



2023 DC Food Policy Priorities

Priority 1: Develop and promote policy recommendations that increase consistent access to, and availability and affordability of, foods and beverages which promote well-being, prevent and, (if needed) treat disease in populations disproportionately impacted by nutrition insecurity.

Projects:

1. Research best practices from other states and internationally to develop recommendations for a DC Food Bill of Rights.
2. Increase awareness of the Universal Free School Meals Amendment Act of 2023 by promoting and sharing the [2022 policy brief](#) with stakeholders and government officials (with Food Access & Equity Working Group).
3. Draft recommendations for DC Food as Medicine interventions and coverage.
4. Draft recommendations for a comprehensive “Food and Nutrition Education for All” policy.

Priority 2: Engage diverse food businesses (i.e., those of varying cultures, races, languages, and business stages) to understand business needs given post-COVID-19 challenges and the changing hospitality landscape. And, share resources back with businesses, business support organizations, and policy and other decision-makers.

Projects:

1. Draft recommendations on District policy and program changes to address needs and challenges of food businesses post-COVID-19.
2. Engage diverse food businesses to build on/respond to recommendations in #1. Share with businesses, business support organizations, and decision makers.
3. Hear from and support food businesses in implementing new minimum wage laws. Learn and increase awareness on how the government is going to implement the laws.

Priority 3: Increase funding and resources available for urban agriculture in the District, focusing on building wealth for Black and Brown locally owned businesses and community-sourced enterprises.

Projects:

1. Develop materials and explore collaborations across District agencies on the intersectionality between deeply affordable housing and urban agriculture.
2. Educate elected officials and advocates on the importance of funding and identifying land for urban farms, including highlighting the success of current grant programs.



3. Build relationships with the DC Beekeepers Alliance and identify ways to collaborate on shared policy goals.
4. Publish resources to assist urban farmers in navigating DC zoning laws on urban agriculture.

Priority 4: Engage with District agencies, residents, and businesses to support the development and implementation of District food policies that address climate change and food system resiliency.

Projects:

1. Research DC food procurement process & laws to identify barriers to values-based procurement, including engagement with small, local vendors about their experiences with the Certified Business Enterprises (CBE) certification program and bidding for contracts, to develop recommendations for policy change (with support from Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs).
2. Develop roadmap for how DOEE can support residents, businesses, and private institutions in reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with food and beverage consumption.
3. Convene farmers markets and recommend policies to extend operations and expand to more locations, particularly in Wards 5, 7, and 8 (continuing priority from 2022).
4. Hold quarterly meetings for agencies implementing food sustainability and food system resiliency policy (including, HSEMA, DOEE, DPW, and DSLBD) to share updates and engage with the FPC.

Priority 5: Communicate and collaborate with residents to increase awareness of District food benefit programs and healthy food retail.

Projects:

1. Conduct focus group(s) and outreach with seniors and individuals with disabilities on improving food access programs, including the SNAP Elderly Simplified Application Project and key provisions in the No Senior Hungry Omnibus Act of 2021.
2. Increase awareness of the Universal Free School Meals Amendment Act of 2023 by promoting and sharing the [2022 policy brief](#) with stakeholders and government officials (with Nutrition & Health Working Group).
3. Promote funding opportunities provided through Nourish DC by hosting the Nourish DC Collaborative's partner organizations and clients during Food Access & Equity working group meetings and strategizing on how to increase awareness of the program for BIPOC-led food businesses and entrepreneurs.
4. Collaborate with program providers to publish updated outreach materials on federal and local nutrition programs and inform strategies and best practices for distribution to residents and community organizations.