity*