

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH November 4, 2025
AND JANICE HAHN

Supporting the Los Angeles County Office of Food Systems

On February 9, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the creation of the Food Equity Roundtable,¹ a cross-sector advisory group tasked with developing recommendations to alleviate food insecurity across Los Angeles County (County). On February 7, 2023, the Board adopted the Roundtable's Food Equity Strategic Plan² (Action Plan) as a roadmap to equitable food access, including strategies to strengthen food access, health, and equity across communities. A primary recommendation was the establishment of a permanent Office of Food Equity (OFE) to coordinate cross-departmental and cross-sector food system strategies.

On June 14, 2023, the Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) provided a Report Back³ with recommendations for the OFE structure, which included OFE having six staff

¹ <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/153656.pdf>

² <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/93d111ab-3cd3-4eee-a537-99ae474bf70c.pdf>

³ <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/177672.pdf>

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members, being housed within a County unit, and having an annual operating budget. On November 7, 2023, the Board approved the creation of the OFE⁴ as a public-private partnership to focus on key issues important to both County government and community partners, while maintaining flexibility and autonomy. In 2024, the Chief Executive Office (CEO) submitted additional Report Backs outlining the structure, placement, and staffing plan for the new office. Based on those recommendations and evolving circumstances, the OFE has developed as follows:

- 1) The OFE was established as a public-private partnership between the County and Community Partners as the fiscal sponsor, with philanthropic support from the Annenberg Foundation, Weingart Foundation, and California Community Foundation. An Executive Director for OFE was hired in November 2024.
- 2) OFE began operations on January 6, 2025, at which time the Food Equity Roundtable sunsetted as an informal stakeholder advisory group; its members continue to participate as stakeholders in meetings convened by OFE.
- 3) OFE has changed its name to the Office of Food Systems (OFS) to better reflect its mandate under the Action Plan: to address systemic causes of food insecurity and poor health in food insecure populations, strengthen the local food economy, and build resilient regional supply chains.

The work of OFS requires strong coordination with County departments to effectively address systems-level food issues. This includes strengthening cross-sector partnerships to advance strategic priorities and providing policy support and guidance to

⁴ <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/ef57d1c7-a78f-454e-a7f7-38131ee016dc.pdf>

build a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient food system. The value in having a dedicated lead for food system response during times of crisis was demonstrated during and after the 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires, when OFS convened County agencies and community partners to maintain emergency food access. OFS has proposed a telephone tree-like communication plan to use for food systems coordination during future disasters or emergencies. Under this plan, OFS would convene representatives from different parts of the food system including County representatives, grocery retail, food banks, restaurants, and more.

County residents continue to face increasing threats to food security: deep federal cuts to programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Local Food for Schools programs, rising grocery costs, and disruptions to food access caused by both natural and man-made disasters. This year we have seen immigrant families struggling to access food amid heightened federal enforcement activity and we are now facing the crisis of 1.5 million Angelenos not receiving their SNAP benefits due to the federal government shutdown. While measures like increased food distributions are vital during this time, we must also improve our systems and structural solutions to food insecurity. Against this backdrop, it is more important than ever for the County to maintain a dedicated office to protect and strengthen food access and food systems.

To achieve these goals, it is necessary to increase cross-departmental collaboration on food issues, better integrate OFS into the County, and monitor the office's progress to plan for its long-term sustainability.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors request the Office of Food Systems (OFS), in consultation with the Chief Executive Office (CEO), Executive

Office (EO), and Chief Sustainability Office (CSO), and in collaboration with the Departments of Aging & Disabilities, Children & Family Services, Consumer & Business Affairs, Economic Opportunity, Internal Services, Regional Planning, Parks and Recreation, Public Health, Public Social Services, Public Works, Probation, Youth Development, Libraries, Homeless Services & Housing, Mental Health, Health Services, Justice, Care & Opportunity, the Center for Strategic Partnerships, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Office of Immigrant Affairs, Chief Information Office, and other relevant departments, as well as representatives from the philanthropic community to:

1. Building on the Action Plan, identify priority projects for collaboration between OFS and all County departments, including the ones listed above. with As part of this collaboration, each department designating shall designate a food systems liaison that is at a management level to advance the agreed-upon priority in active collaboration with OFS. During times of disasters or emergencies that impact food access in the County, Departments and Offices should participate in OFS's convenings and telephone tree-like communication structure.
2. Provide the Board with an interim OFS progress report in writing no later than June 16, 2026.
3. Provide the Board with a final report no later than October 20, 2026, followed by a verbal presentation to the Board, on a long-term strategic plan for OFS. The report should include options for integrating OFS into ~~a~~the County ~~department~~, including organizational goals, a fiscal plan, and the identification of potential funding sources.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors recognize OFS under its new name

(formerly the Office of Food Equity) and:

1. Direct the EO and Internal Services Department to list OFS on the EO's website.
2. Direct CEO-Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (LAIR) to provide OFS with updates as applicable on federal and state policy changes that impact food access and food systems. Further, direct LAIR to seek input and recommendations from OFS on obtaining Board support on positions for policy advocacy at the state and federal levels, and to offer input on emerging opportunities for advancing equitable and sustainable food systems through legislation and policy.

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