

APPROVED

San Francisco Food Security Task Force (FSTF) Minutes

April 7, 2021

Members present: Anne Quaintance (Conard House); Priti Rane (SFDPH Maternal Child and Adolescent Health); Sarah Chan (DAS); Meg Davidson (SF Marin Food Bank); Ave Lambert; Raegan Sales (Children’s Council); Paula Jones (DPH Food Security); Geoffrey Grier (SF Recovery Theatre); Cissie Bonini (EatSF/UCSF); Emma Steinberg (Kaiser Permanente); Chester Williams (Community Living Campaign); Rita Mouton-Patterson (Hospitality House); Mei Ling Hui (Rec & Park); Kim Madsen (Project Open Hand); Emily Cohen (Dept. of Homeless and Supportive Housing)

Also present: Kallisto Khan (TNDC); Tiffany Kearny (DAS); Janna Cordeiro (SF Market); Jaime Stark (Farming Hope); Lea Troeh (EatSF/UCSF); Lauren Small (Leah’s Pantry); Fiona McBride (Covid Food Coordination Group/Human Service Agency); Jalal Alabsi (TNDC); Meredith Terrell (Meals on Wheels SF); Rebecca Barajas, Arielle Fleisher (SFDPH), Tiffany Tu (DCYF), Erin Franey (SFDPH), Spencer Robinson, Kathleen Da Silva, Michael Pon (UCSF), Veronica Shepard (SFDPH), Khadijah Grant (ZSFG), Krista McMiller, Whitney Francis, Sana Ahmad, Holly Calhoun, Vinny Ng (SF New Deal), Adelle Kanan, Anthony Macaulay (MOWSF), Lauren McCasland (DAS)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEM
1. Call to order	Cissie called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm	None
2. Welcome, member roll call, introductions, Cissie Bonini (Chair)	Cissie welcomed everyone and called member roll. Members of the public introduced themselves in the chat.	None
3. Approval of minutes from March 3, 2021	Two edits were noted. Meg made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes, Rita seconded the motion. Michelle Kim abstained. The motion was approved.	Post approved meeting minutes to the website.
4. General Public Comment	There was no general public comment.	None
5. Federal Food Policy Update	Meg Davidson provided an update on federal food policy. Impacts of the pandemic weighed disproportionately on our communities of color, both directly from the virus and indirectly through the economic fallout.	Post presentation to website.

Advocates and community members across the country worked hard to make sure that Members of Congress and other elected leaders were also well aware of this and act with sufficient scale and urgency to meet the crisis. We've got a new administration! They've appointed high-level USDA staff who have worked as researchers and advocates for improvements to SNAP and other federal nutrition programs, and have made some major changes and investments in our nutrition policy infrastructure in their first few months.

On March 12, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan into law.

The American Rescue Plan devotes about \$1 trillion towards building a bridge to economic recovery for working families. (\$150 billion in federal aid to California) It has 3 major components. We'll focus just on the first. All told, a single parent with one young child making the minimum wage could see her income increase from the equivalent of \$7.25 to around \$11 per hour.

The plan will:

- Give working families a \$1,400 per-person check, bringing their total relief payment from this and the December down payment to \$2,000. More than 85% of households will receive a check and checks in this bill are bigger than the checks in the CARES Act or in the December bill. And, for the first time, adult dependents are entitled to a check as well. This means a lower or middle-income family of four will see an additional \$5,600 in their pockets.
- Extend current unemployment insurance benefits and eligibility to September 6 (saving 11 million Americans from losing benefits starting in about a week), provide a \$300 per week supplement, and help protect Americans from surprise tax bills on unemployment insurance they received last year.
- Help Americans stay in their homes by providing emergency aid to cover back rent. In addition, the bill provides assistance to help struggling homeowners catch up with their mortgage payments and utility costs through the Homeowners Assistance Fund. And, it provides additional funding for families and individuals who are recovering from or at risk of homelessness.
- Increase the value of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The American Rescue Plan will increase SNAP benefits by 15 percent through September 2021. The bill also funds partnerships with restaurants to feed American families and keep workers in the restaurant industry on the job. And, it provides U.S. territories like Puerto Rico additional nutrition assistance funding, in addition to funding to make sure women, infants and children get the food they need to help address food insecurity.
- Increase the Child Tax Credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 for a child under age 6) and make 17-year-olds qualifying children for the year. This means a typical family of four with two young children will receive an additional \$3,200 in assistance to help cover costs associated with raising children. The families of more than 66 million kids will benefit.
- Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for 17 million workers by as much as \$1,000. The top occupations that will benefit are cashiers, food preparers and servers, and home health aides – frontline workers who have helped their communities get through the crisis.
- Expand child care assistance, help hard-hit child care providers cover their costs, and increase tax credits to help cover the cost of childcare. This is the single biggest investment in child care since World War II.

- Give families an additional tax credit to help cut child care costs. Families will get back as a refundable tax credit as much as half of their spending on child care for children under age 13, so that they can receive a total of up to \$4,000 for one child or \$8,000 for two or more children.
- Provide an additional \$1 billion for states to cover the additional cash assistance that Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients needed as a result of the crisis.
- Lower or eliminate health insurance premiums for millions of lower- and middle-income families enrolled in health insurance marketplaces. A family of four making \$90,000 could see their monthly premium come down by \$200 per month. This will help well over a million uninsured Americans gain coverage. The plan also subsidizes premiums for continuation health coverage (COBRA).

Meg shared some high level updates on some of the programs and initiatives that have received additional funding or programmatic enhancements from this bill. She included links on a “Resources” slide at the end to follow to get more in-depth information about any of these items I touch upon.

- Access to the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program available for the duration of the health emergency, including through the summer
- An extension to the 15 percent increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for all participants through September 30, 2021, or about \$28 per month per person
- \$880 million to deliver expanded access to more fruits and vegetables for moms and babies and investments in innovation to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
- \$37 million for senior nutrition through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.
- Provides grants and loans to reimburse or purchase personal protective equipment, test kits, and other measures to keep essential food workers safe.
- Invests in infrastructure and retooling support for food processors, farmers markets, food banks, local food systems, and producers to build resiliency in the food supply for the long term.
- Investments in technological improvements to expand access for families to use their SNAP benefits to purchase groceries safely online.
- Provides grants and loans to reimburse or purchase personal protective equipment, test kits, and other measures to keep essential food workers safe.
- Invests in infrastructure and retooling support for food processors, farmers markets, food banks, local food systems, and producers to build resiliency in the food supply for the long term.
- \$4 billion toward debt relief for socially disadvantaged farmers to pay off burdensome debts that have prevented many farmers of color from making a living or taking advantage of opportunities to grow or explore value-added strategies.
- Increases food available for distribution through food banks, nonprofits, or restaurants to help feed families in need (TEFAP)
- \$1.01 billion in funding to USDA to create a racial equity commission and address longstanding discrimination across USDA by investing in land access, outreach, education, assistance overcoming barriers to access to USDA programs, business development, and more.

The Bill also allocates \$26 Billion in Fiscal Recovery Funds to the State. Legislature only can use funds for specific purposes (in particular: to respond to coronavirus disease 2019 and its negative economic impacts, to replace a reduction in revenue, among others) and includes other restrictions. Available until December 31, 2024. \$16 Billion in Fiscal Recovery Funds to Local Governments. Counties and cities with population over 50,000 will receive funding directly from the federal government.

San Francisco will receive \$636 million of one-time direct federal aid from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to offset revenue losses in the General Fund(drawn down evenly in FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23).

- USDA held a listening session on the Farmers to Families Food Box program on March 22nd
- If implemented, the program will serve as a successor to the temporary food box purchase program created in April 2020 in response to the rapidly developing crisis within the food supply chain and increased joblessness due to COVID-19.
- TBD
- In the current fifth round of purchases, USDA will purchase up to \$1.5 billion worth of food for delivery through the end of April. The additional funding for the program was included in the COVID-19 relief package as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act passed December 21, 2020
- The state is using some Federal funding to purchase mixed produce boxes to be distributed through the food bank network.

This is what has allowed our incredible SFUSD to serve millions of meals so effectively and efficiently since the beginning of the pandemic

- Allow meals served through the [Summer Food Service Program \(SFSP\)](#) and [Seamless Summer Option \(SSO\)](#) – collectively known as “[summer meal programs](#)” – to be made available in all areas at no cost;
- Allow meals to be served outside of the normally required group settings and meal times; and
- Allow parents and guardians to pick-up meals for their children, including bulk pick-up to cover multiple days of feeding children.

There’s a huge federal legislative package that includes pretty much all things child nutrition. It’s supposed to be reauthorized and revisited regularly, but Congress hasn’t prioritized updating it since 2010! In our meetings with Members of Congress this spring, we lobbied for them to make it a priority in 2021. Here are a few of the things we want it to include.

Free school meals for all

- i. During the pandemic, schools have been able to offer free meals to all students. Congress must make this permanent, unleashing a series of benefits as school campuses re-open, including to: improve access for more children, prevent stigma, eliminate unpaid school meals debt, and reduce administrative work for school nutrition departments and their workforce that have invaluable served children and families through this crisis.
- ii. CACFP investments
 - The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) plays a vital role in stabilizing childcare infrastructure, supporting parents’ ability to return to work, yet meals and snacks remain out of reach for too many

	<p>as only 38% of child care programs participate in CACFP. CACFP also supports older adults, and as California’s low-income older adult population grows, disproportionately Black and Latinx, our elders need investments in nutrition programs to support healthy aging.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allow a much-needed afternoon snack or supper for children in full-day child care; • allow the use of direct certification, and create Community Eligibility Provision options including for adult day centers; and • build on lessons learned during COVID-19 and continue to streamline access by – allowing annual eligibility for proprietary centers; – improving the area eligibility test to reach family providers in rural and other low-income areas; – increasing program reimbursements for CACFP providers and sponsors; and – continuing to allow young adults to receive three meals at homeless and youth shelters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extend WIC eligibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ extend certification periods to two years for infants and postpartum women, and enrollment for children until their sixth birthday; ○ permanently improve children’s access by dropping the requirement for enrolling in person and making permanent the option to remotely enroll over the phone or by video and the ability to shop online. 	
<p>6. Covid Command Food Security Funding Update</p>	<p>Shireen McSpadden provided an update on the Covid Food Security funding. There has been \$80.7 million allocated for food security programs. The biggest change is funding allocation was with Great Plates which received more than previously anticipated. This program has been a lifeline to restaurants. They’re planning on transitioning seniors to other meal programs. The budget will continue to be adjusted as needed.</p> <p>Question – can we get information on the programs that have served households with children? Shireen said that they could get this information (primarily the IQ help line and the food bank). Shireen also said that they have the per person cost for every program.</p> <p>Question – What is ongoing regarding situational analysis? Shireen – probably they don’t have enough money in the budget to meet the need. She would love to have an ongoing unit to assess need. The Food Security Task Force can push for a centralized unit that has more resources.</p> <p>Comment – there has been a big gap for families with children and pregnant people. Shireen – funds from Give2SF has gone to serve these groups.</p>	<p>Post presentation to website</p>
<p>7. Food Security Priorities and Anticipated</p>	<p>SFUSD (Jennifer provided notes to read) - In theory, students will be returning to regular learning and additional programs may not be needed. Currently all programs (Grab & Go, Door to Door or our partnerships with CBO's, are dependent on extension of USDA waivers which have only been given through September 30, 2021. What is unclear is</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>Changes in Service Levels for City agencies and SFUSD</p>	<p>if this waiver is only good through the school year beginning or until 9/30. Last year it was only good until our school year began which for us means mid-August. I can say with certainty that we will continue our Grab & Go Distribution programs at 17 locations, partnership with CBO's in Tenderloin & Treasure Island and Door to Door program through mid-August.</p> <p>Tiffany Kearny (DAS) – Shireen shared the anticipated demand and expense in FY 21/22 – providers are providing meals each month above the baseline, and the cost is above the baseline. Some programs may transition (for example, Great Plates). The department has 4 active RFPs to cover 4 years. They will have a better idea after the RFP closes at the end of the month.</p> <p>Michelle Kim (DCYF) – they have focused on meals at Community Learning Hubs. They are planning for some type of Community Hubs for the Summer Together Initiative (free summer together programs). They may have an increase in service to 3 meals (breakfast, lunch and snack).</p> <p>Emily Cohen (HSH) – Anticipate expansion in homeless prevention (financial resources, more flexible). Over the next 2 years, they are planning on adding 1,500 new units of supportive housing and new flexible housing subsidy. The meal programs in shelters are continuing, as well as some meals in encampments. They are piloting a meal program in DISH with La Cocina.</p> <p>Priti Rane (DPH/WIC) – They are continuing to serve with all waivers. The Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons are coming up and they are trying to coordinate farmers market boxes again this year. There needs to be a dedicated</p> <p>Mei Ling Hui (SF Rec and Park)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage programming and activation of our 41 UA sites (including the City's largest and longest running urban farm Alemany Farm, where we grow ~28K pounds of produce to support food security), as well as our 2500 ongoing volunteers and approx 10K annual program participants. During the COVID crisis, a lot of our volunteering was restricted due to gathering prohibitions. Maintaining the production level of our food security farm remains a primary concern; working alongside the Friends of Alemany Farm team - including their incredible farm interns, we were able to maintain our typical production level to support food security. • Engaged a youth led food security project at Adam Rogers Community Garden. We supported site improvements, connections, and training for the Bayview Backyardigans high school student interns. They've grown and donated 270 pounds of fresh produce, mostly greens, that they grew in a few short months. They did site prep and box building, then planting the garden out, fixing up the greenhouse. Harvest every other week. 5-6 youth paid stipends to be farm interns. • Reduce barriers to food production across the city, by providing garden resources (compost, seeds, plant starts, composting worms, tool care) and education (workshops, youth events, re-engaging the City of San Francisco with 	
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	<p>Cooperative Extension programming). This work is performed throughout our system and we continue to work to establish the San Francisco Garden Resource, Outreach, and Workshop Center (SF GROW Center) to provide deeper engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address environmental justice, support Black and Brown community members (especially immigrant communities), and promote cultural competency through program delivery. For example, our seed lending library features culturally significant crops that aren't broadly planted, with the goal of introducing all San Franciscans to these unique and tasty vegetables and to also ensure that we are providing the right type of resource to our most at-risk community members. • Ensuring food grown on RPD land is produced using the highest environmental, food safe, and toxic free methods. With the limits to volunteering, much of our work shifted to education, training the next generation of farmers. • Ensuring the three pop up pantries on RPD land continue to operate to help meet this critical community needs: Arguello Stub next to Kezar Stadium, the Golden Gate Park Senior Center parking lot, and Minnie & Lovie Ward Rec Center. (All site where we have community gardens!) <p>No public comment.</p>	
8. Discussion on Food Security Task Force reauthorization	Paula reviewed areas of the ordinance that need additional input including the definition of food security. Because of the lack of time, the group decided to hold a special meeting to review the ordinance language on April 12, 2021. The agenda and meeting notice will be posted on the website.	Post slides to the website.
9. Update on Supervisor Visits	This item is continued until May.	None
10. Covid Food Coordination update	Tommy McClain provided an update from the Covid Food Coordination group. There are currently approximately 8 new referrals a day to the IQ Food Help Line. The team is supporting the SF Marin Food Bank with SFMTA and DPW as their operations change. The team also supported a Vaccine Ambassador training for 53 representatives from CBOs	None
11. Food Security Task Force member updates	Michelle Kim updated on the Sugary Drink Distributor Tax Advisory Committee. In February on their budget recommendations including \$1.35 million for Food Access. Chester announced that on April 28 th , there will be an event <i>Aging While Black</i> .	
12. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm	