



DC Food Policy Council Meeting Notes
October 7, 2020

For more information, please see the [Slides](#) for this meeting.

- Welcome
- Working group updates
 - **Nutrition & Food System Education**
 - i. Partilie Hernandez joined to continue the conversation and answer questions after her presentation last week on the FPC's Race, Racial Equity, and the DC Food System Discussion Series: [How Racism and White Supremacy Influence Nutrition Education](#)
 - ii. Discussed nutrition landscape analysis that the Working Group is partnering with PhD student and professor from Howard U. to develop
 - **Food Access & Equity**

.Our FPC intern, De'Ara Graves, presented on her research on senior food insecurity. We then had a conversation about further questions the research raises, next steps, and other agencies and stakeholders we'd like to invite to future conversations.

- **Urban Agriculture**

.Sam Ullery from OSSE presented an update on school gardens and Josh Singer presented an update on community gardens during the public health emergency.

i.The group also discussed opportunities for more controlled environment agriculture in the District.

- **Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs**

.The working group discussed recent grants aimed to support small businesses in the District, including the new Small Business Resiliency Grant and the Streatery Winter Ready Grant Program for food and non-food retailers.

i.The group is also planning for its Race, Racial Equity, and the DC Food System event. If you have ideas on themes to explore within the topics of entrepreneurship and food jobs, please send an email to dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov.

- **Sustainable Supply Chain**

.Chloe Waterman from Friends of the Earth gave an overview of the Green Food Purchasing Bill which was introduced to the DC Council by Mary Cheh. The bill sets a target for DC to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions from the food it purchases by 25% by 2030.

i.Updates were given on the Institutional Buying Guide that is being developed in conjunction with a group of Georgetown University Students; including a draft outline and milestones for completion.

ii.The working group also had a brief discussion for planning its Race, Racial Equity, and the DC Food System event in November. If there are any ideas on themes to explore under the topic of Sustainable Supply Chain, please send an email to dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov.

- Ona Balkus presented an overview of the newly-released [Food Access and Food Security in the District of Columbia](#) report (see slides for more information).
- Spotlight: Katie Littman from DMPED announces Neighborhood Prosperity Fund Grants: Mayor Bowser Invests \$3 Million to Improve Food Access in Underserved

Neighborhoods. Read More: <https://dmped.dc.gov/release/mayor-bowser-invests-3-million-improve-food-access-underserved-neighborhoods>

- Small Business Resiliency Fund:
 - About: \$3.0 Million grant fund for small and local businesses aimed at supporting COVID-19 related expenses to help businesses continue operations while protecting people, assets and presence.
 - Eligibility: Brick-and-mortar small businesses and independently owned restaurants
 - Award: \$10,000.00
 - Timeline: Applications now open! The deadline to apply is October 15, 2020 by 11:59 p.m.
 - Website: coronavirus.dc.gov/page/small-business-resiliency-fund
 - Email: dcresiliencyfund@cfenterprises.org
- Federal Policy Updates: Beverley Wheeler and Melissa Jensen from DC Hunger Solutions provided an overview of the federal [HEROES Act](#) which passed in the House of Representatives. They also provided an overview of the [Continuing Resolution](#) signed by President Trump that provides extensions on pandemic-EBT and waivers for several important federal nutrition programs.
- The HEROES Act would do the following:
 - SNAP received another \$10 billion, a boost in the maximum benefit, and block grants to territories until Sept. 2021
 - Beneficiaries still cannot buy hot food with SNAP benefits
 - More benefits going out to the CAFB emergency funding for homeless adults, addressing age ranges 18-25
 - An additional \$5 million was allocated to the Older Americans Act home delivered and congregate meal services

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

- **Spike Mendelsohn** announced his new initiative <https://www.plantyourvote.com/>. brings together some of the nation's most influential and renowned chefs with the collective goal of increasing voter participation in a fun and delicious way. Plant Your Vote encourages chefs, food lovers and anyone with an interest in cooking, food justice or democracy to share their favorite plant-based food photos and recipes on social media, in support of registering new people to vote.
- **Kelvin Garvanne** (Georgetown, School of Foreign Service '21) mentioned the Social Innovation and Public Service Fund ([SIPS](#)). Looking for opportunities to advance food policy innovation, invited members to connect.
- **Katie Littman** from DMPED announced the release of the [Eastern Market Strategic Plan](#): Over the year-long strategic planning process, consultants conducted research, engagement, and analysis around the current state of the market and produced recommendations to support its future. To gather data, the consultant created case studies on five public markets, deployed a survey with over 3,300 responses, led stakeholder workshops, and analyzed the Market's current operations and competitive landscape. Key stakeholders included the merchants and vendors, the Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee, DGS, the nearby business owners and community groups, and Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen's office. The Eastern Market Strategic Plan is now available and contains 12 big picture recommendations supported by 52 actionable strategies.
- **DMC Food Recovery Week! October 12-17:** Manna Food Center's [Community Food Rescue](#) and the [DC Food Recovery Working Group](#) are combining forces this year to co-host DMV Food Recovery Week. The global pandemic has revealed how much we need

a more resilient food system – one that sustains the earth and provides sufficient, nutritious food for all who need it. The week’s engaging and enlightening free (and mostly virtual) events aim to help individuals and our community become more resilient. Join us to learn easy things you can do at home – and ways to support community efforts – to reduce food waste and increase food security for all. [Food Recovery Week 2020 – Feed More, Waste Less](#)

Contact us at dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov if you have any questions.