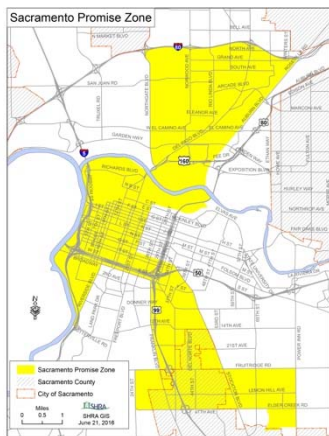




# Alchemist CDC's Alchemy Kitchen

**Concept:** Create economic stability for low-income entrepreneurs and increase production of locally-grown foods through a shared-use commercial kitchen and food business incubator. The kitchen will be rented to food entrepreneurs, giving access to a facility which allows for growth and scaling. In addition to the kitchen, we will provide **business support services** such as business advising, food safety instruction, marketing support, distribution connections, and more.



**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**.

**Target Participants:** Our primary target participants for the project are 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 incubator businesses.

**Feasibility:** Alchemist CDC partnered with UC Davis to conduct a feasibility study, which has found ripe conditions for this project. We conducted over 50 surveys and held focus groups with potential users of the Incubator. The responses reinforced a need for this type of project in the Sacramento region. Market research also indicates a growing demand for locally produced products.

**Future:** We are working with Capsity, Inc. (a California Benefits Corporation that runs a successful co-working space) to finalize the business plan. We will develop business training curricula to fit Sacramento and our participants. The first phase of the project will provide **business training and one-on-one mentorship** to low-income small business startups while we finish the build-out of the Alchemy Kitchen commercial production site.



Project team members visit El Pájaro incubator kitchen in Watsonville to learn from its success