

# Free4ME Evaluation

May 2021-December 2023



## Program Costs

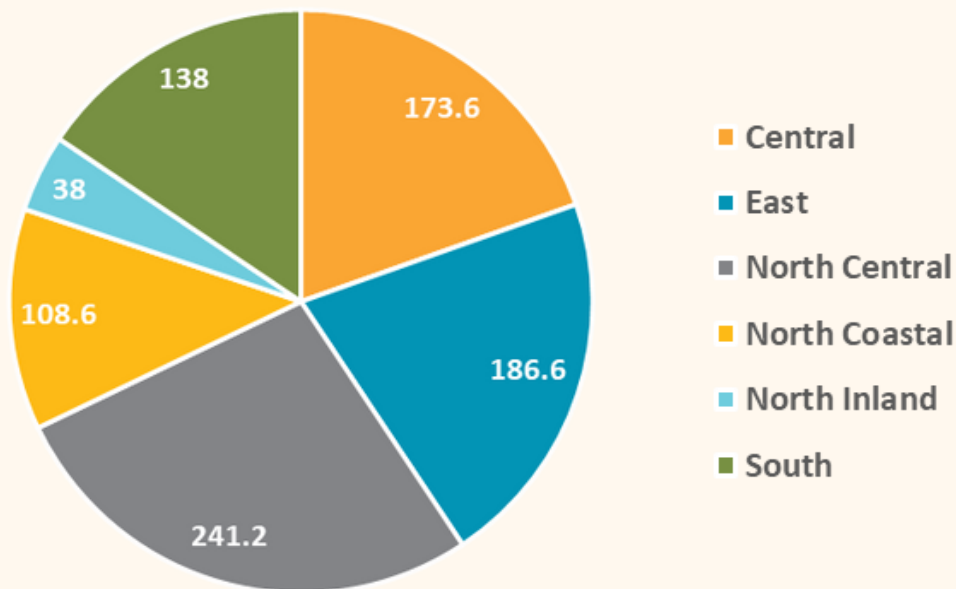
- Startup cost: ~\$19,500 for 58 dispensers and initial stock
- Ongoing supply cost: ~\$145,000
  - 443,000 tampons and pads ordered
  - Average monthly cost: \$5,399

## Lessons Learned

- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, some facilities were not fully open to public
- Reordering is not yet consistent
- More pads than tampons reordered

## Total Case Orders by Region

500 units/case



## Expansion Plan

- 1,197 additional dispensers in 343 facilities by May 2024
- Dispensers in all female, all gender-neutral, and 1 male restroom in all County facilities
- Expansion installations began in November 2023. As of 12/28/23:
  - 5.5% of dispensers & 230 cases of products purchased
  - 20% of dispensers installed
  - 20% owned buildings completed
  - 6% leased buildings completed

# Free4ME Feedback



May 2021-April 2023

- Feedback form accessible via QR code on signage and website

\*50 responses

## Education

- 25.5% high school
- 49% college
- 25.5% graduate degree

## Age

- <30: 25%
- 30-39: 40%
- 40-59: 31%
- 60+: 4%

# 54%

of respondents were worried about paying for menstrual products

## Gender Identity

- One non-binary
- The rest female
- 2 no responses

## Housing

All but one reported being stable housed with 4 no responses

*"I am happy to see my county providing these, funded by my taxes to **serve my sisters in need.**"*

**"LADIES WHO CAN'T AFFORD TO BUY, OR JUST FORGET TO BUY SOME, CAN GRAB ONE AND FEEL COMFORTABLE INSTEAD OF FEELING DIRTY AND MESSY"**

**"I don't need it, but there are so many homeless people around me"**

**"IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE EASY ACCESS TO THESE TYPES OF PRODUCTS"**

**"I forgot to bring a pad to work today and was SO pleasantly surprised by the quality of the free menstrual products in the women's restroom at the COC. **Kudos to the County of San Diego** for being a leader in providing such **high quality, free menstrual supplies!**"**

**"This is a vital service to those in need. Please expand this program."**