



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Diego - Jan. 20, 2023

Contact: Mike Peterson, mike@gomixte.com, (619) 732-0789 ext. 645

Links:

- [San Diego Hunger Coalition Research Reports](#)

San Diego Hunger Coalition, Regional Advocates Showcase Local Solutions to Hunger at Roundtable Discussion with USDA

- *Regional hunger advocates welcomed USDA Deputy Under Secretary Stacy Dean and Food & Nutrition Services Administrator Cindy Long*
- *Discussion included both past successes in San Diego's hunger-relief sector and top priorities going forward*
- *San Diego Hunger Coalition, Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank & Feeding San Diego among organizations represented*

WHAT:

On Tuesday, Jan. 17, [San Diego Hunger Coalition](#) facilitated a roundtable discussion between local hunger advocates and a delegation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to showcase some of the region's innovative solutions to nutrition insecurity.

During the discussion, USDA Deputy Under Secretary Stacy Dean, Food and Nutrition Services Administrator Cindy Long, Rep. Sara Jacobs and Rep. Scott Peters heard about various regional and state initiatives aimed at ending hunger. They were joined by San Diego Hunger Coalition staff and representatives from Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank, Feeding San Diego, Oceanside Unified School District, Sweetwater Union High School District, SBCS and San Ysidro Health.

Some of the highlighted programs include [Hunger Free Navigators](#), a training program to equip community leaders with information on food assistance, and [Hunger Free Mountain Empire](#), which seeks to apply a community-driven, data-informed, and equitable approach to nutrition insecurity to rural communities in San Diego County.

San Diego Hunger Coalition also outlined its top policy and advocacy priorities, which included creating a centralized national system for school districts with real-time student and school meals data and expanding the Community Eligibility Provision meal service option for school districts in low-income areas.

The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank hosted the roundtable discussion.

WHY:

Data shows that one in four people in San Diego County is nutrition insecure, or unable to provide three healthy meals a day. San Diego Hunger Coalition is a leader in the effort to address this nutrition insecurity in San Diego through research, education and advocacy.

The Hunger Coalition facilitates regional cooperation, provides research and training for the hunger-relief sector, and coordinates advocacy to improve policies and systems at the local, state and federal level.

QUOTES:

“It takes an entire community banding together to address an issue like hunger, which is why we were thrilled to facilitate this important discussion between the San Diego hunger-relief sector and the USDA,” said **Anahid Brakke, President & CEO of the San Diego Hunger Coalition**. “Not only were we able to showcase and highlight some of the innovative, data-backed solutions in San Diego County, but we were able to demonstrate the cooperation and collaboration between all of our partners in the region.”

“On behalf of the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank, we were honored to host the San Diego Hunger Coalition’s roundtable discussion with Deputy Under Secretary Stacy Dean, the USDA delegation, and special guests Rep. Sara Jacobs and Rep. Scott Peters. The meeting highlighted food insecurity in our region and the important work of the region’s charitable food network,” said **Casey Castillo, CEO of the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank**. “It’s important for us to collaborate and share critical data both at the state and federal levels to ensure local food banks and those who aid in our mission have the ongoing support they need to continue removing barriers to provide families facing food insecurity and financial hardships with equitable access to free, nutrient-rich food.”

Additional details and contact:

- **Organization:** [San Diego Hunger Coalition](#)
- **Interviews:** Contact Mike Peterson at mike@gomixte.com or (619) 732-0789 x 645 to request interviews with speakers
- **Link to use in your story:** sdhunger.org

###

ABOUT SAN DIEGO HUNGER COALITION:

San Diego Hunger Coalition brings organizations across San Diego County together to create a Hunger Free San Diego. For 45 years, they have led coordinated action supported by research, education and advocacy. For more information, visit sdhunger.org.

Hunger Free San Diego is a multi-year initiative to apply a data-informed and community-driven approach to ending hunger in the region. Hunger Free San Diego is led by San Diego Hunger Coalition and is part of the national Hunger Free Communities Network.