

Food Security Screening in San Francisco

CalFresh Forum

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SAN FRANCISCO FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE



Agenda

Background

What is the Food Security Task Force?
Why are we engaged in this work?

Problem

Lack of uniform, useful data at local level.

Research & Analysis

Existing screenings, best methods.

Advocacy

For screening, for investment.

Background

FSTF

- Established in 2005 by the Board of Supervisors
- Codified in the Health Code
- Public-private entity
- Advises the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on food security in San Francisco

**2013 resolution by Board of Supervisors set goal:
A food secure and hunger free San Francisco
by 2020.**

FSTF advises the city on how to achieve that goal with:

- Food insecurity assessments
- Policy recommendations
- Budget proposals



Members of the Food Security Task Force



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Geoffrey Grier
Green Mobile Health
Education Kitchen Project



Problem

We need a good food insecurity measure because what gets measured gets done...

Results-based accountability in city departments

Funding decisions by Mayor and Board of Supervisors

Collective impact approach requires shared metrics

2020 goal — are we making progress?



Problem

What gets measured gets done...but no good measure consistently being used for food insecurity

Community Health Assessment —> Health Improvement Plan...FI data not good enough
(notable exception: maternal infant health, which was added)

CHIS: only asks about FI under 200% FPL, unstable for sub-populations, multi-year average

Many agencies, many metrics, some missed opportunities (e.g., Our Children, Our Families)

Problem

- Not only are measures inadequate and inconsistent, they don't account for utilization of “emergency” food assistance network in San Francisco —

To what extent do people rely on safety net to be food secure?

e.g., SE Health Center screening

- Need to know the whole story to assess progress, make recommendations

Research & Analysis

- **Goal: craft template screening for everyone to use**
- **Start with validated screening tool, obviously**
(Props to American Academy of Pediatrics for advocacy!)
- **Who is doing what? Conduct literature review.**
 - Every organization does some kind of intake and/or survey
 - DAAS “GetCare” intake
 - IHSS using 6Q food security screen to prioritize
 - Some clinics screen
- **Develop 3rd (or 7th) Question about safety net use**
 - This was the hardest part.
 - Need to be both uniform and flexible — and short!

Advocacy for Adoption, Use

- **Aligned on result:**
 - Matrix of size options! (but uniform questions)
 - Still not population-based, but will provide great info on sub-populations
 - FSTF uniquely situated — feedback loop
- **Advocacy phase:**
 - Ask departments to adopt, raise with commissions
 - Ask CBOs to use (e.g., SFMFB sent to thousands of seniors)
 - Concrete (and non-\$) ask to Mayor, Board of Supervisors

Next Steps

- **Collect and use results to support FSTF work**
 - Consistent measure to elevate issue publicly
 - Informs our priorities, policy and funding recommendations
 - Consider opportunities for linking programs, referrals
 - 2020 - how are we doing?
- **Proselytize replication of the model in other locales**

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