



San Francisco takes a stand and declares... food

Is a basic human right.



JUSTICE
COMPASSION
priorities responsibility
security DIGNITY
EQUITY
food
community
health
VALUES



2018 Food Security Report



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	5
Section 1: Food Insecurity in San Francisco	9
• Introduction: Nutrition helps build healthy thriving communities	11
• Changes since 2013 report: Important gains in the food safety net	12
• Summary of 2018 report findings: More San Franciscans struggle to afford basic needs	13
• Local food security data: High rates of food insecurity	15
• Food security network: Important progress yet concerning declines for the most vulnerable residents	18
• Policy and System Recommendations to improve food security in San Francisco	23
Section 2: San Francisco and District Reports	25
• Orientation to the Reports	27
• San Francisco (Data and Recommendations for Food Programs)	28
• District Reports (Data and Recommendations for Food Programs)	38
Section 3: Food Program Reports	127
• Voices from the Community about the Food Network	129
• Food Resources	
▪ CalFresh (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP)	130
▪ Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	136
▪ Healthy Food Purchasing Supplement and Profile of EatSF	139
• Food Access	
▪ Free Groceries/Pantry Network	142
▪ Free Dining Rooms	148
▪ School Meals	155
▪ After School and Summer Meals and Snacks for Youth and Children	159
▪ Home-Delivered Groceries, Home-Delivered Meals and Congregate Meals for Seniors and People with Disabilities	162
▪ Food Retail and the Healthy Food Retail Program	168
• Food Consumption	
▪ SROs and Kitchens	172
▪ Nutrition Education	176
Section 4: Food Security and Health Care Integration	179
Appendices	
• Data Sources	187
• Endnotes	193
• Acknowledgements	196



Executive Summary

The San Francisco Food Security Task Force provides recommendations to the City around policies, programs and funding to eliminate food insecurity. In the *2013 Assessment of Food Security in San Francisco*, we introduced a framework for documenting and analyzing the food security network in San Francisco, and developed recommendations to improve food security. After this report was published, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution declaring that food is a basic human right, and committed the City to end hunger by 2020. Since then, the City has increased investments to expand existing successful programs, and developed innovative new public/private initiatives. There is also an increasing understanding of the importance of the food safety net as critical programs and partners in improving the health of San Franciscans.

Nutrition helps build healthy and thriving communities

San Francisco has implemented bold legislation and invested financially to support the success of its communities through targeted community programs. These programs are delivered through partnerships, collaborations and initiatives that bring together diverse stakeholders to achieve shared goals. Food insecurity exists when the ability to obtain and prepare nutritious food is uncertain or not possible. Hunger and food insecurity are injustices experienced by too many San Franciscans. Food insecurity and hunger impacts our community in many direct and indirect ways, and the social and economic costs are passed on to society in many ways, including higher health care costs. Responsibility for ensuring that San Franciscans have access to healthy foods and do not go hungry is shared by many City and County departments, schools, community-based and faith-based organizations, businesses, and residents.

Changes since 2013 report: Important gains in the food safety net

In 2013, the FSTF issued a report, *Assessment of Food Security in San Francisco 2013*, highlighting that at least 1 in 4 San Franciscans are at risk of food insecurity because their incomes are so low relative to our high cost of living. The report measured the system of food programs serving food insecure San Francisco residents using the framework of Food Resources, Food Access and Food Consumption. Important gains since 2013 include continued budget investments and critical new policies; innovation and collaboration; expanded funding for food programs for seniors and people with disabilities; vouchers and incentives offering additional financial resources to purchase fruits and vegetables; partnerships delivering free groceries to the homes of older adults

SECTION 1

and adults with disabilities; the launch of a new collaborative to support the health and nutrition of people living in SROs; and sponsors of nutrition programs for children and youth expanding the number of “out of school” meal and pantry programs.

Summary of 2018 report finding: More San Franciscans struggle to afford basic needs

The *2018 Assessment of Food Security* compiles data from federal, state and locally funded food programs in order to develop recommendations for policies and systems to support gaps in San Francisco’s food needs. We integrated demographic data, health data, and data from local programs that screened for food security. This data integration allowed us to include information on some health disparities for which nutrition is critical and that need to be considered and addressed in all programs serving communities in need. Since the 2013 report, the economic conditions that contributed to food insecurity have intensified.

Because of their increased vulnerability, food and nutrition programs are especially critical for pregnant women, children, seniors, people experiencing homelessness, immigrants, people who have physical and mental health conditions. Additionally, due to concentrated poverty among these groups, transitional aged youth, people with disabilities, African Americans, Native Americans and Pacific Islanders are also at high risk for food insecurity.

Local food security data: High rates of food insecurity

Data from the 2015-16 California Health Interview Survey indicate that food insecurity in San Francisco is increasing: 50% of low income residents surveyed in San Francisco reported food insecurity compared with 44% in 2013-14. While individual programs can track their progress toward achieving their goals, a consistent, citywide food security screening protocol is being implemented in multiple settings and allows insights into food security in San Francisco that was not available previously. This report contains summary data on food security for the most vulnerable populations.

Food security network: Important progress yet concerning declines for the most vulnerable residents

We provide a summary of the food security network in Section 1 of the report, San Francisco data and profiles of each Supervisorial District presented in the food security framework of Resources, Access and Consumption in Section 2 and in-depth reports from specific food programs in San Francisco in Section 3. In Section 4 we explore health care systems’ roles in the food security network and how those systems of care can better address the food insecurity of their patients to prevent and manage their patients’ health conditions.

Recommendations in Brief

The following recommendations were developed collaboratively through multiple public meetings of the San Francisco Food Security Task Force during winter of 2017 and spring of 2018. These recommendations are intended for stakeholders in the public as well as the private sectors to address immediate as well as long term systemic needs to improve food security, reduce health disparities, and address gaps in food security programming.

Policy and System Priorities

1. Attain Sustainable Funding and Infrastructure Investments to Eliminate Waitlists and Other Barriers to Services.
2. Develop a Client-Centered Approach to Nutrition Services.
3. Endorse Food Security Values and Accountability to Secure the Food Safety Net

Food Safety Net Priorities

The San Francisco and District Reports identify food program priorities to strengthen the food safety net with specified focus on the food security needs for the most vulnerable.





San Francisco Food Security Task Force

c/o San Francisco Department of Public Health
Population Health Division – Food Security Program
25 Van Ness Avenue, 8th floor
San Francisco, CA 94102
(628)206-7689
foodsecurity@sfdph.org
www.sfdph.org/foodsecurity

2018

ASSESSMENT OF
FOOD SECURITY |

San Francisco Food Security Task Force

