

# ANCHOR HUBS ORGANIZING FOR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

SHINE invests in *anchor hubs* that build community power and influence systems

## SHINE (Safety and Healing in Networks of Equity) California

is a collective of leaders and organizations, stewarded by Prevention Institute, working together across local and state levels to build community power, amplify community narratives, and improve systems toward intersectional racial, gender, economic, and immigrant justice. We envision systems of care and repair that generate shared resources, prevent harm, and foster collective healing, safety, and wellbeing.

- Locally, SHINE supports collaborative action rooted in culture and place.
- Trans-locally, SHINE facilitates learning and solidarity across communities.
- At the state level, SHINE advances policy, systems, and narrative change.



**An evaluation of the first seven years (2019–2025) found that one of SHINE’s clearest impacts came from investments in anchor organizations that steward community-level change.** The COVID-19 pandemic spurred greater emphasis on community organizing to mobilize residents and build collective power, and on advocacy to influence public systems to respond to community needs. SHINE organizations built power through base-building and network-building and engaged flexibly and strategically with equity advocates and leaders from governmental and non-governmental systems across multiple sectors. Each became a “go-to” anchor organization, with community groups, funders, local officials, and agencies reaching out for collaboration and support.

The community power these anchor hubs cultivated has been both a vehicle for change and an important outcome in its own right. SHINE lead organizations also reported additional organizational outcomes, including tripling budgets, expanding and launching new programs, and being profiled in prominent journals and health equity convenings.

**The evaluation also found that SHINE achieved important systems-level wins through investment in organizing and advocacy.** During the pandemic, SHINE collaboratives successfully advocated for emergency food, family support, and rent relief for community members. Additional policy and systems advocacy translated into further shifts in local housing, food security, and economic policies and programs.

## SHINE in Practice

**“There is power in storytelling and advocacy work. For many women, it is the first time our voices and concerns feel heard. Our story isn’t just being told, it’s changing perspectives and building solidarity.”**

– Mujeres Poderosas Amoras partner

**Cultiva La Salud** organizes with and supports Latina immigrants in Fresno County to create lasting changes for healthier, stronger communities. Cultiva cultivates heart-centered leadership pathways, practices language justice, and serves as an anchor hub for organizing, advocacy, and narrative strategy. Through elevating the lived experiences and contributions of Latina immigrant women, Cultiva strengthens shared wellbeing and prosperity across generations while challenging economically exploitative systems and racist, sexist, and anti-immigrant bias.

**Mujeres Poderosas Amorasas (MPA)**, a program of Cultiva La Salud, is a Latina immigrant network transforming lives and communities through connection, storytelling, and collective action. With over 250 leaders, women who once felt isolated and powerless now organize to improve their communities. They have elevated community priorities through storytelling, rallied for affordable housing at City Hall, influenced school district policies to increase access to school meals, and met with lawmakers in Sacramento. MPA's inclusive leadership approach amplifies every woman's unique gifts and builds a foundation of love, trust, collective strength, and lasting collective power. Cultiva also convenes a kitchen cabinet of place-based organizations and engages local government agencies to align systems with community priorities.

Outcomes include the Save Our Señoras food distribution program, over \$100,000 in small business grants, the development of new paraprofessional pathways with Spanish-speaking hires in the Fresno Unified School District, and the purchase of a building to house a community kitchen supporting women's entrepreneurship.

**Prevention Institute** supported these community-led efforts through a trust-based approach with flexible funding, learning opportunities, and in-person convenings. Prevention Institute offered trainings and facilitated peer learning, including on policy, systems, and budget advocacy. As part of the evaluation, SHINE lead organizations spoke about the value of the SHINE statewide network and the camaraderie and solidarity that generated collective strength.

**"SHINE's funding and partnership allow us to be creative, flexible, and ready to seize opportunities. We can collaborate rather than compete, act proactively to influence systemic change, and make a real difference in our region."** - Aristeia, McKinleyville Family Resource Center



SHINE was seeded by Blue Shield of California Foundation and is blossoming through broader engagement.



SHINE convening participants.  
Photo credit: Jennifer Ly and Noah Berger

## What's Next for SHINE

**SHINE is advancing a new phase of investment in anchor hubs organizing for community-led solutions.** Local organizations will recruit and mentor new members across communities. Prevention Institute will provide flexible funding and facilitate capacity building and cross-community learning through practice labs and a learning community. SHINE will connect local organizing with statewide advocacy so community priorities shape policy, systems, and narrative change. By strengthening anchor organizations across communities, SHINE will build collective power for safety and wellbeing.

To learn more and explore partnership and investment opportunities, please visit [www.preventioninstitute.org/shine](http://www.preventioninstitute.org/shine) and contact [shine@preventioninstitute.org](mailto:shine@preventioninstitute.org).