

# Office of Citywide Food Coordination Draft Legislation Outline

[Establishment of Office of Citywide Food Coordination, Creation of Food Advisory Council, Dissolution of the Food Security Task Force]

## Findings

- San Francisco (SF) currently lacks language in its citywide charter that declares food as a human right. The United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner’s Fact Sheet 34 on The Right to Adequate Food emphasizes specific elements such as: availability, accessibility, and adequacy.
- Food Security among low-income San Franciscans has reached its highest levels since the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) started measuring in 2021.
- Economic and geographic disparities contribute to higher levels of food insecurity, precipitating not just poor diets and malnutrition, but also stress and trauma.
- The economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including long-term unemployment and inflationary food costs, have exacerbated what was already a serious problem in 2019, before the pandemic hit.
- In 2019, the City and County of SF estimated health care costs associated with food insecurity were estimated to be approximately \$204 million.
- Food insecurity increases the risk of multiple chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and hypertension, and exacerbate existing physical and mental health conditions.
- People who experience food insecurity tend to use health care services at a higher rate and incur higher annual healthcare costs than individuals who are food secure.
- In SF, Black/African American and Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islanders experience the greatest burden of diet-attributable diseases and have the shortest life expectancies.
- Based on data from fiscal year (FY) 2022-2023, the City distributes 14 million meals, 1.6 million grocery bags, and 450,000 grocery vouchers annually.
- Nine different departments provide food assistance, although over 70% of such food security programs are administered by the Human Services Agency (HSA).
- In FY 2022 –2023, 88% of clients served by HSA community-based food programs reported that they and their families were less hungry because of such programs.

- In FY 2022 –2023, over 90% of older adults and adults with disabilities reported being less worried about accessing sufficient food due to community-based meal programs operated by the Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS).
- In 2005, an ordinance passed creating a Food Security Task Force “charged with creating a strategic plan to address hunger, enhancing food security, and increasing participation in federally funded programs.”
- FSTF Subcommittee Reimagining Food Coordination published recommendations in September 2024 to establish an Office of Food and have it overseen by a Community Food Advisory Council.
- In 2013, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution committing the City and County of San Francisco to a food secure and hunger free city by 2020. The resolution states “WHEREAS access to safe, nutritious, and culturally acceptable food is a basic human right and is essential to human health.”
- Recent disruptions to the global food supply chain, including those caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, and volatile oil prices, have highlighted the need for a systems approach to citywide food coordination that prioritizes resilience, equity, and sustainability.
- Major metropolitan areas such as New York, Boston, Los Angeles County, Baltimore, and Indianapolis have established dedicated offices for food policy or coordination to address food system challenges, promote interagency collaboration, encourage community participation, and track food system resiliency.
- In order for a community food system to be sustainable and enhance the vitality of the community it needs to integrate the following: growing food, producing, processing and preparing food, retail, distribution, food as economic development and waste management.
- Coordination between City departments and governance of our broader food and agricultural system in San Francisco will require extensive community input, strategic planning, staffing, and resources.
- Given federal administration changes on January 20th, 2025, it is essential to have a centralized and unified advocacy and rapid response strategy around food security.
- [2024 San Francisco Community Health Assessment](#) shows that five of the top ten leading causes of death in SF are preventable, nutrition-sensitive chronic diseases. This includes cardiovascular diseases and diabetes – conditions that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and low-income communities.

## Sunset of the Food Security Task Force

- There currently exist a FSTF of the City and County of San Francisco (SF).

- Food Security, for purposes of this document, shall mean that state in which all persons obtain a nutritionally adequate, culturally acceptable diet at all times through local non-emergency sources.
- The FSTF recommends legislative action and city-wide strategies to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) that would increase participation in federally funded programs.
  - The Task Force also provides general advice and assistance to the BOS with regard to general funding priorities, legislative action, and City policies on addressing hunger and enhancing food security in SF.
- Based on Rule 2.21 of the BOS Rules of Order, current Article X shall expire by law, and the Task Force shall terminate on July 1, 2026.
- Assuming there is no creation of a public community body to replace the duties of the FSTF by the sunset date, the Task Force shall be reauthorized until a new community council is established.

## Establishment of Office of Citywide Food Coordination

- Purpose
  - The Office of Food is established to improve coordination between City agencies and streamline access to services, information, referrals, and data collection.
- Powers and Duties
  - Provide recommendations to the Mayor and agencies regarding food policy
  - Coordinate multi-agency initiatives relating to food policy
  - Perform outreach to food policy advocates, community-based organizations, academic institutions, and other entities to advance the city's food policy
  - Support initiatives that are designed to promote access to healthy food, including but not limited to initiatives designed to promote healthy food access for communities that have historically had inequitable access to healthy food due to economic, racial, or environmental factors
  - Staff the Food Advisory Council
  - OCFC powers and duties out to BOS? (min. Biannually meeting with BOS, reporting every 2 yrs)
- Lead agency – Mayor's Office

## Creation of Food Advisory Council

- Purpose

- o The Food Advisory Council shall serve as a permanent public body that advises the Board of Supervisors (BOS), Mayor, and other City Departments on citywide food security and access issues. The Advisory Council shall ensure community input into the Office of Citywide Food Coordination. The Advisory Council will not direct staff or department activities.
- o The Food Advisory Council's responsibilities shall include:
  - Advising on and ensuring accountability of city plans and processes related to food security;
  - Making resolutions and recommendations for food-related policies or procedures;
  - Providing input and oversight into the City's food security data and reporting, as well as budget;
  - Advising policymakers in San Francisco (including on all food related legislation);
  - Meeting with the Mayor's Office quarterly;
  - Ensuring community input into recommendations;
  - Partnering with community coalitions to advocate on issues related to food security and food sovereignty
- Membership
  - o The Advisory Council shall consist of 15 members appointed by the Board of Supervisors, as provided below:
    - Seats 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 shall be held by representatives of nonprofit organizations that provide nutritional support and increase the food security of San Francisco residents, appointed by the Board of Supervisors. These members may include but are not limited to representatives from organizations serving food in the following program types: home-delivered meals; congregate meals for seniors; food bank; free dining room; multi-service agency serving families and youth; shelter meals; faith-based organizations; food retail (farmers markets; grocery stores); and hospital and health clinics. No organization shall have more than one representative on the Advisory Council.
    - Seats 6 and 7 shall be held by individuals who are employed at medical institutions in San Francisco and who have experience in the diagnosis or treatment of, or in research or education about, nutrition sensitive medical conditions and chronic and other diseases linked to food insecurity, appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

- Seat 8 shall be held by an individual with experience or expertise in the field of food security or access, appointed by the Director of Health.
  - Seat 9 shall be held by an individual employed by an accredited college or university with demonstrated expertise in research, teaching, or evaluation related to food security, food access, nutrition policy, or urban food systems, appointed by the Board of Supervisors.
  - Seat 10 shall be held by an individual who is under 19 years old at the time of appointment and who may be a member of the San Francisco Youth Commission, nominated by the San Francisco Youth Commission and appointed by the Board of Supervisors. If the person is under legal voting age and unable to be an elector for that reason, the person may hold this seat, but upon reaching legal voting age, the person shall relinquish the seat unless he or she becomes an elector, in which case the person shall retain the seat.
  - Seats 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 shall be held by San Francisco residents with lived experience of food insecurity, appointed by the Board of Supervisors.
- Organization and Terms of Office
  - Members of the Advisory Council shall serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing authorities and may be removed by the appointing authority at any time.
  - Each seat on the Advisory Council shall have a term of three years, commencing upon appointment. No member may serve more than four consecutive years on the Advisory Council. A seat that is vacant on the Advisory Council shall be filled by the appointing authority for that seat.
  - Members of the Advisory Council shall receive no compensation from the City, except the members in Seats 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 who are residents with lived experience of food insecurity may receive stipends for their time.
  - The Advisory Council shall be co-chaired by one government member from the Office of Citywide Food Coordination and one community member.
- Bylaws
  - Attendance
    - Members are required to attend all Office of Citywide Food Coordination meetings unless excused by the Chair(s).
    - If the Chair or Task Force staff receives no prior notice, then the minutes shall note that the absence is un-excused. Any member who fails to

attend three regular meetings of the Advisory Council within any 12-month period without the express approval of the Advisory Council at or before each missed meeting shall be deemed to have resigned from the Advisory Council 10 days after the third unapproved absence. The Advisory Council shall promptly inform the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the resignation.

- Extended Leaves of Absence
  - Extended Leaves of absence may be requested in writing and directed to the Chair(s) and granted by the same. A leave of absence may not exceed six (6) months. Persons not attending meetings after the end of the sixth month will be considered to have resigned.
- Meetings
  - There shall be at least 10 days' notice of the Advisory Council's inaugural meeting. Following the inaugural meeting, the Advisory Council shall hold a regular meeting not less than four times each year.
- The Advisory Council shall elect officers and may establish bylaws and rules for its organization and procedures.

## Food Security Report

- Purpose
  - Establish within [TBD] an Office of citywide Food Coordination (OCFC) and a method for the OCFC to collect and aggregate data related to food security and health equity from other City departments and publish a report based on the data.
  - The report is intended identify:
    - Populations in the City that are food insecure.
    - Food resources that are available to City residents.
    - Barriers to food security.
  - The OCFC and/or [TBD] shall publish a food security report by [date] and by [date] every [# of years] thereafter.
- Reporting
  - The OCFC and/or [TBD] shall work in collaboration with the DPH, DCYF, DAS, DBFS, HSH, DEC, RPD, HRC, DE, and any other City departments that provide funding to support food security.
  - [TBD] shall publish the food security report.
  - The OCFC and/or [TBD] may request data from SFUSD and include such data in the food security report.

- The OCFC and/or [TBD] shall consult with each reporting department to seek their input into the project approach, analysis/interpretation of data, and development of recommendations.
- The OCFC and/or [TBD] shall partner with reporting departments to prepare a presentation of the food security report to the BOS and the Mayor.
- The OCFC and/or [TBD] shall consult with community-based organizations (CBOs) including but not limited to:
  - Organizations that serve communities that experience disproportionate rates of food insecurity.
  - Food support organizations with expertise in partnering with diverse communities.
- De-identified Information
  - The food security report shall present information in a de-identified form to protect the privacy of individuals whose data are included.
  - Data collected and shared between the reporting departments and the OCFC and/or [TBD] necessary for preparation of the food security report shall be confidential to the extent required by law.

## Data Collection

- Purpose
  - [TBD] shall gather preliminary data (from other departments or external sources) on health conditions and health disparities across city residents. Data can be misused and so concern for data collection at an individual level should be mindful of privacy and immigration concerns.
  - [TBD] shall conduct data collection on the evolving food landscape of the city. Relevant data collection items include, but not limited to, availability of urban agriculture, food availability, grocery store zoning, food waste, food stalls, corner stores, and production/distribution.
- Process
  - Data sets shall include relevant social and group conditions as defined by [TBD] and [CAB], like malnutrition, poverty, and health outcomes. Data shall be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity.
  - [TBD] and the Community Advisory Body shall create a data collection form identifying indicators for food systems reporting. This form will allow food systems related departments and CBO partners to report on their food programming with data specified by [TBD] and the CAB.

## Report Contents

- Analysis
  - The Community Advisory Body (CAB), the Office of Citywide Food Coordination, and [TBD], shall conduct an analysis of food needs among San Francisco residents. The analysis will include food security assessment data (like the California Health Interview Survey), poverty data, and assessment of need by income level, race/ethnicity, primary language, age range, and neighborhood. These groups shall utilize census data, health equity data, and other population data to determine community needs and food inequities. The [TBD] may conduct additional research when needed through community forums and surveys to further analyze food needs and causes of food inequities when updates arise in food security issues. Other sources may include data from residents experiencing food insecurity, and their experience with food security programs.
  - An analysis of City programs or services designed to address food insecurity, including but not limited to the number of households served by these programs, and distribution by neighborhood and race/ethnicity. Examples of such programs include public benefits (e.g. CalFresh, WIC); food access services (e.g., free dining rooms, food pantries, school meals, grocery and meal vouchers, home-delivered groceries, and congregate and home-delivered meals); and related services (such as City-funded/CBO farms, markets, and/or gardens that provide free or low-cost food to local residents). (3) An analysis of the extent to which City food programs meet citywide food needs, with inclusion of equity analysis to identify potential gaps in programming along racial, economic, and geographic dimensions. [TBD] and CAB shall help identify indicators to understand and define gaps in neighborhoods through reporting. Report contents must have concern for the privacy and immigration status of residents. [TBD] and CAB serve as forums and delineate information to relevant organizations and city departments. (4) Recommendations for policy, programs, and funding to address the unmet needs of food insecure residents and to improve systems-level coordination of City-funded food support service with relevant departments and the CAB
- Recommendations
  - In addition to analysis of food insecurity data, [TBD] shall conduct an analysis of food systems within the city to create a centralized information referral system. Data for this resource shall be from [TBD] department's data collection and external sources where relevant. This referral system will allow residents to find food access programs through a phone line or online service.

## Presentations

- The OCFC and/or [TBD] shall present the food security report to the BOS and mayor, along with any recommendations for legislation or other policy or budget recommendations.
- The OCFC and/or [TBD] may also provide the food security report to other City departments for their use in determining grants awarded under food-related programs, such as any food empowerment market program or other food assistance programming supported by the City.

## Private and Public Partnerships (PPP)

The OCFC will engage in developing public-private partnerships (PPP) for the benefit of the public and protects the public interest. The National Council for Public-Private Partnerships defines a public-private partnership as “a contractual agreement between a public agency (federal, state, or local) and a private sector entity. Through this agreement, the skills and assets of each sector (public and private) are shared in delivering a service or facility for the use of the general public. In addition to the sharing of resources, each party shares in the risks and rewards potential in the delivery of the service and/or facility.”

The public agency is defined here as the City and County of San Francisco, with the OCFC being the main entity handling the PPP. Private partners and stakeholders can range from construction firms to foundations and non-profits to technology companies.

The purpose and intent of the OCFC engaging in PPPs is to ultimately improve food coordination and food security in San Francisco, through strategies such as:

- Promoting the development and operation of quality infrastructure projects that provide economic and social value
- Bringing innovative thinking to public projects
- Reducing total life-cycle costs of public infrastructure
- Allowing for cost and risk sharing between public and private partners

Process (TBD):

- Methods and processes will need to be developed for comprehensive agreements that will outline all steps of a PPP, from seeking project opportunities to procurement to allocation of costs to shared management of costs, risks, and overall implementation. The development of PPPs will also need to engage the public, as PPP projects must be understood and supported by the public.

Case Study/Example:

- In October 2025, the Mayor's Office partnered with the Board of Supervisors and the CrankStart Foundation to create a PPP with \$18 million to support nearly 112,000 San Franciscans facing food insecurity through November in an emergency response to the federal funding cuts to SNAP. Through this PPP, San Franciscans who were enrolled in SNAP received digital or physical prepaid cards pre-loaded with funds that could be used at grocery stores citywide. The program was administered by the SF Human Services Agency through a pro bono partnership with GiveCard.