I. Target Priority Population for LA County Food Equity Roundtable

Reducing or eliminating food and nutrition security disparities is a key goal of the Los Angeles County Food Equity Roundtable. Therefore, it is critical for us to identify and target priority populations that are experiencing disparities in accessing nutritious food and services. We should ensure we apply the equity lens in our planning, goal definition, and execution of a strategic plan to address the gaps and barriers for the priority population while making the food system more efficient for all.

Methodology: Target priority populations are shortlisted here based on:

- **Research data** from USC, UCLA, and LA County Department of Public Health, highlighting the most vulnerable population segments disproportionately impacted by Food Insecurity
- **Lifetime impact and life course** of a segment that makes a segment particularly vulnerable e.g. children, youth, and immigrants

No.	Priority Population (<300% FPL)	Rationale	Indicators of Food Insecurity[1] LA Region (2020/21)	FI Rate Data Source
1	<100% FPL[2]	• About 50% increased risk for <100% FPL vs. about 20% increased risk for <300% FPL (vs. high income) (USC Dornsife[4]) • 25.9% were food insecure, with 9% experiencing very low food security (LA DPH, 2018)	0-99% FPL: 42% 100-199% FPL: 36% (only measured among <=200% FPL)	CHIS[3]
2	Single-parent households	• 2.4 times the odds of food insecurity vs other households, April-July 2020 (USC Dornsife[4]) • 20% food insufficient compared with 16% in households with more than one parent, Apr 2020-Feb 2021 (Household Pulse Survey, Census Bureau[5])	20%	HPS[5]
3	Children & youth (under 18 years)	• 2.4 times the odds of food insecurity vs. those with no children, April-July 2020 (USC Dornsife[4]) • 16% food insufficient compared to 9% in households with no children, Apr 2020-Feb 2021 (Household Pulse Survey, Census Bureau[5]) • Children in food insecure households had: o 2.0–3.0 times higher odds of having anemia o 2.0 times higher odds of being in fair or poor health (Gundersen and Ziliak, 2015)	16%	HPS[5]

	Children & youth ● 0-5 yr. ● 6-12 yr. ● 13-18 yr.	● 29% of children enrolled in WIC in LA County were food insecure in 2020 (LA WIC[6]) ● Early childhood is a critical period for growth and development. Children who are food insecure <4 yrs. old are at higher risk of delayed development and impaired school readiness (Drennen et al, 2019). ● Food insecurity among school-age children is associated with negative academic outcomes and decreased social-emotional skills (Jyoti et al, 2005). This may lead to long-term economic and social impacts into adulthood. ● Focus will be on at the **at-risk youth including TAY**.	0-5 yr: 29% 6-12 yr: 24% 13-18 yr: 19%	LAC WIC Survey[6] CPS-FS[7] CPS-FS[7]
4	Young adults ● TAY ● College students ● 18-30 years	Increasing evidence of significant rates of food insecurity among college students throughout the country. ● Cal State Fullerton: 31% of students were FI since pandemic) with higher rates of about 40% among Blacks, first generation students, and students with young children. ● UCLA: 27% of undergraduate students were food insecure during the pandemic. (UCUES data, UCLA[8])	27% (UCLA) 43% (<=200% FPL)	UCUES data, UCLA[8] CHIS[3]
5	Homeless & Un-housed	● LA County: 48% of WIC-enrolled children from households with severe housing-cost burden were FI (vs 18%). Odds of FI among the kids who experience severe housing cost burden is 3.72 (Nobari & Whaley, 2020) ● As per 211 data, homeless callers 2X more likely to be food insecure vs. Home secure callers	N/A	
6	Disabled *(Physical & Mental Disabilities)*	● As per USDA, an estimated 38% of households with very low food security included an adult with a disability ● Los Angeles regional level data not available	N/A	
7	Latino/Hispanic	● Among those living in food insecure households, 67.3% were Latino (LA DPH, 2018). ● Latinx households experienced increased levels of FI during COVID-19 pandemic, likely influenced by loss of employment from sectors impacted by pandemic and higher levels of FI prior to pandemic (Escobar, 2020)	40%	USC Dornsife[4]
8	Black/African Americans	● Among those living in food insecure households, 11.9% were African American (LA DPH, 2018)	39%	USC Dornsife[4]

		• Structural racism and discrimination are key contributors to inequities (e.g., racial wealth gap, higher rates of incarceration) that can increase risk of FI (Odoms-Young, 2018)		
9	Asian and Pacific Islanders	• Among those living in food insecure households, 6.2% were Asian (LA DPH, 2018) • Food insecurity varies among API sub-groups, Vietnamese and Filipinos at higher risk compared to other APIs (Becerra, 2018)	28%	USC Dornsife[4]
10	Native American	• Native Americans suffer from the highest rates of food insecurity, poverty, and diet-related disease in the United States • Los Angeles regional level data not available	N/A	USDA[9]
11	Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Population	• 98% of households of a transgender with children face food insecurity • Los Angeles regional level data not available	N/A	CPS-FS[7]
12	Immigrants (non-citizens)	• Immigrants face specific barriers to access and navigate government and charitable assistance programs: o Fear of public charge o Limited English proficiency o Undocumented status limits eligibility for government programs (e.g., UI, CalFresh, etc.) o Higher rate of poverty and lower levels of education compared to native born	40% (<=200% FPL)	CHIS[3]
Additional At-Risk Populations				
A	Segments created during crisis a) Newly food insecure (unemployed) b) Seniors (60+ years)	a) Unemployed had 1.9 times the odds of food insecurity (vs. employed), in April-July 2020, although UI helps lower risk (USC Dornsife) b) SNAP participation rates among eligible for elderly in CA is 19% compared to 70% overall in CA (USDA, 2018)	a) 21% b) 33.4% (<=200% FPL)	HPS[5] CHIS[3]
B	Dietary restrictions	• Individuals with food allergies or intolerances may face additional barriers to acquiring safe and adequate foods given their dietary restrictions	N/A	

		• Limited empirical data for this population		

[1] Indicators of food insecurity are not comparable across different data sources given differences in study population and methodology.
[2] Representing the bottom tier of the low income group; these may cover people at risk of homeless
[3] California Health Interview Survey, 2020, LA County; only households with FPL <200% FPL were asked about food insecurity; reference period for food insecurity was past 12 months
[4] Understanding Coronavirus in America Tracking Survey, LA County; reports available at https://publicexchange.usc.edu/food-insecurity-in-la-county/; measured food insecurity the past 7 days
[5] Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, April '20-Feb '21 (LA-Anaheim Metropolitan Statistical Area); measured *food insufficiency* in the past 7 days
[6] https://lawicdata.org/data-research/topics/feeding-and-nutrition/
[7] Preliminary estimates for LA County from the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement, 2020; food insecurity assessed for past 12 months
[8] Available at https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/ucues-data-tables-main
[9] Source: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5422031/pdf/nihms827391.pdf

Please note: We acknowledge that for the individuals at the intersectionality of segments adds additional vulnerabilities for them

II. Links to Website and Communications Digital Toolkit

1. Website: Food Equity Roundtable (lacounty.gov)

2. Communications Digital Toolkit: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cwtgn8ZStMsxittVdXarVGm0lZfCEgJQ/view