



# What's Ahead?

In April 2018, Food Forward received some amazing news: we were awarded a \$500,000 grant from the CalRecycle Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Grant Program to create a produce distribution hub. Dubbed the “Depot,” Food Forward’s first-ever warehouse and refrigeration space will allow the organization to nearly double the amount of produce we can recover and donate by 2020.

Since then, our team has been working tirelessly to make the Depot a reality. We have the keys to the warehouse, a 6,000-square-foot space in Bell adjacent to downtown Los Angeles. In 2019, we’ll build out the space to fit our produce rescue needs by creating a refrigeration and food storage system, constructing offices for staff, and procuring equipment like forklifts and pallet jacks. Along with the warehouse, the Depot project includes expanding our Wholesale Produce Recovery vehicle fleet to five box trucks and growing our staff. We’re also implementing new produce tracking and inventory software to help keep produce flowing in and out of the Depot without a hitch!

All of these fruitful changes will give Food Forward the capacity to transport, store, and distribute strawberries, oranges, mangoes, spinach, bananas, watermelon, kale, avocado, onions, and so much more! By 2020, the Depot will allow Food Forward to recover and distribute an unprecedented 40 million pounds of fruits and vegetables annually. This fresh food hub will transform the food recovery landscape of Los Angeles, helping us to work with even more hunger relief agencies and create new ways to help feed the one in nine Californians facing food insecurity. And we think that’s an achievement berry worthy of celebration.

