



Policy Platform

We are committed to the fight to end hunger in San Francisco and Marin through comprehensive public policy change. This Policy Platform provides guidance on prioritization of SFMFB's advocacy efforts and is focused on addressing the root causes of hunger and strengthening the social safety net so that low-income people can feed themselves and their families. This Platform addresses federal, state, and local hunger-related policies and funding. It prioritizes recommendations where hunger prevention intersects with issues of health, poverty, equity, social justice, food systems, and related government revenue or budget infrastructure.

It informs policy discussions, provides broad guidance for developing positions on emerging issues, and helps frame outreach for building collaboration around issue advocacy. It is the framework from which SFMFB's annual legislative agenda is derived. Accordingly, the platform will be revised from time to time as changes are required.

Hunger Alleviation and Prevention

Government nutrition programs provide the most robust anti-hunger support, yet current funding levels are insufficient to meet current needs and administrative burdens prevent eligible people from receiving vital benefits.

SFMFB will prioritize policy measures to protect and increase funding levels, improve access to, and increase program participation for federal and state nutrition assistance programs including SNAP/CalFresh, TEFAP, CSFP, FINI, WIC, School Meals, and Summer/Pandemic EBT.

Poverty Alleviation and Prevention

Hunger is caused by inadequate financial resources, unaffordable or inaccessible healthcare, lack of stable and affordable housing, under-employment, and scarcity of living wage jobs.

SFMFB will prioritize policy measures that have a nexus between poverty and hunger, especially around household stability, affordable housing, living wages, and related basic needs.

Racial Equity & Social Justice

Hunger is also caused by systemic racism and entrenched social injustice. Social determinants of hunger provide opportunities to advance policies that challenge the inequitable and unjust systems that create and perpetuate poverty.

SFMFB will prioritize policy measures that address racial equity & social justice for low-income members of BIPOC communities, immigrant communities, LGBTQ+ communities, people with disabilities, and other historically under-resourced and marginalized communities.

Hunger and Health

Inadequate access to healthy food has a direct impact on health outcomes. Ensuring food security will result in lower healthcare costs, improved health outcomes, and higher quality of life for low-income people.

SFMFB will consider measures that positively impact the health of people experiencing hunger by addressing food insecurity in health care settings, including Food as Medicine initiatives and collaboration with healthcare partners on food insecurity screening.

Tax, Budget, and Nonprofits

Support for nonprofit organizations is conditioned by structures in tax code, regulations, statutes, and municipal ordinances and codes. Tax policy plays a key role in the level of resources available to fight against hunger and can incentive food rescue.

SFMFB will consider measures that impact the regulatory and tax environment for charitable hunger relief organizations, operationally and through the donation of food and funds to food banks and other nonprofit organizations serving low-income people.

Food Systems

Consistent access to donated nutritious food depends on a statewide food system that produces in abundance, is sustainable, and encourages food rescue. These aims require an effective policy environment for agriculture, food manufacturing, food businesses, as well as just and equitable practices for workforces supporting them.

SFMFB will consider policy measures that improve food systems, incentivize the conditions for food rescue, and build operational capacity for nonprofit, charitable hunger relief.