Update on Efforts to Address Food Insecurity in San Francisco

Health Commission, Community and Public Health Committee
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Outline

• Food insecurity in SF
• Alignment with Population Health priorities
• San Francisco Food Security Task Force
• Update on food vouchers
• Hunger in the faith community
Food Insecurity in San Francisco

• Definition:
  – Food *Insecurity* exists when the ability to obtain and prepare nutritious food is uncertain or not possible

• Food *insecurity* results in poorer health:
  – Poorer nutritional intake
  – Extreme anxiety and distress
  – Cost-related medication underuse
  – Eating behaviors that persist for decades after food insecurity experiences
  – Higher health care costs

• < 200% of poverty – highest risk for food insecurity

  27% of San Francisco population live below 200% of poverty
Alignment with Population Health priorities

• National: Healthy People 2020 goal
  – *Reduce household food insecurity*
  – *Reduce very low food security among children*

• SFHIP
  – *Healthy Eating and Physical Activity is a top priority*
    • *Indicator for improvement:*
      – Pregnant women who are food insecure
      – Seniors waiting more than 30 days for a home delivered meal

• SFDPH: Population Health Division Strategic Plan
  - *Improving food security is a priority*
San Francisco Food Security Task Force

• About:
  – Established in 2005
  – 15 members: City agencies, SFUSD & nonprofit providers
  – Staffed by SFDPH (DPH has 2 seats – Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health and Office of Equity & Quality Improvement)

• Current work:
  – Food security report 2018
  – Developing city wide recommendations and for each supervisorial district
  – Communicate information to elected officials and stakeholders
Update on food vouchers

• Target populations
  – Pregnant women
  – Seniors, people on Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  – Voucher program partner – EatSF

• Food insecurity rates:
  – SSI recipients (83% - low and very low; 8% marginal)
  – Pregnant women on Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (59% low and very low: 16% marginal)
Results to date

Reach:
• Distributed vouchers to more than 2,300 unduplicated households
• Partnered with WIC to provided vouchers to over 700 pregnant women

Community:
• Partnered with 50+ distribution sites, including community-based organizations and clinics
• Grew the vendor network to 19+, adding more convenient grocery chains and corner stores
Hunger in the faith community

• SFHIP convened 17 Bayview churches around congregants’ health priorities
• Number one priority – Hunger
• Other priorities included: diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, all cancers
• Pastors were not aware of health resources available
Hunger in the faith community

• Pastors identified representatives from each church to be health liaison
• Coordinated training and connected liaisons to existing resources
• Liaisons conducted research on hunger using USDA food security screening tool
• Initial results confirm high rates of hunger
• Next steps: 1. Developing priorities to increase food resources in Bayview, 2. Informing decision makers of their community’s needs and priorities
Thank you and Questions