SF NEW DEAL
IMPACT REPORT
MARCH 2020 - OCTOBER 2020
SF New Deal partners with community organizations and small businesses to address the current health and economic crisis exacerbated by COVID-19. We are working with local restaurants to make and deliver meals for neighbors in need, providing income for employees, and food for our community.

Since March 23rd, SF New Deal has delivered 1,003,494 meals and distributed over $10,250,000 in direct financial relief to 116 local businesses. In collaboration with our partners, we've been able to deliver financial support and meals to every district in San Francisco.

One out of seven small businesses in America has permanently closed due to COVID-19. Of our 111 restaurant partners, only one has shut their doors forever.
As we near the end of October, I can’t help but reflect on the tremendous adversity faced by our community in 2020. Seven months ago, Jacob and I delivered 100 bagged lunches (which contained sandwiches we made in his parents’ kitchen) to Citywide Case Management’s clinic on Jesse Street. Little did we know that within a few short days we’d have the participation of dozens of restaurants, and together would deliver tens of thousands of meals across the city each week.

As we surpass one million meals distributed by SF New Deal partners, we have come to understand more deeply the extent of the unmet need in San Francisco. Learning from small businesses and community members has pushed us to grow beyond our initial program (which is still running and continues to be fully funded by your generous donations) to three programs – two in partnership with the City and County of San Francisco – in an effort to keep local restaurants open, provide wage workers with opportunities, and support vulnerable neighbors as they continue to shelter in place. I am excited to share more about our team’s work in this report.

With gratitude,

Lenore Estrada
Executive Director
THE PREMISE FOR A RAPID RESPONSE

VINNY ENG
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

In early March, at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, it became clear that the pandemic had the potential to overwhelm existing systems of community care in San Francisco. It was evident that the disease would have far more serious consequences for communities who were already struggling with issues such as food insecurity, housing access, poverty, disability, preexisting conditions, and access to healthcare.

By the end of March, efforts were underway at the city, state and federal level to increase the capacity of hospital systems and to safeguard public health, but it would be months before the government’s financial relief programs would be introduced to keep wage workers supported, families fed, and small businesses from shutting down.

Without a reliable source of revenue in an industry with limited cash flow and low margins, restaurant operators laid off workers en masse. Essential workers are keystones in our community; they are pivotal to the businesses that employ them, are the first to be impacted under economic distress, and make up the foundation for our collective stability and cultural identity.

SF New Deal was born from the belief that caring for our city’s most vulnerable populations and supporting our essential workers can be done simultaneously. Our approach is rooted in solidarity with so many others doing incredible work, built on the wisdom and experience of our community. Together, we are advancing a vision for what the future of our city can look like.

Bailey Walton, sous chef at Nightbird. Unless otherwise noted, all images credited to Molly DeCoudreaux.
BUILDING ON EXISTING FRAMEWORKS

JACOB BINDMAN
DIRECTOR OF SERVICE OPERATIONS

Since the beginning, SF New Deal has relied upon the guidance of individuals and organizations that have been working to address food insecurity and the challenges faced by small businesses for years in San Francisco. A key focus of the operations team has been to serve as a facilitator, amplifying the reach of existing organizations, and creating new bridges and pathways to support the community.

At its core, working to address food insecurity in San Francisco means acknowledging the intersectional nature of the problem, and the lack of city-wide resources in so many vital areas. The expertise of our partners has continued to guide us as we’ve expanded the reach of SF New Deal’s programs. Mindy Oppenheim of UCSF Citywide Case Management, Brittni Chicuata of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and Veronica Shepard of the African American Faith-Based Coalition have demonstrated to our team so many ways we can build the community we all seek to be a part of, grounded in open communication, empathy, and trust.

On the service operations team, we strive to balance the need to address the symptoms of inequity that have long plagued San Francisco, while simultaneously building community partnerships and engaging in dialogue that endeavors to address the root causes of injustice. It is our belief that by centering those closest to harm, amplifying the work of community leaders, and taking a collective action approach, we will be able to create a lasting impact.
WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

NICOLE LIN, DATA SCIENTIST & MANSHJEJ PAUL, PH.D. CANDIDATE
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

By design, SF New Deal’s model has a multiplicative impact on the local community. Every meal served not only secures revenue for small businesses and their upstream suppliers, but additionally provides vital food access for those in need. To concretely evaluate the economic impact SF New Deal programs have had on small businesses, we asked our restaurant partners to respond to an impact survey in late August.

Drawing insights from responses from 63 restaurants (approximately 60% of program participants), we learned more about the specific impact SF New Deal has had on restaurants and their workers since the Shelter in Place order was enacted in mid-March. By providing immediate relief to local restaurants, the programs have not only cushioned revenue shortfall and secured restaurant workers' jobs, but they have also helped to preserve the city’s cultural identity by protecting a diverse group of local food businesses.

Cushioning the Revenue Shortfall

During the week following the Shelter in Place order directing all restaurants to close, 82% of weekly revenue was lost compared with the same time last year (March 2019). The loss of revenue was widespread and severely impacted most respondents; approximately 4 out of 5 restaurants lost more than 50% of their revenue, with over half of the restaurants losing more than 75% of their revenue. On average, restaurants suffered a $30,000 revenue shortfall every week for the 5 months after the Shelter in Place order was initiated. Participation in SF New Deal’s programs allowed restaurants to recover approximately $6,000 weekly (about 20% of the shortfall) during this period.

Immediately following Shelter in Place, restaurants averaged more than an 80% loss in revenue relative to March 2019.

All restaurants felt the immediate economic of Shelter in Place. 79% of SFND restaurants reported an immediate revenue loss in excess of 50%.
Remaining a Part of Reliable Income

Notably, in the months since restaurants have been able to partially reopen, revenue from SF New Deal has remained a large portion of the weekly revenue earned by respondents. In August, when the survey was administered, about 48% of the responding restaurants received at least half of their revenue from SF New Deal and nine small businesses reported earning all of their revenue from SF New Deal.

Securing Employment

The Shelter in Place order caused the majority of survey respondents to lay off more than half of their employees. A total of 721 jobs were lost across 66 restaurants during the first week of Shelter in Place, a 64% decrease from the total number of jobs that had been filled just one week prior. As of early September, respondents had been able to rehire for about 1 in 5 of the jobs lost (approximately 144 positions) and 23% of the responding restaurants (15) were able to rehire most of their laid-off employees.
Providing Immediate Relief

The premise of the Federal Government’s Payroll Protection Program (PPP) was to provide substantial financial support to small businesses. Our survey shows that almost all of the respondents applied for PPP, but only 77% of respondents received the loans. Additionally, it took about a month to receive the money, and in the most extreme case, it took three months for the money to arrive. SF New Deal’s response served as a bridge to provide restaurants with immediate financial relief as small businesses waited for their PPP loans to arrive. For many partners, SF New Deal’s support outlasted and/or exceeded the level of support received through federal PPP loans. Financial support from SF New Deal was vital to new restaurants that did not qualify for PPP loans because they lacked the payroll history and/or relationships with lending institutions.

An Important Lifeline for a Spectrum of Operators Throughout San Francisco

Restaurants are an important part of a neighborhood’s landscape. SF New Deal’s efforts have reached 111 restaurants across all 11 Districts of San Francisco. Participating restaurants average 8 years in operation. The longest operating business, Betty Zlatchin Catering, has been serving the community for 41 years.

62% of SF New Deal restaurant owners identify as female, LGBTQ, and/or BIPOC.
Building Long Term Partnership

The pandemic has given our community an opportunity to reflect on the gaps in food security that were pervasive before COVID-19, and which will continue to persist in our communities through and beyond the recovery process. 98% of our respondents expressed interest in continuing to partner with SF New Deal, at least through the pandemic, and 89% would like to participate in community-feeding programs permanently.

SURVEY DESIGN

A Google form survey was distributed to partners in three rounds. In the first round, on May 14, we surveyed three restaurants. In the second round, on May 24, we surveyed 13 restaurants partners. The first two rounds of surveying did not result in many responses. When we sent out the survey for a third time on August 14, we combined the e-mail request with follow-up e-mails and calls from the SF New Deal team requesting participation. This distribution method resulted in a much higher completion rate. We restricted our analysis to the responses from the third round of distribution. Analysis was conducted on data collected from the 66 responses received from our 111 restaurant partners.

We included a data privacy agreement before the respondent started the survey. All of our respondents consented to the agreement.
WHAT OUR PARTNERS HAVE SHARED

SF NEW DEAL HAS BEEN CRUCIAL FOR RESTAURANTS LEFT OUT OF THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

Twisted St. Cafe

“We planned the opening of our cafe for a year before opening, and after we opened on March 5th we only had 11 days of operations before Shelter In Place was ordered in San Francisco. We were in the unique position of really needing the PPP assistance but unable to prove loss of revenue since we were a brand new restaurant. We cannot express how grateful we are for this partnership. We are working to make sure we serve our community the best way possible and to be a success story of a Latino owned business that opened and survived during these very hard times.”

New Harmony Cafe

"We’re an outlier. Our cafe opened at the start of the year to fill an empty space at 20th and Mission. Because we have no payroll or revenue in 2019, it made applying for government assistance a huge barrier. We received an estimate PPP loan of $0.20 from one organization. Since most assistance programs are geared towards established businesses, we have had a much harder time establishing damage and the way that this has hurt our dream of opening."

SF NEW DEAL CONTINUES TO BE VITAL FOR RESTAURANTS AFTER PPP LOANS HAVE BEEN SPENT

Harborview Restaurant

“We are lucky to have received a PPP loan, but long term, we do not know if it will carry us through the pandemic. SF New Deal has been so helpful in supplementing our revenue and we greatly appreciate this program and opportunity.”

The New Spot On Polk

“SF New Deal helped us in keeping our employees working even after we used up our PPP loan.”
SF NEW DEAL SUPPORTS VARIOUS BUSINESS MODELS

TacoThai

"Thank you for help keep our business running. Without this program, we would have no income at all because we’re a catering business."

Kasa Indian

"Our business model requires a fair amount of catering to cover the costs of payroll, food costs, rent and general cost of business. Until we see offices, venues, hospital meetings, gatherings back in place we are at a losing proposition and only have x amount of time before we run out of funds. I’m sure that is the situation for a lot of restaurants... It’s not just about dine in customers in our model, it’s about feeding large groups at a time. Thank you for assisting with orders."

SF NEW DEAL PROVIDES PURPOSE AND ENGENDERS GOODWILL

Jane on Larkin

"We love being a part of SF New Deal and are proud to be doing service for others during this time. The program has helped retain staff, helped boost morale and has brought the team together. Thank you for including us in this program. We hope to continue as long as we can."
Nearly six million jobs were lost in eating and drinking establishments in March and April of 2020. Women and BIPOC overwhelmingly held these jobs with a prevailing average wage of $17 per hour. The economic recession has affected many, but it is impacting women and BIPOC communities disproportionately. Job losses in the spring have been sustained into the fall, with many temporary layoffs now becoming permanent.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ September report shows that the number of temporary layoffs that became permanent rose by 3.8 million. Parents are leaving jobs and interrupting careers due to the uncertainty around schools reopening and the increased need for in-home child care. Women in particular, especially mothers of school-aged children, are exiting the workforce at a disproportionately high rate. According to the National Women’s Law Center, "of the 1.1 million people ages 20+ who left the work force between August and September, over 800,000 were women, including 324,000 Latinas and 58,000 Black women." Almost all of SF New Deal partners have exhausted their initial PPP loan allotment, compromising their ability to meet the cash requirements of their payrolls. It is important to note that many of these numbers are undercounts, as many workers in the food economy are undocumented or ineligible for unemployment insurance, and as a result are not accounted for in these statistics.
For an industry that is reliant on the labor of women, immigrant communities, and BIPOC, these trends cause considerable distress. Many SF New Deal restaurants have expressed that participating in the program has enabled them to extend employment opportunities to employees who either don’t have access to state unemployment programs or whose claims are among the millions that are still awaiting processing.

RECOGNIZING THAT EVERYONE IS ESSENTIAL

The current circumstances present an opportunity to address structural inequities that have troubled the food industry for years. There is renewed and growing interest in advancing the dignity of immigrant communities, particularly undocumented individuals who are estimated to be 20% of the workforce in restaurants, and 60%-70% of the farming workforce in California’s agriculture and meat processing industries. Some SF New Deal partners are exploring the end of tipping and are moving towards pricing structures and wage models that more equitably distribute wages between the front and back of house.

Operators will continue to rely on programs like SF New Deal to alleviate the pressure to prematurely restart indoor dining room service. Dining at restaurants continues to present risks given the persistence of COVID-19. Community feeding programs are vital sources of stable revenue, and are a way for food workers to operate in a safer environment. This is particularly important as outdoor dining has become less accessible – due both to fire season and to colder weather. Support from SF New Deal also provides restaurants with resources to establish systems and training so workers feel safe and patrons are minimally exposed to community transmission of COVID-19.

Sisters Carolina and Zulma packaging meals at Uma Casa for delivery.
Small businesses continue to face obstacles in becoming cash-flow positive. These hardships have already proven insurmountable without government assistance. With negotiations stalled for another federal economic stimulus bill (which includes $120 billion in aid to the restaurant industry), state and local government intervention is crucial to ensure that workers and operators have a fighting chance at recovering equally. Assistance may include:

1. Access to free legal counsel against unlawful commercial and residential evictions.
2. Increasing access to government relief, social safety net programs, and lines of credit regardless of immigration status.
3. Increasing availability of public financing, community based guarantors, and dedicated funding for street vendors and those who operate in informal markets.
4. Increasing the share of government services procured through small businesses.
5. Universal health care not dependent on employment, access to rapid result testing, and free COVID-19 treatment for essential workers.
6. Affordable child care for working parents.
7. Lowering the costs of commuting for essential workers.
8. Tax credits for rent forgiveness and other arrangements that relieve debt.
INEQUITABLE IMPACT

ACKNOWLEDGING SYSTEMIC RACISM IS CENTRAL TO A SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

The rise of xenophobic political partisanship during a global pandemic has created additional layers of complexity for small business operators and wage workers. In order to equitably rebuild our communities, those closest to harm must be at the center of the solutions.

Increasing anti-Asian and anti-China sentiments have cast a wide spell of unease among Asian American populations, and have presented an additional factor of uncertainty for businesses in corridors like Chinatown and Clement Street.

Endemic racism is a root cause of economic hardship as well as negative health outcomes experienced by communities of color.

A partnership between the Latino Task Force and UCSF has shown a disproportionate rate of infection among the Latinx community. Latinx community members represent 46% of positive IDs despite only representing 15% of San Francisco’s population.

As we continue to cautiously reopen and approach some semblance of normalcy, it is vital that workers who do not have a choice to work remotely are given every opportunity to stay healthy and protected from financial burden so they may seek treatment for COVID-19. Without guaranteeing the physical and financial well-being of essential workers, we will face additional – and preventable – complications that will impede an equitable and sustainable recovery. While medical experts are still learning the long term impacts of COVID-19, it is essential that adequate long-term health care is guaranteed for all individuals impacted by COVID-19 regardless of their ability to afford private health insurance.

"Many of our employees live in Chinatown. Our landlord also has property in Chinatown, and we purchase a lot of our inventory in Chinatown, so the funds from [our partnership with SF New Deal] not only helps us, but our community members and businesses as well. The greatest part is that we are doing something very good for our seniors. We hope this partnership can continue, since the restaurant industry will probably take one of the longest to recover.”

– Washington Bakery & Restaurant
GUM MOON WOMEN'S RESIDENCE

152 YEARS OF SERVING SAN FRANCISCO
A COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Founded in 1868, Gum Moon provides comprehensive support services to approximately 3,500 clients across the San Francisco Bay Area. 65% of Gum Moon clients are immigrant families with young children. 40% of their clients have reported significant job and wage losses. Gum Moon also offers safe sanctuary and transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence and trafficking, which has been a heightened concern during COVID-19 due to physical isolation and extended Shelter in Place orders.

"Receiving meals through SF New Deal was a pleasant surprise for the residents and a reminder that our community cares and we can jointly overcome this pandemic," shared Goria Tan, Gum Moon’s Executive Director. "Hot meals are definitely a big help for the vulnerable population that are unable to go out as much to purchase groceries and cook. We have shared kitchen facilities and social distancing is challenging during meal time."

"When I read the article about SF New Deal in our local paper, I saw this as a great opportunity to get Asian restaurants, who have been suffering deep economic pain, included in this exciting new program. SF New Deal immediately understood the importance of this inclusion and quickly onboarded several restaurants, including some in Chinatown, and started meal deliveries to the vulnerable seniors and families in our Asian Pacific Islander community. It was not just a win-win, but a win-win-win because our nonprofit clients are also receiving prepared foods that are familiar and comforting to their cultures."

- Emerald Yeh, Asian Pacific Fund

SF New Deal matches community resources to meet the needs identified by our partners. We take collective action to build new partnerships which resource vital, long-serving, community organizations at a time when they are providing compassionate care in unprecedented ways.
The San Francisco African American Faith-Based Coalition represents 21 churches who collectively work to eliminate health disparities and inequities in the Black and African-American communities in SF. Like many community-based organizations during COVID-19, SFAAFBC quickly mobilized emergency feeding operations.

In a collaboration made possible through the leadership of Veronica Shepard and Dr. Jonathan Butler, SF New Deal has delivered 163,605 meals to individuals and families throughout the Bayview-Hunters Point and Western Addition since March of 2020.

The underlying causes of food insecurity and poverty are a direct result of systemic racism, underinvestment in community needs, and a lack of pathways for opportunity. Ending hunger requires that we provide people with more choices about how to feed themselves and their families, while simultaneously building regenerative solutions that address the intersectional nature of food insecurity. By working in partnership with organizations like the SFAAFBC, we have the opportunity to advance the dignity of everyone in our community and come out of this crisis more resilient and better equipped to dismantle systemic barriers.

"Poor access to healthy food has been an ongoing problem in Black and Brown neighborhoods. There is a lot of community gratitude for the quality meals [delivered by SF New Deal]. The real conversation is about what will happen after."
– Dr. Jonathan Butler, President, SFAAFBC

Meals from The Morris being dropped off at St. Mark’s.
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Asian Pacific Fund Community Foundation
Catholic Charities San Francisco
Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC)
Chinatown YMCA
Coleman Advocates
The Center for Urban Education about Sustainable Agriculture
Gum Moon Women’s Residence
Homeless Youth Alliance
Korean Community Center
Larkin Street Youth Services
Mission Housing Development Corporation
One Richmond SF
SF African American Faith-Based Coalition (SFAFBC)
Tenderloin Housing Clinic
Together SF
Young Women’s Freedom Center
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS

Coblentz Patch Duffy and Bass LLP
Cruise Automation
Department of Disability and Aging Services San Francisco
Four One Nine
Refugees and Immigrant Supports in Education SF
RideOS
San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH)
San Francisco Human Rights Commission (SFHRC)
San Francisco Human Services Agency
San Francisco Pretrial Diversion
San Francisco Produce Market
UCSF Citywide Case Management (CCM)
Zuckerberg SF General Hospital Department of Psychiatry
RESTAURANT PARTNERS

1601 Bar & Kitchen
3rd Cousin
620 Jones
A16
Above & Beyond Catering
Absinthe
Acquolina
All Good Pizza
Amber India
Andrea Baker Consulting
Asiento
Auntie April’s Cafe Envy
B-Side
Batter Bakery
Betty Zlatchin Catering
Bi-Rite Catering
Bini’s Kitchen
Black Jet Baking
Brick House
Cafe Guatemalteco
Canela Bistro
Capital Restaurant
Causwells
Dark Horse
Delicioso Creperie
Dragon River
Eats
Eden Plaza
Eko Kitchen
El Buen Comer
Emmy’s Spaghetti Shack
Far East Cafe
Farming Hope
Fayala
Fiorella
Fogcutter
Frank Grizzly’s
Frisco Fried
Golden King
Golden State Grill
Green Heart Foods
Harborview
Hawker Fare
Hops & Hominy
House of Dim Sum
IVSF Catering
Jane the Bakery
Java Beach Cafe
Jojo’s Cafe
Joyful Kitchen
K–Elements BBQ
Kantine
Kasa Indian Eatery
Koja Kitchen
Korean Village
La Mediterranea
Ladies Who Lunch Catering
LaLe
Little Baobab
Little Skillet
Little Vietnam
Little Window
Lord Stanley
Mission Chinese
Mission Language Vocational School
Mister Jiu’s
Mixiote
Mourad
Namu Stonepot
Nari
New Harmony
Newkirk’s
Nia Soul
Nico
Nightbird
Noodle Girl
Nopa
Old Shanghai
Old Skool Cafe
Peaches Patties
Pho Ga
Pier 23
Pizza Squared
Prubechu
Radio Africa Kitchen
Reem’s
Rice Paper Scissors
RT Rotisserie
SF Chickenbox
SF Local Market
Sixth Course
Sons & Daughters
St. Francis Fountain
Sun Rise Restaurant
Sunday Gather
Taco Thai
Taqueria El Sol
Tartine Manufactory
Tato
Teng Long
The Dorian
The Morris
The New Spot on Polk
Tsing Tao
Twisted St. Cafe
Uma Casa
Vegan Picnic
Washington Bakery & Restaurant
Wayfare Tavern
Yemen Kitchen
Z Zoul
Zuni Cafe

BY DISTRICT

D1: 10
D2: 5
D3: 17
D4: 2
D5: 11
D6: 14
D7: 2
D8: 6
D9: 24
D10: 16
D11: 3
Tell us about your usual route.

I know the best lanes, where potholes are, and what streets are closed. I get all my folks done in one hour and fifteen minutes. A few [meal recipients] do not speak English, so I've learned hello, goodbye, and thank you in Chinese. I usually spend ten minutes chatting with Ms. Ena who is 87. She has not left her house in 7 months and doesn't see many people. She has the most amazing rose garden and would catch me sniffing and admiring her roses, so she began clipping some and having them for me in a little bag.

What have you learned through your experience volunteering?

People need each other. Volunteering is beneficial for clients but even more vital for volunteers. I feel needed. I am making a difference. It truly has kept my sanity in check.

What would you like the people of San Francisco to know about you?

Fires, COVID, racial injustice, the election, massive unemployment...it is all around us. I am forever grateful that I feel I am helping others who are in a less fortunate position, to be able to lend a hand. Together we can get through this year.
OUR TEAM

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Vinny Eng
Lenore Estrada
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WITH GRATITUDE

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Learn more at www.sfnewdeal.org