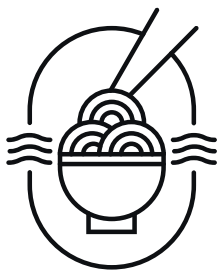




SAN FRANCISCO FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE: SUBCOMMITTEE ON REIMAGINING FOOD COORDINATION

PRELIMINARY COUNCIL SUMMARIES

PRESENTED BY FACENTE CONSULTING



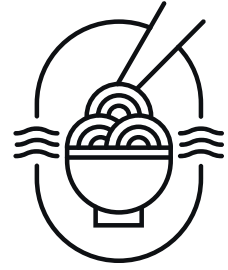
GOAL

Goal: Develop recommendations for a new structure or model for food organizing in San Francisco based on qualitative data from 8-10 U.S. cities

In partnership with:

- San Francisco Public Health Foundation
- San Francisco Department of Public Health, Population Health Division's Office of Anti-Racism & Equity
- Food Security Task Force subcommittee chair





PREVIOUS COUNCIL SUMMARIES



1. Chicago Food Policy Action Council
2. New York City Mayor's Office of Food Policy
3. Los Angeles Office of Food Equity
4. Boston Office of Food Justice
5. Detroit Food Policy Council



CHICAGO FOOD POLICY ACTION COUNCIL

Strengths:

- Partnerships with internal city staff with access to decision makers
- Annual summits to identify priorities
- Funding is diverse: 60% philanthropy and 40% government grants

Challenges:

- Applying for funding, especially first wave of grants
- 50 City Supervisors proves difficult to establish a majority vote on food policy issues
- Ensuring city policy continuity through administrative changes

Key Takeaways or Quotes:

- Noted that all cities have the same issues around food insecurity, but managing the local context and political powers very important



NEW YORK CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE OF FOOD POLICY

Strengths:

- Current mayor prioritizes food policy
- City Council has discretionary grants to provide funding to community-based orgs
- Very large budget (1M - 1.5M)
- Focus on concrete programs such as plant-based nutrition programs in hospitals

Challenges:

- Future mayors may not prioritize food policy
- Relies on community based orgs for input (community members must reach out to specific city agencies with issues)

Key Takeaways or Quotes:

- Noted that political will is important in changing food policy
- Cost implications of codification of a food policy office across cities
- “Government feeds people, and a lot of people, through various agencies”



LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF FOOD EQUITY

Strengths:

- Public-private partnership for close ties to government with some independence
- Roundtable discussions allow for diverse stakeholders and communities to address food security issues

Challenges:

- Strategic plan lacks public commitments and transparency
- Finding grant dollars for Office of Food Equity
- Incorporating for-profit private companies in discussions

Key Takeaways or Quotes:

- Noted the need for a “city champion” to navigate bureaucracy and sponsor motions/resolutions
- Noted that the Office of Food Equity has to be high enough in political hierarchy to access decision makers



BOSTON OFFICE OF FOOD JUSTICE

Strengths:

- Focus on climate change impacts on food
- Community advisory component with residence requirement
- Focus on high-need neighborhoods
- Goal of becoming a carbon-neutral, zero-waste city

Challenges:

- No authority to schedule public hearings
- Systems approach makes it difficult to address more acute food insecurity from community
- Compliance, enforcement, and responsibility issues on food policies

Key Takeaways or Quotes:

- Noted that transforming food systems “requires a level of boldness” with an eye towards equitable policies and choice/cultural relevance/dignity in food pantries



DETROIT FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Strengths:

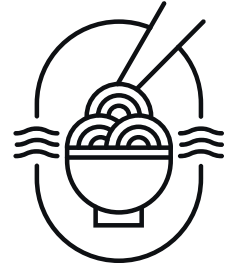
- Council has diverse membership, with 1-vote seats allocated to specific stakeholders
- All meetings are open for “transparency, respect, and justice”
- Focus on environmental justice and racial equity
- Coalitions with farmers

Challenges:

- Working towards changing animal ordinances and agricultural laws, such as legalizing chickens in residential properties
- Working towards increasing data capacity and feedback through surveys and sampling inside and outside city

Key Takeaways or Quotes:

- Noted that “work and live in city” requirement for councils not always a guaranteed strategy to ensure diversity
- Provide TA/courses to council members on racial equity
- Decision-making questions:
 - Who does it benefit?
 - Who pays?



NEW COUNCIL SUMMARIES



1. Knox County Food Policy Council
2. Maine Network of Food Security Councils
3. Milwaukee Food Council



KNOX COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Strengths:

- Strong connection to hospital system, five different hospitals serve as hubs for education and on-site food pantries
- Strong connections to farmers and small farms, leveraging networks to provide farm equipment

Challenges:

- Food insecurity is at an all time high, while supplies are quite low
- No fiscal sponsor and not a nonprofit, so does not have the capacity to pursue that policy endeavors on a larger scale
- Overcoming stigma of receiving free food

Key Takeaways or Quotes:

- In order to reduce stigma for underserved communities, high quality food is key for dignity
- Tracking metrics such as “how many miles food travels from farm to pantry, how many hours staff took to unload food, and how many hours to dispose of food waste” very important



MAINE NETWORK OF FOOD SECURITY COUNCILS

Strengths:

- Strong policy and advocacy relationships; group votes on which food bills to endorse, writes letters to legislators
- Comprised of various councils that have a shared financial network for sustainability

Challenges:

- Rural health food insecurity is particularly difficult to address
- Maine Food Sovereignty Act created political challenges around implementation and enforcement
- No governmental funding

Key Takeaways or Quotes:

- Organizing food councils at the state-level has many benefits for supporting local context and coordinating resources more broadly



MILWAUKEE FOOD COUNCIL

Strengths:

- Collective impact model focused on food organizing rather than programming
- Exists outside the city and county governments, for more independence
- Focus on food justice

Challenges:

- No point-person in government who is dedicated to food systems work, so creates a limiting factor for advocacy efforts
- Diversity of board
- Managing relationships to local and national food organizing and competing priorities

Key Takeaways or Quotes:

- Need to focus on root causes of food insecurity such as minimum wage, food cost, and land sovereignty