

C O U N T Y O F S A N T A C L A R A



FOOD SYSTEM WORKPLAN

PROGRESS UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2022

GOAL 1

ENHANCE FOOD SYSTEM COORDINATION AND LEADERSHIP

THIS GOAL HAS THREE FOCAL AREAS:

- 1) strengthening food system coordination,
- 2) preparing for future disasters, and
- 3) leveraging other levels of government and other sectors (e.g., housing, transportation) to increase the impact of food system work.



PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Veggielution funded to explore creating an Urban Growers Network.
- Livestock Pass Program created to allow ranchers and livestock owners to access restricted areas during wildfires and other emergencies to care for and if necessary, evacuate their animals.
- List of policy ideas based on the food system workplan integrated into the County Policy Platform; subsequently County Intergovernmental Relations advocated for three food-related policies.

GAPS

- Allocate or distribute existing resources and staffing to lead food system coordination and a collaborative to implement the food system workplan.
- The County has yet to develop a food system resilience plan to more effectively prepare for and respond to future crises that disrupt residents' food security and ensure a secure food supply for the future. The food system resilience plan should have clearly identified lead partners and resources allocated so that crisis response can mobilize quickly.

GOAL 1 PROGRESS UPDATE

INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT AND LEAD FOOD SYSTEM CHANGE

Strategy 1.1: Create a full-time Food System Manager position to lead implementation of workplan

Strategy 1.2: Institutionalize internal collaboration through the creation of a "Kitchen Cabinet"

STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY FOR FOOD SYSTEM COORDINATION AMONG PUBLIC, NONPROFIT, AND PRIVATE FOOD SYSTEM STAKEHOLDERS

Strategy 1.3: Guide the establishment of an external Food System Leadership Collaborative

- Veggielution funded to explore creating an Urban Growers Network.

Strategy 1.4: Develop a food system resilience plan

- County launched a Livestock Pass Program to allow ranchers and livestock owners to access restricted areas during wildfires and other emergencies to feed and water their animals, check their health, and if necessary, evacuate them.

Strategy 1.5: Collaborate across industry sectors (e.g., housing, health care) to further the reach of food system work

- Roots Community Clinic implemented a Food as Medicine pilot, focused on pregnant African-American women.
- Second Harvest Silicon Valley and Stanford University are collaborating on a study, "La Vida Sana y Completa," to assess how collaboration between primary care providers and community organizations can address food insecurity and diet-related conditions.

- In collaboration with Joint Venture Silicon Valley, County departments applied for ARPA funding in Fall 2021. While their proposal was unsuccessful, it created a foundation for future funding applications.

- The Public Health Department started preliminary discussions with Healthier Kids Foundation to add food security screening questions to Baby Gateway program.

PROMOTE REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT IN OTHER SECTORS AND AT OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

Strategy 1.6: Advocate for policies at all government levels that advance food system goals and reduce food insecurity

- List of policy ideas based on workplan integrated into the County Policy Platform; subsequently County Intergovernmental Relations advocated for three food-related policies.

- Acterra is providing technical assistance to the City of Mountain View, which has adopted a resolution integrating food waste education into its climate action plan and in support of plant-forward education.

Strategy 1.7: Embed food system planning and implementation in county policies, plans (i.e., food in all policies)



GOAL 2

INCREASE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN THE FOOD SYSTEM TOWARD GREATER FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

This goal focuses on community engagement through both a formal structure that increases residents' say in food system issues and the development of resident-led food and agriculture projects that support community members' capacity to define solutions for food system issues.



PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The Public Health Department has applied for a CDC grant that, if successful, would involve contracting with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to engage residents of East San Jose and Gilroy in identifying gaps in the food system and implementing solutions.

GAPS

- Work has yet to begin on creating a Resident Food Equity Advisory Council to define problems and solutions for food system issues and work in tandem with the Kitchen Cabinet and the Food Systems Leadership Collaborative.
- Explore models for supporting food system leadership programs where community partners train residents to identify food system gaps, formulate solutions, and implement projects.

FOSTER CONNECTIONS BETWEEN COMMUNITY FOOD LEADERS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Strategy 2.1: Create a Resident Food Equity Advisory Council for food system issues

STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY FOR NEIGHBORHOOD-LEVEL FOOD SOVEREIGNTY WORK

Strategy 2.2: Invest in community-based organizations to facilitate community involvement through food system leadership training and development of collaborative, community-led projects

- The Public Health Department has applied for a CDC grant that, if successful, would involve contracting with CBOs to engage residents of East San Jose and Gilroy in identifying gaps in the food system and implementing solutions.

GOAL 3

MAINTAIN FARMLAND, INCREASE AGRICULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND ENHANCE FARM VIABILITY

This goal focuses on ensuring that farmers and ranchers have access to the resources and support they need to maintain a vibrant agricultural economy and to protect and enhance the ecosystem services provided by the county's working farm and grazing lands.



PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- An Agricultural Liaison position to facilitate agricultural projects and support the economic and community development of local farms and ranches has been hired.
- After a successful pilot year, the Board of Supervisors voted to continue the Agricultural Resilience Initiative (ARI) grant that facilitates the implementation of climate-smart agriculture practices on farms and ranches in the county.

GAPS

- Land access and secure land tenure remain one of the biggest challenges for new and beginning farmers. To address this need, the County can pursue plans for establishing a farm incubator.

INCREASE ACCESS TO LAND AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

Strategy 3.1: Address the needs of new entry and socially disadvantaged farmers for access to land and technical assistance (prioritize conservation funding)

Strategy 3.2: Make suitable public land available for farming (land inventory and process for access); and support access on state lands for livestock grazing

SUPPORT FARM VIABILITY AND CLIMATE-SMART STEWARDSHIP PRACTICES

Strategy 3.3: Support farm businesses through the permitting process, in regulatory compliance, and accessing other small business resources

Agricultural Liaison position to facilitate agricultural projects and support the economic and community development of local farms and ranches has been approved, posted, and hired.

Since starting in January 2022, the Agricultural Liaison has:

- Conducted 40+ listening sessions and site visits to learn what is needed to assist growers' business operations;
- Assisted with grant proposals totaling \$5.5 million to support Santa Clara County farmers and ranchers;
- Coordinated with farmers, the Open Space Authority, County departments, and neighbors to get Spina Pumpkin Patch approved and operating on a new site this fall;
- Worked with the Morgan Hill Unified School District to develop an on-site farm at Ann Sobrato High School with the goal of providing 100% of the District's fresh produce and encouraging students to consider agriculture as a career;
- Worked with the Ag Commissioner's office to help coordinate two Agricultural Pass Safety Training classes for ranchers who may need access to their livestock in the event of a wildfire; and
- Begun working to streamline permitting processes for agricultural enterprises.

Strategy 3.4: Support networks to connect Santa Clara County-based farmers, ranchers, and food businesses/restaurants to each other and institutional and individual customers

Strategy 3.5: Maintain agriculture water rates and water access for farms and ranches

Strategy 3.6: Make permanent the County's Agricultural Resilience Incentive (ARI) grant program for farmers and ranchers to adopt climate-smart practices.

- In its pilot year, the ARI grant program received 64 applications and awarded \$200,000 to 12 farms and ranches in the county. This 19% funding rate illustrates the demand within the county agricultural community for support for the implementation of climate-smart practices. In total, the awarded projects cover 3,700 acres and are estimated to capture 1,860-2,400 metric tons of CO2 equivalent each year.

- The Board of Supervisors approved ongoing ARI grant program funding of approximately \$300,000 annually for climate-smart agricultural projects in Santa Clara County and to address new SB 1383 requirements.

- Local Assistance Grant Funding of \$70,000 was awarded to the County for implementation of a SB 1383 Procurement pilot program to make ARI projects available for other jurisdictions to fund, increasing the number of climate-smart agriculture projects implemented each year.



GOAL 4

BUILD A STRONG REGIONAL FOOD ECONOMY WHERE COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS PROSPER

This goal aims to strengthen the regional food economy by using institutional procurement policies to shape food system outcomes, reducing barriers for food entrepreneurs, and developing needed food system infrastructure.



PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Across the Bay Area, food system reports have repeatedly identified institutional procurement as a critical lever for building more resilient, diverse food systems. As a result of the Public Health Department's contract with the Center for Good Food Purchasing to adopt the Good Food Purchasing Program at three County hospitals, Santa Clara County has made significant strides in implementing this important food system development strategy.
- The Board's approval of a Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation pilot program will help to achieve the goal of reducing barriers and promoting opportunities for food businesses, restaurants, and food workers.

GAPS

- Access to commercial kitchens remains a need for community programs, charitable feeding operations, and new food entrepreneurs.

LEVERAGE PURCHASING POWER TO SUPPORT THE REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM THROUGH VALUES-DRIVEN PROCUREMENT

Strategy 4.1: Adopt the Good Food Purchasing Policy (GFPP), which would align County food purchases with five values: environmental sustainability, valued workforce, nutrition, local economies, and animal welfare.

- Sustainable Purchasing Policy passed unanimously by the Board of Supervisors—with explicit support for GFPP.
- With funding procured by Public Health Department (PHD), contract signed between PHD and Center for Good Food Purchasing to begin the GFPP program at three County facilities: Valley Medical Center, St. Louise Hospital, O'Connor Hospital.
- In March and April 2022, Corrections and Hospital staff convened for an orientation to GFPP.

Strategy 4.2: Expand the impact of the Good Food Purchasing Policy (GFPP)

- Joined the San Francisco Bay Area Local Food Purchasing Collaborative, led by SPUR. Public Health and HHS are participating.

SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF, AND EQUITABLE ACCESS, TO FOOD AGGREGATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND PROCESSING/ MANUFACTURING INFRASTRUCTURE

Strategy 4.3: Advance the development of a community food hub

Strategy 4.4: Facilitate access to commercial kitchens for community programs and new food entrepreneurs

REDUCE BARRIERS AND PROMOTE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDEPENDENT FOOD BUSINESSES, RESTAURANTS, AND FOOD WORKERS

Strategy 4.5: Reduce barriers for aspiring or new, small, local food entrepreneurs

- Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO) assessment report presented to the Board of Supervisors and pilot recommended. Environmental Health will do community engagement and report back.

- On August 30, 2022 the Board approved \$517,226 for the MEHKO Pilot Program.

Strategy 4.6: Foster creation of food and agricultural cooperatives

WHAT IS THE GOOD FOOD PURCHASING PROGRAM?



1. NUTRITION

Promote health and well-being by offering generous portions of vegetables, fruit, whole grains, and minimally processed foods, while reducing salt, added sugars, saturated fats, and red meat consumption and eliminating artificial additives.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Source from producers that employ sustainable production systems to reduce or eliminate synthetic pesticides and fertilizers; avoid the use of hormones, routine antibiotics and genetic engineering; conserve and regenerate soil and water; protect and enhance wildlife habitats and biodiversity; and reduce on-farm energy and water consumption, food waste and greenhouse gas emissions. Reduce menu items that have high carbon and water footprints, using strategies such as plant forward menus, which feature smaller portions of animal proteins in a supporting role.

3. ANIMAL WELFARE

Source from producers that provide healthy and humane conditions for farm animals.

4. LOCAL ECONOMIES

Support diverse, family and cooperatively owned, small and mid-sized agricultural and food processing operations within the local area or region.

5. VALUED WORKFORCE

Provide safe and healthy working conditions and fair compensation for all food chain workers and producers from production to consumption.

Source: <https://goodfoodpurchasing.org/program-overview/#values>

GOAL 5

IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS, CULTURALLY RELEVANT, AND AFFORDABLE FOOD

OVERVIEW

This goal seeks to bolster efforts to ensure that Santa Clara County residents have access to nutritious food. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, both governmental and charitable programs have seen ongoing sustained demand. The expected end of the public health emergency as well as pandemic-related funding will further stress programs' ability to meet the need for food assistance in Santa Clara County.

PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Establishment of food security action plan group to address food access among city, county, and nonprofit partners
- Analysis conducted revealed that 59% and 44% of Latino and Black residents, respectively, are living below the Self-Sufficiency Standard¹ and struggling to make ends meet, including affording food

GAPS

- Coordination of efforts to feed people who are unhoused is lacking. The County should identify food resources available to unhoused populations and ensure they are distributed equally.
- City and County partnerships would be beneficial to co-promote SNAP-enrollment
- Number of people accessing charitable food locations is still double the amount prior to the start of pandemic
- With City of San Jose's COVID-related funding ending in December 2022, charitable food providers are uncertain how they will continue to meet increased demand
- Volunteer labor is significantly reduced and needs to increase to support food distribution



¹The University of Washington's Self-Sufficiency standard estimates how much working families must earn to cover their basic needs. Learn more at <https://selfsufficiencystandard.org>

LEVERAGE FEDERAL AND STATE NUTRITION PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY BY MAXIMIZING PARTICIPATION AND IMPACT

Strategy 5.1: Support or expand County partnerships with cities, private and nonprofit organizations to bolster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) enrollment

- Food Security Action Group established in Fall 2021 with members from County and City departments and community-based organizations (CBOs). The group has developed a shared understanding of an “at-risk for food insecurity” metric and formed two work groups: one focused on families with children and CalFresh and the other focused on older adults.

CONTINUING TO SUPPORT AND EXPAND HEALTHY FOOD INCENTIVE PROGRAMS TO LEVERAGE SNAP BENEFITS

- The Public Health Department is funding Pacific Coast Farmer’s Market Association and Urban Village Farmer’s Market Association to educate and promote Market Match at 10 farmers markets.

- Public Health is funding SPUR to provide the Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb) program at five grocery stores.

- Public Health, Second Harvest Silicon Valley, FIRST 5, Social Services Agency, and the Senior Nutrition Program partner to promote Market Match and DUFb.

IDENTIFY BARRIERS TO ACCESSING CALFRESH

- Social Services Agency (SSA) is exploring how clients on Medi-Cal can also be enrolled in SNAP.
- SSA has plans to conduct a pilot in District 5 (Simitian) to increase the number of residents enrolled in SNAP and to research why people who are on other county benefits and/or Medi-Cal have so far been unwilling to sign up for CalFresh.

ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPROVE SNAP PARTICIPATION IN TARGETED COMMUNITIES

- Second Harvest Silicon Valley (SHSV) has implemented a new training program for their partner agencies/food pantries on how to refer different ethnic populations to SHSV for CalFresh screening.



- More people signed up for CalFresh at West Valley Community Services when SSA and SHSV staff were placed there to do enrollment.
- Following a Board referral from Supervisor Chavez to distribute enrollment information in under-resourced neighborhoods through the Community Health & Business Engagement Team (CHBET), CHBET partnered with SSA and Public Health to obtain and distribute information about CalFresh enrollment and DUFEB, Market Match, and the Restaurant Meals program to stretch CalFresh dollars.
- SHSV is working to expand knowledge of CalFresh eligibility on college campuses. They will be partnering with 10 local colleges to train staff and conduct outreach to students.



Second Harvest Silicon Valley

- Public Health and SSA have started discussions to promote CalFresh use at farmers markets through promotional videos.

Strategy 5.2: Invest in schools as anchors of community feeding

- SHSV led advocacy for statewide bill to support Universal School Meals, which passed.
- State of California budget allocated \$1.2 billion to support universal school meal nutrition, including access to two free meals every day for all students, as well as \$700 million to improve kitchen facilities and infrastructure, \$60 million for Farm to School grants and \$10 million for training.
- Once Universal School Meals was passed at the state level, remaining funds were rolled over to support kitchen infrastructure. This fund is managed by the Santa Clara County Office of Education.
- SHSV partnered with 131 summer meal sites in summer 2021 and 84 meal sites in summer 2022. These summer meal sites are open to anyone in the community. Partnership involved providing marketing and outreach materials to sites, financial support to purchase equipment such as cold storage, a broad multi-channel marketing campaign in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese.
- SHSV continues to manage a Child Nutrition Coalition meeting on a bi-monthly basis, dedicated to sharing best practices and providing support and networking for child nutrition programs, including summer meals.
- 11 schools will participate in the Smarter Lunchroom Movement during school year 2022-2023.
- CalFresh/Families with Young Children Workgroup has been discussing with partners how to promote WIC.
- Two districts submitted CDFA Farm-to-School grants to increase local food offerings.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO CHARITABLE FOOD RESOURCES

Strategy 5.3: Assess current food access locations for gaps in services and implement localized solutions

- Food resources—including CalFresh, WIC, and Senior Nutrition Program—now centralized on SHSV website: <https://www.shfb.org/get-food/>
- SHSV started an assessment of where additional grocery locations need to be in East San Jose.
- With funding from Public Health, Joint Venture Silicon Valley gathered data from food recovery organizations about their sources and uses of food, how much food ends up going to waste and why, and collected feedback from over 100 clients of food recovery organizations about their needs. Preliminary results can be found at <https://jointventure.org/images/stories/pdf/Making-the-Most-of-Surplus-Food-in-SCC-2022-06-30.pdf>
- CBO food providers have met with the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits to assess funding needs to maintain charitable food distribution services.
- City of San Jose’s combined COVID-related funding support is anticipated to be expended by December 2022.

Strategy 5.4: Improve coordination among food distribution sites and develop common tracking system and reporting format.

- SHSV reports on pounds of groceries provided to community residents. They provide 80% of all groceries in the community. Loaves & Fishes and Martha’s Kitchen, which together provide 90% of all the free meals in partnership with other agencies, have reported meals data. The Health Trust provides data on Meals on Wheels and Sourcewise is the source for data on Senior Nutrition.
- In Spring 2022, SHSV launched a new food locator tool on their website. This maps their existing grocery and meal program partners. In addition, the webpage links to other nutrition programs such as WIC, Meals on Wheels, and the Senior Nutrition Program.



Strategy 5.5: Assess infrastructure and facility needs within the county to ensure food access service providers have sufficient capacity to store and distribute food to meet the needs of food insecure residents.

- SHSV has grants for food providers to support their infrastructure needs (e.g., refrigeration, backup generators). In FY22, SHSV provided \$1.6 million in infrastructure support to 36 recipients. Recipients have included Martha’s Kitchen, Loaves and Fishes, City Team, Sacred Heart, and West Valley Community Services.
- The SB 1383 Food Recovery Infrastructure Capacity Assessment for Santa Clara County was completed by Joint Venture Silicon Valley under contract with the Technical Advisory Committee of the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission, resulting in a prioritized list of infrastructure enhancements that when implemented can result in larger amounts of nutritious, relevant food to feed insecure communities.

ENSURE OLDER ADULTS ARE ABLE TO ACCESS CULTURALLY-RELEVANT FOOD

Strategy 5.6: Develop an outreach and service strategy to better meet older adults' needs

Strategy 5.7: Assure Meals on Wheels can maintain current services and increase capacity as needed

- Sourcewise has conducted trial outreach efforts in low-income areas across the county, which resulted in a number of new participants.
- The Senior Nutrition Program has conducted a review of local cafe locations and determined which sites are operating at more than pre-pandemic levels. Locations that are above their threshold have received flyers to ensure that they have maps of nearby locations that can accept overflow. Senior Nutrition Program also received ARPA funding through Sourcewise to support higher than normal service levels.
- SHSV serves as a pass-through for a grant from SSA to provide reimbursement of meals served to caregivers accompanying children at select summer meal sites. In summer 2021, more than 10,000 such meals were reimbursed, and in summer 2022, approximately 9,300 caregiver meals were reimbursed.
- The County has offered registered dietician assistance to The Health Trust to help review and analyze the nutritional content of ethnic meal options.
- SHSV began a grocery home delivery program near the start of the pandemic. They are currently delivering groceries to over 4,000 seniors or people who are homebound or quarantining due to COVID. They would like to make this financially sustainable, so the program can be maintained long-term.
- The Health Trust has signed agreements with Anthem, Santa Clara Family Health Plan, and Stanford Health Care to provide medically tailored meals and Meals on Wheels. The Health Trust would welcome strategies to increase patient referrals from health plans and providers.
- The Health Trust now offers three different menus for Meals on Wheels, including an Asian fusion option. The Health Trust is exploring additional partnerships with food delivery companies to expand capacity.
- Sourcewise has a 'process automation' initiative in place to drive their cost of services down which would enable them to serve more clients without additional funding. Additionally, this work flow will include referrals to their partners, which is intended to benefit all of their partners in the ecosystem.
- The County has increased funding for and extended their agreement with The Health Trust to provide food bank and home-delivered meal services for people living with HIV/AIDS.



GOAL 6

EXPAND FOOD RECOVERY AND COMPOSTING

This goal focuses on recovering edible food from the waste stream and diverting organic waste from landfills to mitigate climate change, increase food security, and improve soil health. Core strategies are public education, development of composting infrastructure at the residential and community scale, and implementing SB 1383 (the Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Act) in a coordinated, efficient way.



PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- With the implementation of SB 1383 beginning on January 1, 2022, the County and partners created and contracted for the Santa Clara County Food Recovery Program to coordinate food recovery across all county jurisdictions.
- Based on activities completed under the County-wide Food Recovery Program, all county cities were compliant with SB 1383 requirements for Edible Food Recovery Programs and submitted complete Annual Reports to the State on October 3, 2022.
- Data collection to identify existing infrastructure and food distribution opportunities have been completed through direct interviews with food generators and food recovery organizations, as well as the 1383 required Infrastructure Capacity analysis.

GAPS

- Ongoing funding and governance for the Countywide Program has not been identified past June of 2024.
- Prioritized Infrastructure Enhancements have been identified, but not funded, or incorporated into agency work plans.
- A coordinating body that can integrate the food recovery activities required by SB 1383 into a larger food resiliency strategy is still missing.
- Leveraged funding to support education for food generators and residents is needed to supplement small amounts of countywide funds coming from landfill fees and solid waste rate payers.

SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION, ENGAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD WASTE RECYCLING AT THE RESIDENTIAL, COMMUNITY, AND COMMERCIAL LEVELS

Strategy 6.1: Provide leadership for public education and engagement on food waste prevention, reducing contamination in curbside organics bins, and composting

- Outreach campaign implemented for all Tier 1 and Tier 2 food donating businesses on food waste prevention, includes information on scfoodrecovery.org and in flyers with industry-specific messages.
- The BayRoc Regional Campaign is educating residents to reduce food waste through food preservation, refrigerator organization and includes web tools, social media, and multi-lingual information.
- Countywide contract awarded to SCS Engineers for a residential outreach pilot to test the impact of food waste prevention education on food waste behaviors.

Strategy 6.2: Prioritize and build capacity for residential and community-scale composting

- Annual funding provided from Countywide landfill fees to support the County Home Composting Education and Community Composting Program.

SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SB 1383, THE SHORT LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANTS ACT, TO INCREASE FOOD RESCUE AND REDUCE THE DISPOSAL OF ORGANIC FOOD WASTE

Strategy 6.3: Analyze and support opportunities to allow countywide coordination for certain SB 1383 program areas.

- Food recovery implementation areas under SB 1383 that would be best managed through regional collaboration have successfully been identified, leading to the creation of the countywide Santa Clara County Food Recovery Program.

Joint Venture Silicon Valley is currently under contract with the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission to manage countywide SB 1383 Food Recovery compliance.

- Ruth Abbe Associates contracted for longer-term funding and management recommendations, to be delivered by June 2023.

- SHSV continues to seek sustainable funding opportunities for food recovery organizations.

Strategy 6.4: Increase the efficiency of SB 1383 and AB 1826 implementation to reduce food waste

- Action plan, entitled *Making the Most of Surplus Food in Santa Clara County*, created for next three years of collaboration between nonprofits and other stakeholders to expand and enhance food recovery and prevention. Recommendations include new partnerships and ways to leverage resources effectively and efficiently.
- Public Health funded Joint Venture Silicon Valley to match food generators and food recovery organizations and to produce a report on food capacity and recommendations for effective capacity enhancements.
- Public Health is funding Joint Venture Silicon Valley to do a pilot program of implementing a new system that connects food recovery organizations and low-income housing complexes for prepared foods to be utilized to feed residents at the complexes.
- Joint Venture Silicon Valley contractor will be developing a methodology to collect resources from County jurisdictions for Food Recovery Program funding.



Strategy 6.5: Explore opportunities for SB 1383 to be integrated into other components of the local food system

- SB 1383 compost and mulch procurement requirements integrated into the County Procurement Department enhancements, including the 2021 Sustainable Procurement Policy, Mulch and Compost Procurement Guidelines, and development of statewide facility and materials list to support County procurement staff.
- Exploring opportunities to connect additional food recovery organizations to livestock farms.

- SHSV continues to work with their partner network to identify new agencies able to receive and distribute recovered food to food insecure community members. They are also working to connect new food generators to local food recovery organizations through the scfoodrecovery.org website.

- Local Assistance Grant received from state that will be used for a pilot that could facilitate greater funding for Agricultural Resilience Incentive grant projects from cities throughout the county.

- Implementation of State SB 1383 Legislation involves solid waste professionals in the Food System Alliance to collaborate and bring resources, specifically those of the Countywide Technical Advisory Committee of the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission.



GOAL 7

BUILD A CONSTITUENCY FOR A STRONG REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM BY INCREASING FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Educating Santa Clara County residents about the food system, so they can be actively engaged with food and agricultural issues, is critical for the long-term success of efforts to develop a more resilient and equitable food system in the county.



PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Development of a webinar series that explores food justice and the roots of historical inequities in the South Bay food system is underway.
- Based on website user feedback, Second Harvest Silicon Valley was able to build out more client-centered content on their Nutrition Center pages.

GAPS

- Develop and launch a public education campaign about the economic, environmental, and social impacts of local farmers and climate-stewardship practices.
- Work is still needed to coordinate County and community nutrition, garden, and agricultural education providers to assess where adult and child nutrition and agricultural education is being offered and identify gaps in programming. Building on this shared analysis, these stakeholders can evaluate capacity to expand education programs being offered.

COORDINATE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPAND AWARENESS OF NUTRITION, AGRICULTURE, AND EQUITY IN THE FOOD SYSTEM

Strategy 7.1: Increase food and agricultural literacy by coordinating and expanding nutrition and agricultural education.

- Working with community partners to identify types of nutrition education desired: Senior Nutrition Program providing Nutrition for Prevention of Alzheimer's through Public Health; cooking classes desired once teaching kitchen is installed at new Roots Community Health Center in addition to classes already taught there.
- Public Health is exploring a train-the-trainer model for diabetes prevention and Alzheimer's prevention.

- SHSV surveyed clients and partners about what content they would like to have on the Nutrition Center and how they currently receive cooking and nutrition information. They received more than 100 responses which they used to build out the initial structure of the Nutrition Center and content. One of the biggest requests was for quick, simple, easy recipes, but after the Nutrition Center launched, they saw the most engagement on the more unique, culturally specific recipes.

- SHSV is learning more about the lived experiences of unhoused members in our community and their limitations around food access. Their Nutrition team will be working to develop a specifically-tailored nutrition education plan for that population.

- SHSV uses a train-the-trainer model with their Health Ambassadors and are beginning to test this model with Nutrition Champions. Nutrition Champions are volunteers at food distributions who distribute recipes and nutrition education and food safety materials.

Strategy 7.2: Develop and launch a public education campaign about local farmers and climate-stewardship practices

Strategy 7.3: Support food justice and food sovereignty through coordinated efforts and collaboration to expand education about the root causes of inequities in the food system.

- UCCE received grant funding to develop 5-part webinar series on food justice in the local food system in partnership with South Bay Food Justice Collaborative



Second Harvest Silicon Valley

