

Model 1: Mayor's Office

In this model, an Office would be established in City Hall, under the support and direction of the San Francisco mayor. Similar to the [Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development](#) or other such entities, an office like this would have strong authority to influence the local food economy, hold partners accountable, and direct citywide policy. It would send a strong message that food insecurity is a high-priority issue in San Francisco. It would also likely have sustained funding as long as the current mayor was supportive of addressing food insecurity as a major citywide issue. However, it would likely result in substantial limits on the engagement and influence of diverse community members or others with lived experience of food insecurity.



Other cities/counties with similar structures

- [Boston Mayor's Office of Food Justice](#)
- [New York City Mayor's Office of Food Policy](#)

Potential Advantages

- Mayoral office will likely result in governmental resources to address food security directly
- High levels of authority to influence citywide (and even regional, state, or national) food policy
- High levels of influence over food sourcing, food acquisition, and other aspects of the local food economy

Potential Disadvantages

- A mayoral-driven model is subject to the whims of the current mayor, and the entire focus and structure may change whenever a new mayor is elected
- Office will have limits on its independence, and likely be seen as influenced by political winds rather than grassroots, community voices
- May be challenging to address more acute food insecurity from community (e.g. respond to individual requests for help with food access)
- May be challenging to hire staff that reflect the cultural diversity of SF and have lived experience with food insecurity

Criteria Definitely Addressed

- Ensures culturally-appropriate accessibility to resources and information
- Ensures consistent funding to support community-led ideas/solutions/innovations
- Able to influence policymakers and therefore local policies and regulation related to food
- Addresses food sovereignty
- Assesses the current status of food (in)security on a regular basis
- Reduces silos across city agencies
- Addresses food sourcing and worker's rights
- Addresses the dignity of the food shopping and acquisition process
- Convenes stakeholders
- Leverages potential synergies between cross-sector programs/opportunities
- Evaluates the impacts of City-funded solutions on the broader food system
- Connection to local power structures and institutions
- Close connection to local government
- Engages with broader power structures and institutions
- Coordinates pre-disaster emergency food planning with CBOs and city agencies
- Oversees food-related programs

Criteria that *Could Be* Addressed


- Strengthens local food economy**
- Reduces silos across non-City entities
- Administrative feasibility
- Political feasibility
- Promotes urban agriculture and supports local food production
- Addresses emerging issues rapidly and nimbly
- Manages and distributes funding for community-led food innovations/solutions

Criteria Likely Not Addressed

- Community engagement**
- Diverse membership**
- Inclusive membership structure**
- Autonomy over decision making**
- Financial sustainability/independence

Model 2: Office within an existing City Department

In this model, an Office would be established as part of an existing City Department, most likely either the Department of Public Health (DPH) or Human Services Agency (HSA). As a City Office, this would have similar advantages and disadvantages to a Mayoral-driven model, with strong authority to influence the local food economy and direct some citywide policies, but also challenges for community engagement. Bureaucratic restrictions on hiring for City positions (both in speed and flexibility of hiring) would likely restrict the ability of this Office to hire diverse staff with lived experience of food insecurity, and depending on the current mayor and existing relationships with other relevant City departments, this Office may or may not be in a position to have autonomy over decision-making and/or reduce silos across city agencies.

 **Other cities/counties with similar structures**

- [Los Angeles County Office of Food Equity](#)

Potential Advantages

- High levels of authority to influence citywide food policy and program implementation
- Likely to have high levels of influence over food sourcing, acquisition, and other aspects of the local food economy

Potential Disadvantages

- May find it difficult to set policy and be responsive to community needs without undue influence from the Mayor's Office or the director of the parent Department
- May be challenging to hire staff and engage community members that reflect the cultural diversity of SF and have lived experience with food insecurity
- May be very challenging to reduce silos across city agencies, as the parent department not have authority over the decision-making of other departments
- Likely difficult to receive funding from non-governmental sources; subject to citywide budget cuts and financial constraints applicable to all city departments and offices

Criteria Definitely Addressed

4. Ensures culturally-appropriate accessibility to resources and information
5. Ensures consistent funding to support community-led ideas/solutions/innovations
6. Able to influence policymakers and therefore local policies and regulation related to food
7. Addresses food sovereignty
8. Strengthens local food economy
9. Assesses the current status of food (in)security on a regular basis
12. Addresses food sourcing and worker's rights
13. Addresses the dignity of the food shopping and acquisition process
14. Convenes stakeholders
15. Leverages potential synergies between cross-sector programs/opportunities
17. Evaluates the impacts of City-funded solutions on the broader food system
19. Connection to local power structures and institutions
22. Promotes urban agriculture and supports local food production
23. Close connection to local government
24. Engages with broader power structures and institutions
27. Coordinates pre-disaster emergency food planning with CBOs and city agencies
28. Oversees food-related programs

Criteria that *Could Be* Addressed

10. Autonomy over decision-making
11. Reduces silos across city agencies
18. Reduces silos across non-City entities
20. Administrative feasibility
21. Political feasibility
26. Manages and distributes funding for community-led food innovations/solutions

Criteria Likely Not Addressed

1. Community engagement
2. Diverse membership
3. Inclusive membership structure
16. Financial sustainability/independence
25. Addresses emerging issues rapidly and nimbly

Model 3: Collective impact model with decentralized leadership and only a fiscal intermediary

In this model, a citywide, grassroots initiative would be established that follows the principles of collective impact. Rather than being led by a specific organization or city department, this initiative would work to engage multiple stakeholders in an equitable way where all voices are heard and drive the work forward together. Most collective impact initiatives do not have established 501(c)(3) status or similar, because that structure would imply a single leader or board of directors. Rather, it has a decentralized structure supported by a “backbone” - a team of people dedicated to coordinating the initiative’s work, often with a fiscal intermediary to receive and disburse initiative funding as needed.

Other cities/counties with similar structures

- [Detroit Food Policy Council](#) (also technically incorporated as a 501(c)(3))
- [Maine Network of Community Food Councils](#)
- [The Knox County Food Council](#)

👍 Potential Advantages

- Supports diverse stakeholders and communities to address food security issues in mutually reinforcing, coordinated ways – existing models (like in Detroit) deliberately include stakeholders that may not be found in other food policy councils, such as local farmers and grocery store owners
- If community organizations, governmental agencies, private companies, and unaffiliated community members all have representation in the grassroots collaboration, this can allow for diversity of perspectives and approaches

👎 Potential Disadvantages

- The decentralized structure inherent to collective impact initiatives requires a strong backbone team to help maintain direction and momentum for this work, as it can be very challenging
- Can advocate, but will likely have limited influence over structural changes or policy setting
- A fiscal intermediary and ongoing fundraising or grant prospecting will be required to sustain operating costs and pay for backbone staff

☑ Criteria Definitely Addressed

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community engagement 2. Diverse membership 3. Inclusive membership structure 4. Ensures culturally-appropriate accessibility to resources and information 7. Addresses food sovereignty 8. Strengthens local food economy 9. Assesses the current status of food (in)security on a regular basis 10. Autonomy over decision-making 11. Reduces silos across city agencies 12. Addresses food sourcing and worker's rights 13. Addresses the dignity of the food shopping and acquisition process 14. Convenes stakeholders 15. Leverages potential synergies between cross-sector programs/opportunities | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Evaluates the impacts of City-funded solutions on the broader food system 18. Reduces silos across non-City entities 19. Connection to local power structures and institutions 20. Administrative feasibility 21. Political feasibility 22. Promotes urban agriculture and supports local food production 25. Addresses emerging issues rapidly and nimbly 26. Manages and distributes funding for community-led food innovations/solutions 27. Coordinates pre-disaster emergency food planning with CBOs and city agencies 28. Oversees food-related programs |
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❓ Criteria that *Could Be* Addressed

6. Able to influence policymakers and therefore local policies and regulation related to food
16. Financial sustainability/independence
23. Close connection to local government
24. Engages with broader power structures and institutions

❌ Criteria Likely Not Addressed

5. Ensures consistent funding to support community-led ideas/solutions/innovations

Model 4: Public Body (Commissions, Councils, Task Forces, and Advisory Councils)

In this model, a public body is created by a legislative entity (such as a Board of Supervisors) with a very specific purpose or charge. Sometimes (especially with Task Forces) they have a sunset date, subject to renewal. In California, a public body is subject to the Brown Act and Sunshine ordinance, which comes with requirements for public disclosure of information and opportunity for public comment. Often, public bodies are created with specific representative seats, which may be named by the Mayor and approved by the Board of Supervisors. It may also include an application process for members of the public to serve terms alongside appointed seats. They are typically staffed with employees of existing organizations or City departments. Unlike with a nonprofit structure, public bodies are typically advisory and do not apply for grants or administer programs.

-  **Other cities/counties with similar structures**
- [SF's Food Security Task Force](#)
 - [Sugary Drink Distributor Tax Advisory Council](#)

Potential Advantages

- Transparency baked into the model due to requirements of the Brown Act and Sunshine ordinance
- The body has legislated independence from city departments, etc. (especially if the Chair is someone from a nonprofit or other community setting)
- This model is well-connected to city departments and decision-makers - often meeting regularly with the Board of Supervisors, Mayor, and/or City Department heads, which means regular access to key decision-makers and influence over various food system actors
- Easy access to government metrics to help inform data-driven decisions
- Often public bodies have strong member attendance and regular public participation in meetings

Potential Disadvantages

- Cannot take a legislative position that contradicts the public body that created it
- Sunset date creates a potential programmatic cliff that may curtail long-term efforts
- Public bodies are bureaucratic by design, which increases transparency but can slow down efforts to be rapidly responsive to emerging issues
- Legislated transparency and oversight by governmental entities can result in self-censorship among members that are city employees around key advocacy issues
- Public bodies are designed to have a systems-level approach, which may pose challenges to addressing acute food insecurity
- Is subject to limitations of staffing made available by existing organizations or City departments, which often leads to understaffing of the body in a way that makes momentum difficult

Criteria Definitely Addressed

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| 1. Community engagement | 11. Reduces silos across city agencies |
| 2. Diverse membership | 14. Convenes stakeholders |
| 3. Inclusive membership structure | 15. Leverages potential synergies between cross-sector programs/opportunities |
| 4. Ensures culturally-appropriate accessibility to resources and information | 17. Evaluates the impacts of City-funded solutions on the broader food system |
| 6. Able to influence policymakers and therefore local policies and regulation related to food | 18. Reduces silos across non-city entities |
| 7. Addresses food sovereignty | 19. Connection to local power structures and institutions |
| 8. Strengthens local food economy | 21. Political feasibility |
| 9. Assesses the current status of food (in)security on a regular basis | 23. Close connection to local government |
| | 24. Engages with broader power structures and institutions |

Criteria that *Could Be* Addressed

- 5. **Ensures consistent funding to support community-led ideas/solutions/innovations**
- 10. **Autonomy over decision-making**
- 12. **Addresses food sourcing and worker's rights**
- 20. Administrative feasibility
- 22. Promotes urban agriculture and supports local food production
- 25. Addresses emerging issues rapidly and nimbly
- 27. Coordinates pre-disaster emergency food planning with CBOs and city agencies

Criteria Likely Not Addressed

- 13. **Addresses the dignity of the food shopping and acquisition process**
- 16. Financial sustainability/independence
- 26. Manages and distributes funding for community-led food innovations/solutions
- 28. Oversees food-related programs

Model 5: 501(c)(3) model where an existing CBO is funded to lead the collaborative efforts citywide

In this model, an existing community-based organization that already has 501(c)(3) status would be designated to lead this work and be provided with funding to support these efforts. While they may also continue to provide direct services, advocacy, or any other existing work of the organization, for this effort they would function in a convening role, tasked with involving other stakeholders and community members to do collaborative work on food security throughout San Francisco.

Other cities/counties with similar structures

- [Milwaukee Food Council](#) (also say they use collective impact for their work)
- [Chicago Food Policy Action Council](#)

Potential Advantages

- By funding an existing CBO with a strong reputation for quality work in this field among both policymakers and community members, this model could result in the shortest time from model selection to full implementation
- An independent CBO can easily receive donations and grants, and direct funds quickly to areas most in need
- Most CBOs can hire diverse staff quickly, and regularly engage community members in the work with minimal bureaucracy

Potential Disadvantages

- Unless this CBO has an established relationship with a point person in government dedicated to citywide food systems work, it will be limited in its ability to make lasting structural or policy changes, even when needs are identified
- Working with an existing CBO to implement this work will mean that the history of that organization will influence its ability to have strong relationships and buy-in with other CBOs, governmental agencies, and community members

Criteria Definitely Addressed

4. Ensures culturally-appropriate accessibility to resources and information
7. Addresses food sovereignty
8. Strengthens local food economy
9. Assesses the current status of food (in)security on a regular basis
12. Addresses food sourcing and worker's rights
14. Convenes stakeholders
20. Administrative feasibility
22. Promotes urban agriculture and supports local food production
25. Addresses emerging issues rapidly and nimbly
26. Manages and distributes funding for community-led food innovations/solutions
28. Oversees food-related programs

Criteria that *Could Be* Addressed

1. Community engagement
2. Diverse membership
3. Inclusive membership structure
6. Able to influence policymakers and therefore local policies and regulation related to food
10. Autonomy over decision-making
15. Leverages potential synergies between cross-sector programs/opportunities
16. Financial sustainability/independence
17. Evaluates the impacts of City-funded solutions on the broader food system
18. Reduces silos across non-City entities
19. Connection to local power structures and institutions
21. Political feasibility
23. Close connection to local government
24. Engages with broader power structures and institutions
27. Coordinates pre-disaster emergency food planning with CBOs and city agencies

Criteria Likely Not Addressed

5. Ensures consistent funding to support community-led ideas/solutions/innovations
11. Reduces siloes across city agencies
13. Addresses the dignity of the food shopping and acquisition process

Model 6: 501(c)(3) model where a new organization is started to lead the collaborative efforts citywide

This model is nearly identical to Model 5 (a 501(c)(3) model where an existing CBO is funded to lead the collaborative efforts citywide), except that instead of designating an existing community-based organization to lead this work, a new 501(c)(3) would be created for this specific purpose. In this case, the sole mission of the new organization would be to create and maintain a food security structure for San Francisco. It would be unencumbered by existing politics or interagency conflicts. However, it would require legally establishing a new organization, securing office space, and hiring new staff before this work could begin, with a considerable amount of time and effort required.

Other cities/counties with similar structures

- [Milwaukee Food Council](#) (also say they use collective impact for their work)
- [Chicago Food Policy Action Council](#)

👍 Potential Advantages

- Creating a new CBO to do this work will mean that the power politics and histories of existing CBOs in this space will not present challenges to its function
- An independent CBO can easily receive donations and grants, and direct funds quickly to areas most in need
- Most CBOs can hire diverse staff quickly, and regularly engage community members in the work with minimal bureaucracy

🗨️ Potential Disadvantages

- Starting a new CBO is time-consuming and slow, and will require finding space, hiring all new staff, etc.
- Unless this new CBO rapidly creates an established relationship with a point person in government who is dedicated to food systems work at the citywide level, it will be limited in its ability to make lasting structural or policy changes, even when needs are identified

☑️ Criteria Definitely Addressed

4. Ensures culturally-appropriate accessibility to resources and information
7. Addresses food sovereignty
8. Strengthens local food economy
9. Assesses the current status of food (in)security on a regular basis
12. Addresses food sourcing and worker's rights
14. Convenes stakeholders
21. Political feasibility
22. Promotes urban agriculture and supports local food production
25. Addresses emerging issues rapidly and nimbly
26. Manages and distributes funding for community-led food innovations/solutions
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❓ Criteria that *Could Be* Addressed

1. Community engagement
2. Diverse membership
3. Inclusive membership structure
6. Able to influence policymakers and therefore local policies and regulation related to food
10. Autonomy over decision-making
15. Leverages potential synergies between cross-sector programs/opportunities
16. Financial sustainability/independence
17. Evaluates the impacts of City-funded solutions on the broader food system
18. Reduces silos across non-City entities
19. Connection to local power structures and institutions
23. Close connection to local government
24. Engages with broader power structures and institutions
27. Coordinates pre-disaster emergency food planning with CBOs and city agencies

❌ Criteria Likely Not Addressed

5. Ensures consistent funding to support community-led ideas/solutions/innovations
11. Reduces siloes across city agencies
13. Addresses the dignity of the food shopping and acquisition process
20. Administrative feasibility