

FSTF 2024 Recommendations Process & Timeline

DRAFT
**Presented at April 2024
FSTF Meeting**

- Launched working group meetings (February - March 2024)
- Presented update and options for look at feel (March 6, 2024 FSTF meeting)
- Refine recommendations and present at FSTF meeting (April 3, 2024 FSTF meeting)
- Finalize graphic design (April 2023) & disseminate (late April 2024)
- Meetings with City Departments, BOS, Mayor's office (schedule May - June)
 - Prepare slides

First page from 2023 – Summary of Recommendations

Summarizes
recommendations
early

INTRODUCTION

The **Food Security Task Force (FSTF)** was created by the Board of Supervisors with the purpose of making recommendations on policies and programs to improve food security. Membership of the task force consists of community-based organizations and city departments. Established in 2005, FSTF is one of the longest-standing task forces in the city demonstrating San Francisco's belief that a core responsibility of the government is to ensure its residents are fed and nourished. The longevity of the FSTF also underscores the continued need for policies, resources, and organizational structures to address San Franciscans' lack of access to adequate nutritious and culturally relevant food.

The 2023 recommendations were developed by reviewing and adjusting our previous recommendations based on current conditions. **San Francisco cannot achieve economic recovery nor our shared vision of a just and prosperous city without a food-secure population.**

HEALTH ISSUES IMPACTED BY FOOD INSECURITY
Food insecurity contributes to poor health and health disparities through multiple pathways: **stress, depression, trauma, poor diet quality, and malnutrition.** Food insecurity increases the risk of multiple chronic conditions, including **diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension, and exacerbates existing physical and mental health conditions.** It impairs child development and limits academic achievement. Food insecurity and hunger impact our community in many direct and indirect ways, and the social and economic costs are passed on in many ways, including higher healthcare costs.

The COVID-19 pandemic response is scaling down on the local, state, and federal level, leaving many San Franciscans with fewer food resources. At the same time, the effects of the pandemic are ongoing and heavily impact San Franciscans' ability to access healthy food. Additionally, high inflation rates, a looming state deficit, and a probable economic recession exacerbate a challenging climate. Local data reveal that **food insecurity rates remain high, and families may need to access more than one food program to meet their nutrition needs.**



2023 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Support funding structures that promote a holistic approach to food and nutrition security in San Francisco.**
- 2 Eliminate barriers and invest strategically in neighborhoods where structural racism and disinvestment have led to low access to healthy and culturally-relevant food.**
- 3 Increase coordination of local governments' programs and policies related to food systems.**
- 4 Elevate the community's voice and participation in the development and implementation of food policy.**
- 5 Engage the health and housing sectors around food security.**

2024 Recommendations Overview



SAN FRANCISCO
Food Security Task Force
Recommendations

April 2024 FSTF - Draft for Input

- Using data in Biennial Food Security and Equity Report (BFSEER)
- Bringing forward similar recommendations to 2023 and some recommendations from BFSEER
- Continue framing: Health Equity
- Goal – shorten. 2023 Recommendations were 9 pages with the last Local and State/Federal recommendations pages very text heavy

Overview of 2024 Recommendations

Outline:

- Introduction
- Current landscape
- Challenges and Needs
- Successes
- Recommendations
- Biennial Food Security and Equity Report
Recommendations

Framing includes:

- Right to food and dignified access to meet dietary, medical and cultural needs
- Public funds should support food for the greatest number of people with the highest quality of service

Current Landscape

Some items include:

- Very high rates of food insecurity
- City and State budget challenges
- Nutrition sensitive health disparities are increasing



Challenges and Needs

Some items include:

- Local funding: A reduction of \$35.4 million in food-related funding in the next two fiscal years.
- State budget deficit: California Nutrition Incentive Program impacted
- San Francisco Marin Food Bank program changes
 - Phase out of popup pantries impacting 18,000 households
 - Reducing home delivered groceries by 40%, impacting another 5,200 households
- Lack of programs addressing nutrition-sensitive medical conditions
- Inequities in program funding
 - meal costs ranged from \$1.88 to \$11.22
 - costs per grocery bag ranged from \$7.54 to \$45

Successes

Some items include:

- DPH published first Biennial Food Security and Equity Report in Dec. 2023
- OEWD published sub report
- FSTF is convening the Reimagining Food Coordination subcommittee to develop detailed recommendations for a new food organizing structure
- The San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) is actively expanding support to help residents grow their own food
- The San Francisco Environment Department (SFE) convened a group of food recovery organizations
- San Francisco is investing in new food models like the D10 Community Market (formerly called the Food Empowerment Market)
- Many local SF food organizations are in active discussions with local Medi-Cal health plans and clinics to integrate their Medically Supportive Food & Nutrition (MSF&N) services
- Coalitions like FAACTS and the Tenderloin Food Policy Council are elevating community voice in food policy



Recommendations

- 1. Invest adequate City resources to support equitable and coordinated solutions to food security**
- 2. Support funding structures and programs that promote a holistic approach to food and nutrition security**
- 3. Food insecurity is a health issue – center health equity in funding opportunities**
- 4. Invest in infrastructure to increase efficiency, coordination, and utilization of publicly funded food services**

1. Invest adequate City resources to support equitable and coordinated solutions to food security

- Fully restore local budget cuts to sustain the expansion of existing and new City food programs developed during the pandemic
- Ensure adequate funding levels to support quality and variety in food provision, including increases to current contracts
- Decrease waitlists for programs including home-delivered meals and groceries, particularly for culturally sensitive foods and meals and with special attention to vulnerable populations such as older adults and people with disabilities

2. Support funding structures and programs that promote a holistic approach to food and nutrition security

- Ensure adequate and equitable funding through the City's procurement (RFP) process and streamline funding processes
- Ensure sustained, multi-year funding for community and neighborhood-based organizations to provide food support
- Ensure access to public funding for small-scale community-based organizations
- Invest in pilot programs targeted towards specific populations and communities experiencing higher rates of food insecurity to test and evaluate effectiveness of programs
- Invest in affordable housing and funding for food programs for supportive and SRO housing
- Provide direct financial support to households, such as anti-poverty cash first programs like Universal Basic Income

3. Food insecurity is a health issue – center health equity in funding opportunities

- Prioritize funding for programs for populations and neighborhoods that suffer the highest impact of health disparities
- Support and expand medically supportive food interventions (e.g., medically tailored meals, produce prescriptions, food pharmacies)
- Determine how current programs will be impacted by the upcoming budget cuts along with how this will impact priority populations experiencing these health disparities

4. Invest in infrastructure to increase efficiency, coordination, and utilization of publicly funded food services

- Establish and maintain a centralized information & referral system across publicly funded programs
- Support publicly funded programs such as CalFresh and WIC to reduce barriers to service, improve wait-times, and address the return to in-person interviews for program enrollment
- Ensure streamlined coordination of service delivery for publicly funded food programs
- Improve public transportation to food programs and invest in additional delivery services

Biennial Food Security & Equity Report Recommendations

1. Streamline and standardize City data collection systems and reporting structures
 - Establish and maintain a centralized participant data collection and reporting systems across publicly funded programs
 - Support and refine the Biennial Food Security & Equity Report process to continually evaluate the state of total food security among San Francisco residents
 - Collect information on City and community organizations' true costs to provide food-related services and use this to guide equitable funding decisions

Community Quotes

Still looking for more
community quotes!

“The root causes that are creating the line outside our food distribution site are poverty, lack of work (people’s hours are being reduced and are making less than minimum wage), and the lack of affordable housing. On top of discussing how much food prices have gone up, food insecurity also has so much to do with the fact that people are struggling to pay rent. On days we’re not doing food distribution, we help community members apply to CalFresh [food stamps], WIC, Medi-Cal, affordable housing, and support with workforce development.”

Nancy Hernandez, Excelsior Strong Hub Manager, Latino Task Force

"I’m starting to feel more confident about what to do with fruit and vegetables. I’ve always known I should be eating them, but I’ve never known how to prepare them in a way that tastes good. I loved what we made today, and I feel like they are things I can make on my own and share with friends or family. Like, I could bring these dishes to a party and people would really like them. This is making me want to learn more.”

"My work at the farm is making me think about how to eat healthier with vegetables and I am learning how it grows. My kids are now helping to cook. My son made the salad recipe we learned in the program and really liked it. He never liked salad before.”

Friends of Alemany Farms Interns and Participants