

# FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE

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## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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## **SUPERVISORS TO HOLD HEARING ON ENDING HUNGER BY 2020 FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE TO GIVE UPDATE ON PROGRESS TOWARD GOAL**

**APRIL 7, 2016 (SAN FRANCISCO, CA)** – One in four San Franciscans is at risk of hunger.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors will hold a hearing on the status of hunger and food insecurity at 10 am, Wednesday, April 13, at the Budget and Finance Committee, Main Council Chambers, Room 250.

In 2013, the Board of Supervisors unanimously resolved to take steps to end hunger in San Francisco by 2020. Since then, the City has invested \$12.3 million in food assistance, program development, research and outreach.

“The issue of food insecurity has received incredible support from Mayor Lee and the Board of Supervisors,” says Teri Olle, Chair of the Food Security Task Force. “By leveraging the existing food assistance network within the City, we’ve been able to expand innovative solutions.”

### **Food: A Critical Need**

Alleviating food insecurity is essential to improving health outcomes and lowering health-related expenditures. But the cost of nutritious food is out of reach for many. According to the United States Census, 28 percent of San Francisco residents are living at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. That’s \$40,320 annually for a family of three.

As older populations age in place, the number of seniors living on a fixed income is rising. In San Francisco, the 60+ population has increased 18 percent since 2000 (compared to 4 percent overall growth.) People experiencing homelessness and the formerly homeless find it difficult to afford and cook healthy food. A Food Security Task Force survey found that 84 percent of single SRO residents are food insecure. And more than half of children in SFUSD qualify for free or reduced price lunch.

### **Victories in the Fight Against Hunger**

Since the 2013 resolution, great strides have been made in the effort to end hunger.

### **More Meals, Groceries for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities**

Additional funding earmarked for food security has enabled the Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) to expand its programs. The City's new investments in FY14-15 and FY 15-16 enabled DAAS to serve a total of 5,782 new nutrition program participants. The **home-delivered meals** program served an additional 1,215 seniors and adults with disabilities and the **home-delivered grocery** program reached an additional 1,419 participants. **Congregate meals** were introduced at three new sites, to serve an additional 3,148 participants.

### **Additional \$4.8 Million in CalFresh Benefits**

In 2015, the City and its partners have enrolled an additional 1,700 CalFresh applicants through outreach activities. This translates into \$4.8 million in CalFresh benefits annually. To accomplish this goal, the Human Services Agency (HSA) placed CalFresh outreach workers at health and career centers; partnered with community based-organizations (CBOs); and hired a call center to engage potential applicants.

### **Launched New Fresh Produce Initiative for Low-income Residents**

Developed in response to Task Force recommendations, a weekly voucher program enables low-income residents of the Tenderloin, SOMA and Bayview to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables. The program has enrolled approximately 1,000 households and partnered with 12 vendors and more than 40 community-based organizations.

### **Next Steps Toward Food Security**

In order to become a food secure city by 2020, there is much work to do. The Food Security Task Force recommends the following:

- **Budget:** Increase current funding and expand programs for the most vulnerable, including CalFresh, home-delivered meals, home-delivered groceries, congregate meals and healthy vouchers.
- **Innovations:** Pilot tailored solutions for SRO residents living in buildings without kitchens.
- **Policy:** Adopt a standardized screening for food security as part of all community and healthcare programs serving vulnerable San Franciscans. Conduct a city-wide study on the cost of food insecurity and the funding needed to solve the problem.

**For more information,** visit [www.sfdph.org/foodsecurity](http://www.sfdph.org/foodsecurity) .

# FAST FACTS

## WHO IS AT RISK OF HUNGER?

- **1 IN 4 PEOPLE:** Nearly 30 percent of San Francisco residents are living at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.
- **SENIORS:** The San Francisco senior population aged 60+ is expected to grow by an additional 100,000 people between 2010 and 2030.
- **SRO RESIDENTS:** A Food Security Task Force survey found that 84 percent of single SRO residents are food insecure.
- **CHILDREN:** About 60 percent of children in SFUSD qualify for free or reduced price lunch.

## RECAP OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 2013 HEARING

- **5,782 new people** are now being served by either home-delivered groceries, home-delivered meals, or congregate meals.
- In 2015, the City and its partners enrolled an additional 1,700 CalFresh applicants through outreach activities. This translates into **\$4.8 million in CalFresh benefits** annually.
- A new weekly voucher program enables **1,000 low-income households** of the Tenderloin, SOMA, and Bayview to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables from a dozen different vendors.

## NEXT STEPS

- **Budget:** We need more money for programs that serve the most vulnerable.
- **Innovations:** Conduct pilot programs for SRO residents.
- **Policy:** Screen for food security in CBO and healthcare settings; conduct a city-wide study on the cost + solving of food insecurity.

# FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE



**1 IN 4** San Francisco residents is at risk of hunger.

That means living on an income of **\$40,320** annually for a family of three.

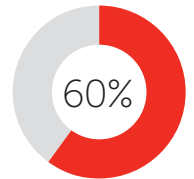


Nonprofit food programs continue to struggle to meet demand.



**44 DAYS** is the median wait time for seniors and adults with disabilities to receive home-delivered meals.

**60 PERCENT** of SFUSD students qualify for free or reduced price lunch.



Only **50 PERCENT** of people eligible for CalFresh are currently enrolled.

## THREE PILLARS OF FOOD SECURITY



### FOOD RESOURCES

A person has the ability to secure sufficient financial resources to purchase enough nutritious food to support a healthy diet on a consistent basis.



### FOOD ACCESS

A person has the ability to obtain affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods safely and conveniently.



### FOOD CONSUMPTION

A person has the ability to prepare healthy meals and the knowledge of basic nutrition, safety, and cooking.

# **THE IMPACT OF FOOD ASSISTANCE**

## **HOME-DELIVERED GROCERIES HELP SENIORS EAT WELL**

"I have seen people's lives change because they started getting food in their house each week," says Christine, a Food Pantry Coordinator in the Richmond District.

Christine tells the story of an elderly man who had trouble cooking and carrying groceries. After his wife passed away, his meals consisted of rice and soy sauce – and nothing else.

"That was his whole meal every day," Christine says. "But then we started bringing the food over and he started cooking! He would ask the volunteers how to prepare certain items. And then he was eating good meals."

## **CALFRESH BENEFITS ENABLE FAMILY TO COVER THE BASICS**

Roxana received help applying for CalFresh through a community outreach initiative. The benefits help her buy groceries for herself and her two children.

"I worry about the kinds of foods my kids eat. People say that children should eat whole foods, like real milk and eggs, and it's great to be able to afford that.

"CalFresh takes a lot of worry off my shoulders. It's so helpful to know that no matter what, at least our food is covered."

## **FRUIT AND VEGETABLE VOUCHERS IMPROVE PARTICIPANT'S HEALTH**

Fruit and vegetable vouchers, which are distributed weekly, help Pat buy fresh produce and improve her wellness and outlook.

"For my household, if we didn't have a voucher, we wouldn't make it until the end of the month. It's a big difference to be able to go out and purchase the foods that are healthy for us. The vouchers really come in handy," she says.

Program participants are able to use their vouchers at neighborhood corner stores, which encourages small markets to carry more fruits and vegetables.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **WHAT DO “FOOD SECURITY” AND “FOOD INSECURITY” MEAN?**

**FOOD SECURITY** means that all people at all times are able to obtain and consume enough nutritious food to support an active, healthy life. **FOOD INSECURITY** exists when the ability to obtain and prepare nutritious food is uncertain or not possible.

## **HOW BIG OF A PROBLEM IS FOOD INSECURITY IN SAN FRANCISCO?**

According to the United States Census, 28 percent of San Francisco residents are living at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. That’s \$40,320 annually for a family of three. This population is statistically understood to be food insecure.

## **WHO IS EXPERIENCING HUNGER IN SAN FRANCISCO?**

Many different populations struggle with hunger. These include seniors, people experiencing homelessness, and children.

## **IS THE NEED FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE INCREASING?**

The rate of food insecurity is rising. In 2013-14, 44 percent of low-income adults were identified as food insecure, the highest level since surveying began in 2001.

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “END HUNGER”?**

Ending hunger means that every resident within the City will be able access the food they require for general health. Through a combination of CalFresh benefits, food pantries, congregate meals, home-delivered meals and groceries and the residents’ own ability to buy food, every resident should be able to eat three meals a day.

## **WHAT ARE THE TASK FORCE’S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENDING HUNGER?**

- **BUDGET:** Increase current funding and expand programs for the most vulnerable, including CalFresh, home-delivered meals, home-delivered groceries, congregate meals and healthy vouchers.
- **INNOVATIONS:** Pilot tailored solutions for SRO residents living in buildings without kitchens.
- **POLICY:** Adopt a standardized screening for food security as part of all community and healthcare programs serving vulnerable San Franciscans. Conduct a city-wide study on the cost of food insecurity and the funding needed to solve the problem.

## **HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF THE FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE?**

Please visit [www.sfdph.org/foodsecurity](http://www.sfdph.org/foodsecurity) .

## **FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP**

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