



Sugar-Sweetened
Beverage Product
Panel of Experts
Commission

**Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Product
Panel of Experts Commission**
Thursday, July 17, 2025, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Meeting Location:

South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley, CA 94703
P: 510-981-5350

MEETING AGENDA

Preliminary Matters

1. Roll Call
2. Introduction of new Commission members
3. Approval of Draft Minutes from 06/26/2025 special meeting – **Attachment 1**

The public may comment virtually about any item **not** on the agenda. **Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker.** Public comments regarding agenda items will be heard while the Commission is discussing the item.

Discussion and Action Items

Public comments regarding agenda items will be heard while the Commission is discussing the item. Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker.

1. **Subcommittee Reports**
2. **Discussion 1:** Provide updates on document routing, including HCO guidelines, grantee presentations, HCO presentation questions, and procurement guidelines (Crawford)
3. **Discussion 2:** Discuss the ramifications of Berkeley's Soda Tax experience compared to other Bay Area communities and Seattle's SSB accomplishments (Hecht) – **Attachment 8**
4. **Discussion 3:** Share ideas for the content and process of the October 2025 educational session for grantees (Morales)
5. **Discussion 4:** Determine how and when to approach council members about the Beverage Procurement Policy (Kao)
6. **Discussion 5:** Provide an update on the implications of the Santa Cruz Soda Tax for Berkeley (Hecht)
7. **Discussion 6:** Discuss the impact of SNAP soda policies in select states and the elimination of SNAP-Ed on SSB tax work (Kao)
8. **Discussion 7:** Work Plan as a living document (Esonwune)
9. **Action 1:** Add/Remove Subcommittees/ Members (Crawford)

Information Items

1. Commission Work Plan – **Attachment 2**
2. Approved Meeting Minutes 05/15/2025 – **Attachment 3**
3. Commission Meeting Dates 2025 – **Attachment 4**
4. Subcommittee Roster– **Attachment 5**

A Vibrant and Healthy Berkeley for All

1947 Center Street, 2nd Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704 Tel: 510.981.5300 TDD: 510.981.6903 Fax: 510.981.5395
E-mail: publichealth@berkeleyca.gov - <https://berkeleyca.gov/safety-health/public-health>

5. City Council Timeline 2025 – **Attachment 6**
6. Soda Tax Revenues – **Attachment 7**
7. Seattle’s Soda Tax PR Document – **Attachment 8**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST INFORMATION: City commissioners, pursuant to Government Code section 1090, are responsible for recusing themselves from all commission discussions and actions in which they may have a conflict of interest. If your affiliation, paid or unpaid, with other agencies has changed since the last meeting of this commission, your ability to participate in commission activities may have changed. Individual guidance is available from the City Attorney’s Office (CAO). Commissioners are encouraged to consult with the CAO if they have questions, concerns, or would like clarification about matters related to potential conflicts of interest.

The CAO may be reached at:

Email: attorney@cityofberkeley.info

TEL: (510) 981-6950 TDD: (510) 981-6903, FAX: (510) 981-6960

2180 Milvia Street 4th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704 - Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm

THERE IS NO MEETING IN AUGUST/DECEMBER. Please visit the City of Berkeley’s Commission webpage <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/commissions> for meeting details and updates.

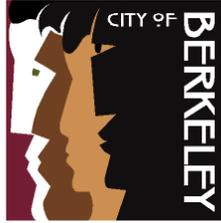
AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT DISCLAIMER: This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

SB 343 DISCLAIMER:

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Public Health Division located on 1947 Center Street, Berkeley, CA 94704.

COMMUNICATION DISCLAIMER:

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City’s electronic records, which are accessible through the City’s website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the commission secretary for further information.



Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Product Panel of Experts Commission

Thursday, June 26th, 2025. 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Meeting Location:

South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley, CA 94703
P: 510-981-5350

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

The meeting convened at 6:30pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Morales, Kao, Lopez, Crawford, Esonwune, Chan.
Absent: Commissioner Mashama.
Excused: Commissioner Hecht, Rodriguez.
Staff present: Roberto Terrones.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC None.

ACTION ON MINUTES

Approval of Minutes - Moved to approve the draft minutes of the meeting on 05/15/2025.

M/S/C: Esonwune/Lopez.

Ayes: Commissioner Morales, Kao, Lopez, Crawford, Esonwune, Chan.
Noes: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent from vote: Commissioner Mashama.
Recused: None.
Excused: Commissioner Hecht, Rodriguez.

A Vibrant and Healthy Berkeley for All

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E-mail: publichealth@berkeleyca.gov - <https://berkeleyca.gov/safety-health/public-health>

1. Motion to approve the FY2026 SSBPPE Commission Work Plan with recommended edits.

M/S/C: Kao/Crawford.

Ayes: Commissioner Morales, Kao, Lopez, Crawford, Esonwune, Chan.
Noes: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent from vote: Commissioner Mashama.
Recused: None.
Excused: Commissioner Hecht, Rodriguez.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

NEXT MEETING:

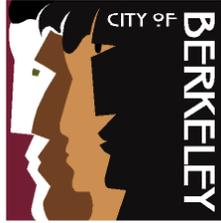
The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, July 17th, 2025**. Please check the SSBPPE Commission page on the City of Berkeley Commission webpage for updated information.

Respectfully Submitted, Roberto Terrones, Commission Secretary
Minutes will be approved at the July 17th, 2025 regular meeting.

Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Product Panel of Experts Commission

Proposed Work Plan –4/2025 – 3/2026

Task	Activity	Actions Needed in Advance	2025									2026		
			April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1)	Conduct no more than 10 commission meetings per year	Distribution of agenda	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
2)	Discuss about current revenues vs. projected revenues and discuss disbursement plan for additional \$ (quarterly)	Fiscal data requested and distributed		X				X		X			X	
3)	Annual grantee presentations to the commission	Grantees contacted and scheduled; Ask grantees to share how they disseminate re: SSB tax funds				X (BYA & FC)				X		X	X	X
4)	Discuss with city staff internal activities funded by soda tax (e.g. Media)	Schedule staff for discussion				X		X				X		
5)	Discuss Epi research related to health as well as evaluation data from grantees including BUSD & YRBS.	Schedule staff for discussion Email request for health status report that incl. chronic disease data, dental caries, and any health behaviors related to sugar/diet) (Revise topic for and send notification ahead of meeting with Scott)								X				
6)	Discuss city beverage procurement implementation. (Scott)	Send communication to Council to obtain beverage procurement data; Roberto will help get request into right template						X						
7)	Discuss creation of a system to evaluate city beverage procurement (Scott)	Obtain information of current beverage procurement data						X						
8)	Discuss status of healthy checkout policy implementation	Arrange meeting with public health nutrition staff/get update from nutritionist (Angelica)				X								
9)	Discuss numbers of stores assessed and outcomes by public health environmental department.	Arrange meeting with public health environmental health department				X								
10)	Organize a meeting for sharing information and resources among the grantees.	Gather information and resources for grantees (Is a subcommittee needed for this??). Within 3 months of receiving funding, each grantee will attend a group meeting, facilitated by the commission to share information and resources. The meeting will be attended by representatives from all funded grantees.												
11)	Write report for council, press, etc.	Gather data and information for report						X						



Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Product Panel of Experts Commission

Thursday, May 15th, 2025. 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Meeting Location:

South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley, CA 94703
P: 510-981-5350

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting convened at 6:09pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Morales, Rodriguez, Mashama (6:20),
Lopez, Crawford, Esonwune (6:33), Hecht, Chan (6:19).
Absent: None.
Excused: Commissioner Kao.
Staff present: Roberto Terrones.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC None.

ACTION ON MINUTES

**Approval of Minutes - Moved to approve the draft minutes of the meeting on
04/17/2025.**

M/S/C: Rodriguez/Hecht.

Ayes: Commissioner Morales, Rodriguez, Lopez, Crawford, Hecht.
Noes: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent from vote: Commissioner Mashama, Esonwune, Chan.
Recused: None.
Excused: None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

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NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, June 19th, 2025**. Please check the SSBPPE Commission page on the City of Berkeley Commission webpage for updated information.

Respectfully Submitted, Roberto Terrones, Commission Secretary
Minutes were approved at the June 26th, 2025 special meeting.

2025 Commission Meeting Dates

Please complete this form and email it to the
[Commission Inbox](#)

Name of Commission: Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Product Panel of Experts Commission

Commission Secretary: Roberto Terrones

Please Note the Commission Meeting Dates for 2024 Below

Please fill in meeting date below. If no meeting for the month is scheduled please note as “No Meeting.”

2025 Meeting Dates

Month	Meeting Day and Date	Time
January 2025	Thursday 1/16/2025	6:00 pm
February 2025	Thursday 2/20/2025	6:00 pm
March 2025	Thursday 3/20/2025	6:00 pm
April 2025	Thursday 4/17/2025	6:00 pm
May 2025	Thursday 5/15/2025	6:00 pm
June 2025	Thursday 6/19/2025	6:00 pm

Month	Meeting Day and Date	Time
July 2025	Thursday 7/17/2025	6:00 pm
August 2025	No Meeting	
September 2025	Thursday 9/18/2025	6:00 pm
October 2025	Thursday 10/16/2025	6:00 pm
November 2025	Thursday 11/20/2025	6:00 pm
December 2025	No Meeting	

commission@cityofberkeley.info

City Clerk Department

Please contact our office at (510) 981-6908 with any questions.

SSBPPE Subcommittee Roster

Subcommittee	Subcommittee Description	Members
Ad-hoc Work Plan	<i>Revision of 2024 Commission work plan.</i>	Xavier Morales Michael Rodriguez Pat Crawford Peace Esonwune
Media	<i>Give feedback on media materials that the Public Health Division disseminates to the public, prepare talking points for the media.</i>	Xavier Morales Janice Kao Michael Chan Themba Mashama
Prevention Strategies and Outcomes	<i>Review and revise requests for proposals, increase knowledge of the community, and evaluation.</i>	Pat Crawford Kenneth Hecht Vivian Lopez Janice Kao
Sugary Drinks Policy	<i>Recommend policies for the City Council.</i>	Pat Crawford Michael Rodriguez

Ad- Hoc Application Review Subcommittee

Members: Commissioners Morales, Hecht, Esonwune

Alternate: Commissioners Kao, Lopez, Crawford

CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT 2025 COUNCIL MEETING TIMELINE

COUNCIL MEETING	THURSDAY 12:00 PM - Day 33 - DEPT. REPORTS DUE TO CLERK	MONDAY 5:00 PM - Day 22 - COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS DUE TO CLERK	THURSDAY 12:00 PM - Day 19 - AGENDA COMMITTEE PACKET TO PRINT	MONDAY 2:30 PM - Day 15 - AGENDA COMMITTEE MEETING	WEDNESDAY 11:00 AM - Day 13 - FINAL AGENDA MEETING (PRINT AGENDA ON WED.)	THURSDAY By 5:00 PM - Day 12 - COUNCIL AGENDA DELIVERY
Winter Recess [December 11, 2024 through January 20, 2025]						
Jan 21	12/19	12/30	1/2	1/6	1/8	1/9
Feb 11	1/9	1/21 (Tue)	1/23	1/27	1/29	1/30
Feb 25	1/23	2/3	2/6	2/10	2/12	2/13
Mar 11	2/6	2/18 (Tue)	2/20	2/24	2/26	2/27
Mar 18	2/13	2/24	2/27	3/3	3/5	3/6
Mar 25	2/20	3/3	3/6	3/10	3/12	3/13
Spring Recess [March 26 through April 14, 2025]						
Apr 15	3/13	3/24	3/27	4/1 (Tue)	4/2	4/3
Apr 29	3/27	4/7	4/10	4/14	4/16	4/17
May 6	4/3	4/14	4/17	4/21	4/23	4/24
May 20	4/17	4/28	5/1	5/5	5/7	5/8
Jun 3	5/1	5/12	5/15	5/20 (Tue)	5/21	5/22
Jun 17	5/15	5/27 (Tue)	5/29	6/2	6/4	6/5
Jun 24	5/22	6/2	6/5	6/9	6/11	6/12
Jul 8	6/5	6/16	6/19	6/23	6/25	6/26
Jul 22	6/19	6/30	7/3	7/7	7/9	7/10
Jul 29	6/26	7/7	7/10	7/14	7/16	7/17
Summer Recess [July 30 through September 8, 2025]						
Sep 9	8/7	8/18	8/21	8/25	8/27	8/28
Sep 16	8/14	8/25	8/28	9/2 (Tue)	9/3	9/4
Sep 30	8/28	9/8	9/11	9/15	9/17	9/18
Oct 14	9/11	9/22	9/25	9/29	10/1	10/2
Oct 28	9/25	10/6	10/9	10/14 (Tue)	10/15	10/16
Nov 4	10/2	10/14 (Tue)	10/16	10/21 (Tue)	10/22	10/23
Nov 18	10/16	10/27	10/30	11/3	11/5	11/6
Dec 2	10/30	11/10	11/13	11/17	11/19	11/20
Winter Recess [December 3, 2025 through January 26, 2026]						

VTO Affected Dates	Holiday Affected Dates	Religious Holiday Affected Date
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Reports not submitted by the deadlines listed will not be included on the agenda.



City of Berkeley
Soda Tax Revenue-FY 2025
For the Months of July 2024 - June 2025

Month	Amount
Jul-24	88,874.27
Aug-24	87,682.02
Sep-24	98,960.91
Oct-24	67,105.85
Nov-24	98,608.25
Dec-24	84,944.49
Jan-25	104,623.13
Feb-25	70,139.88
Mar-25	106,890.45
Apr-25	69,666.77
May-25	90,999.43
Jun-25	89,936.67
Gross Revenue	\$ 1,058,432.12

FY 2015	\$ 242,986.39
FY 2016	\$ 1,757,271.70
FY 2017	\$ 1,578,389.00
FY 2018	\$ 1,517,949.28
FY 2019	\$ 1,606,177.73
FY 2020	\$ 1,378,196.46
FY 2021	\$ 995,387.49
FY 2022	\$ 1,047,801.97
FY 2023	\$ 1,185,893.91
FY 2024	\$ 1,110,228.70
FY 2025	\$ 1,058,432.12
Total	\$ 13,478,714.75

Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB)

2024 Briefing Book

Presented by CAB Co-Chairs:

Tanika Thompson Bird

Jen Moss



Photo credit: Seattle Farm to Table

Photo credits: Fresh Bucks (left), United Way (right)



- Background on the Sweetened Beverage Tax (SBT)
- Role of the SBT Community Advisory Board (CAB)
- Highlights from SBT-funded Programs and Services
- 2025 Budget Recommendations

Outline*

(*Outline Footnote)

- Not included in this presentation – the 5-year Sweetened Beverage Tax Evaluation (authorized by Section 5B of [Ordinance 125324](#)).
- Visit [CAB webpage](#) for details and final evaluation reports.
- [Summary of Overall Evaluation Findings](#)

3

Background on the SBT



City of Seattle

Sweetened Beverage Tax

Supporting healthy food and child health and development

Beginning in 2018, Seattle started taxing sugar-sweetened beverage products distributed within the city ([Ordinance 125324](#)). The Sweetened Beverage Tax (SBT) is not a sales tax charged directly on consumers. Instead, this tax makes distributors pay a tax (of 1.75 cents per ounce) on sugar-sweetened beverage products they distribute within the City of Seattle.

Why did Seattle pass this tax?

The tax was designed to improve the health of Seattle residents by reducing the sales and consumption of sugary drinks. In addition, the tax revenue is primarily used to support healthy food access, child development, and early learning programs. Research has shown that sugary drinks can lead to long-term weight gain, which can increase risk of developing **type 2 diabetes**, **high blood pressure**, and heart disease. Sugary drinks also lead to cavities. A 20-ounce bottle of soda can pack over 15 teaspoons of added sugar and over 250 calories with poor nutritional value.

20 OZ SODA has
15
teaspoons
of added sugar and
250
empty calories

- SBT started in 2018
- [Tax is levied on distributors of sugary beverages \(1.75 cents per ounce\)](#)
- Designed to improve the health of Seattle residents by reducing the sales and consumption of sugary drinks
- Raises revenue that **shall expand** programs that increase food security and access to healthy food and support children's health and early learning ([SMC 5.53.055](#))



[Click here](#) to access our fact sheet in multiple languages

4

Community Efforts to Protect SBT Revenues

- In 2017, community coalitions led efforts to ensure SBT revenue would have a direct benefit in communities most impacted by a regressive tax.
- In 2019, then Mayor Durkan tried to use higher than expected SBT revenues to balance the city budget by *swapping* General Fund revenue that already supported food programs and replacing them with the “extra” SBT revenues. **The effect – funding for food programs would not increase.**
- **Community advocates led the fight to ensure SBT revenue would used as intended** and reinvested into communities long affected by food insecurity and education divestments.



Photo credits: Got Green (left); PubliCola (right).

SBT is a Restricted Revenue Source (and should remain restricted)

- In 2019, City Council passed legislation that established the **SBT Fund 00155**, clarified and strengthened SBT spending guidance, and codified SBT allocation of proceeds in the **Seattle Municipal Code**.
- All proceeds of the tax **shall support** either the expansion or creation of new programs that address:
 - Access to healthy, affordable food and close the food security gap
 - Prenatal-to-age-three and kindergarden readiness for populations facing disparities based on race, gender, or other socioeconomic factors.

[SMC 5.53.055 –Sweetened beverage tax—Allocation of proceeds](#)

Local News | Local Politics

Seattle City Council locks in fund for soda-tax revenue, overriding Mayor Durkan’s veto

The Seattle Times

Aug. 12, 2019 at 5:51 pm | Updated Aug. 12, 2019 at 9:26 pm



Five-Year Review

Read the [CAB's January 2024 blog post](#) for more information

After 5 years of implementation, the SBT is working as intended:

- [Sales of sugary drinks are down](#)
- [People are more aware](#) that sugary drinks increase the risk of serious health problems.
- Revenue from the tax – about \$22 million annually – is **equitably invested** in communities long affected by food insecurity, education divestments, and poor nutrition and their long-term.



SBT Works – And People are Noticing

Seattle's sweetened beverage tax is funding food sovereignty work



KNKX Public Radio | By Bellamy Pailthorp
Published August 18, 2023 at 4:35 AM PDT

▶ LISTEN • 3:38

Mayor Bruce Harrell's Work to End Food Insecurity in Seattle



United States Conference of Mayors · Follow
Published in United States Conference of Mayors · 4 min read · Jan 2, 2024



COMMUNITY

Food Equity Fund Supports Intergenerational, Multicultural Food and Farm Projects

🕒 OCTOBER 4, 2022 🗑️ EDITOR



Seattle Turns Soda Tax Revenue into Emergency Grocery Vouchers During Pandemic

\$5 million generated from the soda tax was quickly deployed to provide much-needed assistance.

👤 GREGORY SCRUGGS MARCH 30, 2020



Opinion

Sweet success: Seattle's sugary drink tax is reducing health inequities

Feb. 3, 2023 at 1:11 pm | Updated Feb. 3, 2023 at 2:11 pm



NEWS & STORIES

Seattle's low income communities benefit from soda tax revenue, UW study says



Ruby de Luna
July 13, 2022 / 2:19 pm



Role of the SBT Community Advisory Board (CAB)



Photo credit: CAB, hosting a 2019 [community engagement](#) event

- Established by [Ordinance 125324](#)
- Advises and makes [recommendations](#) to the Mayor and City Council on programs and services supported by the SBT
 - Budget
 - Policy
 - Program implementation
- Serves as a conduit and voice for community priorities
- See *Appendix slides for a timeline of CAB impact*

9

CAB's Process and Approach

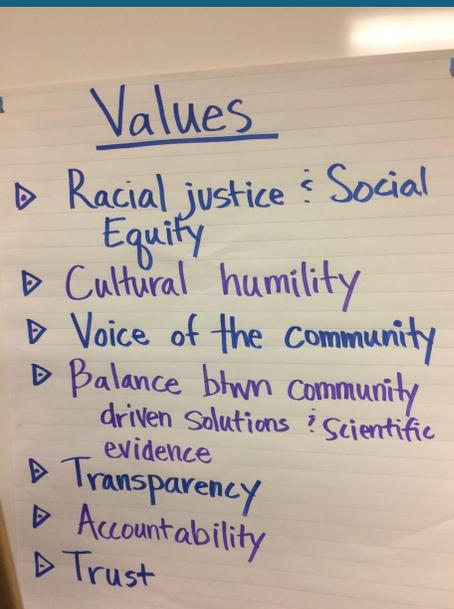


Photo credit: CAB. Values posted on flipchart paper during an in-person meeting.

- [Monthly meetings](#), open to the public
- Values-driven facilitation and decision making
 - [Vision, Values, Budget Principles](#)
 - [Bylaws](#)
- Informed by community priorities, current context, and program information

10

CAB 2024 Priorities

- Build and strengthen relationships with City officials
- Educate City officials on the SBT Fund and the programs/services it supports
- Transmit annual budget recommendations to Mayor and City Council
- Work with Appointing Authorities to fill vacant CAB seats
- Continue advising SBT-funded departments on program implementation
- Produce 2023 SBT Annual Report



SBT Program Highlights

Photo credits: Public Health – Seattle & King County (upper right), Food Equity Fund (lower right), stock image (lower left).



Please see our most recent [2022 Annual Report](#) for more information.

2023 Annual Report coming soon!

The Need

Food Security Programs

- Food security is essential to health, wellbeing, and child development.
- 10% of Seattle adults experience food insecurity. This means they lack access to sufficient or adequate quality food to meet their basic needs.
 - Due to socioeconomic inequities, rates of food insecurity are **three to four times higher** households of color.
- High food prices is making it even harder for lower income Seattle residents. [Food prices](#) increased 25% between 2023 and 2019.

Prenatal-to-Three Programs

- Prenatal to age three period of development sets the foundation for all future health and wellbeing.
- Infants and toddlers need loving, stimulating, stable, and secure care environments.
- Social, economic, and environmental disparities and adversity in the early years of a child's life lead to disparities in health and educational outcomes later.

The Need (continued)

Food Security Programs

Can't keep up with Seattle-area rising food prices? You're not alone

May 10, 2024 at 6:00 am | Updated May 10, 2024 at 6:00 am



© AP Photo/Chris Wedel. A woman at a Seattle-area grocery store sorts through a crate of onions. Rising food prices are making it harder for many people to afford groceries. (AP Photo/Chris Wedel)

By Victor Whitman
Special to The Seattle Times

Affordability crisis

This story is part of a Seattle Times focus on the affordability crisis in the Northwest. In an occasional series of stories, we will explore the high cost of living and wealth disparities that shape our region, examine policies that impact prices for everything from housing to health care, and offer tips for making your money go further.

Thirty-year-old Iasoni usually finds a way to stretch her food budget just enough to get by each week. But it doesn't help that food prices keep rising.

Iasoni, a volunteer and aspiring writer who is legally blind, buys food that is cheap and filling, like Top Ramen noodles. She said she adds an egg to the ramen bowl when she can afford to buy a dozen eggs. But the price of eggs and chicken has been "intense" since COVID.

[Seattle Times, May 10, 2024](#)

Prenatal-to-Three Programs

Seattle-area child care is scarce, costly and out of reach. Here's why

Aug. 4, 2023 at 6:00 am | Updated Aug. 4, 2023 at 6:00 am



© AP Photo/Chris Wedel. A child looks at a screen in a classroom. Child care is scarce and costly in the Seattle area. (AP Photo/Chris Wedel)

By Victor Whitman
Special to The Seattle Times

Hanan Sammour struggled so much this summer to find child care for one of her two children that she had to drop out of a required internship at a medical clinic.

Sammour, a Bellevue single mother, was in the last step in a program at Highline College to become a medical assistant, when she could not find child care for her 8-year-old who has special needs.

"I tried summer camps, I tried day cares, everywhere, no luck," she said in July as she continued her search, hoping she could return to the program this fall.

Sammour is not alone. The Seattle area has a child care crisis, weighing on families who often feel trapped between work or study requirements, scarce child care options and excessive rates — especially if they don't qualify for subsidies.

[Seattle Times, August 23, 2023](#)

Programs/Services Supported by SBT

Food Security Programs - \$14.3M

- Fresh Bucks
- **Food Equity Fund***
- Food banks and meal programs
- Farm to Preschool
- Community and Older Adult Meal Programs
- **Healthy Food in Schools***
- Food and recreational programming

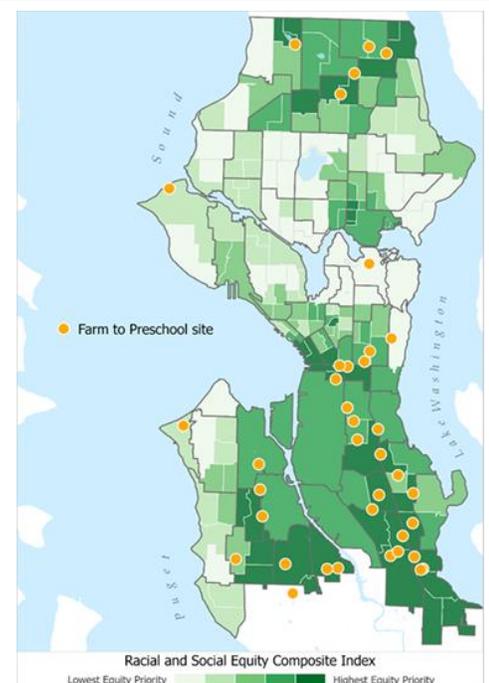
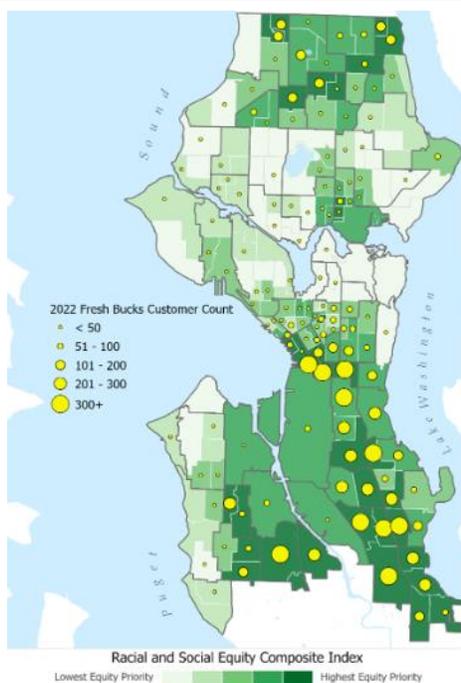
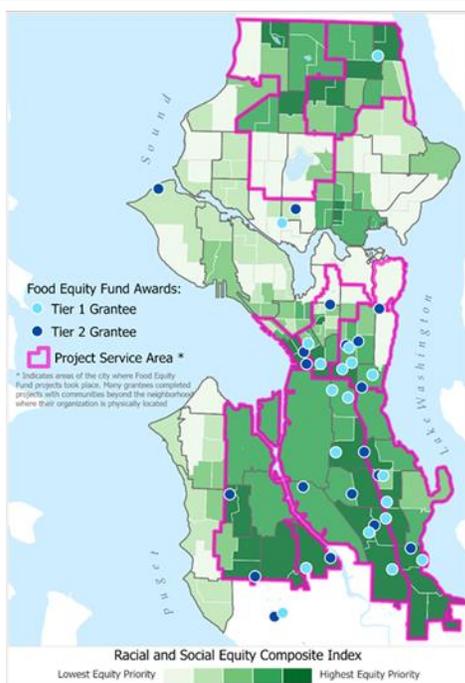
Prenatal-to-Three Programs - \$7.8M

- Child Care Assistance Program
- **Prenatal-to-Three Grant Program***
- Health and Developmental Supports
- Coaching and Training for Providers
- Home Visiting
- Family Child Care Support

**Created in direct response to CAB recommendations*

[2022 Annual Report](#) (p12) has a budget breakdown by program

Focused and Equitable Investments



See our [2022 Annual Report](#) for more SBT programs/services mapped over the City's [Racial and Social Equity Composite Index](#)

Outcomes

Food Security Investments

- **12,000** lower income households redeemed **\$4.65M** in Fresh Bucks benefits, generating **\$7.36M** in the local economy
- **41** community-based organizations awarded **\$3.8M** through the Food Equity Fund
- **20** food banks served **250,000** visitors, focusing on nutritious, culturally relevant foods
- **1,650,000+** meals provided in community and congregate meal settings for elders
- **5,250** students at **23** income-eligible schools received extra fruit and veggie snacks twice a week
- **34,200** produce bags (80% local, 17% BIPOC farms) distributed at **47** preschool sites

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SBT Partners - Food Security Programs

SBT supported the work of **105** community-based organizations

African Community Housing & Development	Empowering Youth and Families Outreach	Local Yokels	Society of St. Vincent de Paul
American Polynesian Organization	Eritrean Association of Greater Seattle	Mary's Place	Solid Ground
Ammana Warehouse & Grocer	Family Works	Mendoza's Mexican Mercado	Somali Health Board
Asian Counseling and Referral Service	FareStart	Mercy Housing	Sound Generations
Atlantic Street Center	Farmstand Local Foods LLC	Neighborcare Health Systems	South Park Senior Citizens
Ballard Food Bank	FEEST	Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance	Ta'alem Community Center
Beacon Food Forest	Filipino Community of Seattle	Neighborhood House	The Food Bank at St. Mary's
Black Dollar Days Task Force	Food For All Youth Leadership Program	North Helpline	Tiith Alliance
Black Farmers Collective	Food Lifeline	Nourishian for Life	Tongan Food Pantry
Black Star Farmers	Freeway Park Association	Odessa Brown Children's Clinic	Ukrainian Community Center of WA - Seattle
Build Lake City Together	Friends of FEED	OSL	United Indians of All Tribes
Byrd Barr Place	Fruteria Sandoval	Pacific Coast Harvest	University District Service League
Casa Latina	Got Green	Percussion Farms and Preserves	Villa Comunitaria
Central Area Senior Center	Harameyn Halal Grocer	Phinney Neighborhood Association	Wa Na Wari
Central Co-op	Harborview Medical Center	Pike Market Senior Center	West Seattle Food Bank
Cham Refugees Community	Hip Hop is Green	Pike Place Market Foundation	White Center Food Bank
Chief Seattle Club	Horn of Africa Services	Pike Place Market PDA	Young Adult Shelter Seattle
Children's Home Society of Washington	HT Oaktree	Public Health Seattle & King County	Young Women Empowered (Y-WE)
Chinatown International District PDA	Hunger Intervention Program	Puget Sound Labor Agency	
Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC)	Interim Community Development Association	Queen Anne Farmers Market	
City Fruit	International Community Health Services	Queer The Land	
Community House Mental Health Agency, Inc.	Jewish Family Service of Seattle	Rainier Beach Action Coalition	
Community Lunch on Capitol Hill	Kaiser Permanente	Rainier Valley Food Bank	
Community Roots Housing	Kandelia	Rainier Valley Steering Committee	
Cultivate South Park	Khmer Community of Seattle King County	Recovery Café	
Delridge Grocery Co-op	Lake City Collective	ROOTS	
East African Community Services	Latino Community Fund	Safeway Corporation	
El Centro de la Raza	Legacy of Equality Leadership and Organizing (LELO)	Seattle Farmers Market Association	
Empowering Youth and Families Outreach	Lifelong	Seattle Indian Center	

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Outcomes

Prenatal-to-Three Investments

- 11 grassroots organizations awarded \$1.5 million in funding to provide prenatal and perinatal supports to underserved families
- 820 children from 604 income-eligible families (85% BIPOC) received subsidies to help cover the cost of child care
- 195 families served with intensive developmental support
- 350 families served with home visiting supports (46 visits per family)
- 12 child care programs serving 945 children received high-quality coaching and professional development on child development

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SBT Partners - Prenatal-to-Three Programs

SBT supported the work of **25** community-based organizations

Atlantic Street
Boyer's Children's Clinic
Children's Home Society of Washington
CISC
Congolese Integration Network
East African Community Services
El Centro de la Raza
Empowering Youth and Families Outreach
Families of Color Seattle
Horn of Africa Services
Hummingbird Indigenous Family Services*
InterCultural Children and Family Services
Iraqi Community Center of Washington
King County Neighborhood House

Korean Community Services Center
Mother Africa*
Northwest Center
Public Health – Seattle & King County
Rainier Valley Midwives
Southeast Youth & Family Services
United Way of King County
Voices of Tomorrow
Washington Multicultural Services Link*
West African Community Council
Wonderland Kids
YWCA Seattle, King, Snohomish

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*First-time award recipient of DEEL funding



Photo credits: stock image (left); field trip with HSD Senior Meals program (middle); Farm-to-Preschool program (right).

Recommendations

2025 Budget Recommendations

- 1. Maintain spending restrictions on the SBT Fund.** City Council made important commitments to community stakeholders about how revenues would be used. *Dissolving these commitments will erode trust in City government.*
- 2. Prioritize Seattle's food security and prenatal-to-three programs in your 2025 budget.** Food and child development services are **basic needs**, *and the needs right now are great*. These programs are essential to a healthy, thriving and equitable Seattle *and they are working*. We know tough decisions are ahead, but food and children are not the places to make cuts.
- 3. Identify aligned local levies that could help support SBT-funded programs/services and meet the high needs in community.** Consider whether the future families and education levy could help fund prenatal-to-three, child care, and food access programs in preschools and K-12 schools. This would relieve pressure on the SBT Fund.



Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board

[About the Board | seattle.gov](https://seattle.gov)

Photo credits: OSE Fresh Bucks (upper); stock image (lower right).

The End. Thank you!

Appendix

Timeline of the CAB's efforts and impact

Timeline of CAB's Impact



CAB and community leaders successfully advocate for new budget legislation to establish a separate **SBT Fund (00155)** and protect use of SBT revenue (**SMC 5.53.055 - Sweetened beverage tax—Allocation of proceeds**)

CAB **lifts** **provisos** placed on SBT spending plan

Food security and prenatal-to-three programs **expanded or created**



2018

CAB is appointed, starts to meet and organize

CAB community engagement (in 2018 and 2019) to inform recommendations



2019

CAB issues inaugural **budget recommendations**, including guidance on RFPs funded by SBT.

Food Access Opportunity Fund created (\$800,000)

HSD Announces Results of the 2019 Food Access Opportunity Fund RFP

by Michael Taylor-Judd on May 16, 2019

The RFP guides the investment of \$800,000 from the Food Access Opportunity Fund. This funding is provided by the City of Seattle's Sweetened Beverage Tax (SBT) – established by City Council (Ordinance 125324) – and aligns with the SBT Community Advisory Board's (CAB) Operating Principles:

Timeline of CAB's Impact



Seattle Turns Soda Tax Revenue into Emergency Grocery Vouchers During Pandemic

\$5 million generated from the soda tax was quickly deployed to provide much-needed assistance.

GREGORY SCRUGGS MARCH 30, 2020

Food Equity Fund created (\$1.5 million/year)

Food Equity Fund restored to \$3 million/year



2020

COVID EMERGENCY

\$5 million SBT provides the seed funding to launch the City's **Emergency Grocery Vouchers** program



2021

Prenatal-to-Three (PN3) Community Grant Program created (\$1.5 million one-time)



2022

PN3 Community Grant Program maintained (\$1.5 million/year)



Timeline of CAB's Impact

