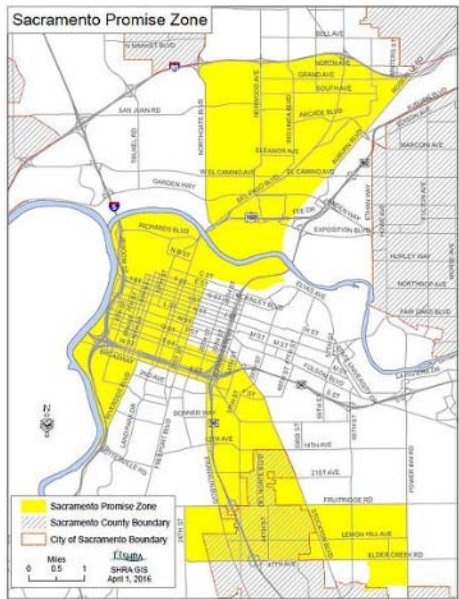




Alchemist CDC's Food Business Incubator Project

Concept: To create a shared-use commercial kitchen space and food business incubator. The commercial kitchen space will be rented out to food entrepreneurs giving them access to a facility which will allow them to grow and scale their businesses. In addition to the commercial kitchen space, we will offer business support services such as business advising, marketing support, facilitating distribution connections, etc.



Target Participants: Our primary target participants for the project would be 1) low-income food entrepreneurs and 2) small- to mid-sized local farms looking to create value-added products or to market their farm products to the food businesses using the kitchen.

Need: A major hurdle for small food businesses is access to a commercial kitchen space, which would allow them to produce on a scale that is economically sustainable. Other common hurdles small food businesses face are gaps in regulatory or business management knowledge and a general lack of connections, which prevent them from growing and becoming more profitable. Our project is designed to address these hurdles and guide businesses to success.

Feasibility Study: In October 2016, Alchemist CDC received an 18-month, \$71,000 Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) planning grant from the USDA to do a feasibility study and draft a business plan for this project. With this planning grant we are working with Dr. Kristin Kiesel of the Agricultural Economics Dept of UC Davis who is leading the feasibility study. She is conducting studies of other similar models, surveying potential users to assess the need and what types of services and facilities would be most helpful, and evaluating the overall market and landscape.

Business Plan: We are working with Capsity Coworking Community to develop a business plan. Capsity is also assisting with site selection for the project and the development of an outreach model and marketing plan.

Contact: For more information contact Jacob Sacks, LFPP Project Manager, at jacob@alchemistcdc.org or (559) 259-5465.

