

SAN FRANCISCO-MARIN FOOD BANK'S HOME-DELIVERED GROCERIES SERVICE



The San Francisco-Marin Food Bank's Home-Delivered Groceries (HDG) service, the largest of its kind in the United States, provides weekly deliveries of fresh groceries to 13,000 households across both counties.

Over the last several years, the Food Bank has discovered the tremendous value of a home-delivery option for an expanded set of populations who struggle to access traditional food assistance programs, including older adults, adults with disabilities, people who are pregnant, and parents of children who are young or have disabilities.

Despite ongoing demand, corporate partners are withdrawing their support of HDG, threatening the continued viability of the program. To ensure uninterrupted service to these high-need households, the Food Bank is seeking ongoing financial support from the City of San Francisco and working to increase program efficiency to drive down costs.



The most difficult thing for me is leaving the house and getting down the stairs; it's about three or four steps. It's very hard for me because my knees hurt so much. [...] I also have problems with my back. It's too much; I'm almost 92 years old!

– Alejandra, senior living in the Richmond District

Program at a Glance

- **96%** of HDG participants live in San Francisco
- **74%** of participants are women
- **72%** of participants are older adults
- **60%** of every grocery bag is fresh fruits and vegetables
- **13K** households totaling **30K+** people rely on HDG every week
- **3.7K** children rely on HDG

Impact at a Glance

Accessible food assistance increases food security while generating both health and psychosocial benefits.

- **93%** are less worried about getting enough food
- **92%** of participants feel healthier
- **95%** eat more produce and whole grains
- Researchers have estimated the health care costs specifically associated with food insecurity are approximately **\$204.6 million** for San Francisco County (July 2019). Improved health status can lead to reduced health care costs.



You know, this little bag of food that I get every week, it's really, really helpful for me. I would have much more limited options for food if there was no HDG program because the vegetables that I get from that box every week, I can make a lot of foods for my daughter. It comes with a lot of vegetables, onions, potatoes, and that kind of thing. And so now I don't have to walk 45 minutes to go buy the things I need.

– Gabriela, single mother of a three-year-old girl and SoMa resident



AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE FOOD ASSISTANCE LANDSCAPE



The Food Bank partners with 25 community organizations to help deliver groceries to participants. Thanks to community partners, we can better understand the scope of need and reach more neighbors. And thanks to our Food Bank, these organizations have logistical and material support to make home delivery a viable option.

It is rare that traditional food programs effectively meet the needs of vulnerable populations: food assistance programs don't provide enough food, delivery is not available, or both. HDG fills these gaps and gives neighbors a chance to thrive.



“When I go to the farmer's market or the market, [it's that] I need to carry my baby boy and my six-year-old girl. The older child doesn't yet reliably take instructions to stay close. Sometimes it's fine, but sometimes it's just not.”

– Ling, single mother of two and Sunnydale resident

THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

Disabilities:

Mobility, Cognitive, Mental health (anxiety), Temporary (e.g. post-discharge)

Transportation issues:

Far from routes, Hills difficult to navigate

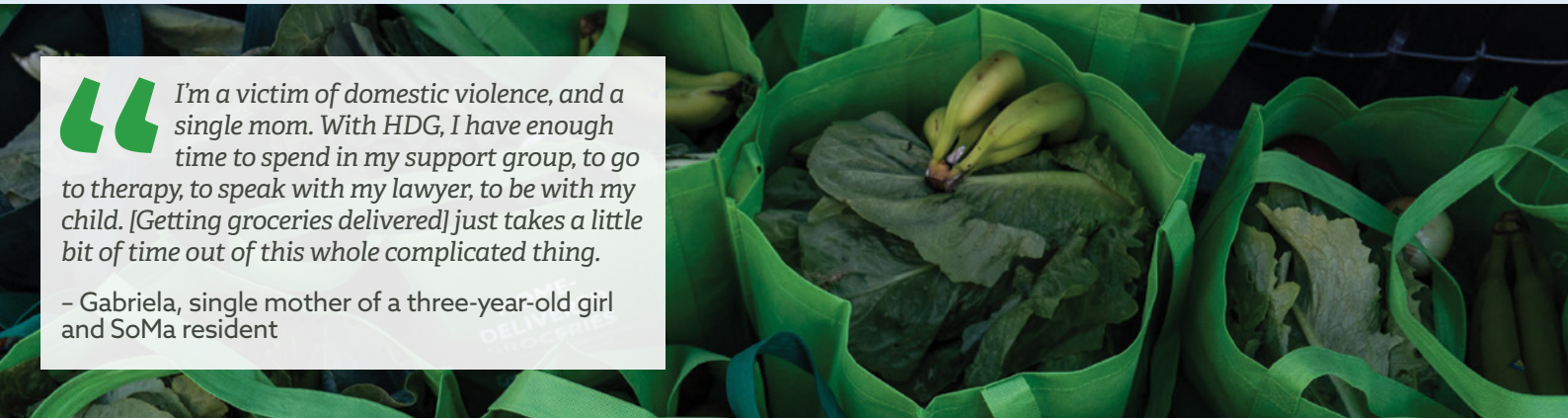
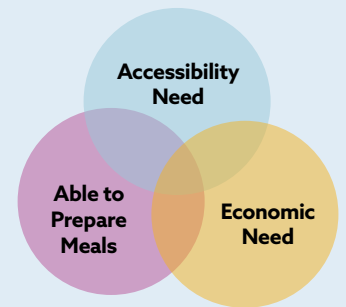
Schedule constraints:

Work hours, Childcare availability, Caregiving responsibilities (e.g. unable to leave a child with a disability), Appointment schedules, (e.g. doctor, therapy)

Intense stigma

Economic need due to:

Fixed income (e.g. SSI, SSA, pension), Unemployment, Temporary leave (e.g. maternity), High rent/cost of living, Inflation



“I'm a victim of domestic violence, and a single mom. With HDG, I have enough time to spend in my support group, to go to therapy, to speak with my lawyer, to be with my child. [Getting groceries delivered] just takes a little bit of time out of this whole complicated thing.”

– Gabriela, single mother of a three-year-old girl and SoMa resident

Sustaining a Vital Program

Corporate partnerships handled 76% of all deliveries of HDG in January 2023. However, in-kind delivery support is disappearing as DoorDash plans to sunset its sponsorship of the program this spring.

Our recommendation is to secure expanded San Francisco County funding to continue to meet demand.



Without the HDG program, the existing service landscape is simply not able to provide enough accessible food assistance to meet the needs of our neighbors in San Francisco and Marin.

“I was the victim of a hit-and-run a few years ago and I live in pain on a daily basis. The produce is just wonderful. It's hard for me to lug vegetables home – they're heavy, you know? And I don't want to be a burden on my sons and their families.”

– Violet, Richmond District resident, age 92

TOGETHER, WE CAN END HUNGER IN SAN FRANCISCO AND MARIN

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