

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN
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November 7, 2023

Establishing the Los Angeles County Office of Public-Private Partnerships for Food Equity

At the start of the COVID-19 global pandemic in March 2020 and in response to rising rates of food insecurity, Los Angeles County (County) established a Food Security Branch within its Emergency Operations Center led by the County’s Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) to support the expansion and adaptation of existing food programs. In further action taken by the Board of Supervisors (Board) to help address the food insecurity crisis the Board adopted a motion¹ on February 9, 2021, directing the County’s CSO to engage in long-term collaboration with cross-sector stakeholders for the purpose of developing a sustainable and just food system. In February 2021, the County’s CSO, Annenberg Foundation, California Community Foundation, and Weingart Foundation collaborated on piloting the County’s Food Equity Roundtable (Roundtable). The Roundtable includes 20 cross-sector leaders dedicated to achieving equity in food systems across the County including public and non-profit service providers, private sector industry, academia, and labor.

¹ [Creating Long-Term, Cross-Sector Coordination for a Sustainable and Just Food System](#) (Hahn-Kuehl), February 9, 2021

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Last December, through the work and effort of the County's Roundtable, the *Los Angeles County Food Equity Roundtable Action Plan*² (Action Plan) was released. This effort was a call to action to provide a framework for the modernization of the County's food system in order to address food insecurity and to make the food system more equitable. Data highlighted in the Action Plan showed that food insecurity continues to persist in the County, particularly for communities of color. Additional data showed that one in four low-income households were food insecure in 2021 and that there are an insufficient number of grocery stores and food assistance programs located in the Antelope Valley, East Los Angeles, Southeast, and South Los Angeles neighborhoods. There is a widespread misconception that food insecurity ceased to be an issue once the pandemic ended, but, in fact, it is more prevalent now compared to before and during the pandemic.

On February 7, 2023, the Board unanimously passed a motion³ to utilize the Roundtable's Action Plan as a roadmap to equitable food access. That report highlighted the need to establish a new County Office of Food Equity that can lead cross-departmental initiatives when feasible and relevant.

Solving these issues will take concerted and consistent effort and coordination among all public and private partners and stakeholders involved in the various parts of the food system. To date, the Roundtable has demonstrated the power of convening public-private partnerships and what can be achieved through this type of structure. Public-private partnerships create an opportunity to focus on key issues important to both County government and community partners while maintaining more flexibility and

² [Los Angeles County Food Equity Roundtable Action Plan](#) (Los Angeles County Food Equity Roundtable, December 2022)

³ [The Future of the Food Equity Roundtable](#) (Hahn-Horvath), February 7, 2023

autonomy. It further supports leveraging knowledge, resources, and connections that can expand the capacity for greater impact on collective goals. While the pilot phase has come to an end, the urgency and importance of this work continues through the Roundtable. It is important for the County to continue moving these efforts forward to help transform the food system by removing barriers and by working towards a just, equitable, and resilient food system through the establishment of an Office of Public-Private Partnerships for Food Equity.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Direct the Chief Executive Office (CEO), in consultation with the Chief Sustainability Office (CSO), Department of Public Health (DPH), and Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), and in consideration of the recommendations included in the June 14, 2023, report back⁴ (“On the Future of Los Angeles County Food Equity Roundtable”), to:
 - a. Establish the Los Angeles County (Los Angeles County) Office of Food Equity (OFE), which will support the Los Angeles County Food Equity Roundtable (Roundtable);
 - b. Report back to the Board of Supervisors in writing within 90 days or sooner regarding:
 - i. The structure, including the structure for leadership of the OFE that can help facilitate ongoing cooperation and partnership between philanthropy, the Roundtable and County agencies engaged with food equity, and proactively link nonprofit leaders and organizations to the work of the OFE and all engaged County agencies;

⁴ [*The Future of the Los Angeles Food Equity Roundtable*](#) report back (Executive Office), June 14, 2023

- ii. Placement of the OFE;
- iii. Staffing plan developed by CEO, CSO, DPH and DPSS, in consultation with CEO Classification and Compensation, that considers the items listed in the Action Plan; and
- iv. A public-private cost-sharing budget of the OFE. In developing this budget, CEO shall consult with three representatives from philanthropy, and also obtain input from Roundtable members to assist with the possibility of developing a plan for an innovative third-party administrator that includes support for and implementation of the Action Plan, and include implementation costs as needed.

2) Delegate authority to the CEO, in consultation with County Counsel, to execute agreements with a third-party administrator to support, develop, and operate the OFE.

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