



# WEST FRESNO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER (W FFRC)

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# WHO ARE WE?

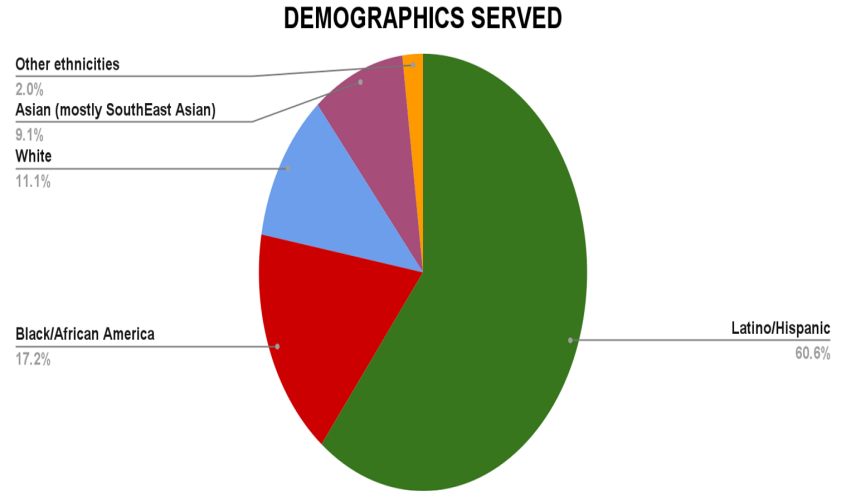
- A community-benefit nonprofit organization serving more than 5,000 residents annually in SouthWest Fresno since 2001
- Our work centers community voice to lead and implement solutions that have demonstrated impact on lives of our community
- Mission: “TO EMPOWER AND SUPPORT THE WEST FRESNO COMMUNITY TO ACHIEVE OPTIMAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING”
- Recognized as a HUD designated ENVISION CENTER to provide SouthWest neighborhoods with centralized support following four pillars
  1. 1) economic empowerment
  2. Educational Leadership
  3. Health and wellness
  4. Character and Leadership
- Stands on a long legacy of grassroots advocacy and is a trusted source of neighborhood services, which made it ideal for the partnership with Lawrence Berkeley Natl Labs to support the development of the Heat Resiliency Toolkit for vulnerable populations in SouthWest Fresno

# BACKGROUND INFO ON FRESNO

- Ranked the 5th largest city in California and home to 527,438 residents
- Rich with agricultural heritage
- High concentration of poverty - 42% of residents live in extreme poverty
  - 30% of residents lack a high school diploma
- 88% of Fresnans live in neighborhoods that are above the 50th percentile for economic distress
- Lack of affordable housing remains a critical risk factor for many families
  - Median rents have increased 24% since 2021
    - According to Fresno Assn of Realtors, the median rent for a 2 bedroom is \$ 1,420 and for a 1 bedroom it is \$1,141
- Nearly 70% of very low income households spend more than half of their income on rent
- Approximately 47% of households in Fresno are paying more than 30% of their income on housing

# BACKGROUND INFO ON SOUTHWEST FRESNO COMMUNITY

- There are 50,082 residents living in SouthWest Fresno
- High poverty, unemployment, physical and mental health problems, and low educational attainment
- Median household income in SouthWest Fresno is \$26,711 vs \$41,455 in the City of Fresno
- Lack quality affordable housing
- Poor community health
- Disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution - polluted region - air and water



# WFFRC'S PARTNERSHIP WITH LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATL LAB

- GOAL: to support the development of the Heat Resiliency Tool Kit for vulnerable populations in Southwest Fresno including the following:
  - Supporting the research team in identifying heat related issues within the neighborhoods in Fresno
  - Collecting field data through home visits/phone visits
  - Conducting community meetings and contributing to reporting needs

# AFFORDABILITY IS AN ISSUE

- People make the economic choice to resort to discomfort - will NOT turn on the AC in their homes because they can NOT afford to pay the high utility bill especially with the increasing number of hot days (eg., 67 consecutive days of triple digit heat last summer 2021)
- California Alternate Rates for Energy Program (CARE) and PG&E are two discount programs that help eligible customers pay their energy bills
  - Monthly discount of 20% or more on gas and electricity
  - Participants qualify for through income guidelines or if enrolled in certain public assistance programs (e.g., Calfresh, Medi-Cal, etc.)
    - Qualifications: 1-2 people in household with based earning of \$34,840 or less; 3 people in household with based earnings of \$43,920

# EXTREME HEAT AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS TO VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- Some populations are more exposed to or more physiologically or socio-economically vulnerable to physiological stress, exacerbated illness, and an increase risk of death from exposure to excess heat.
  - Includes: elderly, infants, children, pregnant women, outdoor and manual workers, athletes, and the poor
  - Gender can play an important role in determining health exposure (source: World Health Organization)
- Older population with underlying conditions: respiratory diseases, cardiovascular disease, other chronic diseases, mental health, renal diseases
- Additionally extreme heat compounds underlying difficulties especially exacerbated with COVID-19 pandemic - people were isolated and could not go outside

# SOLUTIONS/INVESTMENT

- More opportunities for more efficient units - e.g., incentives for owners - Instant Tech Calf Rebate, \$4,800 for roof AC
  - Benefits both residents and the environment
- Natural ventilation is problematic of security/crime concerns, and air quality concerns
- Charge different rates statewide, based on region in the state - (i.e., middle/central where it oftens gets hotter should have reduced rates because of the higher energy consumption when compared to northern and coastal regions
- How can more solar be deployed to help Fresno residents?



# Thank You



*A member of HUD designated*



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