

Press Release
City of Perris

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kaiser Provides Continued Support to Grow Perris Initiative

PERRIS, Calif. (January 24, 2020) — Kaiser Permanente showed its continued support for the Grow Perris Initiative by presenting a grant for \$25, 000 to the Perris City Council on January 14, 2020.



This grant, the fourth provided in support of the initiative, is part of a long-standing partnership between the City and Kaiser Permanente. The grant comes with the goal of successfully utilizing existing gardens to establish pop-up produce markets, ultimately increasing

access to locally grown foods, creating sustainable community gardens, and working to address food insecurity throughout the City of Perris. The efforts are aimed to be led by local youth effectively giving the City of Perris a renewed vitality and establishing foundations for residents to live, work, & play.

Kaiser Permanente Community Health Manager Cecelia Arias addressed the Perris City Council and commended the City for its efforts in keeping Perris healthy.

“Kaiser Permanente believes that health happens in the community, where we live work, play, worship and learn,” said Arias. “That’s where the impact is found, and we applaud the efforts of the City of Perris and the Grow Perris initiative.”

Arias said the Grow Perris initiative is pioneering urban agriculture and community-based solutions to transform the community.

Continued Arias, “The initiative has been on our radar for a few years now and we know it aims to expand the health equity and improve health outcomes for Perris residents.”

Kaiser Permanente and the Grow Perris initiative share a commitment to healthy nutrition practice and youth work force development. In 2014, Kaiser Permanente presented their first grant to the City of Perris and the investments have been well used and leveraged for the overall improvement of the community.

“We [Kaiser Permanente] are very proud of the investment,” said Arias.

Currently, there are more than 50 partners in the Grow Perris initiative, with the goal of building 30 gardens. After unveiling a community garden at the City Hall Campus, the Grow Perris initiative has now installed 19 satellite gardens throughout the City. The partners include health and education advocates from all over the region including WRCOG, Kaiser Permanente, Eastern Municipal Water District, Department of Water Resources and the UC Master Gardner

Program. Riverside University Health System as well as all three school districts in Perris and other local community organizations and leaders. The community gardens provide fruits, vegetables and herbs and when all 30 sites become available, no Perris resident would have to travel more than half a mile to harvest available crops.

The Green City Farm Program represents just one of the multi-pronged “Live Well Perris” campaign to encourage Perris residents to eat healthier and exercise. Other elements of Live Well include an annual health fair each spring, weekly workouts, City-sponsored hikes, adoption of a healthy drink ordinance, and Chef in the Garden cooking demonstrations. Perris has won national, state and regional acclaim for its Live Well initiative, which has impacted thousands of residents.

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