

BOS Land Use and Transportation Committee – Hearing

February 3, 2025



SAN FRANCISCO
Food Security Task Force



Who is the Food Security Task Force?

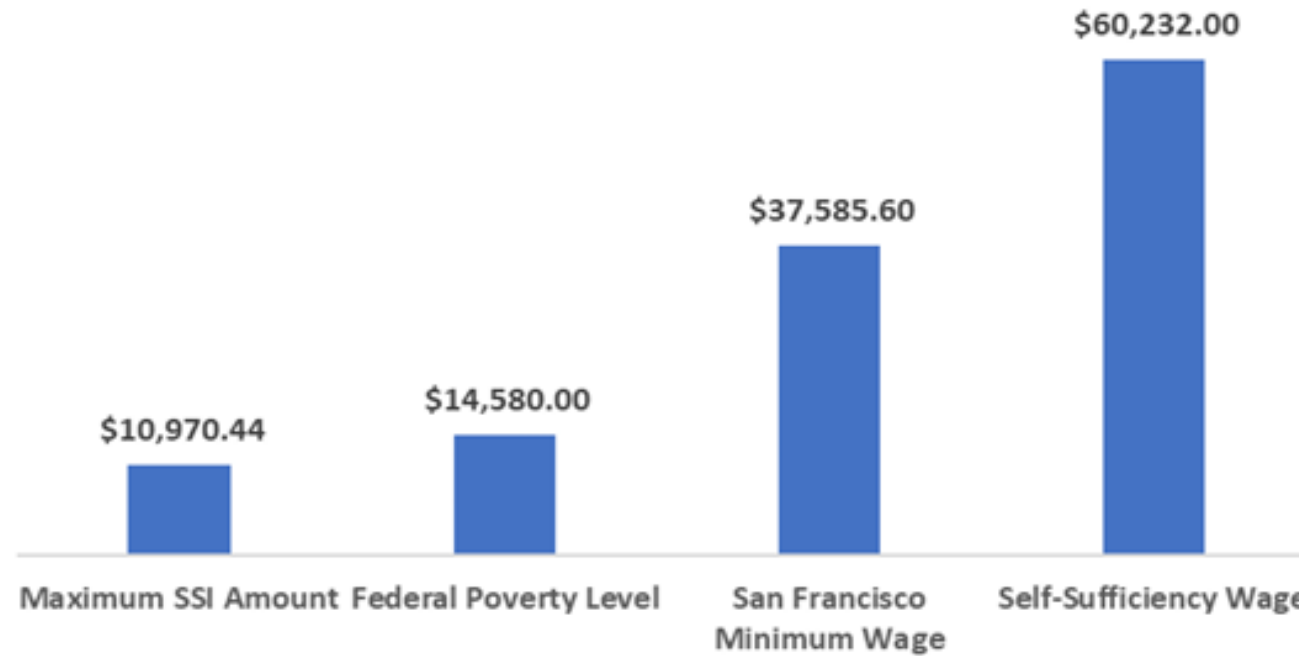
- The Food Security Task Force was created by the Board of Supervisors with the **purpose of making recommendations on policies, programs, and funding** to improve food security.
- The Task Force's membership consists of 8 representatives from **City Departments** and the San Francisco Unified School District, and 12 **community-based organizations/community**.
- The Task Force meets regularly, and meetings are attended by public agencies, community, and organizations and individuals working to address the diverse food needs of San Francisco residents.



What are the challenges around food security the community is facing?

- 1 in 4 San Franciscans are food insecure.
- San Francisco's high cost of living coupled with a persistent income and racial wealth gap means many San Franciscans are experiencing hunger.
- There has been a significant decrease in food funding for programs – a total of **\$35.4M** between FY 22-23 and FY 24-25, largely coming from cuts in City funds.

What are the challenges around food security the community is facing?



About 174,457 (20%) San Francisco residents have a household income below 200% FPL, which equates to **\$29,160**. They would need to more than **double their income** to live adequately in San Francisco (**\$60,232**).



What are the challenges around food security the community is facing?

- Low and unsustainable wages coupled with rising food costs in the last three years means people are financially struggling.
- For zip code 94115 (Western Addition):
 - **~34,000** residents
 - **~4,000** residents living below 100% FPL
 - **~5,000** residents on CalFresh



What are the challenges around food security the community is facing?

- Food security is a health issue, and in the Western Addition, nutrition-sensitive disparities are stark.
 - Zip code 94115 consistently has **the highest age-adjusted rates of hospitalization due to diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease.**
- In the Western Addition, there are more than 2x the population of Black/African American (13%) residents compared to the citywide average (5%).
 - Hospitalizations due to diabetes, hypertension, or heart disease were **4x higher for Black/African American residents** compared to the rest of the SF
 - Black/African American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander residents experience the **greatest burden of diet-sensitive diseases and have the shortest life expectancies** compared to other racial and ethnic groups in San Francisco.



How has the FSTF tracked this Safeway closure and the Fillmore neighborhood specifically?

- The closure was called out as a threat to food security in the FSTF 2024 Recommendations, which were distributed widely and communicated to the BOS.
- The previous FSTF Vice-Chair attended several HRC-led meetings wherein and connected HRC to the Agriculture Commission to potentially extend hours for the Fillmore Market and communicated about anticipated pantry closures in the area.
- Updates were provided on this topic at FSTF meetings by BOS representatives, Task Force members, and community members.

What are the recommendations from the Task Force in the short term?

- The FSTF does not have specific recommendations, but has educated about the need of adequate, culturally relevant, and affordable food access in the Western Addition.
- The FSTF has and will continue to advocate for full funding of City food programs, including fully restoring previous budget cuts.
- The 2024 FSTF Recommendations focus on health equity in funding opportunities and prioritizing populations and neighborhoods that suffer the highest impact of nutrition-sensitive medical conditions.



What laws can be put in place to ensure food security?

- The Food Security Task Force as a public body is not authorized to provide explicit policy and law recommendations.
- Specific legislative actions are more suited for the City Attorney and other legislators.
- However, in our last three annual reports, the FSTF has recommended a community driven, centralized food coordination body for San Francisco (i.e., a city food security body plus a community advisory board).
- This body could coordinate City Department activities and reduce silos around food security while proactively addressing community issues and concerns.

THANK YOU

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All data pulled from FSTF Recommendations and the 2023 San Francisco Biennial Food Security & Equity Report