HOW GRANTS IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH IN SANGER, CALIFORNIA

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Sanger is located in California’s Central Valley, just East of Fresno and West of Kings Canyon National Forest. Sanger is known as “The Nation’s Christmas Tree City”, a title designated to the City by the U.S. Postal Service in 1949 due to its proximity to the General Grant Tree and the forest itself. However, though located close to a National Forest, Sanger’s communities still struggle with optimizing their health and well-being. When considering what makes a healthy city, there are several determinants to consider. During the Healthy Sanger Summit in 2018, community members from Sanger came out to share what they believe to be a “healthy Sanger”. Through community outreach and collaboration on public policy, a list of goals and objectives were derived as a means to reach the community’s definition of a “healthy Sanger”. These focused on activity, education, safety, and food. Combining the community needs with the information we gathered from Healthy People 2020 (see section below), Sanger is equipped with a toolbox of ways to maintain individual health and community health for the City.

Our goals for this project are to first analyze and understand the factors that affect the health of a community, and to use the information and research we’ve gathered to contribute to improving the health of a city. Based on previous partnerships with disadvantaged cities in the Central Valley, we became aware of the difficulties many communities face specifically in terms of funding. Because of this, we chose to dive into grant writing with hopes to learn more about the application process and how cities and communities are able to qualify and apply for grants. We hope that this process will build a foundation for us in moving into potential careers, as we all are hoping to gain experience in the nonprofit sector.
The purpose of this background report is to analyze the Social Determinants of Health in Sanger. Healthy people 2020 defines social determinants of health as the “conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks”. These determinants are broken down into five key areas as follows: economic stability, education, social and community context, health and health care, and neighborhood and built environment. We use this framework to establish a baseline by which to examine the city of Sanger. The resulting background report, once finished, will give us an insight into the community so that we can better understand their gaps and strengths.

Figure 2.1 Sanger Location Map
ECONOMIC STABILITY

EMPLOYMENT
According to the United States Census Bureau, the City of Sanger has an employment rate of approximately 54.8% employed, 6% unemployed of those in the labor force, and reported 39.2% not in the labor force for those ages 16 and over. The statistics also show a range of occupations in the city with large groupings in education, agriculture, retail, and manufacturing.

INCOME
The median household income in Sanger is approximately $44,928 while mean household income in Sanger is $40,303. Nonfamily household median income is $12,275 while nonfamily household mean income is $23,475. Provided, per capita income is $10,835. The general income distribution among households is evenly dispersed between ranges of as low as below $10,000 to upwards of $200,000. Approximately 2.5% of the population receives Supplemental Security Income, 4.5% receives cash public assistance income, and 5.1% of the population reports to have used Food Stamps or SNAP ben-

POVERTY
Census data indicates 24.8% of families in Sanger have an income below the poverty line as of the last 12 months. It is also determined that of those below the poverty line, approximately 1/3 worked full time, year-round in the past 12 months, 1/3 worked less than full time year-round in the last 12 months, and 1/3 did not work. The graphic below demonstrates the intensity of residents in Sanger with income below the poverty level. The higher percentages of poverty in the city overall and especially in particular regions qualify Sanger for numerous grants aimed for underrepresented cities.
EDUCATION

SCHOOLS
Public education in the city of Sanger is facilitated by Sanger Unified School District, which is composed of twenty-one schools. There are fourteen elementary sites, a middle school and one comprehensive high school. There are two K-8 and one K-12 charter schools in the district. In addition there is an alternative education continuation school, an alternative education independent school, a community day school, and an adult school.

Below is a map of the City of Sanger indicating the schools in Sanger Unified School District.

Figure 2.5 Schools in Sanger

These schools in Sanger include: Centerville Elementary, Community Day, Del Rey Elementary, Fairmont Elementary, Hallmark Charter, Jackson Elementary, Jefferson Elementary, John S. Walsh, Kings River High (Continuation), Lincoln Elementary, Lone Star Elementary, Madison Elementary, Quail Lake Environmental-

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
The city offers both public and private early education opportunities, however most children enrolled in preschool or daycare are enrolled in public school (93-100% between 3 years to kindergarten).

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
Sanger has a 66.2% of the total population with a high school diploma or higher, while 36.2% of Sanger residents are reported to have no high school diploma.

In the visual below, you can see that the distribution of those 25 and older with at least a high school diploma ranges anywhere between 32% and 47% in higher concentrations.

HIGHER EDUCATION
Census data reports in the population enrolled in college or graduate school is 16.4%. However, in the 18 to 24 year age category that 25.8% of men and 40.5% of women are enrolled in college or graduate school. In total, 13.1% of Sanger residents are reported to have received Bachelor’s degree or higher in those ages 25 and older.

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY
38.8% of the population speaks only English, and 61.2% speak a language other than English. 58.4% of the population in Sanger speaks Spanish.
SOCIAL & COMMUNITY CONTEXT

CIVIC PARTICIPATION
In the city of Sanger, approximately 54.7% of the population is of voting age. While this gives us an insight into the portion of the population that can contribute to the decision-making process, there is little to know about the participation patterns of this population. However, based on data from the election on March 5, 2019, only 21% of registered voters participated. As of February 2019, a total of 11,411 people are registered to vote in Sanger. As of 2017, Sanger’s population totals at 25,161 people. The population that is of voting age is around 13,763 people. Therefore, we know that approximately 82% of the voting age population are in fact registered to vote. However, though the voter registration rate is high, this does not explain the low voter turnout in the most recent elections. There could be a number of reasons contributing to this, from voter apathy to poor campaigning or education on candidates and measures. Though there is still more to be uncovered with regards to civic participation, the data on registered voters is important when considering how policy moves forward in a City.

DISCRIMINATION
Information on discrimination in Sanger is still unknown without direct contact with community members or representatives. However, given the population statistics of an 80% Latinx population, there is a chance that this community experiences some level of discrimination or difficulty as a minority group or identifying as part of the immigrant or migrant worker population. After speaking with Dr. Woodcock, he informed us of the splintering of the City, specifically in regards to access to food options, that occurs between the Eastern and Western sides of the City. This happens where the railroad tracks split the City (see Figure), where the East side is referred to as the “chancla” by the community. This area is seen as the “poorer” side of town, where the community members in these neighborhoods see less access to fresh food. The local Walmart and grocery store, State Foods, are long enough distances from this neighborhood that is creates difficulties for the community in the “chancla” to access healthy food options.
At the Healthy Sanger Summit, a number of community members from this area expressed their desire for more healthy food options closer to their homes.

Figure 2.6 Community Context
INCARCERATION
In researching incarceration patterns for the city of Sanger, we had to base this data off of Fresno County’s rates. For the county, in 2016 750 per 1,000 people were incarcerated. This is 50 persons higher than the state average of 700 per 1,000 people. While we know based on this data that on average, people in Fresno County are incarcerated at a higher rate than the state average, we don’t have any specific data on Sanger, nor are we aware of what kinds of crimes people are being incarcerated for. With more outreach to the community and our City contacts, we might gain more insight into this question.

SOCIAL COHESION
Social cohesion in Sanger by means of race lies predominantly in the Latino community, making up 80% of the City’s population. The median age in the City is 29 years old, and the population is split about evenly along sex lines (50/50 male/female). We are aware that a number of local nonprofit organizations are working hard to build more social cohesion. A local group called the Sanger Task Force pulls together folks from a number of backgrounds (from teachers to firefighters to CEO’s) to collaborate on ways to bring the City together and expand its social and economic opportunity.
HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE
One factor that contributes to an individual's access to health care is whether or not they have health insurance. According to 2013-17 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates:

- 12.3% of Sanger's population is uninsured.
- 37.7% of Sanger's foreign born and not citizens are uninsured.

In Comparison,

- 11.7% of Fresno County's population is uninsured
- 10.5% of the State of California's population is uninsured.

HEALTH LITERACY
Little data is available about health literacy in Sanger, however, one nonprofit has supportive programs available. Sanger Family Resource Center (FRC) is operated by Comprehensive Youth Services (CYS) in partnership with Sanger Unified School District. One program offered at the Sanger FRC is the Sanger Parent University.

This includes information on Latino family literacy, nutrition, and others (Comprehensive Youth Services of Fresno).

ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE
Medical facilities in Sanger include:
- Adventist Health Community Care,
- Kings View Rural Service,
- United Health Center,
- Bautista Rural Medical Clinics,
- Central Valley Ob/gyn Medical Group,
- LabCorp,
- Quest Diagnostics,
- Golden Living Center,
- Sanger Hospital,
- and other doctors offices

Pharmacies in Sanger include:
- CVS Pharmacy
- two Walmart Pharmacies
- El Portal Pharmacy
- Barr Pharmacy

Health care is also accessible at schools within the city. "Sanger Unified School Health Offices are staffed as follows:
- Sanger High has a full time Registered School Nurse, a full time LVN, and a part time Health Aide.
- Washington Academic Middle School has a full time Registered School Nurse and a full time LVN.
- Elementary, K-8 and Charter sites are staffed part-time by Registered School Nurses, LVN's and/or Health Aides.
- A Registered Nurse is on call (accessible by cell phone) during all times students are on campus' (Sanger Unified School District).
ACCESS TO FOODS THAT SUPPORT HEALTHY EATING PATTERNS

A survey of the food and drink options located within the City of Sanger created the following categories:
- Chain Restaurants
- Non-Chain Restaurants
- Bar/Alcohol
- Grocery Store
- Smoothies/Coffee
- Dessert

The above pie chart shows that Chain Restaurants form the largest category consisting of 38%, followed by Non-Chain Restaurants, Bar/Alcohol, and Grocery Stores each at 18%.

An annual farmers market and street faire is held in Sanger by the Chamber. The 23rd annual was held on September 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th 2018. (Sanger District Chamber of Commerce, 2018).

Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission holds food distributions every other month at Sanger Park (Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission). Three other food distribution programs in Sanger are Good Neighbor Center, Inc. at Grace Community Church, Annadale Baptist Church, and Father Hannibal House (Central California Food Bank).
CRIME AND VIOLENCE

Table 2-1 Sanger Annual Crimes in Comparison with State and National Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Violent</th>
<th>Property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sanger</td>
<td>4.61</td>
<td>19.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>4.49</td>
<td>24.97</td>
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<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(NeighborScout, 2019)
The table above shows that Sanger has a higher rate of violent crimes than the state of California and the United States. The table also shows that Sanger has a lower rate of property crimes than the state of California and the United States.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS
Several of the census tracts in Sanger are designated as SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities by the California Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). According to CalEnviroScreen, these census tracts are disproportionately burdened by, and vulnerable to, multiple sources of pollution. According to OEHHA, “Disadvantaged communities in California are specifically targeted for investment of proceeds from the State’s cap-and-trade program” (California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment).

Figure 2.8 SB 535 Map
QUALITY OF HOUSING
Quality of housing can be examined by looking at four housing
problems defined in the Fresno Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element.
“Not surprisingly, extremely low-income households face a higher
incidence of housing problems. The four housing problems are:
incomplete kitchen facilities, incomplete plumbing facilities, more than
one person per room, and cost burden greater than 30 percent.”

Table 2-2 Housing Problems for Extremely Low-Income Households
(2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Household has 1 or more Housing Problems</th>
<th>Percent with 1 or more Housing Problems</th>
<th>Percent of Households Overpaying</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely Low-Income</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>88.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>6,540</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>52.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Fresno Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element, 2016).

ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE
In the City of Sanger’s 2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, they
identify that “currently the City owns 51.5 acres of parks and is utilizing
28 acres of Sanger Unified School District land totaling 63 acres of
useable space; however the city is lacking 137 acres of much needed
parks and recreation facilities” (City of Sanger Parks and Recreation
Department, 2006).

To meet this need, the City of Sanger says that, “Our recommendation
is to enforce the City’s Park Standard of 5 acres per 1,000 populations,
which would require providing 100 acres of park space for a population
of 20,000” (City of Sanger Parks and Recreation Department, 2006).
“Research indicates that there is an immediate need for a Multi Sport
Facility (Community Park) and the City should have at least two 20 acre
Community Parks to accommodate the current recreation needs in the
Community” (City of Sanger Parks and Recreation Department, 2006).
Neighborhood Parks are also important to incorporate into the city. The master plan defines a neighborhood parks as a city or county-owned land intended to serve the recreational needs of people living or working with ½ mile radius of the park for easy access. The intention of this type of park is that it serves as a neighborhoods recreational and social focus (City of Sanger Department of Parks and Recreation, 2006). Inclusion of these types of parks would be beneficial in the Northern and Eastern parts of the city where there is less parks. The map below shows the locations of existing parks in the city, indicated by a tree, and schools with recreation space indicated by a school.

Figure 2.9 Open Space Location Map
The nearby City of Parlier applied for funding from the Statewide Park Program. The project description is to, "Expand Ruth Earl Park in the City of Parlier through development of an adjacent 3 acres. Construct new splash park, soccer field, covered picnic area, pavilion, seating area, demonstration habitat garden, two restroom buildings, pump house, signage, fencing, lighting, landscaping and irrigation." The total cost is listed as $2,641,564 with an estimated completion of June 30, 2019. (California Natural Resources Agency). Parlier City Park, now by the name Heritage Park, is currently under construction.
CASE STUDY:
DINUBA SPORTSPLEX

Nearby City of Dinuba applied for funding from the Statewide Park Program. The project, now called Dinuba Sportsplex, was designed to, "Create the new Dinuba Recreation and Activity Center in the City of Dinuba. Convert a 44,200 sq ft warehouse and construct indoor features including batting cages; multi-use sports court for basketball, volleyball and tennis; artificial turf areas for soccer, football, baseball & softball training; fitness training area for aerobics, zumba and fitness machines; arcade/concession area; and restrooms. Construct an outdoor skate park, covered picnic area; indoor/ outdoor lighting; and landscaping." The total cost is listed as $1,022,300. The project was estimated to be completed on 6/30/2019, but was actually completed 2/4/2016. (California Natural Resources Agency).
CASE STUDY: MCDERMONT X IN LINDSAY, CALIFORNIA

In order to help stimulate jobs in the city of Lindsay, the McDermont House Field Project was created in order to create long term, viable jobs tailored to area residents to stabilize the influx and outflow of seasonal agricultural workers. The facility was opened in April, 2008. Development costs were comprised of state and local funding, including a $2.5 Million grant from the State of California's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to develop the project, as well as $1,969,106 from the City of Lindsay (land, rehab, FF&E), $6,988,326 from the City of Lindsay RDA (land, onsite imp., FF&E), $222,281 from CA IWM Grant (Recycled rubber floors), $1,017,569 from CA Workforce Housing (equipment), $220,000 from CA Prop 40 Grant (rock wall) and $200,000 from CA Transit Grant (transit parking area). (California Department of Housing and Community Development).
LIST OF GRANTS

**NIFA/FNS - The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (formerly known as the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program (FINI))** - https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/food-insecurity-nutrition-incentive-fini-grant-program

The goal of the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program is to support projects which increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables among low-income consumers participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by providing incentives at the point of purchase. The program would test strategies that could contribute to our understanding of how best to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants.

This grant opportunity is relevant and could be valuable to Sanger because based on the health background report and conversations with County representatives, the city is lacking in fresh and healthy food options.

**NIFA Community Food Projects - The Community Food Projects** primary goal is to meet the food needs of low-income individuals through food distribution, community outreach to assist in participation in federally assisted nutrition programs, or improving access to food as part of a comprehensive service.

We saw this grant opportunity to be particularly applicable to the City of Sanger’s current fresh food availability in general, but more specifically for low-income individuals in the community. https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/community-food-projects-cfp-competitive-grants-program


The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Education and Workforce Development (EWD) focuses on developing the next generation of research, education, and extension professionals in the food and agricultural sciences. EWD invites applications in five areas: professional development for agricultural literacy; training of undergraduate students in research and extension; fellowships for predoctoral candidates; fellowships for postdoctoral scholars, and a brand new program for agricultural workforce training. Based on education and economic history in Sanger, this workforce development could be extremely beneficial to the community.
The California Department of Food and Agriculture – California Nutrition Incentive Program -
This Nutrition Incentive Program was established by Assembly Bill 1321 to encourage the purchase and consumption of healthy, fresh foods. Housed within the Office of Farm to Fork, the program provides monetary incentives for the purchase of California grown fruits and vegetables at Certified Farmers Markets and small businesses. http://cafarmtofork.com/cnip.html

California Department of Parks and Recreation – Statewide Park Program - This competitive program could create new parks and new recreation opportunities in underserved communities across California. The goals of the program is to encourage healthy communities and the development of successful parks in underserved communities, with an ultimate goal of fostering meaningful engagement with local residents, where park designs represent each community’s needs and creativity. This grant was successful in Parlier and Sanger represents similar needs, especially the areas in Sanger east of the railroad tracks. https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=29939
The grant we have chosen is from the California Department of Parks and Recreation for their Statewide Park Program:

State of California Department of Parks and Recreation
Office of Grants and Local Services

DEPARTMENT MISSION
The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state’s extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIVISION MISSION
Encouraging healthy communities by connecting people to parks, supporting innovative recreational opportunities, embracing diversity, fostering inclusivity, and delivering superior customer service, with integrity for the enrichment of all.

THE OFFICE OF GRANTS AND LOCAL SERVICES (OGALS) MISSION
To address California’s diverse recreational, cultural and historical resource needs by developing grant programs, administering funds, offering technical assistance, building partnerships, and providing leadership through quality customer service.

OGALS VISION GOALS
- Proactive in meeting California’s park and recreation needs through innovative grant programs and customer service.
- Commitment to providing quality customer service in every interaction and transaction as honest, knowledgeable, and experienced grant administrators.
- Sensitive to local concerns while mindful of prevailing laws, rules, and regulations.
- Responsive to the needs of applicants, grantees, non-profit organizations, local governments, tribes, and legislative members, as partners working to improve the quality of life for all Californians by creating new parks and recreation opportunities.
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<tr>
<th>APPLICATION Item</th>
<th>Application Guide Page Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Application Form</td>
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<td>3. Community FactFinder Report and Handbook Form</td>
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<td>4. Resolution</td>
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<td>5. Grant Scope/Cost Estimate Form</td>
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<td>6. Funding Sources Form</td>
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<td>7. Project Timeline Form</td>
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<td>9. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance Form</td>
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<td>11. Concept Level Site Plan</td>
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<td>12. Photos and Copyright License Agreement</td>
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<td>13. Project Location Map</td>
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<td>14. Non-Profit Applicant Requirements (only for Non-Profit Applicants)</td>
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<td>15. Conservation Corps Consultation Review (optional)</td>
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Figure 4.1 Statewide Parks Program Application Checklist
RELEVANCY TO GENERAL PLAN

The current General Plan for the city of Sanger includes the following elements: Land Use and Urban Form, Economic Development, Circulation and Transportation, Noise, Open Space, Recreation and Public Facilities, Conservation and Safety. Though this General Plan does not currently have an optional Health Element, the information and research we have gathered could serve as a starting point for a potential Health Element for Sanger's next General Plan update. Or, Sanger could interpret this data and supplement their existing elements with Health data to support overall health in every aspect of the community. Additionally, in our research we discovered a number of grants related to diet that the City could also include in their General Plan for future funding sources.

Our hope for the research and work we have done with this grant application and background report is that the City may use this report as a starting point for future improvements for Sanger's health. In our conversations with representatives from the City and County, it was made clear that the City is looking to focus on improving the health of their community, as well as reach out to the community to see what kinds of things they want or need. While we can't develop a comprehensive plan or element for the City, using our experience working with the city of Parlier and writing their General Plan update, we have developed an outline of what is needed to create a thorough Health Element.

We also referenced the 2015 Cal Poly undergraduate General Plan update for the city of Sanger for information and support. We believe our recommendation for the grant we have chosen is consistent with the goals and policies our former peers formulated in the most recent update of the General Plan.
REFERENCES


Cal Poly City & Regional Planning Department (2015). Sanger General Plan Update.


Fresno County Registrar of Voters. Retrieved from https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/county-clerk-registrar-of-voters/election-information


