



DC Food Policy Council Meeting Notes
June 2, 2021

- **Icebreaker (Ona)**
- **Land acknowledgement:** We'd like to open by honoring the Piscataway & Nacotchtank tribes, including those members that still live here today and their ancestors who were forcibly removed from the land we know reside on.
 - **Artwork and acknowledgement toolkit available**
at: <https://usdac.us/nativeland> (on cover of FPC presentation)
- Working Group Updates:
 - **Food Access and Equity**
 - Conversation with Mary Donald from Capital Impact Partners – the fund manager for the Nourish DC Fund
 - **Sustainable Supply Chain**
 - Did not meet
 - Currently waiting on impending release of the Centralized Kitchen Study
 - **Nutrition & Health**
 - The Nutrition and Health working group is looking for 20 food education organizations to participate in the Food Policy Council's Food Education Landscape assessment interviews. Please sign up on the first page of [this document](#). If you are interested in volunteering for this project, please sign up on the second page. If you have any questions, please email Kristy.McCarron@ymcadc.org
 - Debriefed the Nutrition Amendment Act hearing and heard from those that testified
 - Discussed folks going back to in person learning in the Nutrition Education field
 - **Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs**
 - Did not meet
 - In process of scheduling meeting and training for commercial kitchen event to hopefully take place in July- survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6212822/DC-Small-Business-Kitchen-Connections>
 - Sign up for our listserv: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/entrepreneurship-food-jobs-working-group-join-the-email-list-tickets-79097714393?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>
 - **Urban Agriculture**
 - Did not meet

- **Overview of Mayor Bowser’s FY22 Budget, focused on food programs/investments**
 - Released last week on Thursday
 - Additional funding for various agencies and programs

Agency	Program/Division	FY 2021	FY 2022	Change
DC Public Schools	Food Services	\$57,055,000	\$58,877,000	\$1,822,000
Office of the State Superintendent of Education	Office of Nutrition Programs	\$67,689,000	\$70,126,000	\$2,437,000
	Office of Healthy Schools/Wellness Programs	\$3,523,000	\$1,955,000	(\$1,568,000)
Department of Aging and Community Living	Home Delivered Meals	\$4,481,000	\$6,646,000	\$2,165,000
DC Health	Produce Rx	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$250,000
Department of Human Services	TANF Cash Assistance	\$96,997,000	\$110,340,000	\$13,343,000
Department of Small and Local Business Development	ASPIRE and DREAM Grants	\$250,000	\$475,000	\$225,000
Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development	Food Access	\$0	\$27,245,259	\$27,245,259

- **Presentation by Tim White, DMPED: New Investments in Grocery Store Access**
 - **Equity in Food Access**
 - **Nourish DC Fund:** The recently launched Nourish DC Fund will expand the local food ecosystem & support smaller fresh food retailers and providers through grants, loans, and technical assistance Proposed FY21-23
 - Investment: \$4 million;
 - **Food Access Fund:** Will expand upon the work of the Neighborhood Prosperity Fund (NPF) to provide capital investment to accelerate small, medium, and large grocery stores and sit-down restaurants in Wards 7 and 8. Proposed FY21-24
 - Investment: \$54 million
 - **The Supermarket Tax Incentives Program:** Maintains long term support for grocers who locate in target areas. The FY22 legislative proposal would improve the program by refining the eligible geographies to target areas with the greatest need for new grocers & add community-focused requirements for grocers.

- **Focusing the Supermarket Tax Credit on Areas with Greatest Need**
 - The proposal would focus eligibility to areas most in need of grocery stores, expand support to more fresh food retailers, and add community-focused requirements for grocers. Neighborhoods will be eligible if they meet any of the following criteria:
 1. Low income and low food access (33% of residents >0.5 miles from a full-service grocer) per the USDA
 2. 20% or more of residents participate in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or other public benefits
 3. Opportunity Zone: high poverty census tracts designated by the District in 2018 as key areas of the city needing economic investment
- **Presentation by Alison Powers from Capital Impact Partners: Nourish DC Fund Manager**
 - **Funding**
 - \$1 million grant from the District, part of DC Local Access and Preservation Funds (LEAF)
 - **Purpose**
 - Development of a robust ecosystem of locally-owned food businesses, neighborhood vibrancy, and health equity in DC communities
 - Economic prosperity and high-quality job creation
 - **Target Geography**
 - Neighborhoods underserved by grocery and other food businesses, that have experienced systematic underinvestment, poor health outcomes, and limited economic opportunities
 - **Target Audience**
 - Locally-owned food businesses with a focus on supporting businesses owned or led by people of color
 - **Program**
 - Technical assistance including workshops, multi-week trainings, webinars, access to a food incubator, customized technical assistance, and more
 - Catalytic grants to support predevelopment work and / or fill financing gaps to allow food businesses to startup, scale and grow, launch new product lines, etc.
 - A range of financial products to meet the financing needs of food entrepreneurs of all different sizes and types of food businesses
 - **Collaborative Partners**
 - Capital Impact Partner- Fund Manager
 - Washington Area Community Investment Fund (Wacif)
 - Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC)
 - Dreaming Out Loud
 - Eats Place

Due to an unwelcome disruption to this meeting, we were unable to hear from our last scheduled presenter for the meeting, Oganya Udenyi, PhD Research Candidate at Howard University. She will plan on presenting at the August Food Policy Council meeting.

Announcements:

- **Several USDA Grants are open:**
 - Farmers Market Promotion Program – due June 21, 2021: Link here: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp>
 - Local Food Promotion Program – due June 21, 2021: Link here: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp>
 - Regional Food Systems Partnership – due July 6, 2021: Link here: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/rfsp>

- **June 9th, 12-1pm: DCPS School Food Collaborative Meeting.** This will be our 7th meeting, but FIRST *virtual* meeting.
 - As you can see from the [agenda](#), this meeting will largely focus on results from the [Elevate Student Voice in School Meals](#) campaign. We will celebrate the winning student videos and hear from DCPS Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) about how they will implement changes to school meals as a result of the feedback or ideas presented by those students. Attendees will also receive updates from DCPS FNS's Director, Rob Jaber, on this past school year as well as what to expect as a member of the School Food Collaborative moving forward.
 - **RSVP here:** <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7kagKk6zM0qSt5md8rwKMtoMQAbJ6zVCp7lXDRkRVmFUM1M1VUFUQktMT1JOSktWVklxSIZTS1VFQy4u>