



Project Open Hand
meals with love

April 4, 2022

Speaker of the House, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I am formally requesting Community Project Funding on behalf of Project Open Hand for the Fiscal Year 2023 towards our Community Nutrition and Wellness Expansion Services Project. As you know, Project Open Hand mission is to improve health outcomes and quality of life by providing nutritious meals to the sick and vulnerable, caring for and educating our community. We accomplish this by serving more than one million medically tailored meals each year throughout the Bay Area via our Community Nutrition and Wellness Programs.

Madam Speaker, COVID-19 has had a profound impact on Project Open Hand and our clients. We have experienced historic demand for our services and an exponential increase to our delivery and mobile models. This pandemic has shifted our programmatic focus from communal meals to frozen delivery in the interest of client health, convenience, and safety, and with this comes added stress on our existing infrastructure to meet and exceed the expectations of this new model. Prior to the pandemic, many of our clients were already homebound and experiencing the traumas of increasing isolation and lack of social interaction. In response, the criteria requirements for delivery services have been relaxed to accommodate more susceptible populations to COVID-19 and ensure they can still receive their life-saving nutrition. Project Open Hand has responded to this call.

Our organization and indeed this city is currently at a turning point. Project Open Hand is choosing to meet these new challenges head on and encourage our Food is Medicine Coalition partners to do likewise. We will succeed by investing in infrastructure and sustainability practices for these new expansions, a key portion of which is the Community Nutrition and Wellness Expansion Services Project. We are incredibly grateful for the consideration for funding and the acknowledgment that our most vulnerable residents need the highest quality service.

Cordially,

Paul Hepfer
Chief Executive Officer



Speaker of the House, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

I am writing to you today to give my wholehearted endorsement to Project Open Hand and their request for Community Project Funding. Their Community Nutrition and Wellness Expansion Project is a vital need for our community, and Project Open Hand continues to be a mainstay of medically tailored meals throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

As you may know, COVID-19 placed an exponential increase in demand for Project Open Hand's services. Before the pandemic, Project Open Hand provided 12,500 weekly meals to underserved communities; that number is now 20,000. The Community Nutrition and Wellness Expansion Project allows Project Open Hand to sustain this added workload and strategically scale their services accordingly with increased demand. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to stress how important their programs are for the Bay Area community.

Project Open Hand has a track record of success and serving meals with love since 1985. I cannot think of a more deserving organization or project to receive this funding.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Knego', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dave Knego
Executive Director, Curry Senior Center



Speaker of the House, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

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Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leticia Landa".

Leticia Landa
Deputy Director, La Cocina



April 15, 2022

Speaker of the House, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

I am writing to you today to give my wholehearted endorsement to Project Open Hand and their request for Community Project Funding. Their Community Nutrition and Wellness Expansion Project is a vital need for our community, and Project Open Hand continues to be a mainstay of medically tailored meals throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

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Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashley C. McCumber', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ashley C. McCumber

Chief Executive Officer, Meals on Wheels San Francisco



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90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

I am writing to you today to give my wholehearted endorsement to Project Open Hand and their request for Community Project Funding. Their Community Nutrition and Wellness Expansion Project is a vital need for our community, and Project Open Hand continues to be a mainstay of medically tailored meals throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

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Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meredith Nguyen".

Meredith Nguyen
Chief Strategy Officer, SF Marin Food Bank

SF NEW DEAL

Speaker of the House, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

I am writing to you today to give my support to Project Open Hand and their request for Community Project Funding. Their Community Nutrition and Wellness Expansion Project is a vital need for our community, and Project Open Hand continues to be a mainstay of medically tailored meals throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

As you may know, COVID-19 exacerbated persistent challenges around food insecurity and exponentially increased the demand for community feeding. Our organization, SF New Deal launched out of the pandemic to supplement overextended community feeding services and programs. During the past 2 years, we have delivered just under 3 million meals made by small businesses using a hospitality-first mindset and centering the needs of those we served while providing high quality and culturally aware meals.

As an adjacent provider in the community, we have observed the significance and impact of Project Open Hand's services to our most under resourced and marginalized neighbors. Prior to the pandemic, Project Open Hand provided 12,500 weekly meals to underserved communities; that number is now 20,000. Their Community Nutrition and Wellness Expansion Project allows Project Open Hand to sustain this increased volume and strategically scale their services accordingly with growing demand.

Project Open Hand has been a pioneer in care and community feeding with a long-serving track record of success since 1985. We are in support of their request for this funding.

Respectfully,



Jacob Bindman

Co-founder & Chief Programs Officer, SF New Deal



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April 19, 2022

Speaker of the House, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

Lance Toma, LCSW, *Ex Officio*

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

I am writing to you today to give my wholehearted endorsement to Project Open Hand and their request for Community Project Funding. Their Community Nutrition and Wellness Expansion Project is a vital need for our community, and Project Open Hand continues to be a mainstay of medically tailored meals throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

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Project Open Hand has a track record of success and serving meals with love since 1985. As my health center is a tenant in their main headquarters, I see the impact of their work firsthand and enthusiastically support Project Open Hand's request for their Community Nutrition and Wellness Expansion Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lance Toma", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Lance Toma
Chief Executive Officer



Speaker of the House, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

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Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Cowan", enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Pastor Robert Cowan
Visitation Valley Community Unity



Speaker of the House, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

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Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ann Thrupp".

Ann Thrupp
Director, California Food is Medicine Coalition



SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

**Department of Disability
and Aging Services**

P.O. Box 7988
San Francisco, CA
94120-7988
www.SFHSA.org

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90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
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Best regards,

Cindy Kauffman
Deputy Director, Community Services
Department of Disability and Aging Services
Cindy.Kauffman@sfgov.org
(415) 355-3693



London Breed
Mayor

Kelly Dearman
Executive Director