

# RACIAL EQUITY INITIATIVE

## FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY



## LOUISIANA

### COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

MQVN Community Development Corporation (MQVN CDC)\*

Kids Re:Think

Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association (VAYLA)

Japanese American Citizens League (JAACL)

Supporting Urban Agriculture (SUA)

Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association of New Orleans (VAYLA)

VEGGI Farmer's Cooperative

### CONTACT

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4626 Alcee Fortier Blvd.  
Suite E

### PROJECT GOAL

To improve Family Economic Security for Asian American (AA) children and families in Village de l'Est and the Greater New Orleans area in Louisiana by:

1. Development of the Village de l'Est Sustainable Eco-Farm
2. Implement a community youth leadership development program
3. Advocacy of aquaponics, sustainable agriculture, and local agriculture

### COMMUNITIES SERVED AND MILESTONES

Community Served: Asian Americans

Milestones:

- Developed a cohort of cross-racial youth leaders to participate in food justice work
- Expansion of edible farms and aquaponics to the Edward Harney Elementary School
- Launch of the community's farmers market at the Lower 9th Ward

### IMPLEMENTATION

Village de l'Est Sus. Eco-Farm

- Procurement of vendors for supplies and materials for Village de l'Est Sustainable Eco-Farm Program

*The Racial Equity Initiative is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and is a project of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum.*

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#### Implement Program

- Youth leadership development
- Outreach and recruitment of 7 new growers (including youth)
- Revise VEGGI Farmers' Cooperative sustainable agriculture training curriculum to include youth development component
- Hold 1-40 hour training workshop on sustainable agriculture

#### Advocacy

- Presentation on Farm Bill to community farmers
- Research pre-existing models of local farmer and government collaborations
- Develop a list of key stakeholders and decision makers
- Advocate on sustainable agriculture policies, particularly around water access for agricultural purposes, municipally supported composting, and economic/legislative incentives for buyers and businesses to source locally

### IMPACT

*"The REI work has impacted our community(ies) by investing in our community's longevity, survival, health, aesthetic, cultural wealth, and diversity."*

*—NOLA, Daniel Nguyen*