

2025

GROW2ZERO FARMS

ANNUAL REPORT



grow2zero

In 2025,

Grow2Zero trained 140 new urban farmers, distributed 7,000 bags of groceries, and built an incredible farm team with exceptional graduates from our farming academy!

Building a workforce

In 2025 Grow2Zero expanded our Future Urban Farmers Academy into a truly landmark program, providing hands-on training on the topics of regenerative growing techniques, floriculture and flower arranging, native plant landscaping, beekeeping, and culinary arts.

Grow2Zero has been able to provide such comprehensive education thanks to our ongoing partnerships with Sowing Seeds of Change Urban Farm, Farm Lot 59, Feel Good Kitchen, and expert instructors Mireya Arizmendi, Kenneth Sparks (The Farmer Ken) and Michael Sherman.



In 2025, we completed two sessions of the six-month advanced program, training 60 new urban farmers!

We also received news that the Care First Community Investment grant that funds this no-cost program was extended, which will allow us to continue to offer this program through the spring of 2027, providing skills-based training to over 75 more students, as well as assisting them with post-program job placement.

Through these programs, our graduates will continue to sustain and grow the food security efforts that Grow2Zero and our organizational partners have spent the last five years establishing in Long Beach's highest-need neighborhoods.

We wrapped up of our introductory Future Urban Farmers Academy program in September, which provided a comprehensive overview of urban agriculture to over 80 people over the course of two sessions in 2025. Many graduates of this program went on to our advanced program, and several even went on to join the Grow2Zero family as paid employees. It's been an honor to watch the progression of these exceptional individuals who now help our organization to thrive.

140

new urban farmers in 2025

75+

more students being trained in 2026



“Grow2Zero’s Future Urban Farmers Academy has been probably the most fulfilling education course I have taken. Not only have I met such helpful and wonderful people, it's also changed my relationship with my garden and environment.

Though I'm using what I've learned to work in my personal backyard farm, I'm already giving out fresh veggies to my friends and family.

I think if everyone in Long Beach took a course like this and grew their own food, it'd lead to a happier and healthier city.”



FROM OUR STUDENTS



**Future
Urban
Farmers
Academy**

“Thank you SO much for all your efforts with this class! I learned a lot and appreciate the connections and information you shared. You are a wonderful leader and great communicator.

Each lesson I attended made me happy and inspired and this is a testament to your passion and also the passion of every person present and behind the scenes for this beautiful and valuable cause!

Thank you again!”



FROM OUR STUDENTS



**Future
Urban
Farmers
Academy**

“I wanted to share my immense gratitude for you and the Grow2Zero family for all the devotion and love you put into the program!

I learned and applied so many helpful tips to my journey from in-person work days and online lectures. I’ve gained true inspiration for regenerative living and feel like I will have an urban farm growing in no time!

This course helped me feel confident in being able to take care of the Earth as she does us.”



FROM OUR STUDENTS



**Future
Urban
Farmers
Academy**

“Participating in the program was such an enriching experience. Not only did it deepen my understanding of sustainable urban agriculture, but it also connected me with a community of passionate and inspiring individuals.

The hands-on learning, expert guidance, and sense of purpose that FUFA fosters are truly exceptional. It empowered me to think differently about food systems and how we can contribute to more resilient communities. I’m proud to have been part of something so forward-thinking and impactful.”



FROM OUR STUDENTS



**Future
Urban
Farmers
Academy**

“The Future Urban Farmers Academy has been such an enriching experience for me as a new resident to Long Beach in the last year and having an interest in learning how to grow some of my own food. I am so grateful for the friends and connections I have made through the program.

The farm is a very healing space to be able to attend on a regular basis and the different growing techniques used there are so helpful to see in person. Getting hands-on experience has made learning the curriculum so much more retainable and enjoyable. I have recommended the class to many friends and hope it continues for as long as possible!”



FROM OUR STUDENTS



**Future
Urban
Farmers
Academy**



Weekly Food Distribution



Weekly food distribution is five years strong!

Grow2Zero began our work in January 2021 with the launch of our weekly food distribution serving Long Beach's Upper Westside. Over the last five years, we haven't skipped a week of feeding our community, with the total number of families served growing from about 50 per week when we started to over 130 per week in 2025, including deliveries to homebound individuals and families.

In 2025,

140,000 lbs of food

rescued by our team

7,000 grocery bags

distributed to our community members

Our Team

In 2025 we were able to solidify our farm team by hiring three former student interns to permanent positions. We've watched them flourish on farm and off, helping to expand both our farm operations and our community outreach. We are so grateful to our hardworking Grow2Zero farmers and team members!

Judi Gregory, Co-Founder

Leif Kemp, Co-Founder and Farm Manager

Erin Harris, Program Director

Kirsten Kelley, Food Distribution Manager

Jessica Medrano, Program Manager

Reema Maroof, Farm Team Supervisor

Army Feth Linderborg, Farm Assistant

Estefany Rodriguez, Farm Assistant

June Sidwell, Food Distribution Assistant

Paul Sarni, Food Distribution Assistant

Iam Gregory, Food Distribution Assistant

Sarah Ssentongo, Farm Intern



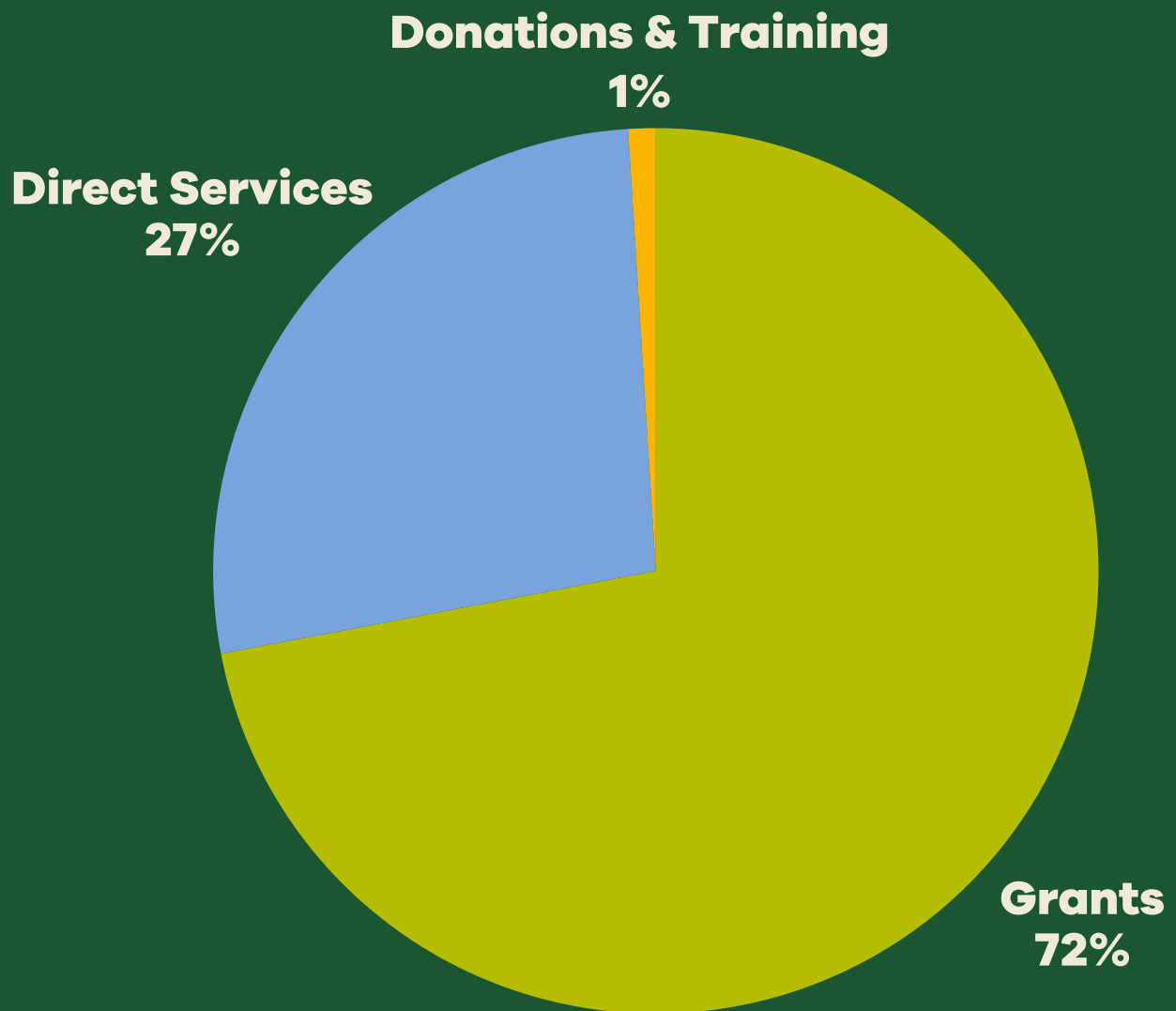
The Numbers: Income Totals

Income

\$931,318

Expenses

\$912,005

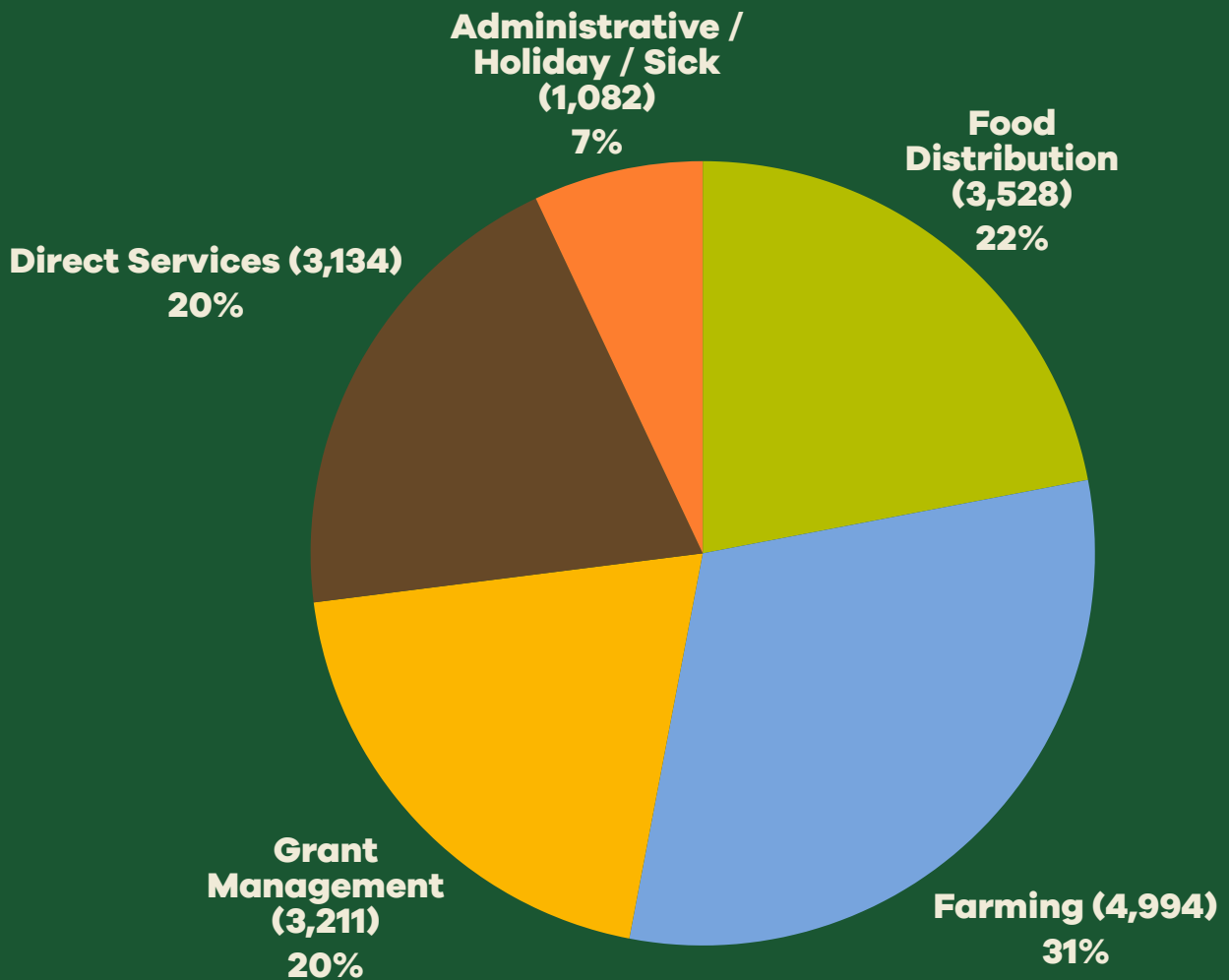


The Numbers: Hour Totals

15,991

Hours by paid staff & interns
equivalent to 8 full-time staff.

Hourly Distribution By Project



The Numbers: Expenses

Payroll (Including Interns)	\$564,288	62%
Payroll Taxes	\$46,028	5%
Payroll Benefits (Medical & Retirement)	\$54,741	6%
Property & Org Insurance	\$62,068	7%
Rent	\$27,760	3%
Utilities	\$10,720	12%
Guest Speakers & Instructors	\$23,078	3%
Program / Grant-related Expenses	\$94,621	10%
Office Supplies (Including Grant-related)	\$14,240	2%
Farm Supplies & Seeds	\$12,384	1%
Other	\$2,075	

Thank you to our partners

We are grateful to our incredible team of farming and teaching partners.

Lindsay Smith, **Sowing Seeds of Change**
Dina Feldman, **Feel Good Kitchen**
Sasha Kanno, **Farm Lot 59**
Kenneth Sparks, **The Farmer Ken**
Mireya Arizmendi, **Native Plants Expert**
Michael Sherman, **Landscaping Expert**

Thank you to our supporters

We couldn't have accomplished all of our goals in 2025 without grant funding through the following programs:



We also thank our food donors

Food Forward
Food Finders
Vallarta Supermarkets

Rockenwagner Bakery
Long Beach Unified School District



Looking ahead

While grant funding has been integral in developing Grow2Zero's community food relief and education efforts, we are always in need of additional funding to build our organizational capacity and to keep our farm staffed and productive for many growing seasons to come. We thank you for being a part of our journey and we welcome your support.

If you would like to donate to our organization or request additional information about how you can support our programming and our growth, we welcome you to be in touch directly with a member of our leadership team:

Judi Gregory, Co-Founder & Executive Director
judi@go2zero.net

Leif Kemp, Co-Founder & Farm Manager
leif@grow2zero.org

Erin Harris, Program Director
erin@grow2zero.org



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