



April 30, 2025

“

We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond.

- Gwendolyn Brooks

”

Welcome to the April 2025 edition of the [NOW Innovation Forum Newsletter](#). We are excited to share opportunities and resources with you this month. In this edition you're invited to:

- Save the date for the 12th Annual National Community Leadership Summit
- Listen to a special episode of season 3 of *In the Arena with NOW* podcast
- Sign-up for the first workshop in the Peer Learning Cluster's 2025 Advocacy and Community Leadership Series
- Join the Community Food Systems Fellows in their upcoming Instagram Live session
- Explore the featured article on mutual aid networks
- Support Our Campaign, *Together We Thrive*

Thank you for your commitment to children, families, and communities and for joining us as we journey through another year together.

Bienvenido a la edición de abril del 2025 del [Boletín Informativo del NOW Innovation Forum](#) (Foro de Innovación NOW). Nos complace compartir oportunidades y recursos con usted este mes. En esta edición estás invitado a:

- Reservar la fecha para la 12th Cubre Anual de Liderazgo Comunitario
- Escuchar un episodio especial de la Temporada 3 de *In the Arena con NOW* podcast
- Inscribirte para el primer taller de la Serie de Abogacía y Liderazgo Comunitario 2025 del Clúster de Aprendizaje entre Pares
- Unirte a los Becarios del Sistema Alimentario Comunitario en su próxima Sesión de Instagram en Vivo
- Explorar el artículo destacado sobre las redes de ayuda mutua
- Apoyar Nuestra Campaña, *Juntos Prosperamos*

Gracias por su compromiso a los niños, las familias, y las comunidades, y por acompañarnos en nuestro recorrido ante otro año juntos.

Network Highlights

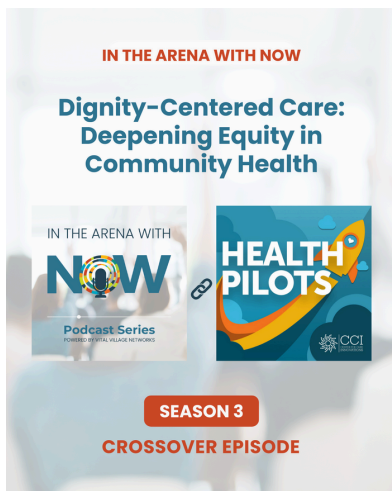
2025 National Community Leadership Summit: Registration opens next week!

Registration will open next week for the 12th annual National Community Leadership Summit in Boston, MA! Join us October 23 - 24, 2025 for this year's event, themed **Unwavering Resistance: An Invitation to Beloved Community**, and connect with other grassroots leaders, path-builders, and groundbreakers who are building and fostering beloved communities across the country. Submissions for abstract and workshop proposals will also open next week.

[Stay Updated Here](#)



In the Arena with NOW: Special Episode



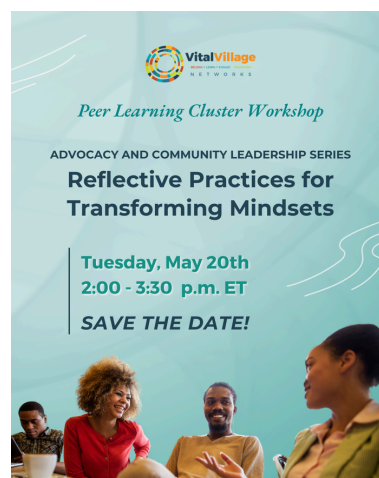
Dignity-Centered Care: Deepening Equity in Community Health is a special crossover episode with Center for Care Innovations's [Health Pilots](#) podcast. Featuring **Judith Bravo** and **Christina Gomez-Mira**, with the Petaluma Health Center team in Point Reyes and Bolinas, they share their work reshaping healthcare with a dignity-centered approach. Listen as they reflect on the journey to foster equity, trust, and connection within their clinic and community through their work in CCI's Resilient Beginnings Network and their collaboration with Vital Village Networks.

[Listen Here](#)

Peer Learning Cluster Workshop: Reflective Practices for Transforming Mindsets

The Peer Learning Cluster is excited to announce the first workshop in their **Advocacy and Community Leadership Series** for 2025! On **May 20, 2025** from **2:00 - 3:30 pm ET**, we will kick off the series with **Reflective Practices for Transforming Mindsets**. In this first workshop we will explore the question, *how do we shift mindsets rooted in colonial values (e.g. White supremacy, individualism, exploitation) toward values for collective liberation?* Participants will have the opportunity to engage in reflective practices that invite curiosity and appreciative inquiry that they can apply to their own community leadership efforts.

Join us for this series as we continue to learn with and from one another, and explore how to build and strengthen our collective advocacy power for ensuring a just future where all children and families can thrive.



[Register Here](#)

2025 Community Food Systems Fellowship Instagram Live



Please join us for our next Instagram Live conversation on **Friday, May 9 at 1:00 pm ET** to hear from three of Vital Village's 2025 Community Food Systems Fellows, **Jamella Anderson** from Free Food Fridge Albany, **Heather Evoy**, and **Lauren McCallister** from People's Cooperative Market. Make sure to follow us at [@vitalvillage](https://www.instagram.com/vitalvillage) and tune in for an exciting conversation on all things related to local food systems!

[Tune in Here](#)

Featured Story from the Field: Mutual Aid in Action

"Grassroots Hurricane Relief Efforts Fight Disinformation, Slow Bureaucracies and More Frequent Catastrophes: In the aftermath of Helene and Milton, mutual aid groups in the Southeast call for structural change in how the nation responds to disasters while looking ahead at the increasing pace of crises." Written by Keerti Gopal, and featuring Community Food Systems Fellowship Alum **Erica Hall**, this piece explores how mutual aid networks were mobilized to provide immediate disaster relief and how they are advocating for long term transformative change.

[Read the article here](#)

APRIL 2025 FEATURED RESOURCE

Grassroots Hurricane Relief Efforts Fight Disinformation, Slow Bureaucracies and More Frequent Catastrophes

FROM INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

In the aftermath of Helene and Milton, mutual aid groups in the Southeast call for structural change in how the nation responds to disasters while looking ahead at the increasing pace of crises." Written by Keerti Gopal, and featuring Community Food Systems Fellow Alum Erica Hall, this piece explores how mutual aid networks were mobilized to provide immediate disaster relief and how they are advocating for long term transformative change.

insideclimatenews.org



At Vital Village Networks, we envision a world where every child's birthright includes a healthy, joyful, and equitable future. As we continue to work collectively to improve child well-being and nurture community leadership, we see power in knowing we are not alone, and that **Together, We Thrive**.

Every contribution, regardless of the amount or type of service, helps to sustain this critical work of supporting civic leadership and driving positive change. Can we count on your support to help us reach our goal?

Give Together, Give Today

The NOW community hopes to stay connected and lift up the work and stories of all of our members. Follow and tag us so that we can virtually highlight the community-led transformation you are leading.

#VillageInMind



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