



SAN FRANCISCO  
Food Security Task Force

# Recommendations



2026 REPORT





# SAN FRANCISCO

## FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS

### BACKGROUND

The Food Security Task Force (FSTF) was created by the Board of Supervisors with the purpose of making recommendations on policies, programs, and funding to improve food security. The Task Force's membership consists of representatives from City departments, San Francisco Unified School District, and community-based organizations. The Task Force meets monthly, and these public meetings are attended by public agencies, organizations, and individuals working to address the diverse food needs of San Francisco residents. The FSTF has an anticipated sunset date of July 1, 2026.

The 2026 Recommendations were developed by reviewing and analyzing the current food security landscape and modifying previous recommendations based on current conditions, emerging threats, and opportunities.

Food insecurity is defined as people not knowing where their next meal will come from, primarily due to a lack of money. Food insecurity is intertwined with poverty and directly leads to poor health, seen through multiple pathways: poor diet quality, malnutrition, stress, depression, and trauma. These manifest in chronic diseases and health disparities like diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension and impact communities on physical, social, and economic levels.

The FSTF believes that having access to high quality, nutritious food delivered in a dignified way is a human right. Food insecurity remains high in San Francisco, and we cannot achieve our shared vision of a just and prosperous city without a food secure population.

# CURRENT

## LANDSCAPE

### STATUS OF FOOD SECURITY

In California, more than 1 in 5 people struggle with food insecurity.<sup>1</sup> According to the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), in 2024, **28% of San Franciscans living below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) were food insecure, or about 48,151 residents.**<sup>2</sup> 39% of San Francisco (SF) residents living below 200% FPL were receiving food stamps/CalFresh in 2024.<sup>2</sup> Based on December 2025 data from the SF Human Services Agency (HSA), 110,000 San Franciscans utilize CalFresh, with \$225M disbursed in benefits annually, averaging \$240 per month per household.<sup>3</sup>

### HIGH COST OF LIVING IN SAN FRANCISCO

Cost of living and income disparity in San Francisco remains high all while food prices are increasing. **From 2020 to 2024, the All-Food Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 23.6%.**<sup>4</sup>

The Economic Research Service predicts that for 2026, prices for all food will increase 3%, food-at-home prices to increase 1.7%, and food-away-from-home prices to increase 4.6%.<sup>4</sup>

The Self-Sufficiency Standard (SSS), which is an alternative budget-based, annual wage measure to the FPL that is geographic-specific, recommends an annual income of \$59,823 to live adequately in San Francisco (\$28.33 hourly) for a single resident.<sup>5</sup> This is almost twice the amount needed for a resident living at 200% FPL, which is \$31,920.<sup>6</sup>

The city-wide median income is \$140,970.<sup>7</sup> All races/ethnicities except White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino make below this annual median income, with Black/African American and American Indian/Alaska Native households making just over a third of the city-wide median annual income (\$62,488 and \$54,384, respectively).<sup>7</sup>

### NUTRITION AND HEALTH DISPARITIES

**Nutrition and food security is directly tied to health.**<sup>10</sup> Research has shown a strong association between food insecurity and nutrition sensitive diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart failure. Lack of access to nutritious food is associated with an increased risk of developing a diet-sensitive disease and poorer health outcomes for patients. The impact of food insecurity is particularly severe during pregnancy and increases the risk for negative pregnancy outcomes including preterm birth, low birth weight, and gestational diabetes. It's also severe in early life, negatively affecting children's development with lifelong impacts. Food insecurity is significantly and positively associated with multiple indicators of psychological distress including depression, anxiety, and sleep disorders in multiple populations. It's also a barrier to antiretroviral therapy adherence and diabetes self-management.<sup>10</sup>



*"This program helped provide food for me and my kids, especially because money is really tight with the bills and the cost of living here in San Francisco. I was able to give my kids a full meal, including protein and vegetables and rice."*

- Participant of the HSA Community Centered Grocery Voucher Program

In San Francisco, Black/African American residents consistently have the highest reportable rates of mortality due to nutrition-sensitive diseases.<sup>8</sup>

Hospitalization rates for diabetes are on average 5 times higher and rates of death are 2-3 times higher among Black/African American residents than among White residents.<sup>9</sup> 11.3% of Black/African American residents reported being diagnosed with diabetes, which is almost 1.5 times higher than the Citywide percentage at 7.2%.<sup>9</sup>

**Hospitalization rates due to hypertension for Black/African Americans were 5.4 times higher compared to the city average, while Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders experienced rates 7.4 times higher.<sup>9</sup> Black/African Americans and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders experienced hospitalization rates for heart failure 9 times and 4.6 times higher than the city average, respectively.<sup>9</sup>**

**Neighborhoods most impacted by these health disparities are the Tenderloin, Civic Center, South of Market, Bayview Hunters Point, and Treasure Island.** Other neighborhoods with larger populations of Hispanic/Latinx, Black/African American, and Asian residents (e.g., the Excelsior, Oceanview-Merced Heights-Ingleside, Mission) also experience disproportionate rates of poverty and nutrition sensitive medical conditions.<sup>10</sup>



## THREATS & CHALLENGES TO FOOD SECURITY

**San Francisco is facing the largest budget deficit in its history, about \$936 million over the next two fiscal years.** The Mayor has called for \$400 million in ongoing general fund spending cuts beginning fiscal year 26-27.<sup>11</sup> Based on the Mayor's proposed food security initiatives budget that was presented to the FSTF in June 2025, the overall budget decreased slightly from \$56.07 million in FY 25-26 to \$55.34 million in FY 26-27.<sup>12</sup> However, there were significant program changes to the Sugary Drinks Distribution Tax Programs, where the Healthy Communities Grants and Policy, Systems, and Environments (PSE) Grants were completely eliminated (about \$3 million).<sup>12</sup>

Rising food costs make it difficult for San Franciscans to consistently access meals. Coupled with the constricting retail environment, particularly in low-income neighborhoods, and budget cuts on the local, state, and federal level, San Franciscans will continue to struggle with accessing fresh and affordable food.

### WAITLISTS

There is a significant number of eligible people waiting on lists for services such as food banks, home-delivered meals, and vouchers.

- **5,849 households** in San Francisco are on the waitlist for the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank.
- **230 individuals** are on the waitlist for home-delivered meals; 78% are older adults, 12% are adults with disabilities between the ages of 18-59.
- **100+ SF organizations and clinics** (8,000 + participants) are on the waitlist for grocery or produce vouchers.

## H.R. 1 IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) will have significant negative impacts on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid/Medi-Cal and consequently the City's budget, resulting in loss of coverage for many San Franciscans.

This will lead to increased rates of food insecurity, healthcare costs, and nutrition-sensitive diseases.

### SNAP

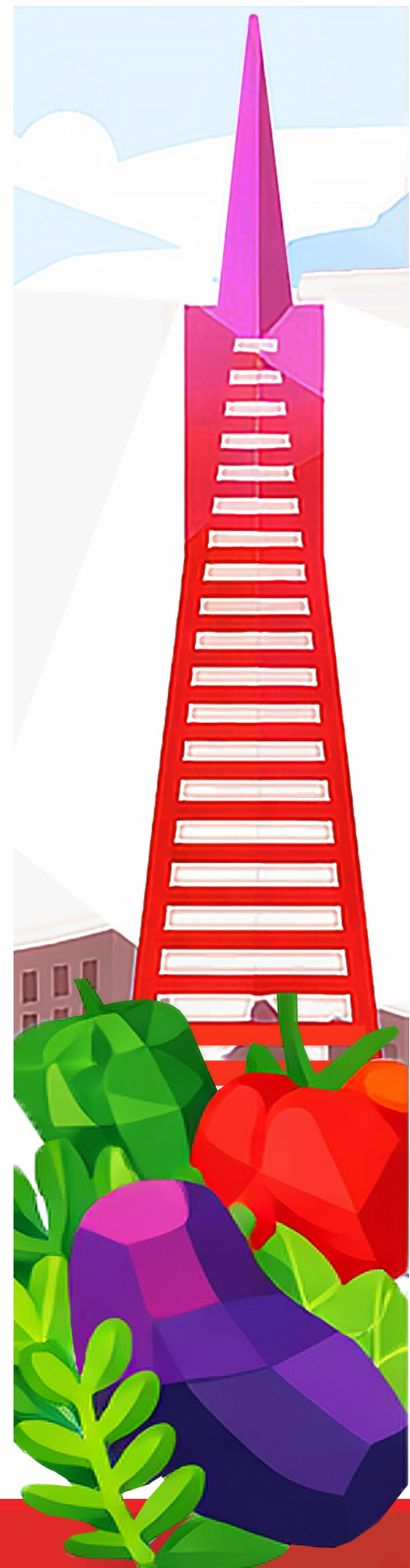
- **H.R. 1 reduces SNAP spending by roughly \$187 billion through 2034.**<sup>13</sup>
- Able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) 55-64 years of age (previously exempt) and parents/caregivers of adolescents must work 80+ hours per month or face a 3-month limit within 3 years.<sup>13</sup>
- Beginning FY 2027, states must pay 75% of administrative costs (previously 50%).<sup>13</sup>
- These new requirements will leave **21,000 San Franciscans at risk of losing benefits by the end of 2027.** These cuts will increase poverty, food insecurity, and hunger by making it more difficult for families to afford groceries and healthcare.<sup>14</sup>

### MEDICAID/MEDI-CAL

- Roughly 216,000 San Franciscans rely on Medi-Cal for their health insurance through HSA and the State of California manages Medi-Cal for approximately 45,000 additional county residents.<sup>14</sup>
- **Federal cuts to the program would decrease enrollment by about 25,400 – 50,500 San Franciscans.**<sup>14</sup>
- Medi-Cal covers premiums and most out-of-pocket costs, allowing participants to allocate a portion of their income for food needs. If Medi-Cal does not provide healthcare coverage for these lower-income populations, the cost of food insecurity to the healthcare system rises.<sup>15</sup>

### HEALTHCARE IMPLICATIONS

- The 2024 San Francisco Community Health Assessment (CHA) shows that **five of the top ten leading causes of death in San Francisco are preventable, nutrition-related chronic diseases.**<sup>16</sup>
- **SNAP participants incur \$1,400 less on healthcare spending than a low-income non-participant (\$4,421 vs. \$5,831).**<sup>17</sup>
- **With 10 million people losing Medi-Cal coverage by 2034, this could cause 22,000 medically preventable deaths per year.**<sup>18</sup>





## MEDICALLY SUPPORTIVE FOOD AND NUTRITION (MSF&N)

- **MSF&N is currently 1 out of the 14 approved Community Supports services offered through Cal-AIM and is the most utilized.**<sup>19</sup>
- Participation in a medically tailored meals program is associated with fewer hospital and skilled nursing facility admissions and less overall medical spending.<sup>23</sup>
- During 2025, the Food as Medicine Collaborative saw the following results:<sup>20</sup>
  - **1,400+** patients and their families were served in San Francisco
  - **10,000+** visits to food pharmacies
  - **More than a 15-point decrease in blood pressure** and 1–2 point decrease for A1c on average
- With H.R. 1 shifting costs of the Medicaid program to states, significant financial strain on state budgets may lead to reduced funding for Food as Medicine innovation and research. Cal-AIM’s Medically Supportive Food & Nutrition Community Supports is set to expire on December 31, 2026.

Overall, H.R. 1 will exacerbate food insecurity and health disparities, from healthcare coverage to funding, programming, monitoring efforts, and populations served.

- SNAP and Medicaid cuts along with stricter eligibility requirements will increase costs to states and counties. This will reduce the number of students who are automatically certified for free or reduced-price meals (FRPM), affects direct certification of FRPM data, and may impact other programs such as the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF) summer meal programs.
- There is limited investment in food security for supportive housing units.
- With current enacted policies, non-U.S. citizens will continue to be at higher risk of being food insecure.<sup>21</sup>
- The cancellation of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Household Food Security Survey and Report will impact state-level data used to assess hunger trends and evaluate program effectiveness.<sup>22</sup>
- In January 2026, the California Department of Public Health announced federal funding cuts to conduct the food insecurity screening by the California Health Interview Survey.
- San Francisco Departments continue to address food security but in silos and without a broader integrated plan for coordination.
  - The FSTF continues to serve as an entity working to overcome these fragmented efforts and achieve common goals through collaboration but is anticipated to sunset on July 1, 2026.

*“I know that food is medicine because I notice the difference when I eat healthy and when I don’t. When I don’t, I end up in the hospital. But to be honest, I’m more focused on my kids. This program has also helped my children too. Because now, when I cook, I can make healthy meals for all of us.”*

- Client of a medically tailored nutrition program



# SUCCESSSES & OPPORTUNITIES IN FOOD SECURITY

Despite the listed challenges and threats, San Francisco has taken steps to combat these threats and challenges and is finding solutions to continue prioritizing food security.

## SUCCESSSES

- The San Francisco Human Services Agency issued one-time GiveCard prepaid grocery cards in November 2025 in response to the government shutdown that impacted SNAP benefits distribution.
- Food security convenings were held (e.g., the SF Food Action Summit, Mayor's Roundtable, and Food Futures) to understand the landscape of food security, community priorities, and generate ideas and solutions towards combating food insecurity.
- The DPH Shelter Health Team staffed a registered dietician for Homelessness and Supportive Housing shelter programs.
- An on-demand 24-hour kiosk with fresh meals launched for supportive housing residents.
- The Department of Disability and Aging Services released multiple RFPs for existing nutrition support programs.
- The Commission Streamlining Task Force proposed to keep the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee.
- San Francisco recovered 15,867,000 pounds of food since 2022 (2022: 4,969,000 lbs., 2023: 4,263,000 lbs., 2024: 6,635,000 lbs.).
- Mayor Lurie launched the Family Opportunity Agenda to make SF more affordable for families, which includes protecting food assistance and continuing partnerships with community organizations to provide food to those most in need.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Data and lessons learned from the D10 Community Market and market-style food distributors such as the Rafiki Community Market and La Raza's Community Market that can guide future food programming efforts in San Francisco.
- There is opportunity to leverage the FSTF Reimagining Food Coordination Subcommittee's recommendations for a new food organization structure.
- Support the Count Hunger Act to create a pilot program to fund food insecurity data collection by CHIS.
- Continue to create public-private partnerships (e.g., Crankstart, GiveCard, Hellman Foundation, Third Plateau).
- City Attorney David Chiu's lawsuit against ultra-processed foods (UPFs) has reignited the conversation around the negative impacts of UPFs, how they deepen health and nutritional inequities and their links to chronic disease.
- Increase MSF&N services for the eligible Medi-Cal population (<10% of the eligible Medi-Cal population in SF are currently receiving these services)
- Support the MicroEnterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKO) in San Francisco.

# 2026

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are in response to previous calls for a new way to organize and coordinate food efforts, persistent and widespread food security issues, and emerging threats in San Francisco and on the federal level. The Food Security Task Force calls on San Francisco's government to support the following recommendations:

### 1. COMMUNITY-DRIVEN FOOD COORDINATION STRUCTURE

- a. Based on the FSTF Reimagining Food Coordination's proposal for a new food organization structure in San Francisco, the FSTF recommends both:
  - i. **An Office of Food**
  - ii. **A Community Advisory Board**
- b. Invest in a long-term, multisector strategic plan for food systems and security.
  - i. Begin the process of mapping and directing Citywide influence over food sourcing, food acquisition, and other aspects of the local food economy.
- c. Reauthorize the FSTF until a suitable replacement for this committee assumes its roles and responsibilities.

### 2. MITIGATE IMPACTS OF FEDERAL AND STATE BUDGET CUTS, WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON IMPACTS OF H.R. 1

- a. Ensure adequate funding levels to sustain new and existing City food programs and support high-quality food provisions.
- b. Decrease waitlists for food security programs, particularly for the most vulnerable populations.
- c. Invest in food security within supportive housing initiatives to tackle the public health crisis that align with the Mayor's "Breaking the Cycle" plan.
- d. Determine and continually assess the impact of H.R. 1 and other budget cuts on SF populations.
- e. Support mitigation and coordination efforts related to historic SNAP/CalFresh and Medicaid/Medi-Cal regulatory changes and cuts.
- f. Support initiatives that support food security and economic growth.

### 3. INCREASE FOOD SECURITY THROUGH A HEALTH EQUITY APPROACH

- a. Prioritize funding for programs that serve populations and neighborhoods that suffer the highest impact of nutrition sensitive medical conditions.
- b. Support and expand medically supportive food and nutrition interventions (e.g., medically tailored and medically supportive meals and groceries, produce prescriptions, food pharmacies) allowed under Cal-AIM Community Supports.
- c. Identify food retail constriction in under-resourced neighborhoods and invest in development where food injustice occurs.



# REFERENCES

1. San Francisco-Marín Food Bank Hunger Report. 2025.
2. California Health Interview Survey. 2024.
3. Addressing Food Insecurity, San Francisco Human Services Agency. 2025.
4. Summary Findings, USDA ERS, Food Price Outlook. 2026.
5. California Self Sufficiency Standard, The University of Washington. 2024.
6. Poverty Guidelines, HHS. 2026.
7. ACS 5-Year Estimates. 2020-2024.
8. California Department of Public Health, Vital Records Business Intelligence System. Death Statistical Master File. 2019-2023.
9. California Department of Healthcare Access and Information. 2021-2023.
10. San Francisco Biennial Food Security & Equity Report, San Francisco Department of Public Health. 2023.
11. Budget for Fiscal Year 2027, City and County of San Francisco Ethics Commission. 2026.
12. June 2025 San Francisco Food Security Task Force Meeting. 2025.
13. Bleich, S. N., & Plata-Nino, G. (2026). Changes to SNAP Under HR 1 and the Implications for Food Insecurity. *JAMA health forum*, 7(1), e260158. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamahealthforum.2026.0158>
14. Impact of H.R. 1 and State FY 2025-26 Budget, San Francisco Human Services Agency. 2025.
15. Supporting State Economic Stability and Strength After OBBBA/H.R. 1 SNAP Cuts, Food Research and Action Center. 2026.
16. San Francisco Community Health Assessment. 2024.
17. The Healthcare Costs of Food Insecurity. Feeding America Research. 2019.
18. Gaffney, A., Himmelstein, D. U., & Woolhandler, S. (2025). Projected Effects of Proposed Cuts in Federal Medicaid Expenditures on Medicaid Enrollment, Uninsurance, Health Care, and Health. *Annals of internal medicine*, 178(9), 1334–1342. <http://doi.org/10.7326/ANNALS-25-00716>
19. Nutrition as Medicine: California’s Evolving Efforts within the Medi-Cal Program. Manatt. 2025.
20. 2025 Impact. Food as Medicine Collaborative. 2025.
21. U.S. Immigrants Particularly Vulnerable to Food Insecurity. University of Utah Health. 2023.
22. The Last U.S. Hunger Data: What We Lose with the Termination of the USDA’s Household Food Security in the United States Report. Center for Strategic & International Studies. 2026.
23. Berkowitz, A. S., Terranova, J., & Randall, L. (2019). Association Between Receipt of a Medically Tailored Meal Program and Health Care Use. *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 179(6), 786-793. Doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2019.0198

# SAN FRANCISCO

## FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE



**Cissie Bonini, Chair**  
UCSF Action Research Center,  
Vouchers 4 Veggies/EatSF



**Jennifer LeBarre**  
San Francisco Unified School  
District



**Jeimil Belamide**  
San Francisco Human Services Agency,  
CalFresh



**Noriko Lim-Tepper**  
San Francisco-Marin Food Bank



**Hannah Grant**  
Meals on Wheels San Francisco



**Anne Quaintance**  
Conard House



**Geoffrey Grier**  
San Francisco Recovery Theatre



**Jade Quizon**  
Food and Agriculture Action  
Coalition Toward Sovereignty



**Mei Ling Hui**  
San Francisco Recreation & Park



**Priti Rane**  
San Francisco Department of  
Public Health



**Katie Jackson**  
Project Open Hand



**Guillermo Reece**  
San Francisco African American  
Faith-Based Coalition



**Lura Jones**  
Leah's Pantry



**Raegan Sales**  
Children's Council of San Francisco



**Tiffany Kearney**  
San Francisco Department of Disability and  
Aging Services



**Marion Sanders**  
San Francisco Department of  
Homelessness and Supportive  
Housing



**Michelle Kim**  
San Francisco Department of Children,  
Youth & Their Families



**Chester Williams Jr.**  
Community Living Campaign

