

## Candidate Hunger Action Challenge

# Adlah Chisti



Running for:  
**San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 11**

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### What do you think are the root causes of hunger, and what do you see as the government's role in addressing them?

One of the primary causes of hunger in my district is the high cost of housing and widespread housing insecurity, coupled with rising grocery prices and underfunded food programs. Food insecurity affects not only the unhoused but also working families whose incomes can't keep up with the skyrocketing cost of living. Many residents spend over 30% of their income on rent, leaving little for basic necessities like food. Some don't qualify for SNAP benefits, despite struggling to feed their families. Vulnerable populations, especially seniors and children, are at higher risk. I believe the government must invest more in food banks and pantries while addressing the root issue of affordable housing.

### If elected, how would you ensure coordination between the multiple government departments that fund and administer food assistance programs?

As supervisor, I will bring departments together to coordinate efforts around food assistance. Effective collaboration is key to ensuring that no San Franciscan goes hungry, and I will make sure these programs work seamlessly. Intergovernmental communication is important to good and smart policy. We have to share information, and we have to use databases that allows intergovernmental data exchangeable. Meaning we should be able to access information from different departments if all departments had the same database.

### Studies have shown food can be medicine. If elected, how do you plan to use your position to improve food-related health disparities?

We have to identify areas that are food deserts, that don't have economical weekly farmers markets or don't have grocery stores within walking distances. Convenient stores should also continue to carry fresh produce. And we should support grocery stores that have free grocery shopping centers like in District 10. I will advocate for programs that integrate healthy food access with healthcare services, especially for low-income families and seniors. Expanding food prescription programs and community gardens can help address food-related health disparities.

### The San Francisco-Marin Food Bank will be closing all Food Bank-run Pop-up Pantries by June 2025 due to cuts in government pandemic funding. This program currently serves 11,400 households, 75% of which are estimated to lose access to free weekly groceries when the funding ends. If elected, what would you do to ensure that all San Franciscans have access to nutritious foods?

Community based and faith based organizations partnering are important to a district like ours. City funding is vital for direct services especially for food. The budget is a priority and we should prioritize food banks for our seniors, children and families in need. If elected, I would ensure proper cooperation and collaboration among appropriate officials. I will work to secure local funding to continue these essential food programs and ensure collaboration between the city and nonprofits. Access to nutritious food is critical, and I will fight to keep these services in place for our residents.