



*San Francisco*  
*Board of Supervisors*  
**Food Security  
Task Force**

Letter to the Commission Streamlining Task Force

October 10, 2025

Subject: Food Security Task Force Response to the Commission Streamlining Task Force Public Health and Wellbeing Bodies Memo

The Food Security Task Force (FSTF) appreciates the significant time and effort dedicated to the Public Health and Wellbeing Memo proposed on October 3, 2025. However, the FSTF is deeply concerned that the recommendation to combine or eliminate this body would leave a gap in a key policy area impacting hundreds of thousands of San Franciscans and be detrimental to the City and County of San Francisco. Further, we would like to respond to the reasoning outlined in the memo supporting this recommendation.

The FSTF has been active since 2005 and has been a fully functioning, efficient, and well attended public commission. The FSTF is a nationally respected public body that benefits the City and County of San Francisco by contributing expertise to elected officials and City Departments, creates cross sector collaboration, promotes knowledge sharing, provides transparency, produces annual data and recommendations, and advises on strategies to reduce food security in San Francisco.

Crucially, no other public body in San Francisco is dedicated solely to food security. The FSTF provides a vital platform for City Departments, community and faith-based organizations, private philanthropy, and the public to regularly share information and provide updates. Though the FSTF was originally intended to be temporary, the Task Force has been re-authorized through legislation for over two decades. This reflects the persistent prevalence of food insecurity in San Francisco and the sustained importance of our work. It is also important to note that most major cities have a public body that addresses food security (New York, Los Angeles, etc.).

**Key Accomplishments of the FSTF:**

- **Reports & Recommendations:** Produced and distributed over 20 annual reports of recommendations, including current data, threats, and opportunities to improve food security.
- **Advisement:** Provided a resource to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and Mayor's Office for hearings and advisement on emerging food security issues.
- **Strategic Planning:** Successfully outlined specific strategies to improve school meals, reduce waitlists for home-delivered meals, and launch innovations (e.g., home-delivered groceries and grocery vouchers).
- **Assessment:** Provided comprehensive city-wide food assessments (2013 and 2018) and supported the 2023 Biennial Food Security & Equity Report.
- **Data Standards:** Advanced standard measurement of food security across City and community programs.

A successful food system infrastructure is community informed and has strong connections between local government, community-based organizations, the public and other key stakeholders. To that end, we ask for consideration of the following points regarding the Commission's recommendation:

**1. On the Citywide Food Access Team (CFAT) assuming the role:** The CFAT oversees a vital portfolio of 30 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), yet this is only a portion of the many food contracts and activities across departments (including DAS, DPH, DCYF, and other HSA units). We are not aware of the CFAT team regularly coordinating City staff across all food access departments. The Food Security Task Force has put forth a recommendation for an office or agency responsible for Citywide Food Coordination (with a Community Advisory Body) which would coordinate across city departments, develop a strategic plan to address food security and assume a centralized, public-facing, facilitative role—similar to the FSTF's current role—by coordinating and hosting regular public meetings with CBOs, City Departments, and the public. We are not aware of any such plans with the Human Services Agency or CFAT.

**2. On CBO members having a "Conflict of Interest":** FSTF members are restricted from making specific budget or policy requests to proactively avoid conflicts of interest. Recommendations like "ensure adequate funding levels in new and existing contracts" are general statements addressing city-wide threats (such as rising food costs) and potential reduction in national and state food security support.

**3. On FSTF members having "multiple pathways for engagement":** The FSTF seeks greater coordination across city departments and CBOs and provides a vital platform for discussing not only opportunities but also challenges encountered in food access. We also regularly invite independent subject matter experts to present and share their insights. Removing CBOs and the public from a centralized body dedicated to addressing food insecurity would create more barriers, impede public-private collaboration, increase silos, and require stakeholders to spend time finding other pathways to engage with the City.

If the FSTF were to be combined or eliminated, the following essential functions would be lost:

- **Addressing Emerging Issues and Risks to the Community:** Addressing emerging issues such as federal cuts, detrimental changes to the food retail environment, new opportunities for collaboration across agencies, or changing needs.
- **Centralized Platform:** A platform for City staff, CBOs, community members, and independent subject matter experts to address food security challenges, highlight new or successful interventions and adopt solutions.
- **Annual Updates to the Board of Supervisors:** The FSTF has played an essential role in educating elected officials on food security by preparing and presenting the annual food security reports and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, Mayor's Office, and other stakeholders. These recommendations are developed through the collaborative efforts of City agencies, CBOs and the community and consider the lived experience of the community impacted by food insecurity.

Until there is a suitable replacement for this committee that assumes the roles and responsibilities of the FSTF, as outlined in the FSTF's proposal for the Office of Food and Community Advisory Body, it is essential for this committee to continue its work. The current recommendation to combine or move the FSTF to a City entity not solely focused on food security (Human Services Commission) will reduce, rather than enhance, the City's ability to effectively address food security and ultimately create gaps and inefficiencies instead of streamlining efforts.

Please feel free to reach out to me for further information.

Sincerely,

Cissie Bonini  
Chair, Food Security Task Force  
Executive Director, Vouchers 4 Veggies/EatSF