

Food Security Task Force Annual Report 2019 – DRAFT (for discussion at 12/4/19 FSTF meeting)

Food Security Task Force

The Food Security Task Force (FSTF) was established in 2005 by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and charged with creating a citywide plan for addressing food security. The FSTF tracks data regarding hunger and food security in San Francisco, including the utilization of and demand for federal food programs and community-based nutrition programs. The FSTF is comprised of members from government agencies, San Francisco Unified School District, community-based organizations and residents. In addition, organizations and interested members of the public participate in monthly meetings and provide invaluable contributions to San Francisco’s work to support food security. The FSTF meets the first Wednesday of the month from 1:30 to 3:30 at 25 Van Ness.

Members

Anne Quaintance, Meals on Wheels SF (Chair)	Ave Lambert CUESA
Paula Jones, Department of Public Health/Population Health (Vice Chair)	Jennifer LeBarre San Francisco Unified School District
Margot Antonetty, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing	Rita Mouton-Patterson Hospitality House
Jeimil Belamide, Department of Human Services/CalFresh	Kimberly Madsen Project Open Hand
Sarah Chan Department of Aging and Adult Services	Priti Rane, Department of Public Health/Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health
Meg Davidson SF Marin Food Bank	Hilary Seligman, UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital
Geoffrey Grier SF Recovery Theatre	Chester Williams Community Living Campaign
Mei Ling Hui Department of Recreation and Park	Raegan Sales Children’s Council San Francisco
Michelle Kim/Tiffany Tu, Department of Children, Youth and their Families	

Food Security in San Francisco 2019

Opportunities

CalFresh Expansion to SSI recipients

For the first time ever in California, older adults and adults with disabilities receiving SSI can apply for CalFresh food benefits. The SSI CalFresh Expansion represents the largest one-time increase in 10 eligible households in the history of the Cal Fresh program. In San Francisco, as of March 2019, there were 40,735 residents on SSI. As of October 3, 2019, San Francisco Human Service Agency has received and processed CalFresh applications for 19,401 SSI recipients.

Healthy Food Purchasing Supplement Expansion

Since 2014, San Francisco began investing in ways to increase the ability of low-income San Franciscans to afford healthy food through funding Healthy Food Purchasing Supplements. Through Sugary Drink Distributor Tax funding, this program expanded to serve more food insecure San Franciscans. These funds support low income pregnant residents, families and SSI recipients to purchase fruits and vegetables at neighborhood supermarkets, corner stores, and at farmers markets. They are also supporting CalFresh recipients to purchase more fruits and vegetables at the Heart of the City Farmers Market and the Alemany Farmers Market.

SFUSD Opens New Kitchen

SFUSD Student Nutrition Services (SNS) opened a new kitchen at the McAteer campus in October 2019 and has made a huge leap towards serving more freshly prepared food in the district. The kitchen will serve select Early Education sites, the two high schools on campus (The Academy and Ruth Asawa School of the Arts), and select elementary schools as part of their pilot to create fresh meals in-house and distribute across the district. At the middle and high schools, SNS is upgrading equipment to prepare more freshly made meals in-house. As facilities are upgraded to prepare and serve fresh food, SNS is purchasing high-quality food and ingredients in alignment with the Good Food Purchasing Program and serving more local and sustainable menu options.

Older Adults and People with Disabilities (holding for Sarah)

HOLD SPACE

California WIC Card has arrived to San Francisco

This summer, San Francisco became one of the first counties in California to offer WIC benefits on a debit card, making shopping with your WIC Card easier than using paper checks. The WIC Card will replace the current paper food checks and will provide an easier way to issue food benefits, as well as improve the shopping experience for WIC families and grocers. Each family will receive one WIC Card for all of their family's food benefits. The WIC Card will provide a more convenient way for families to shop for WIC foods and provide flexibility to get just what they need at each shopping trip. In addition, families will not lose their WIC food benefits if their WIC Card is lost, stolen or damaged.

Opportunities to Improve Food Security through Child Care Providers

An analysis of the Child and Adult Care Food Program in San Francisco found that while 75% of child care centers participate in the program, only 44% of family child care providers participate. To address the barriers facing family child care providers, the report recommends infusing local funds in the Child and Adult Care Food Program for family child care homes; improving local program promotion; and advocating for additional funding and program simplification to State and Federal governments. Additionally, to support improved nutrition and physical activity, research supports integration of the Healthy Apple Program into public health and early childhood education infrastructure in San Francisco.

Challenges/Threats

Housing Costs and Growing Income Equality

San Francisco is one of the most expensive places to live in the United States, and it has one of the highest income inequality of all counties. The number of people who are homeless is growing with official counts showing an increase of 17% over two years ago. However, city data suggests that the number of homeless is much higher.¹

Proposed Federal Changes to SNAP (CalFresh)

During 2019, the USDA has proposed changes to three aspects of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (known as CalFresh in California). If implemented, these three separate changes could result in an estimated 3.7 million fewer people receiving SNAP nationally. One proposed change would impact the type of government benefits that automatically qualify families for the program. For this one change, an estimated 3,245 San Francisco households would lose access to SNAP/CalFresh. The latest proposed change would standardize deductions for utility costs across all states. For California, an estimated 26% of all CalFresh households would see their benefits lowered, disproportionately impacting seniors and people with disabilities.

What's ahead in 2020

Need to add info about the FSTF Strategic Planning process

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/19/us/san-francisco-homeless-count.html>