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History, Purpose, and Mission

The Food Security Task Force (FSTF) was established in 2005 by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors (BOS) and charged with the responsibility of creating a city-wide plan for addressing food security.

The FSTF recommends to the BOS legislative action and citywide strategies that would increase participation in federally funded programs. The Task Force provides general advice and assistance to the BOS with regard to funding priorities, legislative action, and city policies on addressing hunger and enhancing the food security of San Francisco residents in addition to any other issues within the Task Force’s expertise.

The FSTF tracks vital data regarding hunger and food security in San Francisco, including the utilization and demand for federal food programs, community based organizations’ meal programs and programs targeting particular populations. The FSTF educates the public about the role of food security in public health and community development, and advocates for policies and programs that improve food security.

Membership

Jeimil Belamide  
Human Services Agency, CalFresh

Emily Cohen  
Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing

Meg Davidson  
SF-Marin Food Bank

Geoffrey Grier  
SF Recovery Theatre

Karen Gruneisen  
Episcopal Community Services

Mei Ling Hui  
Department of Recreation and Park

Paula Jones (Vice-Chair)  
San Francisco Department of Public Health

Michelle Kim  
Department of Children, Youth and Their Families

Linda Lau  
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Ave Lambert  
Farming Hope

Jennifer LeBarre  
SF Unified School District

Kimberly Madsen  
Project Open Hand

Rita Mouton-Patterson  
Hospitality House

Anne Quaintance (Chair)  
Meals on Wheels SF

Priti Rane  
Department of Public Health/Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health

Raegan Sales  
Children's Council

Hilary Seligman  
UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations at SF General Hospital

Jennifer Siswandi  
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation

Chester K. Williams  
Community Living Campaign

SAN FRANCISCO FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE
Overarching Messages

1. **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.

2. Food Security Rests on Three Pillars - The following three elements, adapted from the World Health Organization’s pillars of food security, are used as a framework for evaluating food security in San Francisco.
   a. **Food Resources**: Ability to secure sufficient financial resources to purchase enough nutritious food to support a healthy diet on a consistent basis (income, CalFresh, WIC, SSI).
   b. **Food Access**: Ability to obtain affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate foods safely and conveniently (from food pantries, meal programs, food retail).
   c. **Food Consumption**: Ability to prepare and store healthy meals and the knowledge of basic nutrition, food safety and cooking (usable kitchens, nutrition/cooking education).

3. **FSTF Assessment 2018 provides**:
   a. Changes since 2013 assessment
   b. Citywide and by district data
   c. Recommendations for food programs citywide and by district
   d. Policy and system recommendations
   e. Food security and health care integration: significance; what’s working; current challenges; recommendations

4. **1 in 4 San Francisco residents** (27% or 227,000 residents) are at risk of food insecurity due to low income (below 200% of poverty or $40,840 for a family of 3), and may struggle to attain and prepare enough nutritious food to support basic physical and mental health.

5. **Recommendations in Brief** - 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.
   a. Policy and System Priorities
      i. Attain Sustainable Funding and Infrastructure Investments to Eliminate Waitlists and Other Barriers to Services.
      ii. Develop a Client-Centered Approach to Nutrition Services.
      iii. Endorse Food Security Values and Accountability to Secure the Food Safety Net
   b. Food Safety Net Priorities
      i. 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.
   c. Food Security and Health Integration Recommendations
      i. Integrate food security as part of standard health care screening and document results in the electronic medical record.
      ii. Develop a single updated, accurate resource repository.
      iii. Support Department of Public Health and all San Francisco health care systems to integrate into the new and existing electronic health record.
      iv. Conduct outreach to generate support for health care integration.
6. Statistics on Poverty in SF
   - 13% at or below 100% of the federal poverty line or $20,420 for a family of 3 (110,000 residents)
   - 36% of seniors (65+) below 200% of the federal poverty line
   - 34% of adults with disabilities (18-60 years old) live below 100% of the federal poverty line
   - 37% of children in SF with two immigrant parents live below 200% of the federal poverty line
   - 52% of youth ages 18-24 live below 200% of the federal poverty line; 33% below 100%
   - 71% of formerly homeless youth are food insecure
   - 7,499 homeless
   - 19,000 people live in 500 SRO hotels with 80% of 600 surveyed reporting high nutritional risk

7. Statistics on Food Programs
   - 52,910 CalFresh recipients with 32% children ages 0-17
   - 25,315 receive IHSS (In-Home Support Services)
   - 53% of SFUSF students, or 30,637, are qualified for free/price reduced lunch
   - 96,100 food pantry recipients
   - 3,600 senior congregate meals daily
   - 4,700 seniors receiving home-delivered meals
   - 112,590 meals for people living at Navigation Centers

8. FSTF 2013-2017
   - On December 10th 2013, the BOS passed a resolution committing to a Food Secure and Hunger Free San Francisco by 2020.
   - The resolution was passed in light of a BOS hearing on November 21, 2013, that examined the findings of two landmark reports: “Assessment on Food Security in San Francisco,” produced by the San Francisco Food Security Task Force, and “A Changing Landscape: Food Security and Services in San Francisco’s Tenderloin,” produced by the Tenderloin Hunger Task Force.
   - The BOS asked for further analysis on solutions to improving food security.
   - On April 10th 2014 was the BOS follow-up hearing for City Departments to present budgetary proposals and policy changes to improve food security in San Francisco to address current and future needs.
   - On April 13th 2016 was the BOS hearing to give an update on the progress toward the BOS resolution to end hunger by 2020.
   - The San Francisco Food Security Task Force members developed the Home-Delivery Grocery Program and Healthy Eating Voucher Program.
   - FSTF has advocated and secured $48M cumulative over 5 years towards safety net food programs.
9. **FSTF 2018**
   - The San Francisco Food Security Task Force release the 2018 Food Security Report, including citywide and district demographics, food program usage, and recommendations. The report contains in-depth program reports for specific food programs.
   - The San Francisco Food Security Task Force has launched a strategic planning process to collaboratively and effectively implement 2018 recommendations to end hunger in San Francisco.
   - As a City, we are committed to addressing hunger and food security through budget investments, innovative program changes and public policy.

10. **Food Insecurity Results in Poor Health Outcomes**
   - Poorer nutritional intake
   - Lower intake of relatively more expensive fruits and vegetables (fewer micronutrients)
   - Higher intake of less expensive fats & carbohydrates
   - Eating behaviors that persist for decades after food insecurity experiences
   - Binge eating, food rationing, preferences for highly filling foods (high-fat, high-sugar) to “feel full”
   - Extreme anxiety & distress: less bandwidth for coping with other household needs
   - Higher health care costs

   **Children**
   - Smaller, sicker babies
   - Poorer physical health
   - Anemia
   - Obesity
   - More hospitalizations
   - Poor cognitive development & academic achievement
   - Decreased intellectual & emotional development

   **Adults & Seniors**
   - Obesity
   - Diabetes & poor diabetes control
   - High-blood pressure and heart disease
   - Poorer health outcomes for people living with HIV & AIDS
   - Mental illness and exacerbations of serious mental illness
   - Decreased capacity to maintain independence with aging
   - Increased hospitalizations
Timeline - Action Plan

1. November 2018 - December 2018
   a. Launch and Public Release
   b. Press Conference
   c. Social Media Packet
   d. Collateral Materials on Website

2. January - March 2019
   a. Mailing of Report to Target Audiences
   b. BOS Hearing
   c. Presentations
   d. Press
   e. Video
Target Audience

- Policy Makers and Government Officials
  - Mayor’s Offices and Councils - Budget, Disability, Housing, Economic & Workforce Development, LTCC, Neighborhood Services,
  - BOS
- City Agencies/Departments - DAAS, DHS, DPH, DCYF, Housing Authority, Rec & Park, SFUSD, Controller’s Office
- Commissions, Councils Taskforces - DAAS, DHS, DPH, Human Rights, Immigrant Rights, LTCCC, Shelter Monitoring, Veteran Affairs, Youth
- Advocacy and Policy Associations and Organizations

Outcomes

Legislation & Advocacy

Services & Community

Public & Private Support