

Food as Medicine Collaborative:

Bridging healthcare and food systems to advance health equity, address food insecurity, and drive policy change




Rita Nguyen, MD

Food as Medicine Collaborative, Medical Director
Acting Deputy Director, Population Health Division
Assistant Health Officer
San Francisco Department of Public Health



Food as Medicine
Collaborative

A balance scale is shown with two pans. The left pan is filled with various pills and capsules, while the right pan is filled with fresh fruits including a kiwi, a strawberry, and several cherry tomatoes. The scale is positioned in the center of the image, and the text is overlaid on it.

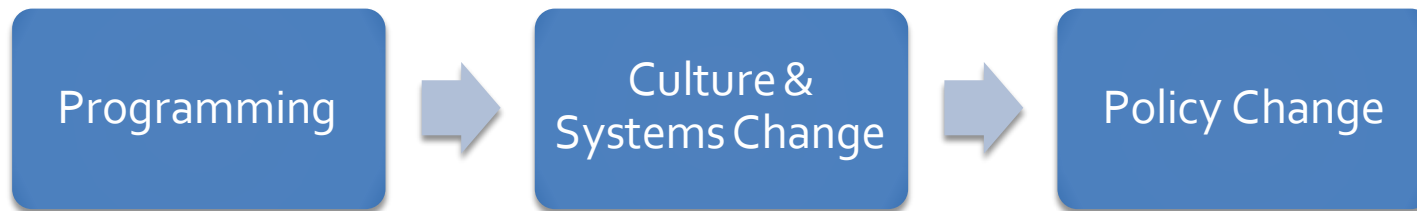
*People are fed by the food industry,
which pays no attention to health,
and are treated by the health industry,
which pays no attention to food.*

--Wendell Berry

Food as Medicine Collaborative (FAMC)



- Multi-sector collaboration of **21 organizations** representing health systems, non-profits, food businesses – backbone by SFDPH
- **Mission: bridge healthcare and food systems to address food insecurity, support nutritional behavior change, and advance health equity**
 - Coordinate **on-site food programming** within healthcare settings through robust clinical-community linkages (Food Pharmacies)
 - Promote **culture and systems change** in healthcare to embrace food insecurity as a healthcare issue
 - Support **policy change** such as getting health insurers to pay for food as a covered medical benefit



*Southeast Health Center's Food Pharmacy
2 Year Anniversary Celebration, 2019*

Hellman Collaborative Change Initiative

- Since 2014, the Hellman Collaborative Change Initiative(HCCI) has awarded close to **\$5.5M** to **9 Collaboratives** in San Francisco and Alameda Counties.
 - To **scale** exciting solutions and **impact systems**
 - To tackle **disparities in health**, education and opportunity
- SFDPH awarded **\$405K** for **Backbone Program Manager/Temp Exempt Position over 3 years**



Hellman Collaborative Change Initiative Grant to Food as Medicine Collaborative

Goals

1. Strengthen the Collaborative
2. Support Food Pharmacy Growth
3. Provide Technical Assistance
4. Policy Implementation: e.g. CalAIM

Medically Supportive Food and Nutrition Services (MSF&N)

5. Development and Dissemination of Evaluation Findings

