



DC Food Policy Council Meeting Notes  
December 1, 2021

**FPC Member Attendance:**

Government members:

- DC Office of Planning: Ona Balkus; Tariq Sheriff; Ashley Stephens
- DSLBD: Caroline Howe
- OSSE: Lindsey Palmer
- DOEE: Kate Lee
- DC Health: Sara Beckwith
- DC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development: Katie Littman
- DHS: Bridgette Acklin

Public Members:

- DC Greens: Winnie Huston
- DC Hunger Solutions: Beverly Wheeler
- Unity Health Care: James Huang
- Hungry Harvest: Dalila Boclin
- Good Food Markets: Philip Sambol
- YMCA of Metropolitan Washington: Kristy McCarron
- DOL: Christopher Bradshaw
- Green Scheme: Ronnie Webb
- LEDC: Emi Reyes

**Working Group Updates:**

- **Urban Agriculture**
  - Did not meet in December
  - Update: Mayor Bowser signed on to the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration: <https://www.glasgowdeclaration.org/>
- **Food Access and Equity**
  - Had robust conversation about 2022 priorities
    - Ideas on how priorities can be fulfilled and opps to work with other working groups
    - Discussed the No Senior Hungry legislation: <https://lms.dccouncil.us/Legislation/B24-0419>

- Check out this article:
  - <https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/540721/d-c-has-the-highest-percentage-of-senior-hunger-in-the-nation-can-new-legislation-help/>
  - Looking forward to 2022 to more collaborative efforts
- **Sustainable Supply Chain**
  - Co-chairs met to review 2022 priorities and create more structure on working group for 2022
  - Glasgow Declaration will be discussed in future meetings
  - Conversations with Tariq and Ona on 2021 priorities and set 2022 agenda
- **Nutrition & Health**
  - Discussed Priorities for 2022
  - Working group thought to make goals more comprehensive
  - Conducted meeting with working group chairs to hash out goals in a more comprehensive way
- **Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs**
  - Popped into other working groups to collab more with other groups
  - How can small business lift up food access
  - Addressing licensing issues around shared kitchens

**Presentation on new report: 2021 Food Access and Food Security Update:** Ona Balkus, Director DC Food Policy Council

- Although the overall 2021 food insecurity rate for the District (11%) will nearly return to the pre-COVID rate (down from 21.1% in 2020), this data hides continued high need for some groups, including:
  - Black and Latinx households
  - Households with children
  - Seniors
- Progress and Highlights
  - Work began in 2019 and has progressed throughout the past three years
  - Extending and Expanding **Emergency Feeding Programs**
  - Expanding **Federal Nutrition Programs**
  - Pandemic-EBT Program for Families with Children
  - Emergency Allotments for SNAP Clients
  - Enhancing Benefits and Access to WIC
  - **New Budget Investments:** Food Access Fund and Nourish DC Collaborative
  - Developing the **DC Federal Nutrition Program Toolkit**
  - Providing **Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Grants**
  - Releasing the **Centralized Kitchen Study**

### **DMPED Food Access Fund:**

Tim White, Executive Director, Equitable Development at DMPED  
 Amanda Stephenson, Fresh Food Factory Market & Grantee

- Awarded over 9 million in grants to various businesses around the city
- Fresh Food Factory Market
  - Opening Market in Ward 7 off of Keniworth Ave

- Employ people in the neighborhood but, also allows for business opps within kitchens in space
  - Market with have eateries attached
  - Working with DHS to ensure Ward 7&8 residents have job training
  - <https://www.thefreshfoodfactory.com/about>
  - Looking to expand with CBE partners
- The first round of Food Access Fund recipients include:
  - **DCity Smokehouse**, a Black-owned business serving smokehouse BBQ since 2013 on Florida & North Capitol St, will open a new location in Anacostia in Ward 8.
  - **Fresh Food Factory**, a grocery store that sells affordably priced fresh and healthy food, will open a new location in Kenilworth in Ward 7.
  - **HalfSmoke**, a restaurant serving unique and complex foodservice design, combining elements of a quick-service restaurant, café, and gastro pub, will open two new locations at Skyland Town Center and Downtown Minnesota Ave in Ward 7.
  - **Highland Café**, a local hangout, a place where friends, family and neighbors can fellowship and enjoy coffee and delicious meals, will open a new location in the Penn Branch neighborhood of Ward 7.
  - **MLK Deli**, a restaurant serving traditional classic sandwiches with a unique twist will open a new location in Deanwood in Ward 7.
  - **Roots 657 Café**, an eat-in and take-out café and market, will open a new location at Skyland in Ward 7.
  - **Sala Thai**, a restaurant serving Thai food, will open a location in the Hill East neighborhood of Ward 7.
  - **Sweet Tooth**, a restaurant serving gourmet specialty cakes and pastries for over 25 years, will open a location in Anacostia in Ward 8.
- Available funding for the first round of FY22 – Up to \$7 million
  - Eligibility changes:
    1. New concepts now eligible and
    2. Construction must begin with 18 months
- Application Period – On a rolling basis, the applications will be reviewed per the following schedule:
  1. RFA Round 1 Opens 12/6/2021
  2. RFA Round 1 Closes 1/7/2022
  3. RFA Round 2 Opens 1/18/2022
  4. RFA Round 2 Closes 3/23/2022
  5. RFA Round 3 Opens 4/4/2022
  6. RFA Round 3 Closes 6/28/2022
- Visit the Food Access Fund Grant website at [dmped.dc.gov/page/food-access-fund](https://dmped.dc.gov/page/food-access-fund).
- Food Access Fund Awards Contact: Tim White- [timothy.white@dc.gov](mailto:timothy.white@dc.gov), 202-279-1920

**Good Food Market Opening:** Philip Sambol, Executive Director, Oasis Community Partners

- Good Food Markets (GFM) is a social enterprise of Oasis Community Partners' (Oasis), and share a mission to **improve food access and community health**. Together, GFM and Oasis are creating small stores with **grocery and café**, living wage **jobs**, and health **education** in neighborhoods that have been written-off by the supermarket and restaurant chains.
  - First piloted store in Ward 5

- Recent location opened in Ward 8
  - P3 partnership funding \$2.3M to build and operate neighborhood grocery and café with adjoining government offices and public community space:
  - Program Related Investment from the Bainum Family Foundation,
  - DMPED Neighborhood Prosperity Fund grant,
  - DSLBD Healthy Food Retail grant, and
  - DISB BizCAP program loan
  - Serving the Bellevue neighborhood of Ward 8, near public library, ground floor retail beneath 190 units of affordable and supportive housing.
- For more information
  - [www.goodfoodmarkets.com](http://www.goodfoodmarkets.com)
  - [www.oasiscommunitypartners.org](http://www.oasiscommunitypartners.org)
  - T: @goodfooddc
  - IG: @goodfoodmarket
  - FB: @ goodfoodmarketsdc
  - Philip Sambol, Executive Director, [philip@oasiscommunitypartners.org](mailto:philip@oasiscommunitypartners.org)

## 2022 Food Waste Innovation Grant: Caroline Howe, DSLBD

- RFA will be released in next two weeks: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sign-up-for-food-waste-innovation-grant-updates-tickets-214193657997>
  - Email any questions to [Inno.ed@dc.gov](mailto:Inno.ed@dc.gov)
  - Learn about Sustainable DC 2.0's plans on reducing food waste here: <https://sustainable.dc.gov/page/waste>
  - DC a part of Regional Food Matters Collaboration
  - Sign up to get alerts when the Food Waste Innovation Grants open to support food and beverage businesses in reducing their food waste! --> <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sign-up-for-food-waste-innovation-grant-updates-tickets-214193657997>
- **Announcements:**
- **Friday 12/3:** Return of Food Policy Office Hours. If you would like to attend future office hours (always the first Friday of the month), email [dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov](mailto:dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov)
  - **Friday 12/17:** DC Council Climate Resiliency Roundtable. For more information on how to watch/testify, visit: <https://dccouncil.us/event/transportation-the-environment-judiciary-public-safety-business-economic-development-public-hearing/>
  - **Wednesday, February 2, 2022:** Next FPC Public Meeting
  - **Coming soon!** Survey on Draft 2022 Food Policy Council Priorities
  - **FPC Call for New Members:** <https://dcfoodpolicy.org/membership/>
  - To join a Working Group listserv, email the WG chairs or [dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov](mailto:dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov)
  - Add other announcements to chat and/or unmute yourself.