



**Prince George's County
Food Security Task Force
Recommendations
2021**

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December 2021

Hon. Angela D. Alsobrooks
Prince George’s County Executive
Prince George’s County Government
1301 McCormick Drive
Largo, Maryland 20774

Hon. Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Council Chair
Prince George’s County Council
1301 McCormick Drive
Largo, Maryland 20774

Dear County Executive Alsobrooks and Chair Hawkins:

On behalf of the Prince George’s County Council Food Security Task Force (“Task Force”), we submit this Final Report and Recommendations for County consideration, and to address concerns related to the supply and demand of healthy food options, food health connections, and schools.

The goal of the Task Force was to identify challenges and opportunities and provide recommendations for creating a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system that ensures every Prince Georgian has access to nutritious, affordable, sustainably grown, safe and culturally appropriate food. Such issues continue to be exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on Prince George’s County. The Task Force held monthly virtual meetings since October 2020, heard presentations and discussed best practices with representatives from surrounding jurisdictions, community and governmental partners and experts in the field.

The Prince George’s County Council established the Prince George’s County Food Security Task Force by Council Resolution - 62-2020 and was extended by Council Resolution -70-2021. The Task Force consisted of representatives from twenty-one (21) stakeholder groups, including the governmental, not-for-profit, faith-based, university community and private sectors. The Task Force built upon the foundational work of the Food System Study initiated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and the Prince George's County Food Equity Council.

The Task Force is offering eleven (11) primary recommendations - four (4) Foundational and seven (7) General. The Task Force believes each of these recommendations are important and integral to both the short and long-term strategies for establishing a better system to address the County’s food ecosystem.

Finally, I applaud the work done by the Task Force members, Council staff and our consultant team – the Institute for Public Health Innovation – each devoted to the task at hand. We thank you for the opportunity to address these important issues and reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of these recommendations regarding food security issues in the County.

Sincerely,

Hon. Todd M. Turner, Chair
County Council Food Security Task Force

Task Force Member Roster

Chair: **Hon. Todd M. Turner**, County Council District 4

Aimee Olivo, Chief of Staff,
Councilmember Dannielle Glaros, District 3,
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III, Department of Homeland Security,
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Chris Keany, Keany's Produce (aggregate
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Dr. Darlene Saunders, Special Projects
Manager, Prince George's County Health
Department

Deborah Archer, Project Leader/Nutrition
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Extension, Maryland SNAP-Ed

Dennis Lewis, Manager, Program
Development & Community Relations,
Prince George's County Department of
Social Services

Elana Belon-Butler, Director, Prince
George's County Department of Family
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Gail Livingstone, Deep Roots Farm
(farmer)

Joan Shorter, Director of Food & Nutrition
Services, Prince George's County Public
Schools

Jon Wogman, Chief Program Officer,
Prince George's County Food Recovery
Network

Kim Rush Lynch, Urban Agriculture
Conservation Planner, Prince George's
County Soil Conservation District

Leslie Jefferson, Nutritionist, Healthy
Living Sector, Giant Food (grocer)

Lindsay Smith, Regional Food Systems
Value Chain Coordinator, Metropolitan
Washington Council of Governments

Maria Martin, Master Planner, Maryland
National Capital Park, and Planning
Commission

Nicole U. Hall, Business Development
Specialist, Prince George's County
Economic Development Corporation

Renee Carroll, Director, Housing
Counseling & Supportive Housing, United
Communities Against Poverty (nonprofit
which deals with direct hunger relief and/or
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Roberto Melara, Director, MD Region,
Capital Area Food Bank

Stacey Little, Vice President of Women's
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Population Health at University of Maryland
Medical System (hospital system
community benefit department)

Rev. William M. Campbell, Senior Pastor,
Union Bethel AME Church (faith-based
organization)

Acknowledgments

The Prince George's County Food Security Task Force Report was prepared in partnership with the Institute for Public Health Innovation, and its Prince George's County Food Equity Council program staff, at the request of the County Council. The report content was informed by an iterative process that included presentations from DC metropolitan region experts, an analysis of recommendations from previous County agency reports related to food systems, stakeholder interviews, surveys, and small group meetings. In addition, the Task Force members were consulted throughout the report development process, and County Council members and staff provided oversight.

We would like to acknowledge the Task Force members for their service on the Prince George's County Food Security Task Force. The Task Force thanks the County Council for the opportunity to present these recommendations and appreciates the community partners that helped inform these recommendations for a more resilient and food-secure county.

County Council

Hon. Todd M. Turner – Chair, Dist. 4, 2014-present

Council Staff

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Key Informants and Guest Presenters

Baltimore City Food Security Planning Department

Capital Area Food Bank

District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

Latin American Youth Center

Montgomery County Food Council

No Kid Hungry Maryland

Prince George's Child Resource Center, Inc.

Prince George's Community College

Prince George's County Public Schools Judy Centers

Prince George's County Council

Prince George's County Department of Family Services

Prince George's County Department of Public Schools

Prince George's County Department of Social Services

Prince George's County Health Department

Prince George's County Office of the County Executive

Prince George's County Planning Department

Prince George's County Youth Action Board

Task Force Overview

Authorization

In July 2020, in response to the food security challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Prince George’s County Council passed CR-62-2020, a resolution to establish a Prince George’s County Food Security Task Force to “address issues related to the demand and supply of healthy food and areas with limited access to healthy food, food-health connections, school meals, and food security in Prince George’s County.” The full resolution is provided in Appendix A.

Purpose

CR-62-2020 formed the Prince George’s County Food Security Task Force (Task Force), a twenty-one (21) member group with representatives from specific County agencies and nonprofit food system stakeholders chaired by Hon. Todd M. Turner, County Council District 4. The resolution charged the Task Force with making policy and strategy recommendations for Prince George’s County Council, Office of the County Executive, and County agencies.

Specifically, the Task Force aimed to:

1. Develop and advance an action plan to improve the food security of residents.
2. Increase resilience in the food system; and
3. Ensure County agency and community preparedness to respond to food-security challenges due to future emergencies.

Report

This report is not intended to be a comprehensive food security plan for Prince George’s County. Instead, this report highlights eleven timely policy recommendations and strategies to improve food security, increase resilience in the food system, and ensure county agency and community preparedness to respond to food-security challenges due to future public health, environmental, or economic emergencies. This report builds on the previous recommendations and leverages prior research, assessments, and evidence-based practices. This report should serve as a guide for County Council and County agencies responsible for supporting a healthier and more food-secure county.

Food Security & COVID-19

What is Food Insecurity?

As defined by the USDA, [food insecurity](#) is “a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life.” As described in the Capital Area Food Bank’s *Hunger Report 2020: The State of Food Insecurity in Greater Washington*, [hunger](#) is a physical symptom of a lack of adequate food. It is not a quantifiable term, but rather a description of the result that reducing one’s food intake can have. Hunger and food insecurity are not synonymous, though they are closely related.

Food insecurity stems from several interrelated forces (Figure 1). For example, individuals living in communities with high unemployment, school closures, and strained food supply networks may experience food insecurity. Minor changes to household income or expenses may cause individuals to become newly food insecure. Many of these forces are due to inequity, an uneven distribution of resources or opportunities relative to need. A comprehensive list of definitions and key terms is provided in Appendix B. The list is heavily informed by the Capital Area Food Bank [Hunger Report 2021](#).

Figure 1: Forces that contribute to food insecurity

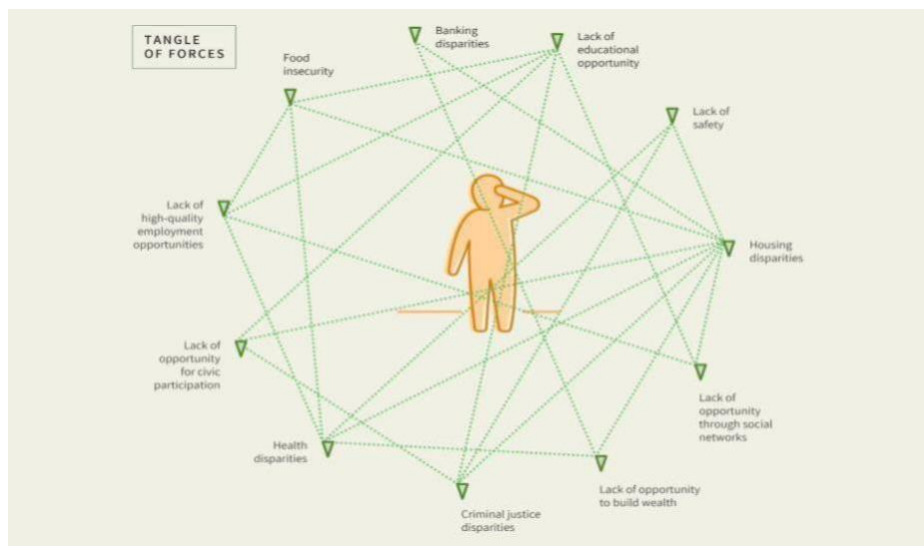
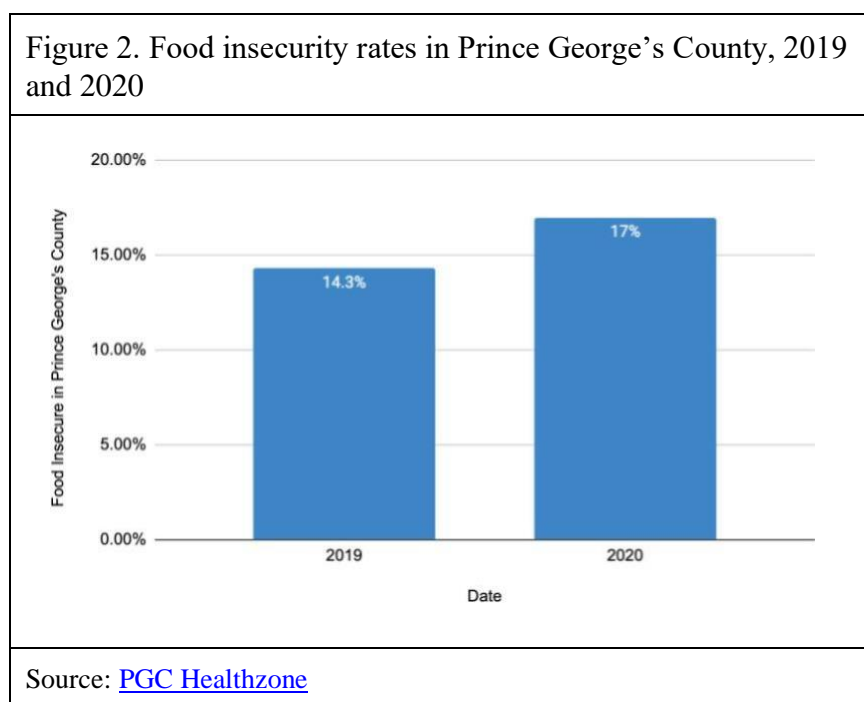


Image source: Capital Area Food Bank, Hunger Report 2021. <https://hunger-report.capitalareafoodbank.org/>

The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security in Prince George's County

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the need for a coordinated, government-led response to support a more secure and resilient food system in Prince George's County. Prince George's County has the highest food insecurity rate in the region, and food insecurity disproportionately impacted low-income, Black, and Latinx residents. Food insecurity rates increased from [14.3 percent](#) to over [17 percent during the pandemic \(Figure 2\)](#).

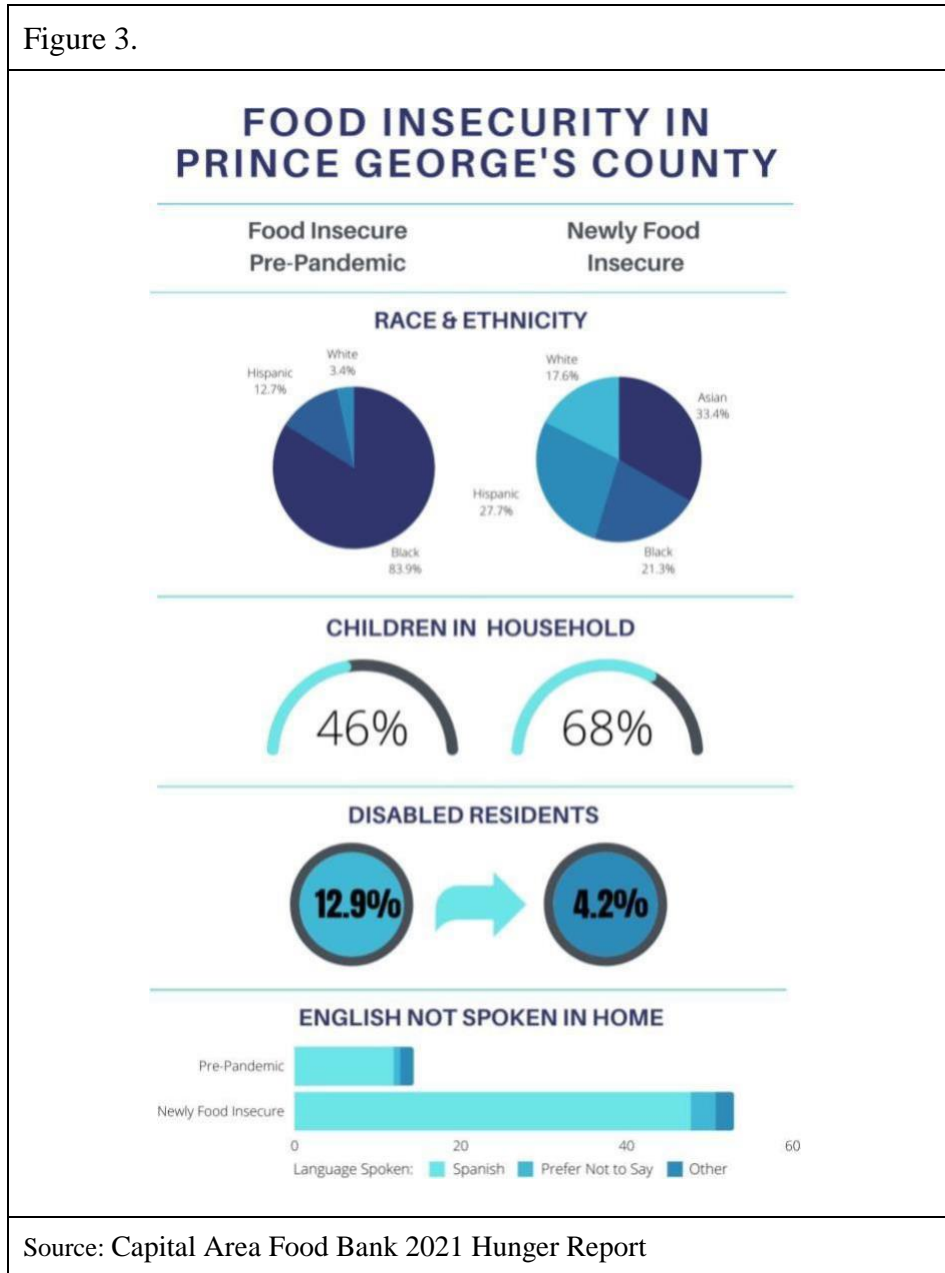


According to the [Capital Area Food Bank 2020 Hunger Report](#), COVID-19 exacerbated food insecurity among specific population segments, including older adults, children, immigrants (e.g., West Africans and newly arrived Afghans), women, single mothers, and grandfamilies or multigenerational households.

As detailed in the [Capital Area Food Bank 2021 Hunger Report](#), residents who became food insecure during the pandemic are notably different from those experiencing food insecurity before the pandemic (Figure 3). Those newer to food insecurity are more likely to be Hispanic, employed, live in larger households with more children, fall into more severe levels of food insecurity, and be facing eviction. In addition, newly food insecure people are less likely to have a fluent English speaker in the household, know of more than one place to access free food, and understand the process of applying for government benefits.

The associations between food insecurity, poor health outcomes, and chronic illness are [well documented](#). [Underlying health conditions increase the risk of more severe complications of COVID-19](#). In 2019, [71%](#) of Prince George’s County residents were overweight or obese, and these rates were disproportionately high among Black and Latinx residents. In addition, Prince George’s County, a majority Black county, has experienced the highest number of coronavirus cases in the State of Maryland, according to the [Maryland COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#). Racial and socioeconomic disparities are brought to the forefront of the ongoing public health crisis.

Figure 3.



Prince George's County Strategies to Address Food Insecurity during COVID-19

The increased need for social services during the pandemic called for rapid response from numerous governmental agencies. The County launched emergency meal and grocery assistance programs, distributed school grab-and-go meals, and expanded meal and food delivery for seniors and people with disabilities. In addition, many nonprofit partners provided emergency food and assistance services. The pandemic spurred many innovative food security strategies and programs, several of which are highlighted below.

- The Prince George's County Office of the County Executive partnered with nonprofit partners like United Way to fund and launch the Stand Up and Deliver program in June 2020. The initiative enabled bulk purchasing from local grocers, distributors, and restaurateurs. These partners distributed 1.3 million meals to food-insecure residents through nonprofit and faith-based distribution partners over the course of a year.
- Councilmanic districts supported networks of food assistance and social support service providers to facilitate strategic deployment of resources across their service area, bulk food purchasing, and collaborative fundraising.
- The Capital Area Food Bank launched a mobile grocery truck in the county, Curbside Groceries, for residents in areas with few retail grocery options. The service will provide a complete market basket of high-quality fresh foods (e.g., produce, meat, dairy, fish), shelf-stable foods, and personal care items. The food bank is currently in the process of identifying vending locations.
- Prince George's County Food Equity Council (FEC) launched the Food Assistance Provider Network in April, 2020, to coordinate services across the county and connect providers with resources and solutions. Network members applied for grant opportunities, coordinated cold storage capacity, and developed recommendations for this report.
- Prince George's County Food Rescue, an Institute for Public Health Innovation (IPHI) initiative, uses Food Rescue US technology to connect food donors and services providers to reduce food waste and provide meals to families in need. The program launched in July and is currently in the process of building its volunteer and donor base. It has rescued 7,200 meals since launching.
- IPHI installed refrigerated trailers in three locations at food assistance provider sites across the county. The trailers provide much-needed cold storage capacity for the sites and their networks of partners. Each trailer features a custom design by a local artist.
- The Prince George's County Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) provided auxiliary services to the Prince George's County Department of Family Services' (DFS) Nutrition Program in delivering home-delivered meals to 1.6 million older adults through various transportation services from April 2020 to June 2021.

While these efforts provided many essential services to residents, County government agencies and their community partners were not prepared to meet the needs of both existing and newly food-insecure people amidst the complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., stay-at-home orders and social distancing requirements).



In 2021 the Prince George’s County Council passed legislation (CB-28-2021) and partnered with the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) to bring a mobile grocery truck to the County to provide fresh and healthy food options in designated Healthy Food Areas in the County.” Picture: Curbside Groceries initiative Press Conference July 28 2021 – (L-R: IraCress, President Giant Food; DCAO Prince George’s County; Radha Muthiah, President/CEO CAFB; Dr. Arththusa Kirk, Senior Medical Director, United Healthcare Community; & Council Member Todd M. Turner, 4th District)

The Prince George's County Food Security Task Force

Information Gathering and Development Process

County Council staff convened virtual Task Force meetings for two hours on the first Friday of each month from October 2020 to October 2021. The agenda for the meetings varied from month to month but typically included informal information sharing, formal presentations, and facilitated discussions.

Task Force members received formal presentations about (1) food security and food system preparedness and resilience across County agencies and in the community and (2) how neighboring jurisdictions responded to food security challenges during the pandemic. Meeting agendas and presentation topics are provided in Appendix C.

The Task Force members reviewed current food related legislation (Appendix D) and past food-related reports and recommendations from Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Planning Department (Appendix E). These reports included:

- [Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD](#)
- [Healthy Food for All Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County](#)
- [Reduce, Recover, Recycle — Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD](#)

The Task Force audited the implementation/adoption status of all recommendations from past food system reports (Appendix F).

Task Force members also considered recommendations from relevant County reports, particularly the Climate Action Plan. As climate events increase in frequency and severity, our food system will need to build its capacity to be resilient in the face of climate change and the resulting disruptions to food supply chains.

To develop recommendations, Task Force members joined working groups based on their professional expertise and experience. The working groups met for ad-hoc sessions between Task Force meetings to synthesize information and develop draft recommendations. Each working group presented its deliberations and draft recommendations to the entire Task Force for consideration.

Task Force members completed a series of surveys to assess and prioritize draft recommendations and considered feedback from six key informant interviews with government and non-governmental partners that work closely with priority populations experiencing food insecurity as identified by the Capital Area Food Bank's 2021 Hunger Report.

The report and recommendations were drafted by Task Force consultants and members of an ad-hoc work group. Work group members met to develop action plans for each of the identified recommendations. All Task Force members reviewed and provided feedback on the draft report. The report was finalized and approved by all Task Force members at the final Task Force meeting on November 5th, 2021.

Consideration & Implementation of Recommendations

The next section of the report contains guiding principles and recommendations for the Prince George's County Executive Council. The goals of these principles and recommendations are to improve the food security of county residents, increase resilience in the county food system, and ensure overall response preparedness to emergency food-security challenges. Please note that the recommendations are not a comprehensive implementation plan. All action steps and budget estimates are theoretical; they will require additional analysis and planning before implementation.

Through programming, coordinated resources, and public and partner investments, County agencies can take steps to build food system capacity and infrastructure. Four foundational recommendations build structural and institutional capacity to bolster food security in both the short and long term. These recommendations are intended to act as pillars for seven policy and programming recommendations. Many of the recommendations can be accomplished through existing programming, strategic cross-agency coordination, and partnership with non-government stakeholders.

The recommendations are not listed in order of importance. Task Force members encourage County agencies to design an implementation plan that builds on existing assets, takes advantage of opportunities, and identifies sustainable resources as the budget and policy-making processes allow. Each recommendation includes an actionable "strategy" that provides a brief overview of its intent and existing initiatives to consider during implementation. Case studies and resources for further reading were included where strong and relevant examples were available. Definitions for the terms listed in the Action Plan are provided in Appendix G.

Conclusion

The Task Force advises that the Prince George's County Council and County Executive implement these recommendations to address the ongoing food security crisis in Prince George's County. The information and recommendations included in this report are an opportunity to prioritize interventions that will reduce food insecurity and increase food access for some of the county's most vulnerable residents.

Food Security Task Force Recommendations

At-A-Glance

Guiding Principles

Equity	Collaboration	Accountability	Stewardship
Evidence-Informed Decision-Making	Sustainability	Cultural Competence and Cultural Humility	

Foundational Recommendations

- A. Create and fund a Prince George’s County Food Security Office.
- B. Gather, analyze, and use data to inform and drive County agency food security decisions.
- C. Increase resident participation in federal nutrition assistance programs.
- D. Develop a master communication strategy for food security, resilience, and emergency preparedness.

Food Security Policies and Programs Recommendations

- 1. Plan for future food security disruptions by developing an emergency food security plan that integrates food system experts into existing emergency management operations.
- 2. Increase access to bulk food purchasing, infrastructure, and resources for food assistance providers.
- 3. Co-locate food security and social safety net services to create closed-loop referral systems.
- 4. Improve transportation options for residents to access healthy food retailers and providers.
- 5. Leverage state and regional partners for cross-jurisdictional food systems planning, coordinated communication, and infrastructure development.
- 6. Provide land access, infrastructure, and resources to help agriculture flourish.
- 7. Continue to provide and expand market incentives to support healthy food retailers of multiple sizes in target communities.

Guiding Principles

The Task Force identified a set of values and principles that should guide the consideration and implementation of its recommendations. These guiding principles are universally applicable to any initiative, government agency, or contributing organization.

Equity - Action should be just and fair. The County government should strive to raise the collective consciousness of the need to consider equity and assume responsibility for eliminating inequities. This requires an awareness that oppression is not always overt and that oppressive patterns permeate policies and practices. Equitable practices and policies are designed to accommodate differences in residents' needs—not to treat all residents the same. Practicing equity requires a continual process of learning, disaggregating data, and questioning assumptions.

Collaboration - No course of action should be decided without the full and direct participation of members of the groups affected by that action. This means that the County government should engage service providers and residents to serve as advisors by providing input, testing ideas, and interpreting information. These stakeholders should be involved at every step in making decisions about initiatives and other actions that directly affect their lives.

Cultural competence and cultural humility: Due to the shifting demographic trends in Prince George's County, the County government and all collaborating parties should ensure that the needs of multi-ethnic members are being addressed. All employees and contractors should be required to complete cultural competency and cultural humility training. Cultural and linguistic competence is a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies in a system, agency, or among professionals that enable effective work in cross-cultural situations. Linguistic competence speaks to the ability to provide readily available services and reading level assessments to limited English proficiency (LEP) members. These culturally appropriate services are provided through bilingual/bicultural staff, which includes trained interpreters and translators. Providing services to diverse residents in ways that are respectful of and receptive to different beliefs, cultural values, and practices helps improve the quality of services and reduces disparities among ethnic groups.

Accountability - All involved parties have mutual and shared responsibility for actions, including activities, outcomes, successes, and failures. The County government plays a vital role in assessing and measuring accountability and holding individuals and organizations accountable, which requires providing stakeholders with a clear charge to accomplish steps toward goals. The County government must ensure stakeholders have the capacity to undertake the required activities, measure their accomplishments, and provide access to tools to improve effectiveness and quality. The County government should provide precision in its language, goals, and measures.

Sustainability - Actions must build system resilience and sustainability. This means action should contribute to the capacity of the food system to weather change and disruption so that it can meet the present needs of the community while continuing to grow and develop to meet the future needs of the community.

Stewardship - Actions must reflect good stewardship of our community resources. Our community has tremendous assets, such as our residents, public servants, business owners, physical infrastructure, green spaces, services, and programs. The County government has a responsibility to leverage and allocate the natural, societal, and economic resources in its control in a manner consistent with a commitment to human dignity and the common good.

Evidence-Informed Decision-Making - The best available evidence should inform actions from research, practice, and experience. The County government should support decisions with theory and data while remaining flexible, innovative, and responsive.



The Prince George's County Food Equity Council (FEC), an initiative of the Institute for Public Health Innovation (IPHI), and Washington Gas introduced three new cold storage trailers at non-profit food assistance organizations in Brandywine, Landover, and Lanham. Participating organizations will work together to purchase perishable foods like fruits, vegetables, and dairy that will be stored in the shared refrigerated space. The trailers provide an opportunity to distribute more fresh and healthy food items to underserved and vulnerable families.

Foundational Recommendations

Foundational Recommendation A: Create and fund a Prince George's County Food Security Office

Strategy:

Create a Prince George's County Food Security Office (FSO) tasked with coordinating County agencies, securing funding, and engaging with community organizations to design and implement food security structures that facilitate a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system.

An FSO accountable for increasing food security and building food system resilience will prepare County agencies for future food system disruptions and enhance the County government's efforts to protect the wellbeing of its residents. Creating this office within the Prince George's County Department of Social Services (DSS) dovetails with DSS's role as administrator for SNAP and other food security programs. A critical responsibility of the FSO will be to collaboratively lead, coordinate, and communicate food security needs and resources. These should be shared internally and externally with residents, agencies, and supporting non-governmental food security partners. Some of these partners include the Capital Area Food Bank, food assistance providers, and farmers.

The FSO requires sufficient funding for a Food Security Director and supporting staff. Staff members would implement and oversee the translation of the Task Force's recommendations into action plans. This includes translating previous food system reports, such as those developed by M-NCPPC Planning Department, into action plans. In addition to providing capacity for existing food security programs, the FSO will contribute to Plan Prince George's 2035 and support recommendations for Healthy Communities and Economic Prosperity. Existing resources and programs should be realigned with this new office.

Case Study:

Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI): The City of Baltimore has proactively undertaken an intergovernmental approach to collaboration on food issues. The Initiative includes a full-time Food Policy Director with two full-time staff housed in the Planning Department in addition to dedicated staff in the Health Department and Economic Development Corporation. These departments focus on food access, resilience, equity, and entrepreneurship with an advisory committee of more than 60 stakeholders. Among the BFPI's innovative solutions are: 1) a land leasing initiative that allows low-cost, mid-term leases of city-owned property for urban farms, 2) an urban agriculture tax credit (90% credit on real property tax), 3) a food procurement policy to promote health and economic development, 4) protocol for a Food Resilience Plan, and 5) a Grocery Store Incentive Area that provides a personal property tax credit to grocery stores that locate in food deserts or to existing grocery stores that renovate to effectively "prevent" food deserts. - [Maryland Food Charter, 2019](#)

Action Plan:

Recommendation	Create and fund a Prince George’s County Food Security Office
Rationale/Evidence	A food policy council (FPC) is an organized group of public and private sector stakeholders that work to address food systems issues and needs at the local levels. Having a FPC is significantly associated with municipal-level policies or practices to improve access to healthy foods. By extension, formalizing and centralizing intergovernmental coordination of agencies that contribute to food security may enhance policies and practices.
Policy Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Executive/Agency Action ✓ 2021-2022 County Budget
Audience/reach	Systems-level Impact: 900,000+
Expected cost	\$250,000.00-\$300,000.00 annually
Funding source	General Fund/Agency Operating Budget
Lead partner	Department of Social Services
Barriers/limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Budgetary constraints ● Interagency coordination
Recommended steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Define the scope of the office, key priorities, and high-level proposal of a multi-year work plan ● Establish office through a council resolution and budget allocation ● Recruit and hire staff ● Develop connections between agencies and non-governmental partners to support local farmers and small food businesses via programs and resources ● Leverage key stakeholders as advisory board members ● Develop evaluation metrics to advance priorities and connectivity between stakeholders
Key considerations for equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How will this office ensure accountability to the community? ● How will the office’s priorities be community informed? ● How will data used by the office be disaggregated by race and ethnicity? ● Who is engaged in prioritizing data?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is health equity a key criterion for prioritizing goals, objectives, and strategies? ● What are decision-making processes utilized? ● Which equity issues are addressed through the proposed strategy/approach? ● Who are the intended beneficiaries, and how will they benefit?
<p>Resources for further reading</p>	<p>Job descriptions for director and coordinator-level staff: Food Policy FAQs Job Descriptions for FPC Coordinators2.pdf</p>



Foundational Recommendation B: Gather, analyze, and use data sources and systems to inform and drive County government food security decisions

Strategy:

The FSO will track and analyze relevant demographic data to identify and address current food security challenges and emergent needs. Robust data collection is imperative to document the needs of county residents, particularly under-resourced communities and those that have been historically marginalized. Community needs must be addressed throughout local, state, and federal government planning and decision-making processes.

Led by the FSO, with support from the Office of Information Technology (OIT) and M-NCPPC Planning Department, the County government should create or partner on a platform for food insecurity metrics and maps. The FSO and partners will collaboratively develop a plan to collect, monitor, and evaluate food security data. This data will also include other social determinants of health that impact an individual's ability to access nutritious, affordable, and culturally relevant food. Existing data from the [Maryland Food System Map](#) and the [Healthy Food Priority Area Map](#) will be used to analyze food insecurity metrics further. Guided by best practices and the data, the County government can more robustly plan to improve residents' food security, as noted in Recommendation 1.

Case Study:

Montgomery County FoodStat: Montgomery County has developed an online food insecurity database, FoodStat, to enable government agencies and community partners to understand food security needs and vulnerability better. This database was launched in 2018 by the Montgomery County Food Council, Manna Food Center, Capital Area Food Bank, and Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. FoodStat utilizes key food insecurity metrics collected by Feeding America, the country's largest hunger-relief network, and over 60 other indicators. These indicators include household income, Free and Reduced Meals participation, language access, and senior vulnerability. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Montgomery County Food Security Task Force's Data Collection and Analysis unit leveraged FoodStat to understand community food access, infrastructure needs, transportation barriers, and gaps in services. By increasing awareness in these areas, the Task Force assessed the growing demand for food assistance more effectively and developed targeted recommendations to address community needs. Moving forward, Montgomery County hopes to expand the existing database to create a comprehensive intake and distribution tracking platform that simultaneously collects key food security metrics while also referring residents to tailored food assistance services.

Action Plan:

Recommendation	Collect, maintain, and use data sources related to Food Security to inform decisions
Rationale/Evidence	The US Government Accountability Office promotes the use of data to improve program performance.
Policy Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Executive/Agency Action ✓ 2021-2022 County Budget
Audience/reach	Systems-level: 900,000+
Expected cost	Variable
Funding source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Utilize free data sources from membership groups such as Metro Washington Council of Government and Feeding America. ● Funding to build data collection capacity should come from the County budget line item.
Lead partner	Food Security Office with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Office of Information Technology ● Council Grants Office ● Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Planning Department
Barriers/limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limited capacity to create original data sets ● Difficulty obtaining and sharing de-identified food security data with stakeholders due to confidentiality concerns
Recommended steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review County agencies and partner data sources related to food security ● Develop data sharing agreements with relevant local and regional partners ● Document strategies for building the capacity of key partners to collect data ● Scan for existing data platforms with key data sets on food security ● Create an overview of design and maintenance considerations for a food security data portal
Key considerations for equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Who is engaged in prioritizing data? ● Is equity a key criterion for prioritizing goals, objectives, and

	<p>strategies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What decision-making processes are utilized? • How is data on the race, ethnic origin, country of origin, and language preference of clients being collected, analyzed, and disseminated?
<p>Resources for further reading</p>	<p>Food Security Playbook, Capital Area Food Bank</p>



Members and partners of the Prince George's County Food Equity Council have compiled resources to help local families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Social Services' Emergency Food Assistance Program acts as a clearinghouse for the distribution of donated food. Over 30 local community pantries and shelters currently participate in the program. All food is provided to eligible individuals and families free of charge.

Foundational Recommendation C: Maximize resident participation in federal nutrition assistance programs and school meals

Strategy:

The Food Security Office, the Prince George’s County Department of Social Services, and Prince George’s County Public Schools will coordinate efforts to increase enrollment in federal nutrition assistance programs and school meals. These programs are [some of the most effective strategies](#) for preventing and reducing food insecurity. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the value of enrolling all eligible residents in food assistance programs and maximizing school meal participation.

From [2017-2020](#), an average of 76 percent of all low-income eligible students in Prince George’s County participated in free meals through the Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMs) program. This indicates that almost a quarter of eligible students and families were not utilizing essential food assistance resources. During the pandemic, Prince George’s County Public Schools shifted its school meals to free grab-and-go meals for all students; however, participation rates in FARMs dropped to 8.9 percent, lower than participation in neighboring jurisdictions and across the state, according to [data from the Maryland State Department of Education](#).

Maryland Meals for Achievement Program (MMA) is one program that offers free breakfast to students. Another program, Free and Reduced-Price Meal (FARMs), benefits both schools and families. Schools receive federal reimbursement for each meal selected by a FARMs student, increasing their overall budgets for their meal programs. Families enrolled in FARMs can receive additional resources such as Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) that provide funding to help purchase food during remote or out of school time. By enrolling more families in programs such as FARMs, schools can ensure that more students will receive school meals and families are getting the nutrition assistance they need.

Additionally, the County should hire a Public Benefit Programs Coordinator or designate an existing staff member within the Department of Social Services to assess current enrollment, identify gaps, and obtain the resources needed to increase participation. This individual would also coordinate with local non-profit organizations, government agencies, and higher education institutions to maximize participation in programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women Infants and Children (WIC) program.

Finally, it is recommended that all eligible schools elect the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). This helps Prince George’s County Public Schools to decrease the paperwork for families and ensure students are receiving the early nutrition they need.

It is crucial that the County government invest in resources to maximize benefit program enrollment and help schools offer healthy free meals to students. As families continue to experience food insecurity and schools face the burden of staffing and supply chain shortages,

more resources and community engagement are needed to ensure that students have access to meals while in the classroom or learning from home.

Action Plan:

Recommendation	Maximize participation in federal nutrition assistance programs
Rationale/Evidence	Feeding America’s Food Security Evidence Review (2020) rated federal nutrition assistance programs as “proven” and “promising”. Facilitating enrollment and engagement with federal nutrition assistance programs may increase reach.
Policy Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Executive/Agency Action ✓ Legislation
Audience/reach	Variable
Expected cost	No-cost beyond outreach and communications efforts
Funding source	Existing staff
Lead partner	Food Security Office with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Department of Social Services ● Prince George’s County Public Schools
Barriers/limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public distrust and fear of government ● Administrative, language, and cultural barriers to enrollment in programs ● Lack of access to technology to complete online applications

<p>Recommended steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leverage new or existing staff within the Department of Social Services to assess current federal nutrition assistance program school meal participation and identify areas/populations with low enrollment, and recommend strategies for each program with sub-strategies for under-enrolled populations. ● Identify goals and write a position description for the Public Benefit Programs Coordinator. ● Collaborate with government and non-governmental partners to increase enrollment in federal nutrition assistance programs and school meals via training and outreach resources for teachers, school administrators, Community School Coordinators and Parent Engagement Assistants, and universities and community colleges. ● Partner with the Office of Homeland Security to develop a plan for food assistance and meal distribution in weather related or public health emergencies. ● Develop a plan to improve meal distribution during remote schooling or after school by reviewing best practices and examples from neighboring jurisdictions. ● Create training materials for stakeholders that interface with the public on strategies to increase resident enrollment in benefit programs. Potential stakeholders include county agencies, public schools, universities. ● Conduct an internal review of Prince George’s County school wellness policies. ● Design an implementation plan that improves school wellness and participation rates by collaborating with school wellness councils, school administrators, and Prince George’s County Food and Nutrition Services. ● Enhance public-private partnerships to help cover additional costs for schools to offer universal free meals.
<p>Key considerations for equity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What outreach methods will be used to address barriers/limitations? ● Who needs to be recruited or invited to join the effort to assist in developing an appropriate outreach method? Who will approach them? How? When? What will they be asked to do to get involved? ● How will you ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach methods and communication efforts? ● Are there opportunities to collaborate or join existing efforts that have effectively worked with “hard to reach” groups?

Resources for further reading

Strategies for increasing enrollment in specific programs:

- [Making WIC Work Better, Food Research & Action Center](#)
- [Maryland Wellness Policies and Practices Project School System Wellness Policy Report](#)
- [Maryland Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children 2019 Annual Report, Maryland Department of Health](#)
- [An update on the effect of Pandemic EBT on measures of food hardship, Brookings Institute](#)
- [Flintstone Elementary School Case Study](#)
- [Maryland Wellness Policies and Practices Project School System Wellness Policy Report](#)



Council Member Todd M. Turner (D-District 4), participated virtually as a featured panel guest on “Feeding the DMVTown Hall,” a live, broadcast special airing on ABC 7 WJLA, on Thursday, February 18th. The discussion, hosted by ABC7/WJLA and the Capital Area Food Bank, focused on the intersection of food insecurity and racial equity in the region, and was moderated by evening news anchors Jonathan Elias and Michelle Mars.

Foundational Recommendation D: Develop a master communication strategy for food security, resilience, and emergency preparedness

Strategy:

Residents deserve consistent, credible, and centralized sources of information during a crisis. A master communication strategy would ensure county residents receive accurate, timely information to access food and social services without having to navigate the complex web of government and nonprofit resources.

The communications strategy should coordinate with elected officials, policymakers, County government, communications experts, nonprofits, and community leaders to deliver needed information and resources to residents. These culturally and linguistically appropriate materials are distributed to high-priority, food-insecure populations via trusted community messengers through tailored and geographically targeted communications channels. These resources should be shared and promoted through an ongoing community engagement strategy coordinated by the FSO to increase participation, awareness, and enrollment throughout the year.*

An effective communications strategy will require a central food assistance benefits and social services resource. County agencies should direct residents to these resources, providing a “no wrong door” policy for food assistance and social services. OHRM should direct a Food Security and Resource Referral training to ensure accountability and knowledge building among all government staff.

Action Plan:

Recommendation	Develop a master food security/resilience communication strategy that ensures accurate and timely information is available in multiple languages at varying proficiency levels across trusted platforms (e.g., app, text, phone, print, internet, social media, word-of-mouth)
Rationale/Evidence	Communications and public awareness campaigns can be effective strategies to improve health outcomes. Using similar campaign principles, the USDA’s SNAP-ED Connection program has used social marketing to communicate health messages and encourage positive behavior change.
Policy Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Executive/Agency Action ✓ 2021-2022 County Budget
Audience/reach	Systems-level Impact: 900,000+

Expected cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cost if using existing communications resources and staff within County agencies and building external partnerships where specialized expertise is required • Medium/high cost to hire communications staff within Food Security Office or external contract communications experts
Funding source	County Budget
Lead partner	Food Security Office & DSS with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Emergency Management • Food Security Office • Department of Family Services • Department of Social Services
Barriers/limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community fear and distrust of federal government • Challenges reaching certain groups/populations due to technology, language barriers, etc.
Recommended steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct scan of regional models and best practices for communication • Review existing communications platforms and tools used by County agencies, County Council, and the Office of the County Executive • Develop a communications strategy that includes both new, traditional, and community-based outlets • A central “voice” to communicate to the public in times of crisis • Map community networks and identify key influencers • Provide stipends and training to community influencers • Allocate resources appropriately to communication systems (e.g., 211)
Key considerations for equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are communication needs and norms of under-resourced communities prioritized? • Does the communication plan include an equity message? • How will the findings and messages be communicated in a way that inspires change among diverse populations and policymakers? • Is the County engaging diverse residents in evaluating, planning, and disseminating information in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner? • Do community efforts reflect the current ways communities are engaging in social media and other apps (e.g., Whatsapp?, Facebook)

Resources for further reading

[SNAP-ED Toolkit](#)

[Request for Proposal \(RFP\) Public Awareness Campaign to Address Food Insecurity in Frederick County](#)



Prince George's County Council Chair Todd M. Turner and David Iannucci, President/CEO of Prince George's Economic Development Corporation, joined with the Lidl store team and other US Representatives at a ribbon-cutting event on March 4, 2020, for the new Lanham area store.

Food Security Policies and Programs Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Plan for future food security disruptions by developing an emergency food security plan that integrates food system experts into existing emergency management operations

Strategy:

As we experience more frequent and intense extreme weather events, food systems disruptions are inevitable. The County government’s Department of Homeland Security should include food security in a comprehensive response plan. This plan should utilize a robust Incident Command System to integrate local food system experts into the emergency response, incorporate existing supply chains more effectively, and marshal resources across the food system.

In stable times, the County government’s Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Emergency Management (OEM) should coordinate with local and regional food systems experts and the FSO to develop the information necessary to understand how residents currently obtain food, which food supply chains serve the county, and where gaps exist in local food system infrastructure. The OEM and the FSO should collaborate to pursue private and public philanthropic funding opportunities to support office operations and food resilience initiatives. To respond effectively in times of crisis, OEM should conduct and participate in exercises with key personnel, including government and non-governmental partners, for various food system emergency scenarios.

Action Plan:

Recommendation	Work with stakeholders (government, community leaders, organizations, and networks) to plan for future food system disruptions, including the development of a robust Incident Command Structure
Rationale/Evidence	State funding requires local public health and emergency management officials to engage in planning and exercises to enhance their jurisdiction’s ability to respond to threats and disruptions. The Incident Command System (ICS) is a widely used structure for organizing response. Integrating food security into planning and exercise mechanisms may enhance food system resilience and support response efforts in the event of disruption.
Policy Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Executive/Agency Action ✓ 2021-2022 County Budget

	✓ Legislation
Audience/reach	Systems-level impact: 900,000+ residents
Expected cost	Existing staffing and pro bono expert consultants
Funding source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing staff • Competitive state, federal, private grant funds
Lead partner	Office of Emergency Management with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Security Office • County Executive’s Office
Barriers/limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited capacity of existing staff • Interagency coordination
Recommended steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review best practices and model ICS food security response methods, including Washington, DC, Baltimore City, and Montgomery County • Identify and map how residents currently secure food • Integrate local food system experts, including the FSO and local food council, into the Emergency Management operational plans • Identify critical resources and agency staff • Inventory and document existing food security program criteria • Integrate food availability and delivery into emergency tabletop and functional exercises • Implement exercises on a regular schedule
Key considerations for equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the ICS staff reflect the diversity of the county? • How can those most adversely affected by the issue be actively involved in solving it? • Are all groups that are affected by the policy, practice, or decision at the table? • How are public resources, investments, programs distributed geographically and to whom? • What is your decision-making structure? • Who is holding individuals/agencies accountable? • Do exercises consider the needs of hard-to-reach populations such as immigrant communities and residents with disabilities?
Resources for further reading	Strategy to Improve Nutritional Security and Minimize Hunger, City of Baltimore COVID-19 Emergency Food Response Montgomery County COVID-19 Food Security Task Force

Recommendation 2: Increase access to bulk food purchasing, infrastructure, and resources for food assistance providers

Strategy:

The FSO should coordinate consistent bulk food purchasing opportunities for a robust network of nonprofit and faith-based food assistance partners that serve residents experiencing food insecurity. Further, in collaboration with County agencies, the FSO should allocate grants to enhance associated infrastructure and resources needed to purchase, store, transport, and serve food.

From legislation on procurement standards to a farm-to-food pantry program, County agencies can further support food purchasing through policy or program interventions that 1) ensure more competitive prices and access to markets that may be out of reach for smaller food assistance providers and 2) support County government investment in local agriculture, including minority-owned and county-based food and farm businesses. The County government should also consider new partnerships and funding for existing programs like Prince George’s County Food Rescue that are helping reduce food waste by connecting food donors with food assistance providers and pantries in the county.

Action Plan:

Recommendation	Establish partnerships with food suppliers (and local producers) to order bulk food for providers or help providers establish bulk purchasing coops
Rationale/Evidence	Feeding America’s Food Security Evidence Review (2020) rated charitable food programs as “promising,” “emerging,” and “not yet evaluated.” Increasing the capacity and capabilities of charitable food programs may enhance positive outcomes.
Policy Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Executive/Agency Action ✓ 2021-2022 County Budget ✓ Legislation
Audience/reach	Food insecure residents: ~150,000
Expected cost	Variable

Funding source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Existing staffing ● County and agency grants and contract budgets
Lead partner	<p>Food Security Office with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Office of Central Services ● Office of Emergency Management ● Economic Development Corporation ● Health and Human Services agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Department of Family Services ● Prince George’s County Public Schools ● Municipalities
Barriers/limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limited storage and distribution capacity ● Financial constraints
Recommended steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify and address gaps in dry and cold food storage, distribution, and aggregation capacity (e.g., refrigerated trucks) ● Map food assistance providers and service areas ● Map supply chains for food assistance providers ● Build stronger relationships with commercial food providers ● Develop model food procurement contracts and streamlined processes for emergencies ● Develop grants program for bulk purchases of foods, including culturally appropriate foods ● Identify and address barriers to purchasing locally produced foods ● Expand Prince George’s County Food Rescue through funding allocations and partnership building
Key considerations for equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do food purchases build capacity for small and minority-owned county businesses? ● What training, technical assistance, and funding may be needed for effective implementation? ● Are culturally appropriate foods prioritized? ● How will resources be distributed geographically?
Resources for further reading	<p>Montgomery County COVID-19 Emergency Food Access Grants - Impact Summary 2021</p>

Recommendation 3: Co-locate food security and social safety net services and create closed-loop referral systems

Strategy:

The County government should invest in grants, resources, and training for nonprofit partners to help residents successfully connect with and navigate the programs and resources they are eligible to receive. County-funded resource navigators should help residents enroll in federal nutrition assistance programs and access other social support services. When possible, these staff should be deployed to nonprofit provider sites. Adequately resourcing nonprofit partners to act as community connectors and resource navigators through funding and training opportunities is a critical step to increase participation in federal benefit programs.

A County government investment in a closed-loop referral system would ease access to services. Closed-loop referral systems use technology and data sharing to document individuals' needs, connect them to appropriate services, and track participation and outcomes more effectively. County agencies should leverage partners to develop a closed-loop referral system that effectively connects resources and tracks outcomes.

Action Plan:

Recommendation	Make public services more efficient to navigate and access through co-location of services and closed-loop referral systems.
Rationale/Evidence	Community care coordination systems connect patients with both health and social service sectors to address comprehensive needs. Research around community care coordination is emergent . Some studies of community care coordination programs have demonstrated impact and successful replication. A limited number of studies have also looked at the role of technology to facilitate screenings and referrals within these programs and have found promising outcomes around accurately identifying patients' social service needs and electronic referrals for youth .
Policy Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Executive/Agency Action ✓ 2021-2022 County Budget ✓ Legislation
Audience/reach	Variable
Expected cost	Variable, dependent on how resource-intensive adequately equipping providers and standing up a closed-loop referral system is

Funding source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● County Executive Community Partnership Grants ● American Rescue Plan Funding ● State agency funding
Lead partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Department of Social Services ● Office of Information Technology
Barriers/limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limited financial capacity ● Staff expertise
Recommended steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Map existing organizations providing social services (identify what services are provided and where DSS service hubs are located) ● Provide grants and training to support organizations while building capacity among new organizations located in under-resourced areas ● Launch new closed-loop referral system like 211 or Unite Maryland/NowPow ● Identify County agencies and staff responsible for monitoring and tracking referrals ● Utilize referral data to identify gaps in the safety-net system and develop strategies to enhance services
Key considerations for equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Are there culturally and linguistically appropriate services provided? ● Can organizations that have existing infrastructure and relationships with communities be leveraged and compensated? ● What outreach methods will be used to reach those with limited transportation options? ● How will resources be distributed geographically? ● What metrics/outcomes have been established? ● Has equity been considered?
Resources for further reading	Aligning in Action: NCCARE360

Recommendation 4: Improve transportation options for residents to access healthy food retailers and providers

Strategy:

Expand County government investments in reliable, accessible, and affordable transportation to healthy food retailers and food assistance providers, particularly in rural areas with limited retail and charitable food providers.

Many County agencies provide food and transportation services to residents. These agencies can leverage existing resources and initiate new transportation options to address barriers. The county government can carefully focus resources by identifying areas of high need, specifically areas where older adults and low-income residents without car access live. The County government can improve food security by connecting transportation infrastructure and resources. This could include expanding the Call-A-Bus network, expanding partnerships with rideshare services and taxis, such as the existing partnership with Lyft, and increasing food distributions in underserved areas. Community infrastructure assets are prime sites for co-locating food assistance, such as libraries where youth and underserved residents already congregate.

While more resources are necessary to stand up a direct-to-consumer food delivery, existing home-delivery options are available via Prince George’s Public Schools, Department of Family Services, Department of Public Works and Transportation, and the County Executive’s efforts as well as non-governmental providers such as Food and Friends, Meals on Wheels, and the ARC. These resources should be maximized while supplementing current subsidized food delivery options, existing faith or nonprofit delivery networks, and County agency food assistance programs.

Action Plan:

Recommendation	Improve transportation options to access healthy food outlets and food assistance providers
Rationale/Evidence	Access to public transportation options may reduce health disparities and promote health equity. Feeding America’s Food Security Evidence Review (2020) rated transportation strategies as “emerging”.
Policy Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Executive/Agency Action ✓ 2021-2022 County Budget
Audience/reach	Systems-level impact: 900,000+
Expected cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased budget allocations for rideshare services, Call-a-Bus, and

	<p>direct-to-home deliveries for school meals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Existing resources like DPWT and school buses can be leveraged to reduce costs for home delivery of food. ● Existing council support for nonprofit providers (ARC, Food and Friends, Meals on Wheels).
Funding source	General fund and grants for external partners
Lead partner	<p>Agencies providing food and transportation to residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prince George's Public Schools ● Department of Family Services ● Department of Public Works & Transportation ● Office Of Central Services and Food Security Office for coordinating rideshare contracts
Barriers/limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limited budgets and staff capacity for home delivery of food
Recommended steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work with pantries and Department of Family Services to identify areas where older adults and residents without access to a car need additional transportation to food resources ● Fund Call-A-Bus to meet the identified need in target communities ● Develop and promote partnerships with rideshare services and taxis to subsidize rides to grocery stores and food pantries in Healthy Food Priority Areas ● Conduct key informant interviews with families located in high FARMs rate communities with low participation in emergency summer meal service to identify any transportation barriers to participation ● Provide grant funding to nonprofit food providers in communities with low vehicle access to expand the number of community-based/walk-up food distributions
Key considerations for equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are the benefits and burdens that communities experience with this issue? ● How are you considering environmental impacts as well as environmental justice? ● How are public resources and investments distributed geographically? ● What is your communication plan for informing the community of any changes? ● How can diverse communities and leaders be engaged from the outset to shape the solutions and strategies?
Resources for further reading:	Baltimore direct to home deliveries with Amazon

[DC Grocery Taxi Ride Discount](#)

[LyftUp Grocery Access Program: Making Healthy Food Accessible in Prince George's County, Maryland](#)



Prince George's County Council Member Dannielle M. Glaros led a collaborative effort to feed members of the community, dubbed the Greater Riverdale Cares Initiative.

Recommendation 5: Leverage state and regional partners for cross-jurisdictional food systems planning, coordinated communication, and infrastructure development

Strategy:

The County government should enhance cross-jurisdictional food system planning and collaboration. Foodsheds and their supporting systems are not bound by jurisdictional lines; thus, cross-jurisdictional collaboration is essential to function effectively.

Currently, the county’s nonprofit food policy council sits on regional workgroups related to food and farm infrastructure and planning in which the County government does not regularly participate. The Food Security Office should work with regional collaboratives to advocate for critical food system infrastructure and improvements that need regional support. In addition, the Food Security Office should join ongoing regional efforts with the Capital Area Food Bank, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and the Maryland Food Resiliency Council to map spatial data related to food access and security data points. This effort will identify both local and regional food security needs and priorities.

Action Plan:

Recommendation	Leverage regional partnerships for cross-jurisdictional food systems planning and infrastructure development
Rationale/Evidence	Cross-jurisdictional sharing is a growing strategy that can be used at regional levels to address opportunities and challenges, such as tight budgets, limited key staff expertise, and regional planning needs. Though the evidence base is limited, CDC recommends this strategy and has developed best practices to guide implementation.
Policy Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Executive/Agency Action ✓ 2021-2022 County Budget ✓ Legislation
Audience/reach	Systems-level impact
Expected cost	Engage existing staff
Funding source	County Agency Budgets
Lead partner	Food Security Office with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Economic Development

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Office of Information Technology ● Health Department ● County Executives' Office
Barriers/limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff capacity ● Cross-jurisdictional collaboration
Recommended steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Survey regional collaboratives related to food and farming to identify where the county lacks representation ● Engage in strategic planning to identify critical food system infrastructure ● Provide resources to support regional food systems planning and collaboration
Key considerations for equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What can be learned from prior efforts to solve the problem or change the system? ● What strategies could result in systemic change and advance equitable solutions? ● What data exists? What data is missing? ● What indicators and methods will you use to track progress? ● Who are you engaging in prioritizing your data? ● Is data on the race, ethnic origin, country of origin, and language preference of clients being collected, analyzed, and disseminated?
Resources for further reading	<p>What Our Region Grows: To Eat and Drink. Agriculture's Past, Present, and Future in and around the Metropolitan Washington Region, Metro Washington Council of Governments, 2019</p> <p>NCR GDX Regional Food Resources Initiative, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments</p>

Recommendation 6: Provide land access, infrastructure, and resources to help agriculture flourish

Strategy:

By supporting robust local food production, the County government can increase healthy food access while ensuring economic opportunities and job creation for residents. Strategically prioritizing and investing in land access, educational opportunities, and infrastructure will sustain and enhance local food production by rural and urban farms and community gardens. By growing the local food economy, the region's food system will become more resilient in the face of disruptions to the food supply as we will have increased the diversity of supply streams.

Further, investments in agriculture and community gardens can increase the supply of culturally appropriate foods for communities. This can also secure additional green space, which has health and environmental benefits.

The County government should make all suitable publicly owned lands more accessible to farmers and community gardens. This includes vacant lots, where appropriate, and suitable land from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). Community Garden plot locations should be expanded throughout the county. M-NCPPC should also continue to expand the total acres acquired for agriculture to meet the needs of a growing population, along with establishing an agricultural preservation program. The County government should determine appropriate available farmland to allow gardeners and urban farmers access to unused county land at a reduced rate

Greater priority for County resources should be given to Black and minority farmers that have been historically disadvantaged by federal, state, and local programs and agencies. Additional tools and educational opportunities are necessary to build a more robust local agriculture industry. The County government should ensure adequate funding and resources to support staffing and programs, like the Department of Parks and Recreation Incubator program. Hosting workshops and developing resources would help county farmers navigate complex permitting and regulatory requirements.

The County government and M-NCPPC should also continue to support larger-scale produce operations in the county that support farmers markets, grocery stores, and local small businesses. Most importantly, urban farms and community gardens need assistance with operational expenses or fee reductions for items like water service and fencing. In addition, close partnership between County government agencies and nonprofits with a focus on food access is critical.

Recommendation	Provide support, training, land access, tools, equipment, and infrastructure to help agriculture, urban farms, and community gardens flourish.
Rationale/Evidence	County Health Rankings & Roadmaps What Works for Health states that (1) experts believe activities that facilitate food production in urban environments strengthen local and regional food systems, (2) there is some evidence that land banking may reduce food insecurity, and (3) there is some evidence that community gardens may increase food security.
Policy Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Executive/Agency Action ✓ 2021-2022 County Budget ✓ Legislation
Audience/reach	Systems-level impact: 900,000+
Expected cost	Additional staffing at Soil Conservation District Office, M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation, and/or Food Security Office for expanded programming and support and management of existing and future community garden and farm support services
Funding source	Agency operating budgets and grant funding
Lead partner	<p>Food Security Office with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Department of Parks and Recreation ● Soil Conservation District Office ● Office of Central Services ● University of Maryland Extension ● Economic Development Corporation ● Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Water
Barriers/limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff capacity ● Budgetary limits ● Fragmented network of farmers and gardeners

Action Plan

<p>Recommended steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create a database in partnership with the Office of Central Services of farmable, vacant, County-owned parcels and buildings to provide land access to community gardeners, urban farmers, and farmers interested in controlled environment agriculture at reduced rates ● Provide resources and training opportunities to farmers and community gardens in the form of a web portal, workshops and training, and specialized marketing and business planning support ● Designate a trained staff navigator familiar with agriculture within regulatory agencies ● Provide a grant program for community gardens and urban farmers to pay for water hook-ups and fencing ● Create agreements with WSSC Water to reduce tap fees ● Prioritize Black, Indigenous, people of color, and other historically underserved farmers for park and planning land farming leases ● Adequately fund programs like M-NCPPC’s Urban Farm Incubator program, while exploring funding cover crop and soil fertility programs for small farmers
<p>Key considerations for equity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How can those most adversely affected by the issue be actively involved in solving it? ● What equity issues are you addressing through the proposed strategy/approach? Who is intended to benefit? How? What strategies/policies support ● How are you considering environmental impacts as well as environmental justice? ● How are public resources and investments distributed geographically? ● What training, technical assistance, and funding may be needed for effective implementation? ● What institutional/community barriers support or create barriers to achieving your goals?
<p>Resources for further reading</p>	<p>As the need for healthy food grows, urban gardeners step up, Greater Greater Washington</p> <p>Farmer Incubator Program, Hilltop Urban Farm</p> <p>Montgomery County’s Resident and Community Food Production Gardening Grant Program, Montgomery County Food Council</p> <p>Delivering More Than Food: Understanding and Operationalizing Racial Equity In Food Hubs, Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems</p>

Recommendation 7: Continue to provide and expand market incentives and support to healthy food retailers of multiple sizes in target communities

Strategy:

There are numerous County government policies, programs, and projects that incentivize healthy food retailers. These are located mainly in priority areas that lack healthy food retail but have a disproportionately high rate of unhealthy food options, like the Inner Beltway. While these priority areas face challenges like lower-income trade areas or small store footprints that can deter grocery store chains, the County government plays a vital role in incentivizing grocery stores and food retailers to locate in these areas.

The County government should continue to support economic development programs that attract new grocery stores while also conducting outreach and recruitment of new grocery stores in partnership with local Community Development Corporations through the Economic Development Corporation. Successful recruitment can include a range of activities, including promotional materials, assistance identifying available or vacant land or commercial space, and tax incentives to locate in certain areas or purchase products from local producers. In addition, the County government can “fast-track” or simplify permitting processes that sometimes stymie new businesses. State legislation to allow alcohol sales in grocery stores, a major source of revenue and a requirement for many grocery outlets, should again be pursued.

Explore job creation and business development opportunities, such as an apprenticeship program, in partnership with county and local culinary schools or businesses, for high-demand and well-paying culinary careers. The Innovation Station Business Incubator, the County government’s small business incubator hub, should provide small businesses with training, funding, and resources. The incubator could provide a track to accommodate the needs of food entrepreneurs and healthy food retailers. This could benefit unconventional food businesses, such as potential food truck owners who would like to sell healthy fare and access incentives through the County government’s Healthy Food Truck Program.

Action Plan:

Recommendation	Provide and market incentives and support to healthy food retailers of multiple sizes in target communities
Rationale/Evidence	County Health Rankings & Roadmaps What Works for Health states that there is some evidence that attracting new grocery stores to underserved areas increases access to healthy food in these communities.

Policy Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Executive/Agency Action ✓ 2021-2022 County Budget ✓ Legislation
Audience/reach	Residents living in Healthy Food Priority Areas; food retailers
Expected cost	Moderate
Funding source	General fund, grants
Lead partner	Economic Development Corporation with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Commerce • UMD Extension
Barriers/limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited funding to support incentives
Recommended steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue state legislation to allow alcohol sales in grocery stores • Create a County program in partnership with local culinary schools and businesses to provide apprenticeships for high-demand and well-paying culinary careers • Provide and market tax credits and incentives for retailers who purchase a certain percentage of their produce/products from local producers • Create a food entrepreneur and healthy food retailer track within the existing Innovation Station Business Incubator
Key considerations for equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are public resources and investments distributed geographically? • How will the “quality and options of healthy food” options be ensured, given a key concern cited by previous studies? • How can those most adversely affected by the issue be actively involved in solving it? • How can those with limited transportation access healthy food retailers? • How will the price of produce be viewed with an equity lens? • What training, technical assistance, and funding may be needed for effective implementation? • Do the healthy food retailers reflect the diversity of the county and provide culturally appropriate foods?
Resources for further reading	Seat Pleasant residents celebrate the return of fresh produce to central shopping plaza

[Good Food Markets: Bringing Fresh Food to the Community While Maintaining their Bottom Line, Center for Science in the Public Interest, 2019](#)



Good Food Markets opened a new grocery store in the Addison Plaza Shopping Center on Central Avenue in Seat Pleasant, Maryland in Prince George's County, MD. The new store is a grocery oasis in one of six areas in Prince George's County designated as "food deserts," or places without convenient food stores. The shopping area where it now stands is a perfect example of what is often the case in a food desert.

Appendix

The appendix is available [here](#).

- A. County Resolution-062-2020
- B. Definitions & Key Terms
- C. Food Security Task Force Meeting Agendas & Minutes
- D. Food Related Legislation Overview
- E. Food Security Reports & Resources
- F. Food Security Task Force Recommendations Audit
- G. Definitions for Terms Listed in Action Plan

A. County Resolution-062-2020

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2020 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-62-2020
Proposed by Council Members Glaros and Turner
Introduced by Council Members Glaros, Turner, Anderson-Walker, Hawkins, Ivey,
Harrison, Davis, Taveras, Streeter, Dernoga and Franklin
Date of Introduction July 7, 2020

RESOLUTION

The Prince George's County Food Security Task Force

A RESOLUTION concerning The Prince George's County Food Security Task Force for the purpose of establishing the Prince George's County Food Security Task Force to address issues related to the demand and supply of healthy food and areas with limited access to healthy food, food-health connections, school meals, and food security in Prince Georges County.

WHEREAS, the Prince Georges County Planning Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission initiated a Food System Study to assess the County's food system; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the study was to identify challenges and opportunities and provide recommendations for creating a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system that ensures every Prince Georgian has access to nutritious, affordable, sustainably grown, safe, and culturally appropriate food; and

WHEREAS, the first research project under the Food System Study was an assessment of access to healthy food in Prince George's County. The November, 2015 publication entitled, *Healthy Food for All Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland*, revealed the results of this research project; and

WHEREAS, the report identifies issues related to the demand and supply of healthy food through surveys of food retailers, and surveys and focus group discussions with consumers. The report also includes research findings on areas with limited access to healthy food, food-health connections, school meals, and food insecurity in the County; and

WHEREAS, the study's findings and national and international promising practices provide policy recommendations for creating a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system

1 that ensures every Prince Georgian has access to nutritious, affordable, sustainably grown, safe,
2 and culturally appropriate food; and

3 WHEREAS, in 2018, the Healthy Food Policy Project published "Prince George's
4 County Food Equity Council: Taking on Food Swamps through Policy Change" outlining
5 systems change efforts which address multiple dimensions of food access that advance health
6 equity and improve diet-related health outcomes; and

7 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the food insecurity of residents
8 across Prince George's County; and

9 WHEREAS, Section 506 of the Charter provides that the County Council may appoint,
10 for designated periods, one or more temporary boards of citizens of the County who shall assist
11 in the consideration of County policies and programs.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
13 County, Maryland, that the Prince George's County Food Security Task Force shall be composed
14 of twenty-one (21) members:

- 15 1. One (1) member appointed by the County Council Chair who will serve as the Chair;
- 16 2. A representative from the Prince George's County Executive Branch;
- 17 3. A representative from the Prince George's County Legislative Branch;
- 18 4. A representative from Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission;
- 19 5. A representative from the Prince George's County Health Department;
- 20 6. A representative from the Prince George's County Soil Conservation District;
- 21 7. A representative from Prince George's County Department of Social Services;
- 22 8. A representative from Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation;
- 23 9. A representative from Prince George's County Department of Family Services;
- 24 10. A representative from the Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management;
- 25 11. A Prince George's County farmer appointed by the County Council;
- 26 12. An aggregate supplier from Prince George's County appointed by the County Council;
- 27 13. A representative from University of Maryland Extension who is a nutritionist;
- 28 14. A grocer operating in Prince George's County appointed by the County Council;
- 29 15. A representative from the Prince George's County Food Recovery Network;
- 30 16. A representative from the Capital Area Food Bank;

31

- 1 17. A representative from Prince George’s County Public Schools appointed by the
- 2 Prince George’s County Public Schools Chief Executive Officer;
- 3 18. A Prince George’s County nonprofit which deals with direct hunger relief and/or anti-
- 4 poverty advocacy appointed by the County Council;
- 5 19. A representative from a Prince George’s County Hospital System community benefit
- 6 Department;
- 7 20. A representative from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; and
- 8 21. A representative from a Prince George’s County faith-based organization appointed by
- 9 the County Council.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council Administrator shall
 11 assign appropriate technical and administrative personnel to assist the Prince George’s County
 12 Food Security Task Force in its work.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Prince George’s County
 14 Council that the Prince George’s County Food Security Task Force report deadline shall be on or
 15 before June 30, 2021.

Adopted this 21st day of July, 2020.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
 GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
 Todd M. Turner
 Council Chair

ATTEST:

 Donna J. Brown
 Clerk of the Council



Prince George's County Council

Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: 7/21/2020

Effective Date:

Reference No.: CR-062-2020

Chapter Number:

Draft No.: 2

Public Hearing Date:

Proposer(s): Glaros and Turner

Sponsor(s): Glaros, Turner, Anderson-Walker, Hawkins, Ivey, Harrison, Davis, Taveras, Streeter, Dernoga and Franklin

Item Title: A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE for the purpose of establishing the Prince George's County Food Security Task Force to address issues related to the demand and supply of healthy food and areas with limited access to healthy food, food-health connections, school meals, and food security in Prince Georges County.

Drafter: Donna Whitman, Legislative Officer

Resource Personnel: Aimee E. Olivo, Chief of Staff/Legislative Aide, District 3

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
07/07/2020	County Council	introduced and referred	COW
	Action Text: This Resolution was introduced by Council Members Glaros, Turner, Anderson-Walker, Hawkins, Ivey, Harrison, Davis, Taveras, Streeter, Dernoga and Franklin and referred to the Sitting as the Committee of the Whole.		
07/14/2020	COW	Favorably recommended with amendments	County Council
	Action Text: A motion was made by Council Member Glaros, seconded by Council Member Davis, that this Resolution be Favorably recommended with amendments to the County Council. The motion carried by the following vote: Aye: 11 Turner, Hawkins, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Harrison, Ivey, Streeter and Taveras		
07/21/2020	County Council	new draft substituted	
	Action Text: A motion was made by Council Member Taveras, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to substitute Draft 2 in lieu of Draft 1 of this Resolution. The motion carried by the following vote: Aye: 10 Turner, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Glaros, Harrison, Hawkins, Ivey, Streeter and Taveras		

Absent: 1 Franklin

07/21/2020 County Council adopted

Action Text:

A motion was made by Council Member Glaros, seconded by Council Member Taveras, that Dr-2 of this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 10 Turner, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Glaros, Harrison, Hawkins, Ivey, Streeter and Taveras

Absent: 1 Franklin

AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:

A Resolution concerning The Prince George's County Food Security Task Force for the purpose of establishing the Prince George's County Food Security Task Force to address issues related to the demand and supply of healthy food and areas with limited access to healthy food, food-health connections, school meals, and food insecurity in Prince George's County.

Document(s): R2020062, CR-062-2020 AIS, CR-062-2020 Report

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2020 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-062-2020

Draft No.: 2

Committee: Committee of the Whole

Date: 7/14/2020

Action: FAV

REPORT: Favorable 11-0: Council Members Turner, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Harrison, Hawkins, Ivey, Streeter and Taveras

CR-062-2020 was introduced on July 7, 2020 and referred to the Committee of the Whole held on July 14, 2020. CR-062-2020 would, if approved, establish the Prince George's County Food Security Task Force. Pursuant to Section 506 of the County Charter, the County Council may appoint individuals to consider policy.

This task force would build on the work of the Food System Study initiated by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Two research projects were inspired by the study; the 2015 Healthy Food for All Prince Georgians project assessment and the 2018 Healthy Food Policy Project published by "**Prince George's County Food Equity Council: Taking on Food Swamps through Policy Change**". The goal is to identify challenges and opportunities and provide recommendations for creating a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system that ensures every Prince Georgian has access to nutritious, affordable, sustainably grown, safe and culturally appropriate food.

During discussion it was noted that the County Executive would like to add a member to the task force directly from the Executive's office.

Council Member Glaros noted the Council's focus in recent years on improving food security in the County. A goal is to continue that effort and to continue the dialog about how we can break down silos. In response to a request during the meeting from the County Executive's Office, Council Member Glaros stated her agreement with adding a member to the task force in addition to the agency directors currently proposed.

It was noted that a person to provide administrative and technical support to the task force should be added to the Resolution. The assignment of this individual will be made by the County Council Administrator. A position has been created in the executive branch for a food security and distribution specialist that is expected to play a key role.

Council Member Dernoga suggested that it may be beneficial to reduce the size of the task force and list the agencies as support not as members.

Council Member Glaros informed the committee that she had attempted to remove members, but it kept growing and that subcommittees will handle the complex matters and should be sufficient.

The Resolution makes provision for 20 stakeholders.

1. One (1) member appointed by the **County Council Chair** who will serve as the Chair;
2. A representative from the Prince George's County **Legislative Branch**;
3. A representative from **Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission**;
4. A representative from the Prince George's County **Health Department**;
5. A representative from the Prince George's County **Soil Conservation District**;
6. A representative from Prince George's County Department of **Social Services**;
7. A representative from Prince George's County **Economic Development Corporation**;
8. A representative from Prince George's County Department of **Family Services**;
9. A representative from the Prince George's County **Office of Emergency Management**;
10. A Prince George's County **farmer** appointed by the County Council;
11. An **aggregate supplier** from Prince George's County appointed by the County Council;
12. A representative from **University of Maryland Extension who is a nutritionist**;
13. A **grocer** operating in Prince George's County appointed by the County Council;
14. A representative from the Prince George's County **Food Recovery Network**;
15. A representative from the **Capital Area Food Bank**;
16. A representative from Prince George's County Public **Schools** appointed by the Prince George's County Public Schools Chief Executive Officer; CR-062-2020 (DR-1)
17. A Prince George's County **nonprofit which deals with direct hunger relief** and/or anti-poverty advocacy appointed by the County Council;
18. A representative from a **Prince George's County Hospital System** community benefit Department;
19. A representative from the **Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**; and
20. A representative from a **Prince George's County faith-based organization** appointed by the County Council.

The Office of Audits and Investigations, Policy Analysis Group, found the legislation likely to create a minimal increase in expenditures.

The Office of Law found CR-062-2020 to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its adoption. Formatting suggestions were added to draft 2.

After discussion the Council voted CR-062-2020 out favorable, 11-0.



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of Audits and Investigations

July 13, 2020

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

TO: Robert J. Williams, Jr.
Council Administrator

William M. Hunt
Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: Josh Hamlin *JH*
Senior Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

FROM: Kassandra Fields *Kef*
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Note
CR-062-2020, The Prince George's County Food Security Task Force

CB-062-2020

(Sponsored by: Councilmembers Glaros, Turner, Anderson-Walker, Hawkins, Ivey, Harrison, Davis, Taveras, Streeter, Dernoga and Franklin)

Assigned to the Committee of the Whole (COW)

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE for the purpose of establishing the Prince George's County Food Security Task Force to address issues related to the demand and supply of healthy food and areas with limited access to healthy food, food-health connections, school meals, and food insecurity in Prince George's County.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact:

Expenditures: Likely minimal increase.

Revenues: None.

Indirect Impact:

None.

Legislative Summary:

CR-62-2020, proposed by Councilmember Glaros and Council Chair Turner by request of the County Executive and sponsored by Councilmembers Anderson-Walker, Hawkins, Ivey, Harrison, Davis, Taveras, Streeter, Dernoga and Franklin, was presented to the County Council on June 23, 2020 and referred to the Committee of the Whole. CR-062-2020 would establish The Prince George's County Food Security Task Force to address issues related to the demand and supply of healthy food, areas with limited access to healthy food, food-health connections, school meals, and food security within the County.

Current Law/Background:

Section 506 of the Charter of Prince George's County, Maryland authorizes the County Council or the County Executive to appoint, for specific periods, temporary advisory boards who shall assist with the consideration and development of policies and/or programs.¹

Discussion/Policy Analysis:

The Prince George's County Planning Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission had previously commissioned a study to assess the County's food system. The purpose of which was to clearly identify challenges, along with opportunities inherent in the existing system and ultimately provide policy recommendations that would create and bolster a healthy, equitable, and sustainable structure. This would ensure all residents have access to nutritious, affordable, sustainably grown, safe and culturally appropriate food.

The COVID-19 pandemic has both emphasized the existing weaknesses and highlighted the need to prioritize this project. Bringing this to the forefront will help combat the inadequate access to nutritious food and food insecurity dilemma, which lead to chronic health conditions like obesity and diabetes. These issues are often considered to be the comorbidities of severe COVID-19 cases. The Task Force shall be comprised of twenty (20) members, as delineated in the proposed legislation. A Councilmember, appointed by the County Council Chair will serve as the Chair.

The legislation imposes a deadline of June 30, 2021 for the final report of this body.

Fiscal Impact:

Direct Impact

Adoption of CR-062-2020 should not have any adverse financial impact on the County. However, there may be minimal fiscal impact incurred by the County related to the services of the technical and administrative staff assigned to work with the Task Force.

¹https://library.municode.com/md/prince_george's_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTICHPRGECOMA_CHPRGECOMA_ARTVADOR_S506CIADBO

Indirect Impact

Adoption of CR-062-2020 should not have an adverse indirect fiscal impact on the County.

Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget:

No.

Issues for Committee Consideration:

1. *What is the term of the Task Force?*

Whilst the proposed legislation doesn't expressly specify the term of the Task Force, it implies that it sunsets upon receipt of the final report, which is due June 30, 2021. It would seem as if the members are tasked with an ambitious timeline. The report will possibly take a week or more to complete after all the work has been compiled. Perhaps the Council may wish to consider making the term a year upon adoption of the Resolution. In addition, perhaps some additional language may be inserted, in the event that the Task Force has additional work to complete, allowing it to be reauthorized at the completion of the year by Council Resolution, if necessary.

2. *Should the selection of the Vice Chair be set forth within the legislation?*

CR-62-2020 provides that the County Council appointee (by the Council Chair) shall serve as the Chair of the Task Force. The Council may wish to consider an additional provision relating to the selection of a Vice Chair, whether selected by the majority vote of the Body or otherwise.

3. *Should the Council provide a more detailed expectation of the item(s) to be addressed within the report? Should the Council consider a date for a preliminary report to determine if the expectations are being met and allow for more clarification and/or direction, if necessary, prior to the final report?*

While the legislation addresses the overall purpose and goal of the Task Force, it may be prudent to provide a detailed expectation of the deliverables, along with a timeline for progress reports and/or updates along the way, prior to the final report being transmitted and received by Council.

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation

The proposed Resolution shall be effective on the date of adoption.

If you require additional information, or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please call me.

B. Definitions & Key Terms

Definitions & Key Terms

Food security*	Food insecurity, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, is “a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life.” Food security is measured through the Current Population Survey administered by the U.S. Census Bureau and has multiple levels of severity: high, marginal, low and very low.
Food System	The International Food Policy Research Institute defines food systems as, “the sum of actors and interactions along the food value chain - from input supply and production of crops, livestock, fish, and other agricultural commodities to transportation, processing, retailing, wholesaling, and preparation of foods to consumption and disposal.” The Institute goes on to define ideal food systems as “nutrition-, health-, and safety-driven, sustainable and climate-smart, and inclusive” (International Food Policy Research Institute).
Inequity*	Inequity refers to an uneven distribution of resources or opportunity relative to need. Unlike “inequality,” which assumes all people should receive equal shares of support from the systems around them, the term “inequity” assumes that systems should work in favor of those starting with lower resources and opportunity, not against them.
Hunger*	Hunger is a physical symptom of a lack of adequate food. It is not a quantifiable term, but rather a description of the result that reducing one’s food intake can have. Hunger and food insecurity are not synonymous, though they are closely related.
Newly Food Insecure*	This term was used by the Capital Area Food Bank to refer to individuals that started going to free food distributions for the first time during the pandemic (after March 2020).
Pre-Pandemic Food Insecure*	This term was used by the Capital Area Food Bank to refer to individuals that attended free food distributions before the pandemic.
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	As defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, “SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency” (United States Department of Agriculture).
Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT)	“P-EBT provides nutrition assistance to families whose children

	have lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to COVID-19 related school closures. Eligible families receive money on a new or existing EBT card to help make up for these lost meals” (Maryland Hunger Solutions).
Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC)	“WIC provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk” (United States Department of Agriculture).
Free and reduced-price school meals (FARMS)	“Free or reduced-price meals are available to students based on household size and income.... If income falls below [49,025 for a family of four], then students living within the household may qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Students are automatically eligible for free meals if the family receives assistance under the Food Supplement Program or Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) benefits” (Prince George’s County Public Schools).
Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA)	MMFA is a state program that allows high-poverty schools to provide free breakfast to all students at no cost. Eligible students must have at least 40% of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals.
Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)	CEP allows schools and school districts in low-income areas to provide free breakfast and lunch to students. CEP schools and school districts that adopt CEP are reimbursed based on the percentage of students eligible for free meals.
Maryland Market Money Program (MMM)	MMM is a food access program that provides a dollar-for-dollar match for purchases made using federal nutrition benefits, including SNAP/EBT/P-EBT, eWIC, and Senior and WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) benefits, at farmers markets.

*Source: Capital Area Food Bank. (2021). Hunger Report 2021. <https://hunger-report.capitalareafoodbank.org/>

C. Food Security Task Force Meeting Agendas & Minutes



Todd M. Turner
Chair
District 4

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
Service. Community. Progress.

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE
AGENDA
OCTOBER 2, 2020 @ 1:00 p.m.**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/734051461>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3311](tel:+18722403311)

Access Code: 734-051-461

1. Task Force Chair Remarks
 - Welcome
 - Introduction
 - Purpose (CR-62-2020)
2. Introduction of Task Force Members
 - Each member allotted 2 minutes
 - Share Role & Responsibilities
 - Expectations of Task Force
3. Open Discussion
 - Establish Mission Statement
 - Short- & Long-Term Goals
 - Potential Subcommittees
 - Future Briefings
4. Task Force Meeting Schedule
5. Next Meeting – Friday November 6, 2020
6. Adjourn

FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE

MINUTES

October 2, 2020 @ 1:00 pm

Attendees

Todd M. Turner, Chair
Dannielle Glaros, Council Member, Sponsor
Dr. Deborah Archer, University of MD Extension
Elana Belone-Butler, Department of Family Services
Dr. William Campbell, Senior Pastor, Union Bethel AME Church
Nicole Hall, Economic Development
Alexandra Harris, Office of Emergency Management
Dennis Lewis, Department of Social Services
Stacey Little, UM Capital Region Health
Gail Livingstone, Deep Roots Farm
Kimberly Rush Lynch, Soil Conservation District
Maria Martin, Parks & Recreation
Roberto Melara, Capital Area Food Bank
Aimee Olivo, Council Representative
Kerriann Peart, County Executive Office
Dr. Darlene Saunders, Department of Health
Joan Shorter, Prince George's County Public Schools
Lindsay Smith, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Jon Wogman, Food Recovery Network

Consultants

Sydney Daigle, Institute for Public Health Innovation
Julia Groenfeldt, Prince George's County Food Equity Council
Evelyn Kelly, Institute for Public Health Innovation

Staff

Tomeka Bumbry, Chief of Staff/Legislative Aide
Sandra Eubanks, Education & Work force Development Committee Director
Leroy Maddox, Legislative Officer
Leonard Moses, Clerk's Office
Sharon Williams, Administrative Aide

1. Task Force Chair Remarks

Chair Todd M. Turner called the first Food Security Task Force meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. Chair Turner introduced himself, staff, and consultants and welcomed the members.

The Chair gave an overview of the charge of the task force, referencing CR-62-2020; the Continuing Resolution that established the task force. He further stated that the task force is an integral part of the process by providing recommendations to create a healthy, equitable and sustainable food system in the County. The task force is charged with providing a report to the Council on or before June 30, 2021; although the deadline for the report due date can be extended.

Council Member Glaros, sponsor of the resolution, indicated that the 21-member task force included all the right partners at the table to promote food security. It is Council Member Glaros' goal that the members represented on the task force work more as partners, creating innovative solutions beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. She further indicated that during the last budget work session, the Council allocated funding for a new position in the Department of Social Services to focus on food security.

2. Introduction of Task Force Members

Task Force members introduced themselves sharing their roles and responsibilities and expectations of the task force.

3. Open Discussion

The Open Discussion portion of the agenda was led by Sydney Daigle, Institute for Public Health Innovation, Program Manager. Ms. Daigle utilized a PowerPoint presentation to discuss the following subject matters:

- Member expectations;
- Goal & Objectives; and
- Process & Timelines.

Group discussion centered around the following three questions with responses from the members:

- **Which communities and residents have experienced the heaviest/most severe food insecurity impacts related to COVID-19?**

Temple Hills, Oxon Hill, Greater Riverdale, Laurel to Oxon Hill, pockets in every district

Immigrant community, front line workers, child care and library closed, families with children, and restaurants community

- **Based on your experience, what is the most pressing food security issue in Prince George's County?**

Transportation accessible, healthy and affordable food, places to grow food, locally produced foods, motorized versus walkup food distribution (customer access), grab & go meals, provider capacity (cold storage), staffing, regular distribution network, enrollment eligibility, coordination and sustainability and financial sustainability

- **What issue do you want to learn more about and who do you want to learn it from?** Due to time constraints, this topic was not fully discussed. Members were asked to put their responses into chat.

Future speakers and Regional Food Equity Council

4. Task Force Operations & Meeting Schedule

Chair Turner explained that the task force is an extension of the County Council and that certain practices should be in place; keeping staff informed of press inquiries. A repository website has been designed for the task force. Various information will be posted to the website, such as, legislation, agendas, minutes, reports, etc. The task force meetings fall under the Maryland Public Information Act, and therefore, are opened to the public.

5. Next Meetings

The Task Force will meet on the first Friday of each month. The next scheduled meeting is on Friday, November 6, 2020 at 1:00 pm.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.



Todd M. Turner
Chair
District 4

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
Service. Community. Progress.

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE
AGENDA
NOVEMBER 6, 2020 @ 1:00 p.m.**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/662697965>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(646\) 749-3122](tel:+16467493122)

Access Code: 662-697-965

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
2. Review & Approval of Minutes – October 2, 2020
3. Updates
 - Recap of last meeting's priorities (Sydney Daigle)
 - Food Assistance Provider Call: Food Recovery (Sydney Daigle)
 - Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
 - Overview of Central Clearing House for Food Assistance (Leroy Maddox)
4. Current County Food Services and Issues
 - Capital Area Food Bank
Roberto Melara, Director, MD Region
 - No Kid Hungry
Ayesha Holmes, MD Director
Kara Panowitz, Senior Manager
 - Prince George's County Health Department
Alison Mendoza-Walters, MPH, MBA, Health Planner
5. Open Discussion & Assignments for Next Meeting
 - COVID-19 Food Security Interventions & Lessons Learned Survey
6. Next Meeting – Friday December 4, 2020
7. Adjourn



Todd M. Turner
Chair
District 4

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2020**

Attendees:

Council Member Todd M. Turner, Chair
Dr. Deborah Archer, University of MD Extension
Annabelle Beavan, LindaBen Foundation, Inc.
Elana Belon-Butler, Department of Family Services
Dr. William Campbell, Senior Pastor, Union Bethel AME Church
Nicole Hall, Economic Development
Ayesha Holmes, No Kid Hungry, MD Director
Leslie Jefferson, Giant Food
Dennis Lewis, Department of Social Services
Stacey Little, UM Capital Region Health
Gail Livingstone, Deep Roots Farm
Kimberly Rush Lynch, Soil Conservation District
Maria Martin, Parks & Recreation
Roberto Melara, Capital Area Food Bank
Jaqueline Menjivar, M-NCPPC, Parks
Aimee Olivo, County Council Representative
Kara Panowitz, No Kid Hungry, Senior Manager
Dr. Darlene Saunders, Department of Health
Joan Shorter, Prince George's County Public Schools
Lindsay Smith, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Alison Mendoza-Walters, Prince George's County Health Department
Erica Berry Wilson, County Executive's Office
Jon Wogman, Food Recovery Network

Consultants

Sydney Daigle, Institute for Public Health Innovation
Julia Groenfeldt, Prince George's County Food Equity Council
Evelyn Kelly, Institute for Public Health Innovation

Staff

Sandra Eubanks, Education & Work Force Development Committee Director
Leroy Maddox, Legislative Officer
Leonard Moses, Clerk's Office
Sharon Williams, Administrative Aide

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Chair Turner welcomed the members and thanked them for their support. He reminded members that this is an open; live streamed meeting.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes – October 2, 2020

Chair Turner asked if there were any revisions to the minutes. He asked the members to provide revisions to staff.

3. Update

- Recap of last meeting's priorities (Sydney Daigle)

At the last meeting, the group discussed areas of opportunity and challenges that this group can address regarding food insecurity. Issues included:

- Food assistance provider capacity (staffing, funding, cold storage)
- Food retail environment (affordability, accessibility, and availability of healthy foods)
- Federal nutrition assistance benefit and program utilization (FARMs, P-EBT, school meals, SNAP participation)
- Locally grown food production and access (land and market access for growers and marketing support)
- Decentralized food assistance network (provider concentration and service accessibility)

- Food Assistance Provider Call: Food Recovery (Julia Groenfeldt)

The FEC hosts [bi-weekly food assistance provider calls](#) to share resources and best practices among organizations, food pantries, and other agencies working on food assistance and distortion. The upcoming calls are on 11/17 and 12/03 at 1 PM. These calls have identified needs and gaps in services, including:

- Lack of food recovery efforts (DC, Montgomery County and other jurisdictions have used these platforms to coordinate food assistance during the pandemic). The FEC is currently working on a partnership with Food Rescue US to launch this in the County.
- Lack of cold storage infrastructure. The FEC is working with nonprofit partners to host cold storage trailers at sites throughout the county.

- Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
 - The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is creating a new, [Food and Agriculture Ad-Hoc Committee](#) and is pleased to have Councilmember Sydney Harrison serving as the representative for Prince George's County.
 - COG's Regional Food Systems Program has been holding Metro DC Biweekly Food Access and Food Security calls since the start of the pandemic.
 - The calls bring together area food policy council directors and staff, food assistance providers, local and state government staff, interested elected officials, food policy experts, and others.
 - The purpose is to share experiences across Metro DC on key food security and food access issues, provide potential solutions, important connections, and more. These calls are at 4 pm on the same day as the Prince George's County Food Assistance Provider calls. For more information, please contact Lindsay Smith at lsmith@mwcoq.org.

- Overview of Centralized Food Assistance Response Meeting on 10/14 (Leroy Maddox)
 - The Food Equity Council along with other stakeholders met on 10/14 to discuss developing a centralized response to the food insecurity problem in Prince George's County which has since been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Discussed creating a repository of information on food assistance activities.
 - Discussed opportunities to enhance distribution services and establish cooperative agreements to purchase food.
 - Discussed interconnectivity amongst different food distribution sites to prevent fraud/waste.

Discussion:

What opportunities exist to leverage existing farms and create a local farming movement to enhance food security?

The Soil Conservation District works with farmers in the County to develop soil conservation and water quality plans to improve soil health and water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. They also work with farmers to provide additional resources including connecting them to marketing resources and helping to navigate permitting issues (especially with urban farming). The Upper Marlboro office houses the Natural Resources Conservation Service which provides financial incentive programs for conservation practices like high tunnels or hoop houses to extend the growing season.

Up to 80% of the cost may be taken care of by the federal government. There is also an Agriculture Resources Advisory Committee. There are potential opportunities to cross-pollinate with these groups and resources. There is also an urban agricultural property tax credit available to farmers.

4. Current County Food Services and Issues

- Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB), Roberto Melara, Director, MD Region
 - CAFB had originally intended to release a hunger report in April. Due to the pandemic, this was delayed creating a more comprehensive report that factored in hunger during the pandemic.
[The 2020 Hunger Report](#) was released to include this data.
 - The report includes key data on food insecurity in the region and contributing factors (root causes/social determinants) that impact different groups.
 - The DMV is high-income, and highly educated; however, there are still high rates of food insecurity that are often masked.
 - The report includes census tracts with high rates of food insecurity correlated with income, life expectancy, etc.
 - Estimates show a 40-60% increase in food insecurity due to the pandemic.
 - Prince George's County has higher rates of food insecurity than other areas in the CAFB service areas.
 - The report looks at the impact of food insecurity in different areas of the region and the impact on different groups (women, seniors, children, immigrants, college educated residents).
 - The report also includes some solutions and ways that CAFB is addressing these issues.

- No Kid Hungry, Ayesha Holmes, MD Director & Kara Panowitz, Senior Manager
 - Childhood hunger has been an issue before the pandemic, but COVID-19 has made things worse. In August, No Kid Hungry [released a report on school level hunger factors](#). This showed that 1 in 4 high school kids lacked access to healthy food. Even more, these issues are exacerbated in areas that are black and Latino. With the pandemic, the national report shows that these disparities are growing, and the pandemic has made it worse.
 - In communities of color, there is an over 50% lack of food access. This is growing. This is a huge area of work to focus on!
 - Prior to the pandemic, we were making progress towards ending childhood hunger. The pandemic has made these positive effects disappear overnight.

There are a few things we can do in MD to not slip back too far:

- MD Meals for Achievement – A program to provide universal free meals and free breakfast in the classroom. This is a proven program and should be implemented in schools throughout the country. It increases school attendance, decreases absenteeism, and improves school behavior and academic success.
 - Community Eligibility Program (CEP) -- This program ensures that every child in a designated CEP school would receive free meals, no matter an individual's eligibility. If schools are eligible, they should apply.
 - Increase SNAP benefits by 15% -- This helps families receiving SNAP. MD participated in Summer SNAP last year, which gives an additional \$30 for families per month over the summer months. Similarly, P-EBT provides additional benefits on cards. These programs work and help families keep food on the table.
 - This year, No Kid Hungry MD provided over \$1 Million in grants to schools and organizations in need. They're hoping to continue doing that.
 - They're also in partnership with the Partnership to End Hunger -- contact Ayesha Holmes to participate. This group will be working on MDMA and Summer SNAP.
 - They're working hard to expand SNAP benefits across the country. This would be an economic win for everyone.
 - They are interested in continuing to expand local partnerships to serve children and families in need.
 - For more information or to participate in the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger, email Ayesha Holmes at AHolmes@Strength.org.
- Prince George's County Health Department, Alison Mendoza-Walters, MPH, MBA, Health Planner

Ms. Mendoza-Walters works with the Prince George's County Healthcare Action Coalition to elevate health in the county. One of the coalition's workgroups is the Healthy Eating Active Living Workgroup (HEAL). One of HEAL's initiatives was to create a [map and identify healthy food priority areas \(HFPAs\)](#) to provide tax credits to grocery stores that locate in these areas or provide fee waivers to food trucks that vend in these areas. The group has just launched this map of the HFPAs.

- The map used census data and takes into account feedback from existing stores, municipal feedback, partners, experts, and other

organizations. Through these partnerships, the group came up with data and metrics.

What is a healthy food priority area?

- A place with a low number of healthy food retailers (ratio of 4 unhealthy food retail locations to 1 healthy)
- Medium household income must be under the self-sufficiency number for a family of 4 in the County
- Transportation access - low vehicle access (if over 5.2% didn't have access to a vehicle in the area)
- The map uses these criteria to identify what constitutes a HFPA.
- This map serves to help alleviate structural inequities i.e. grocery stores are less likely to locate in communities of color. This is one small step to helping to advocate for solutions to help improve healthy food access.
- If you would like to learn more about the Healthy Food Priority Areas map project or the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Workgroup of the Prince George's Healthcare Action Coalition, please reach out to amendozawalters@co.pg.md.us.

- Q&A:

Are organizations teaching residents about growing food as a form of food security? This helps people understand the importance of access to fresh produce because they are actively participating in growing and creating it, that would make a huge difference.

- No Kid Hungry is funding two different programs -- they're looking to create partnerships to make more of those programs happen.
- Capital Area Food Bank worked on a "train the trainer" program to teach people how to teach those skills to clients. They also do that through recipes and training. They are trying to find partners who do that in their own neighborhood.
- HEAL Workgroup does not have initiatives to support growers. However, we do have partners in the farming sector who run community gardens as the work they do in their individual organizations.
- Is there any ability to capture which of the retailers may offer delivery? (I know that data collection/maintenance can be very resource intensive.)
- Delivery options is something that could be explored in future iterations of the map. This would require a multi-pronged research approach, as some of the retailers do not have a web presence, so it would require phone calls and/or door-to-door visits.

- Sydney Daigle commented that Food Justice vs. ugly produce -- we see that the quality of produce is lower in lower-income areas of the county. There is a lot of room in rescuing food but that doesn't solve the issue of quality produce in some areas of the county.

5. Open Discussion & Assignments for Next Meeting

- Are there restaurants that can provide food insecurity help?
 - Through the CARES Funding, the County has partnered with the department of family services to provide meals -- There are some catering companies and restaurants that are being utilized.
 - District 3 has a Go Fund Me that has raised money to purchase subsidized meals from restaurants -- win-win for restaurants and community! There are a lot of people who want to give back -- they're more than happy to talk with us about that model.
 - Our county received very generous donations from the Nationals to buy meals/partner with World Central Kitchen. Unfortunately, that funding wrapped up in August. I think it's a great idea to explore a grant fund to provide support to restaurants interested in providing discounted meals.
 - Department of Family Services, Elana Butler -- Expanded programs by working with restaurants and partnering with local restaurants.

6. COVID-19 Food Security Interventions & Lessons Learned Survey

The Food Security Task Force consultants are working on a survey to assess current food security interventions in the county during the pandemic. The survey will be used to understand gaps in service, target additional resources, and ensure increased access and inform short term recommendations. The survey will be distributed to the group in the coming weeks.

7. Next Meeting – Friday December 4, 2020

This virtual meeting will feature presenters that will be sharing regional models to inform food security strategies in Prince George's County. The virtual meeting will also include a legislative recap on food systems policies in the County.

8. Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the Food Security Task Force meeting at 2:50 pm.



Todd M. Turner
Chair
District 4

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE
AGENDA
December 4, 2020 @ 1:00 p.m.**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/849160605>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](tel:+18722403212)

Access Code: 849-160-605

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
2. Review & Approval of Minutes – November 6, 2020
3. Updates:
 - Recap of last meeting's priorities (Evelyn Kelly)
 - Food Assistance Provider Call: Food Recovery (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
4. Prince George's County Food Security Programs
 - County Executive's Office (Stand Up & Deliver)
John E. Erzen, Deputy Chief of Staff
Sonja Welborne, Director of Stakeholder Engagement
Daphne Benbow, Office of Community Relations
 - Department of Family Services
Elana Belon-Butler, Director
 - Prince George's County Public Schools
Joan Shorter, Director of Food & Nutrition Services
5. Open Discussion & Assignments for Next Meeting
6. Announcements from Taskforce Members
7. Food Security Task Force Survey
8. Next Meeting – Friday January 8, 2020
9. Adjourn



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

Prince George's County Council Food Security Task Force minutes December 4, 2020

Attendees:

Council Member Todd M. Turner, Chair
Dr. Deborah Archer, University of MD Extension
Annabelle Beavan, LindaBen Foundation, Inc.
Elana Belon-Butler, Department of Family Services
Daphne Benbow, Office of Community Relations
Renee Carroll, Director, Housing Counseling & Supportive Housing
Dr. William Campbell, Senior Pastor, Union Bethel AME Church
John Erzen, County Executive's Office
Nicole Hall, Economic Development
Alexandra Harris, Office of Emergency Management
E. Fatimah Hasan, Planner, M-NCPPC
Dennis Lewis, Department of Social Services
Stacey Little, UM Capital Region Health
Gail Livingstone, Deep Roots Farm
Kimberly Rush Lynch, Soil Conservation District
Maria Martin, Parks & Recreation
Roberto Melara, Capital Area Food Bank
Aimee Olivo, County Council Representative
Kerriann M. Peart, County Executive's Office
Dr. Darlene Saunders, Department of Health
Joan Shorter, Prince George's County Public Schools
Lindsay Smith, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Sonja Welbourne, County Executive's Office

Consultants

Julia Groenfeldt, Prince George's County Food Equity Council
Evelyn Kelly, Institute for Public Health Innovation

Staff

Sandra Eubanks, Education & Work Force Development Committee Director
Leroy Maddox, Legislative Officer
Leonard Moses, Clerk's Office
Sharon Williams, Administrative Aide

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm. He informed the members that the Council changed leadership and that Council Member Calvin Hawkins is Chair and Deni Taveras is Vice Chair. He further stated that Sydney is on leave and gave birth to a boy.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes – November 6, 2020

The Chair presented the minutes and asked for a motion to approve indicating to members to forward any changes to staff.

3. Updates:

- Recap of last meeting's priorities (Evelyn Kelly)
 - survey will be discussed later during the meeting.
- Food Assistance Provider Call: Food Recovery (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - The Food Assistance Provider calls are hosted in partnership with the Food Equity Council and the Department of Social Services
 - Before Thanksgiving, the call featured organizations serving the disability community -- this has been a topic that many of our providers have brought up as an issue of access and the need for more delivery options
 - The next call will be in the new year on January 7th at 1 pm
 - If you would like to join the calls, please email Jgroenfeldt@gmail.com
- Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
 - FARM Committee is meeting from 10-12 PM next Friday. There will be meeting notes shared next week
 - They host the Metro DC Bi-Weekly Food Access Calls. The last call featured food and nutrition service providers from Prince George's County, Fairfax County, Montgomery County, and DC

4. Prince George's County Food Security Programs

- **County Executive's Office (Stand Up & Deliver) -- John E. Erzen, Deputy Chief of Staff, Sonja Welborne, Director of Stakeholder Engagement, and Daphne Benbow, Office of Community Relations**
 - Goals: To provide groceries and meals in food insecure areas with the most vulnerable residents in the county during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Seen need continuing to grow
 - Working with nonprofit and faith-based partners to distribute: United Way has been a key partner to support these efforts
 - Program overview: Administration (program leads and support staff that are running the program and distributing 4-5,000 meals a week; purchase agents -- receive vendor registration information; prepared meals and groceries; and supplies
 - Two parts of the program: groceries and meals + supplies
 - Now in phase II of the program: First phase was with CAFB and worked together to determine site locations. Phase II is working with other partners and providing groceries, prepared meals, and supplies
 - Impact: The first partnership and launch with CAFB was a collaboration with the County Council for donations and supplies. Worked with nonprofit partners and food service establishments to donate food. The program has also worked with restaurants to purchase meals and groceries. The primary strategic partners are Sardis, Market Fresh Gourmet and Sodexo Magic.
 - Each partnership is unique whether they donate meals or groceries
 - United Way is the strategic partner for the second phase of the program
 - Summer Youth Employment program (SYP) -- students were employed through the program this past summer and worked at different sites. In exchange, the students wrote a one-page summary of food insecurity and what they learned
 - There are ongoing partnerships for the program with different partners to provide different services. They recently launched a partnership with the Human Rescue Alliance to provide pet food for residents and pets in need
 - How the program is funded: Influencers; businesses; individuals; groups/organizations; employee giving program
 - Working on building out a communications plan for phase III of the program and how to bring in new partnerships for the program. All organizations and businesses are vetted by United Way.

- Stand Up and Deliver is giving a virtual appreciation to county executive for the program
- **Department of Family Services -- Elana Belon-Butler, Director**
 - The program has been expanded as a result of the nutrition sites and Park and Planning closing during the pandemic in mid-March
 - They transitioned the congregate meal program to a homebound meal program as well as providing additional meals and more residents (the need ran beyond the seniors who were already enrolled)
 - Received \$1.6 million in CARES funding through the MD Department of Aging
 - Received \$4 million through CRF funds from the county
 - To date, provided over 1 million meals to county seniors as well as individuals with disabilities and their families
 - Distributed 4,425 bags of fresh groceries
 - In the previous year, the program served 225,000 meals over a 12-month period (more than quadrupled meals over 8-month period of the pandemic)
 - Accomplished due to the ability to add new vendors for the county -- gave them an opportunity to thrive and stay in business
 - Also have a Grab N Go meals initiative in partnership with MD National Capital Park and Planning Commission and County Council -- To date, provided 145,140 meals at various locations throughout the county (north, central, and south county)
 - Distributed 5,760 Thanksgiving meal boxes for a total of 23,040 meals
 - Partnered with restaurants to support those businesses and increase ability to provide prepared meals to clients -- MD Department of Aging recommended to all Area Agencies on Aging to work with restaurants: Worked with Jordan's Bistro, Sweet Tooth, and Sardi's. Also partnered with Mom's Meals, Martin's Catering, Market Fresh Gourmet, and Dutch Mill Catering as well as expanded the Meals on Wheels program
 - Worked with key partners: Local municipalities, Melwood, the Arc, Supportive employment providers, M-NCPPC, County Councils, Senior Public Housing facilities, and DPWT
 - What's next?
 - Christmas 2020 meal distribution -- planning Christmas Grab N Go Meal Distribution -- anticipating 7,000 meal boxes going out
 - Also distributing Treat Boxes --delivering alongside meal boxes
 - Exploring opportunities to partner with other local restaurants

- Exploring additional opportunities to provide meals to individuals with disabilities and families (that started via the CRF and CARES funding and prior could only provide meals to seniors)
 - Committed to ensuring all seniors and residents have meals plan on expanding the program to meet needs and support restaurants
-
- **Prince George's County Public Schools -- Joan Shorter, Director of Food & Nutrition Services**
 - Working to make sure all students, not just PGCPSS, have meals. Because operating under the summer meal program, anyone can pick up a meal. Distribute on Monday and Wednesday for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Students can pick up for multiple days in a row.
 - They also participate in the Fresh Fruits and Vegetable program so students can pick up a bag of fresh produce
 - They're serving 10-12,000 (different from regular school year serving 70,000)
 - School district qualifies for 60% free or reduced meals
 - See that participation has declined from previous meals
 - They will continue to provide meals and work with staff to do this
 - In 108 schools -- Have 150 sites that can pick up meals
 - Have 150 buses that are dispatched to bring meals to community locations during mealtime. Buses are parked from 10-1 in communities so children can walk to the bus to pick up the meals
 - Due to USDA waiver, every child can pick up a meal and waives eligibility for afterschool meal program
 - Always been the safety net for the families and students -- when you see that there are 50,000 students that are not participating -- where are they getting meals? They are working on this challenge. Principals are making robocalls to families to let them know where the meal sites are. They can plug that into the website. They have flyers and information available -- using social media and Facebook to let them know what is available. Spreading the word but not sure why the participation is low.
 - Low meal participation is standard on a national level. Everyone is wondering the same thing -- where are kids getting the meals?

- **Questions & Answers Relevant to the Presentations:**

- **Challenges that presenters are facing and anticipate:**

- Ms. Shorter: Transportation -- they are dealing with issues of storage so they can't store everything for one week, so they need to do pick-ups twice a week. That might help. They also wonder if pick up timing is an issue for folks to get food
- Ms. Belon-Butler -- Transportation is also an issue. Not everyone has access so they can't get to a meal delivery site. In addition, the issue of identifying additional people and families with disabilities who can enroll in the program. Lastly, the need for additional funding to continue providing meals to people with disabilities as well as the expansion and the increase in need for the program
- Ms. Benbow -- Coordinated communication. They send out flyers and information but there are always folks who are not on those communications platforms

- **Given the data and updates presented to you today, what stood out for you?**

- Nicole Hall: Restaurants: There is a robust list of restaurants that are interested in participating in these programs. These programs are a win-win for food assistance and businesses.
- Elana Belon-Butler: Restaurants can apply for family services programs. CARES act is running out so they will need to assess how much funding is leftover and what they need to spend by the end of the year. There is uncertainty around what will happen with CARES funding and funding to the county
- Sonja Welborne: Lack of CARES funding will be challenging for Stand Up and Deliver. Part of the program is funded by donations from a national platform. It costs over 3 million dollars to run the program at 13 sites for one year. They can't meet all the need -- if they didn't have the resources from family services, it would be even more challenging. To get restaurants onboard, they need to have specific requirements for procurement process. They would hear back in 2-3 weeks.
- Aimee Olivo: District 3 delivered meals and boxes with volunteers. Looked at data from a survey for folks most in need.

Now that the money is ending, could the Department of Family Services start reaching out to the smaller group of people that are most in need even though the CARES act funding is running out?

- Elana Belon-Butler: If folks are not enrolled in the program, they can enroll still and get signed up. As CARES funding runs out, there is a gap in services. There is some state funding through the MD Department of Aging but can't address all of the need
- Aimee Olivo: Her children have a 30-minute lunch break and with two kids their lunch breaks overlaps by 5 minutes. In theory, they could go pick them up but for many of the students, they can't physically walk to school because of safety or timing. Can we tap this group and the county executive to bring attention to these issues to help spread the word for the meals? Every week we need this information out there and communicated to families in need. The robot calls have dropped off over the past few months
- Joan Shorter: She will prompt principals to make the calls. Funding for schools isn't an issue as it's funded through the school meal program.
Kim Rush-Lynch: What happens to leftover meals. If they come back on the bus, they need to be discarded. If they stay at the school, they can be saved. They can typically estimate what the rates of participation is at the bus route but can't donate because of safety issues. They have had products that they donated to CAFB when needed. They don't have the infrastructure to cook the meals or prepackaged them.
- Stacey Little: Do we know the collective number of meals provided across county agencies? We have some of that data but not all -- that can be something to include in our final report. We are still very much in the pandemic and need a way of understanding what the need is and what we're doing
- Daphne Benbow: SUD has numbers on meals and pounds and boxes that have been provided. They have not joined forces with other agencies and groups to put that together.
- Lindsay Smith: Are there updates on enrollment in federal nutrition benefits? What is SNAP, WIC, and other benefit enrollment rates? What is the status with P-EBT?
Joan Shorter: Numbers have doubled for students who automatically qualify for TANF and SNAP benefits. When P-EBT benefits are given, there is a decrease in school meal participation.

- Dennis Lewis: Will investigate numbers
 - Sonja Welborne: Trying to get information out via SUD about health benefits, food, and other support services. Toys for Tots - December 19th at 6 Flags. They will also provide meal boxes.
- **Are there any topics/issues that could be earmarked for further discussion to include in the taskforce report?**
 - **Are there any additional programs and/or data you would like to be briefed on?**
5. Open Discussion & Assignments for Next Meeting
6. Announcements from Taskforce Members
- a. A lot of these conversations speak to the strengths of the CAFB and what they have been working on for a long time. This group will help solidify some of this work and coordinate it. They are currently working on priorities and recommendations for the county. They will be sharing it with the taskforce as potential recommendations that could be included in the taskforce report
 - b. CAFB is working on a pilot for a mobile grocery truck that could locate in areas with limited grocery stores. They will be selling food at affordable rates in areas of need. They are finalizing permitting to launch this in the county by next year.
 - c. Healthy Food Priority Areas legislation passed -- opportunity to provide tax credits to grocery stores and food trucks that locate in healthy food priority areas
 - d. Healthy kids; meal bill passed unanimously -- first comprehensive healthy kids meal bill in the country
 - e. Emergency Food and Shelter Program is releasing opportunity for bids for agencies to apply for funding -- over \$400,000 available. Phase 38 CARES will be available for organizations. They will be getting information out to folks when its available.
 - f. Registration is open for holiday Grab N Go meals -- register online
7. Food Security Task Force Survey
- a. Initially drafted a comprehensive survey on assessing needs, gaps, assets related to COVID19 service.
 - b. After consulting with Chair Turner and his team; the group decided to include this as a recommendation in the report instead given the scope of the

- c. Taskforce and limited timeframe and resources. This survey will include questions related to what this group sees as priorities, challenges to help us identify priorities for the Taskforce to include in the report.
- d. Currently finalizing the survey with a small team of volunteers -- we will be sending that to the group in the next two weeks. We ask that everyone fills out the survey before the January meeting.

8. Next Meeting – Friday, January 8, 2020

9. Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE
AGENDA**

January 8th, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/849160605>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](tel:+18722403212)

Access Code: 849-160-605

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
2. Review & Approval of Minutes – December 4, 2020
3. Updates:
 - Food Assistance Provider Call (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
4. State of the food system of Prince George's County
 - Institute for Public Health Innovation (8 minutes)
 - Review of key food systems definitions
 - Planning Department (10 minutes)
 - Review past food systems legislation (8 minutes)
5. Q&A
6. Review Survey Results & Discussion
7. Announcements from Taskforce Members
8. Next Meeting –
9. Adjourn



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

**Prince George's County Council
Food Security Task Force Minutes
January 8, 2021**

Attendees:

Council Member Todd M. Turner, Chair
Dr. Deborah Archer, University of MD Extension
Elana Belon-Butler, Department of Family Services
Renee Carroll, Director, Housing Counseling & Supportive Housing
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Leroy Maddox, Legislative Officer
Leonard Moses, Clerk's Office
Shirley Anglin, Administrative Aide
Sharon Williams, Administrative Aide

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed the members and thanked everyone for their participation in the efforts of the task force.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes – December 4, 2020

The members were requested to provide any corrections to staff. The minutes were approved as drafted.

3. Updates:

a. Food Assistance Provider Call (Julia Groenfeldt)

- i. The January call featured Alison Mendoza-Walters from the Health Department to share the Healthy Food Priorities Areas map and legislation that was previously presented to this group.
- ii. There were quite a few updates, including an update from County Executive about launching the Stand Up & Deliver program in mid-January and going for another few months.
- iii. There were quite a few questions about delivery options for food assistance -- that seems to be a real need among providers and an interest in exploring that topic further on future calls.
- iv. There was also some discussion around opportunities to co-locate distribution at schools.
- v. We also announced our upcoming partnership with Food Rescue US to launch the Food Recovery Platform in the County -- More information will be provided at the February meeting.

b. Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)

- i. The FARMs call was on January 8th (same day).
- ii. There's been discussion and interest to expand SNAP, Food-as-Medicine and Treatment programs.
- iii. Will be hosting meeting on cold and inclement weather (1/28).
- iv. Upcoming bi-weekly call will focus on farmers markets and food access in the region.
- v. Question about best practices and results with food as medicine:
 1. Evelyn shared that Montgomery County has a food-as-medicine program operated through the Primary Care Coalition.

4. State of the Food Ecosystem of Prince George's County

a. Planning Department Food Study Update -- Maria Martin, M-NCPPC

- i. Reports on urban agriculture, healthy food access, and food waste were all written by Gül Guleryuz -- she also helped put together the presentation.
- ii. Healthy Food for Prince Georgians -- focus areas: Affordability of healthy food, increase sustainable food, and improve transportation and access.
- iii. Recommended strategy to collaboration between libraries and community members to use computers to order groceries. Libraries could also be a hub for food distribution as mobile food banks.
- iv. Recommended strategy to launch a healthy grocery store program to make food accessible in underserved neighborhoods -- the health department is working on healthy corner store initiatives. But, in new zoning code there is no incentives to create a grocery store through the green grocery store program.
- v. Recommended strategy to create food orchards in public parks. They've established lots that are available for lease. The Department of Recreation is developing a program with youth to utilize these lots. There is a possibility of expanding the program.
- vi. Recommendation to eliminate hunger and food insecurity by ensuring access to affordable and healthy food for all via various policy support outlined in the reports.
- vii. Questions:
 1. University of Maryland was working on a food access program -- interested in working with schools that had previously established relationships -- will circle back with Maria.
 2. Ask Parks and Recreation Department to work develop a report on what they're doing and provide an update -- ask them to speak to the top priorities.
 3. What would be the top priorities to move forward? A lot of people are having a hard time understanding what the COVID priorities are and what long term priorities are -- For example the Department of Recreation is providing meals that stem from long term needs. There should be more collaboration with other agencies to receive input on strategies -- the Planning Department doesn't have the agency to work on anything independently.

b. Review past food systems legislation -- Leroy Maddox, Legislative Officer

- i. Mr. Maddox compiled a document that summarizes food policy work that has occurred since 2009.
- ii. In 2009, the RAND report was commissioned to evaluate the health of the county. In 2012, the County created a Health Improvement Plan (HIP) (2011-2014).

- iii. This put forward priorities and strategies to prevent and control chronic disease and the need to improve access by healthy food.
- iv. That was further supported by M-NCPPC that laid out policy guidelines for the development of the County. That included developing research, nutrition, food safety and improving access to fresh food county-wide.
- v. As a result of that, the Council voted affirmatively on a series of legislation to accomplish those goals including allowing food trucks, enhancing utilization of farmers markets, encourage SNAP at farmers markets, as well as several bills and resolutions mentioned in the presentation.
- vi. There was an effort on many parts by FEC and Park and Planning -- urban agriculture was a big part of past legislation (that encompasses zoning).
- vii. Questions:
 - 1. Kim Rush-Lynch -- Information on Soil Conservation District (SCD) and Agriculture Legislation:
The SCD is working on an urban farm incubator project. For more information Chris Fanning and Kyle Low would be good contacts. The urban Agriculture group would also be a good group to loop in.
 - 2. Parks lease about 1200 tillable acres - mainly to commodity farmers but I know there is more being leased for table crops and even cut flowers. Also, the urban farm incubator is about 11 acres total. The details haven't been worked out quite yet. ECO City Farms has been a part of the collaborations and would be a great partner with their beginning farmer training program with Prince George's Community College.
 - 3. Impressed with what has happened on the policy level. Interested in knowing about what is being implemented and what is being addressed -- what is most effective and what needs to be revisited. The implementation needs to be worked on.
 - 4. Food Trucks weren't regulated -- the County cracked down on that. Then saw that the industry had changed so they implemented a policy to allow for Food Trucks. There's a Food Truck Advisory Group that assist Food Truck vendors. This is a good example of addressing policy and ensuring follow up and accountability.
 - 5. This group needs to do an in depth look at what we've done and where we currently are.
 - 6. The County struggles with density, so it's tough to compare to other areas in the region in terms of retail markets. It's difficult to incentivize in this type of landscape.
 - 7. We need to increase land access for new farmers -- We have an urban agriculture group that should advise new farmers.

8. Food Prints is a program that help kids prepare food and understand the food system. Is it possible to implement something like that in Prince George's County?
 - a. We do have Brighter Bites operating at several PGPCS which does similar product taste-testing, education, recipes, etc., and families go home with large bags of produce.
 - b. UMD Deborah Archer works with PGPCS and provide nutrition education and train educators to integrate that into curriculum.

5. Institute for Public Health Innovation & Food Equity Council
 - a. Review of key food systems definitions
 - b. What is a food system?
 - i. You often may see different terms for the components of the food system, but they drill down to 5 different areas.
 - ii. These include Production or Growing, Distribution, Access or Getting Consumption, Recovery or Surplus/Waste.
 1. Grow: Growing and harvesting fruits, vegetables, and other forms of produce by use of soil, hydroponic/aquaculture/aquaponic, or pasture mediums; and raising or keeping animals and insects for food production or pollination, whether for personal or commercial purposes, in urban, suburban, or rural areas (i.e., backyards to large farms). Includes protecting and providing access to resources needed to carry out this process, such as access to land.
 2. Process: Turning fresh produce, honey, meat, fish, and other plant and animal related foods into forms ready for sale, including in restaurants and other commercial settings, and including value-added processing that changes the physical form of the product (e.g., making berries into jam), and packaging.
 3. Distribute: Transporting and delivering food to wholesale, retail, institutional, and other food access points (such as food shelves, food pantries, or food banks and aggregation points such as food hubs). Includes the use of marketing strategies, such as labeling, pricing, placement, promotions, "sell-by" and similar dates, and other marketing techniques, as well as decisions about what types of food will be made available to the consumer, such as procurement decisions.
 4. Get: Activities, practices, systems, and facilities that affect people's ability to obtain and consume healthy food.
 5. Make: Baking, boiling, bottling, canning, cooking, and other processes of making food for consumption, family gatherings, and other non-commercial purposes.

6. Surplus/Waste: The process of food recovery, including gleaning, as well as minimizing, composting, and recycling of food surplus or waste.
- iii. What is food equity?
 1. Providing healthy food with consideration for what is culturally appropriate, combats diet related disease, and provides optimal nutrition for food-insecure communities. (Charlottesville Food Justice Network, 2019).
 2. Food Security is defined as providing healthy food that is culturally appropriate and provides optimal nutrition for food-insecure communities.
 3. Food equity not only considers the immediate need to diminish hunger, but also recognizes the systems and structures that create barriers for access to healthy foods and actively pursues dismantling those barriers.
- iv. What is food security?
 1. According to the UN Committee on World Food Security, food security is defined as the means that all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for a healthy life."
- v. What is food resilience?
 1. Resilience is the ability to prepare for, withstand, and recover from a crisis or disruption. A resilient food system can with stand and recover from disruptions in a way that ensures that enough supply of acceptable and accessible food for all.
- vi. What is preparedness?
 1. Preparedness is the process of becoming aware of the vulnerabilities of a system and develop strategies that improve its capability to respond to and recover from disruptions.
- vii. Survey Results: [See slides.](#)
 1. Survey Question 1: How should County agencies and the County Council prioritize actions in the next year to advance the food security of County residents?
 - a. Ranking (short to long term)
 - i. Expand food assistance provider network and strengthen provider capacity
 - ii. Increase utilization of federal nutrition assistance benefits and programs
 - iii. Increase coordination, communication, and data sharing among county agencies
 - iv. Modify the food retail environment
 - v. Promote locally grown food production and access

2. Survey Question 2: How should County agencies and County Council prioritize actions in the next year to advance resilience within the local food system?
 - a. Ranking (short to long term)
 - i. Expand food assistance provider network and strengthen provider capacity
 - ii. Increase utilization of federal nutrition assistance benefits and programs
 - iii. Increase coordination, communication, and data sharing among county agencies
 - iv. Promote locally grown food production and access
 - v. Modify the food retail environment
3. Survey Question 3: Survey Question: How should County agencies and the County Council prioritize action in the next year to advance preparedness to respond to food security challenges during disruptions?
 - a. Ranking (short to long term)
 - i. Expand food assistance provider network and strengthen provider capacity
 - ii. Increase coordination, communication, and data sharing among county agencies
 - iii. Increase utilization of federal nutrition assistance benefits and programs
 - iv. Promote locally grown food production and access
 - v. Modify the food retail environment
4. Discussion:
 - a. Slim on data to assess food provider work -- it's a work in progress. We know that there are 85 food distributors. It's a good basis to understand this. We need to collect more data!
 - b. The CAFB has information about the network that they have -- They're trying to figure out how to obtain that information of food that is provided in the County.
 - c. Is there an incentive to get folks to complete data? We could help them get the word out if they provide that information.
 - d. Do we need to increase capacity or number of providers? We have partners that are providing these services: increase the capacity through existing providers. Once that is maximized then it may organically increase the number of providers!
 - e. Can we expand grant programs to increase capacity?

- f. Providing best practices/professional development support for our food providers would also be incredibly helpful. This is happening somewhat through the providers call.
- g. There are also different resources we can provide like heaters and tents, etc. There are many caterers that can support food and meal preparation.

viii. Challenges and Lessons Learned:

1. Challenge themes:

- a. There were many comments about communication and coordination -- including inefficient or ineffective communication among food systems partners and to the community, such as where and how to access food, when donations are happening, etc.
- b. What makes communication among food system players difficult? Is it a lack of partnership or connection?
- c. What makes communication from the system to the community difficult? Is it a lack of understanding of what methods communities' use -- social media, email, print...?
- d. Transportation has consistently been an issue we've heard about -- whether that is opportunities to expand delivery services, improve bus and public transit to grocery stores, understanding how to use and apply benefits and where those locations are.
- e. The food system is a complex structure with lots of challenges and opportunities to intervene -- these impacts play out in each sector in different ways.

2. Lessons learned:

- a. We saw innovative collaborations and partnerships -- we've heard about those on past calls, including partnerships with restaurants to provide meals, partnerships with funders to support new programs like SUD; providers partnering with local farms to increase local food supply.
- b. Political action played a role in ensuring access to food. We saw wider availability of federal and county resources to support residents.
- c. And, perhaps a silver lining of the pandemic is that we've seen topics of food security emerge as a priority for the county.

3. Future Learning:

- a. We asked what you wanted to learn more about -- this is a summary of what we heard from you:
- b. Understand the issues -- what is happening in the County.

- c. Learn from our neighbors --we're inviting Montgomery County and Baltimore City.
 - d. Explore solutions
 - e. We will take these recommendations into consideration for future meetings.
 - f.
6. Announcements from Task Force Members
- a. Phase 38 has been announced -- that will be going out soon.
 - b. CAFB is collecting data on provider partners also developed a legislation report for MD https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Prince-Georges_Exec_Summary.pdf.
 - c. CAFB is developing an advocacy committee to move these forwards.
 - d. Next Tuesday, County food distribution response at County meeting at 10 AM (maybe 10:45).
7. Next Meeting – February 12, 2021 at 1:00 pm.
8. Adjourn

The Food Security Task Force meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE
AGENDA**

February 12th, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/274619797>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122)

Access Code: 274-619-797

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1:00 - 1:05 PM | Welcome & Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Review & Approval of Minutes – January 8th, 2021 |
| 1:05 - 1:15 PM | Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Food Assistance Provider Call (Julia Groenfeldt)● Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)● State Legislation |
| 1:15 - 1:35 PM | Examples from Neighboring Jurisdictions: <p><i>What was the state of your food system prior to the pandemic? What cracks in the system showed? What are you doing to improve the food system?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Montgomery County (10 minutes)<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Netta Squires, NCR Emergency Preparedness Specialist, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Management Staff● Mark Hodge, Deputy Health Officer, Health and Human Services● Baltimore City (10 minutes)<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Holly Freishtat - Baltimore City Food Policy Director, Food Policy & Planning Division, Department of Planning |
| 1:35 - 1:45 PM | Q&A |
| 1:45 - 2:35 PM | Review Survey Results & Discussion |
| 2:35 - 2:45 PM | Timeline and Report Outline |
| 2:45 - 2:55 PM | Announcements from Taskforce Members |
| 2:55 - 3:00 PM | Next Meeting (March 5, 2021 @ 1:00 pm) & Adjourn |

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

Prince George's County Council Food Security Task Force Minutes February 12, 2021

Attendees:

Council Member Todd M. Turner, Chair
Dr. Deborah Archer, University of MD Extension
Annabelle Beavan, LindaBen Foundation, Inc.
Elana Belon-Butler, Department of Family Services
Dr. William Campbell, Senior Pastor, Union Bethel AME Church
Nicole Hall, Economic Development
Holly Freishtat, Baltimore County, Food Policy and Planning
Ian D. Hamilton, Office of Homeland Security
Leslie Jefferson, Giant Food
Susan Kornacki, Montgomery County Food Council
Dennis Lewis, Department of Social Services
Stacey Little, UM Capital Region Health
Gail Livingstone, Deep Roots Farm
Maria Martin, Parks & Recreation
Roberto Melara, Capital Area Food Bank
Aimee Olivo, County Council Representative
Dr. Darlene Saunders, Department of Health
Lindsay Smith, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Netta Spires, Montgomery County Food Council
Michael A. Washabaugh, Medstar Family Choice – Southern Maryland
Erica Berry-Wilson, County Executive's Office

Consultants

Julia Groenfeldt, Prince George's County Food Equity Council
Evelyn Kelly, Institute for Public Health Innovation

Council Staff

Sandra Eubanks, Education & Work Force Development Committee Director
Charlotte Aheart, Administrative Aide
Shirley Anglin, Administrative Aide
Lochelle Ferguson, Administrative Aide
Sharon Williams, Administrative Aide

Welcome & Opening Remarks

The Chair called the meeting to order welcoming the members and thanking everyone for their support.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Updates:

- Food Assistance Provider Call (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - The last call was on February 4th -- this call was focused on food assistance provider work with community schools. This featured a presentation from the Central Kenilworth Community Revitalization Commission (CKAR) that is working in the Riverdale community to support food assistance efforts with various partners at community schools. This has sparked further discussion and the team is working to connect interested providers with community school coordinators to provide resources and referrals and potentially co-locate food distribution at schools.
 - The next call will be held on March 4th -- this call will feature staff from Meals on Wheels of Central MD and focus on food delivery services.

- Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
 - Just finished up the 4th FARM meeting today at 1 pm.
 - There were several updates relevant to this committee:
 - Hosted a meeting on planning for emergency distribution during cold and inclement weather (will share a link to resources).
 - Resuming food security calls in March and April.
 - Resources:
 - [Planning for Emergency Food Distribution in Cold and Inclement Weather Meeting resources](#)
 - Presentation on Urban Agriculture Pivot Study Presentation with Georgetown University and University of Maryland (UMD) -- Link when available
 - [FEMA Statement on Executive Order and 100% Cost Share](#)
 - [National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference](#)

- Licenses for supermarkets in alcohol density zones
 - Prince George's County doesn't allow the sale of beer or wine in supermarkets. This bill would provide a license to a supermarket that serves under-resourced areas (food deserts or food swamps).
 - This could apply to Prince George's County and the state delegation on the house and senate side have a lot to say on it.
 - County Council will be taking this up and County Executive is supporting it.

Examples from Neighboring Jurisdictions:

What was the state of your food system prior to the pandemic? What cracks in the system showed? What are you doing to improve the food system?

• **Montgomery County**

Netta Squires, NCR Emergency Preparedness Specialist, Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Management Staff and Susan Kornacki, Montgomery County Food Council (MCFC)

- Montgomery County has significant economic means but also has some deep inequities. Root causes of these inequities caused deep-rooted food insecurity caused by the high cost of living.
- Released the Food Security Plan in 2017 -- took 3 years to put together. This plan was leveraged to address the food insecurity challenges due to COVID-19.
- Despite 3 years of investment in this, the economic and health challenges remained significant.
- Food insecurity was projected to rise due to the pandemic -- based on unemployment claims they tracked the data to get a sense of the demand. The data showed high demand (13% - 60% increase).
- Map of food assistance: MCFC has seen a 50% increase in the number of food assistance providers (many are faith-based). These are highlighted on the food council's website. They reach out to the sites every 2 months to check hours and info. This is used as a referral tool for caseworkers in county government.
- Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has also been helping meet the need among students -- operating over 60 meal sites in the county. MCPS has served over 12 million meals.
- Montgomery County Government issued grants for food assistance and businesses -- particularly to help support culturally appropriate food.
- In April, the Food Security Task Force was convened to coordinate these efforts. The task force is structured in an incident command format via a partnership with various agencies and nonprofits. The units are run in different units that work on different strategies. Funding, operations, technology, food access call center, etc.; working through a cohesive and coordinated effort.
- In May 2020, the food response strategy was created. This sought the input of 115 task force members. Gathered over a 2-week period on how the county could meet this need. The county gave out \$2 million in CARES and asked the task force to give out \$5 million more to support.
- The strategy lays out efforts to support the current food security plan and develop strategies to expand plan:
 - More food for more people by leveraging technology to connect people to food and support businesses.
 - Hub and Spoke model via 8 community hubs. They operate in different areas of the county to connect residents with resources, including food.

- Partnered with 10 local restaurants to provide meals with residents that couldn't leave home.
- Challenge has been the decreased in donated food supply. The county created a food supply by purchasing shelf-stable food from food banks to buy in bulk and make sure there is enough food on the shelves.
- They connected local farms to food assistance providers and built storage to store this food.
- Grants:
 - Food Access Grant
 - Capacity Building
 - Community Gardens
 - SNAP Outreach
- Operations - what worked well:
 - Rice and beans purchasing -- ran out at provider sites. Bought them in bulk and repacked them and gave them out to food assistance providers.
 - Bought emergency food stable items. Contracted with companies to purchase items that food providers couldn't purchase or find at food banks.
 - Capacity-building grants -- a way for providers to purchase refrigeration or shelving foods.
 - Food Access Call Center: Created a food access call center -- can access directly or via 311. They will refer you to those resources and where you can access what you need. Calls take 45 minutes.
 - Public Food info text alert: Text MoCoFood to 888777.
- Public Private Partnerships –
 - Food for Montgomery
 - Leverage Private Funds
 - \$5 Million goal

- **Baltimore City**

Holly Freishtat - Baltimore City Food Policy Director, Food Policy & Planning Division,
Department of Planning

- 8-point plan to address healthy food environment.
- When the pandemic hit, there was already a food resilience plan and an emergency food working group had a staffing structure and an emergency food plan.
- The role is to coordinate with emergency plans -- everything that the plan was built on was congregate feeding and centralization. Had a planning process to update this. Working with CBOs, state and federal agencies -- over 200 partners.
- For the last 10 years, they've been doing food environment mapping. Have been using SNAP data to map where the highest need is that shows a higher level of need than healthy food priority areas -- this data helped show where to place these sites. Also mapped other areas of low-income populations to locate the distributions.

- Mapping all different types of resources. Also, have a distribution dashboard and interactive map to see what resources exist.
- Food Assistance response - 4-point plan:
 - Food boxes
 - 11.8 million pounds moved through the city through community sites.
 - Three different types of boxes -- moving to 57 sites each week. Also have home grocery boxes -- Amazon is doing pro bono delivery. Doing shelf-stable boxes for home deliveries.
 - Maximizing food boxes
 - Meals
 - Food resilience and urban agriculture
- SNAP - Went up in June -- but then SNAP dropped in the fall. Unemployment was coupled with eligibility for SNAP. People were bumped off. This policy has changed so people are getting back enrolled. The City is continuing to do direct feeding.
- Online SNAP has been challenging because of distribution windows.
- Urban agriculture—trying to make sure funding and support can go to those farms.
- COVID-19 Vaccine Readiness -- Also helping with vaccine distribution to encourage that.
- Funds leveraged: August 28, 2020, million leveraged (½ federal) farmers to families or other to city funds. Since then, it's been \$10 million in funding to food boxes. This is a huge operation to feed the residents in need.
- How does this tie into the food policy agenda?
 - A team of four has reassigned time to food assistance response. Adapted the work with resident's advisory and other groups to address this.
 - At the end of March, no longer doing the direct boxes to sites but continuing with the home delivery boxes and feedings at schools and meals on wheels. Also directing resources to partners doing SNAP outreach.
 - Continuing with nutrition incentives, food as medicine, updating food resiliency plan. Continuing to support small food retailers.
- Other things:
 - Had been moving away from food handouts -- but the pandemic changed that. Needs to reassess.
 - Priorities: Same but spending more time on direct feeding. Need to move these potions to the emergency operations center.
 - Learned how many organizations and partners are in the world of food assistance and security. The army has grown to help address these needs.

Q&A

- **How do you see life after the emergency given that there is a focus on food insecurity issues?**
 - There is already a funded staff to work on this. All of this will continue. We need to make sure some of this is in legislation, but now we need to solidify some of these roles and responsibilities.
- **What is the emergency team?**
 - Holly's staff has been the emergency operations team. lessons learned will be to provide funds to do the operations and logistics. Agencies just don't have those abilities. Need to understand the role of contractual employees during these times. FEMA reimbursement rate went up 100%.
- **Do you have an idea of what type of demand you saw for the senior nutrition program?**
 - Everything has doubled -- the health department is working on that.
- **What is the role of the County and Food Council?**
 - County has been the conduit for organizing these calls. This was a strong role in bringing together communication, data sharing, and collaboration.
 - The task force was a driving force in moving some of these forward that is not possible for the food council. The task force is meant to go away. They're at the point of trying to understand what the ownership is on the partners and providers to continue their operations without continued county support.
 - Food Security Plan has recommendations 1-5: Develop an emergency food plan. We can learn what we need to incorporate into that plan. The bi-weekly calls with the food assistance partner -- they pull the participants to ask what support they need and provide speakers and opportunities to bring in speakers. Right now, they're trying to listen to the emergency food task force and leverage the partners. Leveraging resources for food assistance providers -- connect partners!
 - Food security plan was to host virtual training for food assistance provider -- hosted a training on safe packaging and handling; hosted a training on culturally appropriate marketing strategies; and creating learning opportunities to build up the capacity of awareness of nutrition information -- will continue building on that in the year ahead.
- **How are you dealing with the challenges of lack of support at provider sites? Lack of staff, etc.**
 - Developed a food access grant -- this improved capacity to reach out to areas that were underserved.
- **Jump in food-insecure populations from 2018-2019 -- why did this happen?**
 - Data from American Community Survey -- several factors or perhaps the dataset grew.
- ***Discussion Promising Practices from the presenters:***
 - The capacity to have plans and resources in place was a helpful approach and necessary for success. Stability can be hard to achieve through nonprofit alone. Montgomery County is its own CBO, but they do have government contracts that support this work.

- Hubs that were created for food distribution
- Capacity-building grants that Montgomery County highlighted.
- The Office of Emergency Management is where the Food Security Task Force was housed.

- **Review Survey Results & Discussion**

- **Survey #2:**

- Focused on barriers to coordination, communication, and data sharing among county agencies,
- Members identified as government and community-based organizations/businesses to tailor questions,
- These questions are used to guide the process and provide context to develop the recommendations.

- **Survey Results:**

- **Perceived Barriers Among Government Agencies:**
These questions were asked to people that were identified as government employees or elected officials -- *Fifty percent of the respondents (n=4) identified as government employees or elected officials. Only those identifying this way were prompted to answer these questions.*
 - The results do not represent the final stance of the Task Force; rather they are intended to guide our process and spark discussion.
 - Respondents were asked to select the top two barriers among government agencies within the food system in Prince George's County for three core functions: (1) communication, (2) coordination and collaboration, and (3) data sharing.
 - These are the statements that were selected most frequently as top barriers.
 - The responses for communication barriers had the most variance.
- **Perceived Barriers Between Government and Community Stakeholders:**
 - All respondents were prompted to answer these questions.
 - Respondents were asked to select the top two barriers between government agencies and community stakeholders within the food system in Prince George's County for three core functions: (1) communication (2) coordination and collaboration, and (3) data sharing.
 - These are the statements that were selected most frequently as top barriers.
 - The results were nearly identical to perceived barriers among government agencies. When looked at the data for just the community stakeholders, the results were the same.
- *This suggests that the perceived barriers are aligned.*

Q&A:

- We need central infrastructure from the county and stakeholder who is responsible and accountable to deploy these resources. Like the idea about sending text messaging to send these resources. Right now, it's very siloed -- There's no central place to handle and control this! This need to be an organization whose sole purpose is to deploy food and resources -- whether that is under the office of emergency management or elsewhere.
- We need a central coordinator -- Under the Office of Emergency Management that can support but we need a central agency. It was challenging for CAFB to connect and coordinate and work with the county -- Not knowing who to reach out to. That would be the person who would be able to coordinate this at the county level. We need to understand that the issue of hunger is not going away, and other economic or environmental challenges could pose a threat.
- There is a lot of infrastructure that didn't exist previously. How could we strengthen those connections? Lift up promising practices!
- Increase the marketing aspect -- make sure that this could be publicized. Double dollars need to be publicized. Texting where those pantries are. Montgomery County mentioned that food insecurity is attached to other things like healthcare and housing.
- Examples of communications platforms that help communicate -- Not sure where this information is coming from -- need to be clear.
- Data sharing and data hubs -- Could we utilize maps and existing data platforms to display this information. Not many folks are aware of the current map that exists.
- Hard to tell the collective story when we're getting the piecemeal of information.
- Capital Area Food Bank also has a map that includes data on food distribution locations -- but we need to centralize information.
- Working with partners on a regional map. Some of the local governments have brought together a data dashboard on food security built off an ESRI platform. Lindsay could share resources on that.
- Department of Family Services has several data points that are tracked and provided to County Stat. Other agencies also are required to maintain different types of data and performance measures in County Stat.

- **Announcements from Taskforce Members**

Next Thursday, 7-8 pm, ABC Live - Town Hall on Food Insecurity in DMV featuring CAFB and Council Member Turner.

- **Next Meeting & Adjournment**

The next Food Security Task Force meeting is scheduled on March 5, 2021 at 1:00 pm. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE
AGENDA
March 5, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.

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You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](tel:+18722403212)

Access Code: 822-106-501

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
2. Review & Approval of Minutes – February 12, 2021
3. Updates:
 - Food Assistance Provider Call (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
4. Open Discussion
 - Report Outline
 - Process
 - Timeline
5. Q&A
6. Announcements from Taskforce Members
7. Next Meeting – April 2, 2021
8. Adjourn

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

Prince George's County Council Food Security Task Force Minutes March 5, 2021

Attendees:

Council Member Todd M. Turner, Chair
Dr. Deborah Archer, University of MD Extension
Dr. William Campbell, Senior Pastor, Union Bethel AME Church
Nicole Hall, Economic Development
E. Fatimah Hasan, Planner, M-NCPPC
Leslie Jefferson, Giant Food
Dennis Lewis, Department of Social Services
Kimberly Rush Lynch, Soil Conservation District
Maria Martin, Parks & Recreation
Roberto Melara, Capital Area Food Bank
Erica McIntyre, American Heart Association
Aimee Olivo, County Council Representative
Dr. Darlene Saunders, Department of Health
Lindsay Smith, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Anthony B. Walker, Department of Family Services

Consultants

Sydney Daigle, Institute for Public Health Innovation
Julia Groenfeldt, Prince George's County Food Equity Council
Evelyn Kelly, Institute for Public Health Innovation
Laura Runnels, Institute for Public Health Innovation

Council Staff

Sandra Eubanks, Education & Work Force Development Committee Director
Leroy Maddox, Legislative Officer
Charlotte Aheart, Administrative Aide
Shirley Anglin, Administrative Aide
Lochelle Ferguson, Administrative Aide
Sharon Williams, Administrative Aide

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Chair Turner called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm and welcomed Sydney from maternity leave and congratulated her on the birth of her son.

Laura Rummels was introduced to the task force members as a member of the consultant team. While Laura was new to the members, she has been working behind the scenes on the efforts of the task force.

Chair Turner indicated that the task force has met six (6) times and discussed a wide spectrum of topics. He further indicated that there may be a need to request an extension to allow additional time to solicit members input and participation for culminating the recommendations.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes – February 12, 2021

The members were requested to provide any corrections to staff. The minutes were approved as drafted.

3. Updates:

- Food Assistance Provider Call (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - Yesterday's call focused on meal and food delivery opportunities for folks with limited or no transportation options.
 - We received information from Meals on Wheels about their services and shared the Family Services meal delivery opportunities to help providers share with their clients. From these conversations, it seems like this is a big need and more effort could be placed on expanding those resources.
 - There was also a discussion on vaccines -- providers would like more information and resources and if they are eligible and where they can get vaccinated.
 - The next call will be on April 1st at 1 PM. Please let me know if you would like to be added or you can sign up for updates: <http://eepurl.com/dcToEf>

- Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
 - FARMS meeting is Friday, April 9th at 11 AM.
 - Access calls continue Thursdays at 4 PM to focus on issues of schools, eligibility for nutrition benefits.
 - National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference: <https://www.antihungerpolicyconference.org/>

4. IPHI Team: Open Discussion

- Overview of Process:
 - It became clear that we needed more time to gather information and meet as smaller groups that would align with the priorities.
 - Participating in groups will take 1-2 hours per month -- these include task force members as well as community stakeholders.
 - These groups will draft recommendations for the report and then present that out to the larger group
- Four (4) groups include:
 - Individual & Resident Safety Net
 - Food Assistance provider Capacity & Coordination
 - Government Agency Systems Response
 - Strategic and Long-Term Food Systems Planning
- Report Outline:
 - Executive summary, Introduction, Root Causes of Food Security, Vision Statement, Recommendations, Next Steps, and Appendices.
 - Themes/Small Groups:
 - These are for the county as an actor.
 - -- What can the County do to reduce food insecurity and make sure families are their own preparedness?
 - Provider level -- How can we make sure there is coordination across the network?
 - Government Agencies level -- Communication, Coordination, and Data Sharing i.e., how can the government support a system to respond to disruptions?
 - Strategic and Long-Term Food System Planning -- The goal isn't to create a long-term plan but possibly this group would recommend that as an action.
- Small-Group Assignments:
 - Group 1: Will look at strategic and long-term food systems planning (higher-level overview)
 - Group 2: Individual Recommendations
 - Group 3: Food Assistance provider Capacity
 - Group 4: Government Agency and Systems Response
- Brainstorm: Members will pick their groups, IPHI drafts content, groups meet to review, IPHI finalizes report content.
- **Discussion for Groups 2-3**

Launching the discussion for two small groups: Individual and Provider groups. We still have some learning to do for each of these.

 - Brainstorm Leaders:
 - Rev. William M. Campbell, Senior Pastor, Union Bethel AME Church
 - Repurpose on Purpose - Repurposed church space to serve assistance needs in District 8
 - Pandemic Possibilities -

- Resumed daycare at ½ capacity
- virtual worship gatherings
- More space and more resources for food distribution
- UBN Worship Facility is now a food hub in District 8 network
- Purchased two additional forges and freezers
- Created three teams for workload: transportation, preparation, distribution
- June – December 2020 – 41,000 lbs. of food to 10K people and 2,462 families
- Mobilized other groups to help
- Community Service for students
- Support for business in the Rosecroft Shopping Center
 - Roberto Melara, Director, MD Region CAFB
- The CAFB works through other organizations to provide food to the community but also provides food to other providers and pantries.
- They're looking at numbers and statistics around food insecurity -- working on the plan for the Fiscal Year 2022 and working with the County's budget cycle.

- Recommendations:
 - Create food pantry plan
 - Involve leadership
 - Budgeting and financial planning
 - Create a communication plan
 - Have a succession plan
 - Use of technology or software to help alleviate the need for more volunteers
 - Network connections to help coordinate the work
 - Investment in Infrastructure -- have a specific area dedicated to the pantry (bulk and cold storage)
 - Transportation for food -- many pantries use personal vehicles but not enough when need grows. Need to invest in transportation
 - Accessibility -- Are the sites close to public transit, are there delivery options, etc.
 - Launched a survey for all the clients (2000) at the pantries. What is their need? What type of food are they getting? Need to learn from the clients.

- Questions:
 - To Rev. Campbell -- Where does the food come from? Food comes through the district 8 network
 - To Rev. Campbell -- Is there a template in place to model what has been done? There has been some documentation on that via social media and developments -- Need to flesh that out with FEC.
 - Does CAFB have a model? Do it through the membership process -- they lay out what they do and operations. CAFB is also working on developing a vision of what a food pantry should be.

- **Discussion:**
 - *Definition:*
 - **Food security** is defined as "the means that all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life."
 - **Resilience** is the ability to prepare for, withstand, and recover from a crisis or disruption. A resilient food system can withstand and recover from disruptions in a way that ensures that an enough supply of acceptable and accessible food for all.
 - **Preparedness** is the process of becoming aware of the vulnerabilities of the food system and developing strategies that improve its capability to respond to and recover from disruptions.
 - What are avenues for action or tools for change that are available to the county to implement change?
 - Budget -- purchasing food, distributing the food -- each of these costs.
 - Communication -- Getting the message out about what is available and when to people in need.
 - Coordination -- What are the respective roles and how can they work together?
 - Legislation - Policies can be put in place to ensure accountability.
 - Leveraging existing programs and put elements that support the food system into that.
 - Planning -- Use this as a tool to implement change.
 - Data -- The County collects data. What it counts it pays attention to.
 - Partnerships -- Prince George's County should continue to expand its relationship with State and Federal actors to provide support. There are lessons learned going through the crisis. Also, foundational partners have been key! Utilize our connection to the federal government.
 - Evaluation & Oversight -- If you're being evaluated, you'll be more actionable.
 - Staff allocations - Has the workforce at its disposal and how to deploy.
 - What actions can the county take to build the resilience of individuals and families?
 - Messaging: Information from the Emergency Management team about what you need in an emergency.
 - Connecting to the school system
 - Advocacy groups
 - Educational Resources -- How to cook and prepare meals at home?
 - Active Community Disaster -- Have something similar for food insecurity.
 - Get to know your neighbor's campaign.
 - Faces of Hunger campaign (like pedestrian safety campaign)
 - Is it possible to create more of a one stop shop for assistance (food, rental, energy, etc.) -- help navigating that via a more simplified process?
 - Comment from Aimee Olivo: Kaiser Permanente has partnered with Unite US to provide the sort of coordination Lindsay mentioned. I still need to learn more about it, but it sounds really promising. -- for individuals.
 - What actions can the County take to encourage food assistance provider level preparedness and resilience?

- **Budgetary**
Provide financial planning training; facilitate a network for providers to connect them and help them share resources.
- Small grants program i.e., MAFRAC model?
- **Recap:**
 - Sending out the form so members can select small groups. Please complete!

5. Q&A

6. Announcements from task force members

- The original bill was scrapped (dealt with a concentration of liquor stores in the county). It was used as a vehicle and added in the grocery store amendments. Incorporated the opportunity for beer and wine licenses for new grocery stores starting after October of this year or if they provide improvements and expanded the area to include the healthy priority areas as well as additional areas of the county to have grocery store anchors near transit-oriented development.
- Passed the PG House Delegation today -- will probably be moved forward since the local delegation supported it. The County Council also supported the additional amendments
- National Nutrition Month with PG Parks, register for classes at: <http://pgparksdirect.com>

7. Next Meeting – Changed to April 9th, 2021

8. Adjourn



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE
AGENDA
MAY 7, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/521410965>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](tel:+18722403212)

Access Code: 521-410-965

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
2. Review & Approval of Minutes – March 5, 2021
3. Updates:
 - Recap of Task Force Work Priorities (Sydney Daigle)
 - CB-28-2021 (Curbside Grocery Trucks) (Chair Turner)
 - Food Assistance Provider Call: Food Recovery (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
4. Sub-groups Updates:
 - Individual and Resident Safety Net
 - Provider Capacity and Coordination
 - Government Agency and Systems Response
5. Community Outreach Strategy
6. Federal/State Updates
7. Open Discussion & Assignments for Next Meeting
8. Announcements from Taskforce Members
9. Next Meeting – Friday, June 4, 2021
10. Adjourn

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

Prince George's County Council Food Security Task Force Minutes May 7, 2021

Attendees:

Council Member Todd M. Turner, Chair
Dr. Deborah Archer, University of MD Extension
Dr. William Campbell, Senior Pastor, Union Bethel AME Church
Maddy Carver, University of MD Public Policy Student
Nicole Hall, Economic Development
Dennis Lewis, Department of Social Services
Stacey Little, UM Capital Region Health
Kimberly Rush Lynch, Soil Conservation District
Maria Martin, Parks & Recreation
Roberto Melara, Capital Area Food Bank
Aimee Olivo, County Council Representative
Dr. Darlene Saunders, Department of Health
Joan Shorter, Prince George's County Schools
Lindsay Smith, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Cathy Stasny, Department of Family Services
Bridget Warren, Department of Health

Consultants

Sydney Daigle, Institute for Public Health Innovation
Julia Groenfeldt, Prince George's County Food Equity Council
Evelyn Kelly, Institute for Public Health Innovation
Laura Runnels, Institute for Public Health Innovation

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Charlotte Aheart, Administrative Aide
Shirley Anglin, Administrative Aide
Lochelle Ferguson, Administrative Aide
Sharon Williams, Administrative Aide

1. **Welcome & Opening Remarks**
Chair Turner called the Food Security Task Force meeting to order and welcomed the members. Chair Turner thanked the members for their work during the meetings and their work outside of the task force.
2. **Review & Approval of Minutes – March 5, 2021**
The minutes were approved as presented and any changes should be forwarded to staff.
3. **Updates:**
 - **Recap of Task Force Work Priorities (Sydney Daigle)**
 - **Timeline:**
 - October - Review of the group priorities
 - November - Present the data and evidence base
 - November – January - Briefings based on where group priorities and data intersect
 - January – February - Develop short-term recommendations based on urgent needs related to COVID-19 pandemic
 - March – launch subgroups
 - March – May – Develop report recommendations
 - May – June – Community engagement strategy and finalize recommendations
 - June – Draft report, approve as the FSTF and brief County Council
 - **Timeline Update:**
 - Report is due June 30th – There might be a resolution to update the timeline for the report in May or June. This is generally flexible and easy to pass. More information will be provided if that moves forward.
 - **CB-28-2021 (Curbside Grocery Trucks) (Chair Turner)**
 - CAFB approached the County about launching a curbside grocery truck in the County (CB-28-2021) – This is modeled on a pilot that CAFB implemented in DC.
 - That stems from some of the work with the food trucks.
 - The grocery truck will be housed in areas with limited food access – that will go out for a public hearing in the next 30 days.
 - All Council Members have signed on to the legislation.
 - Expected to pass and be signed by County Executive in early June.
 - **Food Assistance Provider Call: (Julia Groenfeldt)**
 - April meeting – The Food Assistance Provider Call had received requests for more information on vaccine distribution for food and farm workers.
 - The April call focused on information about the vaccine and resources that providers could share with their clients and networks.

- May meeting – The May meeting included a presentation on FEC's new project launching three new cold storage trailers at provider sites in the County. The project is funded by Washington Gas Project. Partners are planning a launch event to unveil the new trailers in June.
- Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
 - MWCOG hosted FARMs calls on increase in SNAP.
 - Also hosted a brief out on MD, VA, and DC legislation – bill information is being updated and sent out.
 - Next FARMs meeting is next week at 11 am.
 - Shout out to Joan Shorter – it's National School Hero Lunch Day! Montgomery County Food Council summary of legislation:
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=test_email_&u=94db16f73c96fb3b92c6494f0&id=099164feb0
 - The farmer panel video will be posted with the other meeting materials from the last FARM meeting here:
<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2021/4/9/food-and-agriculture-regionalmember-farm-ad-hoc-advisory-committee/>

4. Sub-groups Updates:

- a. The consulting team convened three small group meetings with two sessions each to identify recommendations and vote on top recommendations that should be included in the final report.
- b. Criteria to prioritize recommendations:
 - i. **Urgency:** If this isn't acted upon, will there be further harm to the food system?
 - ii. **Feasibility:** Can the recommendation be reasonably implemented and is there political will and champions to move this forward and is there work to build off?
- c. Individual and Resident Safety Net
 - i. Recommendations
 - ii. Top recommendations
 1. Increase participation in Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs.
 2. Create a "one stop shop" for residents to learn about and receive assistance navigating everything they are eligible for.
 3. Ensure accurate, timely information about Food Assistance is available to all residents including those with limited English proficiency and/or low literacy through multiple trusted platforms (app, text, phone, print, internet, social media, word-of-mouth).
 4. Include community leaders, organizations and networks in planning for future Food Security disruptions.

5. Improve transportation options to access healthy food outlets and Food Security providers.
- d. Provider Capacity and Coordination
 - i. Recommendations
 - ii. Top Recommendations:
 1. Make food security a line item in the County budget.
 2. Establish partnerships with food providers to help purchase.
 3. Develop centralize resource hub on food assistance locations.
 4. Develop State and County partner provider group.
 5. Develop master coordination and communication plans and ensure this is in multiple languages to ensure access.
 6. Discussion key points:
 - a. Transparency – create clear communications channels on how to have access.
 - b. Making this a County budget priority.
 - c. Need for collaboration and systematic approaches to create a county response and not one-off actions.
 - d. Another response was about how we work with community members and set aside resources to compensate individuals who are assisting with food – paying workers for their service.
 - e. Government Agency and Systems Response
 - i. Recommendations
 - ii. Top 5 Recommendations:
 1. Create a robust Incident Command Structure plan.
 2. Apply for all available public and private Food Security funding.
 3. Update, maintain, and use data sources related to Food Security to make inform decisions.
 4. Create an online hub for Food Assistance Program info and data and map food distribution in real time.
 5. Create and fund a County Food Security Office.
 - f. Food Systems Planning
 - i. This body of recommendations is about policies, systems, and environment initiatives that promote food system resilience and food security.
 - ii. How can the County government improve its policies and systems to create a better food system?
 - iii. This group has not yet met.
 - iv. This group will meet to review the comprehensive recommendations and see what is missing.

- g. Big Picture:
 - i. Create and fund a **County Food Security Office** (line item in the County budget)
 - ii. Apply for all available public and private **Food Security/Resilience funding**
 - iii. **Update, maintain, and use data** sources related to Food Security to inform decisions.
 - iv. Develop a master Food Security/Resilience **communication strategy** that ensures accurate and timely information available in multiple languages, for multiple language proficiency levels, and is issued across a variety of trusted platforms (e.g., app, text, phone, print, internet, social media, word-of-mouth (central hub)).
 - v. Establish partnerships with food suppliers (and local producers) to order bulk food for providers or help providers establish **bulk purchasing coops.**
 - vi. Work with stakeholders (government, community leaders, organizations and networks) to **plan for future FS disruptions**, including a robust Incident Command Structure plan to quickly respond to emergency situations.
 - vii. Increase **participation in Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs**
 - 1. Discussion key points:
 - a. Transparency – create clear communications channels on how to have access.
 - b. Making this a County budget priority.
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 - vi. Work with stakeholders (government, community leaders, organizations and networks) to **plan for future FS disruptions**, including a robust Incident Command Structure plan to quickly respond to emergency situations.
 - vii. Increase **participation in Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs**
 - viii. Create a “one stop shop” for residents to **learn about and receive assistance, navigating everything** they are eligible for.
 - ix. Improve transportation options to access healthy food outlets and FA providers
- k. Discussion:
 - i. Sydney Daigle: Missing food systems resilience related to production and agriculture investment.
 - ii. Sydney Daigle: Helpful to think about the community networks and connections that we have in our neighborhoods and communities.
 - iii. Lindsay Smith: helpful to organize the recommendations in terms of near to medium-term (e.g. increase participation in Federal Programs is happening).

- iv. Lindsay Smith: I think there could be a stronger emphasis on community voice/engagement/perspective.
- v. Kim Rush Lynch: Think about calling the body entity the Office of Food Security and Equity.
- vi. CM Turner: There are technically budgeting for agencies, so what is the line item for providers?
- vii. Dennis Lewis: The budget for providers should be housed somewhere in the County budget to ensure there is reliable funding for food providers and food security. We need to know where those line items are and how this can support our initiatives.
- viii. Lindsay Smith: This is a strong list of recommendations. Can we push ourselves a bit more to focus on the community engagement and community voice? Can we address root causes of inequity as a part of addressing food insecurity?
 - 1. Some of those root causes can be drilled down into looking at those root causes.
 - 2. We will also be focusing the next meeting on equity and community voices.
 - 3. If anyone wants to dig into this question, please join small group meeting #4.
- ix. Bridget Warren: In addition to supporting our local suppliers and distributors, we can consider those relationships as part of disaster/resiliency planning.
- x. Kim Rush Lynch: Increase participation in Federal Nutrition Programs – can that focus be on County specific assistance like Maryland Market Money or other county funds?
- xi. CM Turner: Can we add the County specific landscape at the beginning of the report to form an underlying basis of understanding for why we're looking at this? That would lay the groundwork for the recommendations moving forward.
- xii. Sydney Daigle: There's a need to do more data collection among folks that have been historically under monitored. Are we able to collect data on food insecurity more regularly through community-based organizations? Now, we're relying on outdated food insecurity data through national data efforts. Can we rely on real time data collection?
- xiii. Roberto Melara – The data that CAFB is using is from Feeding America and census so it's outdated. We need a more responsive system...
- xiv. Lindsay Smith: On the amended "increase participation in Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs" with MD Market Money, etc.

We may want to say "increase and support" to acknowledge that participants in some cases don't just have to enroll but participate in recertification processes.

- xv. To Kim's point, disseminating information about farmers markets, their acceptance of SNAP and WIC, and the \$10 match of Maryland Market Money. Partnering with farmers when it comes to gleaning as well "ugly" fruit as a means of food recovery and food waste. Educating residents-the produce has the same nutrient value as those sold in stores or at farmers market.

5. Community Outreach Strategy

a. **How can we ensure our recommendations address the lived experiences and priorities of food-insecure Prince Georgians?**

- i. Focus groups with diverse groups of residents to inform recommendations.
- ii. Surveying residents attending food distributions on proposed recommendations.
- iii. Other ideas to collect community information and feedback?
 - 1. CAFB conducted a survey by selecting people from different areas. Tried to identify different criteria and demographics to guide these recommendations and once we have the preliminary data, we present the data to a different group of people – timing of that process could be an issue.
 - 2. CAFB also has a Council that meets a few times a year that we could utilize for more specific answers
 - 3. Helpful to have the nonprofits working on the data collection from a legal perspective.
 - 4. Department of Social Services also does data collection – they conduct HUD survey on homelessness, but it's optional to participate and incentivized with gift card.
- b. Trying to incorporate "Equity Lense" into the discussion and the development of the recommendations.
- c. The next meeting will focus on equity and level-setting these concepts for this process to analyze the impact of these recommendations (who is impacted and what are the consequences).
- d. Ways County is incorporating equity into process –
 - i. Rand adopted a health in all policies approach.
 - ii. Police reform work.
 - iii. Housing opportunities work group.

6. Federal/State Updates

- a. American Rescue Plan – Expectation that the County and State will get more funding. Guidance on how they can be spent will come this week. \$176,000,000 will

be allocated to Prince George's County (part this fiscal year and part next fiscal year). Towns and municipalities will get funding as well.

Important to work with municipalities on that... More updates will be provided soon on developments and food security impacts.

- b. State – Also getting funding from American Rescue Plan – some of that will also go to food security, State programs, and Community Development Block Grants.
- c. County Council is in the middle of budget season (public hearings were last week where folks participated from the county) – some of the recommendations will be advanced as a part of the budget.

7. Open Discussion & Assignments for Next Meeting

8. Announcements from Taskforce Members

- a. Joan Shorter - School meals will be free to all students next school year.
- b. Deborah Archer –
 - i. UMD had a surplus of funds (\$30,000 will be provided to the campus pantry). 71% of students are working full time jobs and are single parents. There are more issues around food security than they realized previously.
 - ii. The Hunger Free Campus Grant Program passed the house and senate and is awaiting signature. Funding will be allocated to colleges and universities that declare themselves a hunger free campus.
 - iii. Lindsey Smith: To reinforce Ms. Archer's point, we were very lucky to have Dr. Breaux talk about Bowie State University's systems approach to supporting food security on campus at the last FARM Committee meeting. Could there be a focus group(s) with community college and college students as part of the task force work?

9. Next Meeting – Friday, June 4, 2021 at 1:00 pm.
At the next meeting, the request to extend the FSTF will be submitted.

10. Adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE
AGENDA

June 4, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.

Please join meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/420177725>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122)

Access Code: 420-177-725

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
2. Review & Approval of Minutes – May 7, 2021
3. Updates:
 - Extension Resolution (Todd Turner)
 - Food Assistance Provider Call: Food Recovery (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
 - Recap of Task Force Work Group Recommendations (Sydney Daigle)
4. Guiding Values Exercises
 - Review survey
 - Facilitated discussion
5. Community Outreach Strategy
6. Work Group Update
 - Strategic & Long-Term System Planning
7. Open Discussion & Assignments for Next Meeting
8. Announcements from Taskforce Members
9. Next Meeting – Friday, July 16, 2021
10. Adjourn

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

Prince George's County Council Food Security Task Force Minutes June 4, 2021

Attendees:

Council Member Todd M. Turner, Chair
Dr. Deborah Archer, University of MD Extension
Dr. William Campbell, Senior Pastor, Union Bethel AME Church
William Ford, Washington Informer
Nicole Hall, Economic Development
Leslie Jefferson, Giant Food
Dennis Lewis, Department of Social Services
Kimberly Rush Lynch, Soil Conservation District
Maria Martin, Parks & Recreation
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1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Chair Turner called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm and welcomed the members.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes – May 7, 2021

Members were asked to forward any edits to Sandra Eubanks. The minutes were approved as presented.

3. Updates:

• **Extension Resolution (Todd Turner)**

- The extension resolution has been drafted for September 30th (three-month extension). This would allow the team to conduct the community outreach strategy and do a strong briefing to the County Council.
- This group wouldn't necessarily need to participate every month.
- The report might be completed even earlier than September. It's helpful to request a longer extension than what is currently needed to avoid doing an additional resolution. (we could extend the resolution to November or December to avoid this).
- Council passed the Bill to allow the Curbside Grocery Mobile Food Truck program. They're working on permitting to get this implemented.
- This will hopefully be on the road by sometime in July. This was a big effort and CAFB is thankful to partners for their support
- The Healthy Food Priority Areas will be a focus area for the food trucks.
 - A couple of links on the Curbside Grocery Truck program and Bill:
(1) <https://curbsidegroceries.org/>;
(2) <https://princegeorgescountymd.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4891646&GUID=A55F5851-3DA5-4EF2-AA91-A1064E52BDB3&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=>

• **Food Assistance Provider Call: Food Recovery (Julia Groenfeldt)**

- Yesterday's call focused on school and summer meals updates and included guest speakers from PGCPSS Food and Nutrition Services and No Kid Hungry MD. The speakers shared information on the updated USDA meal waivers that grants meal services to all students through the summer. Speakers also shared resources on how to access summer meal sites.
- Speakers also joined us from Maryland Hunger Solutions who shared updates and changes to P-EBT, SNAP and WIC access as well as resources to help folks sign up for those programs.
- If folks are interested in learning more, email Julia@pgcfec.org

- **Overview of recent MWCOC meetings (Lindsay Smith)**
 - Here's the link to the farmer's panel video mentioned last month for the COG update: <https://www.mwcog.org/events/2021/4/9/food-and-agriculture-regional-member-farm-ad-hoc-advisory-committee/>
 - Regional food security calls will reconvene in July.

- **Recap of Task Force Work Group Recommendations (Sydney Daigle)**
 - Timeline – Now in June (on target), spent the last few months working on developing the recommendations. We anticipate working on the community engagement strategy in the next few months. The report will be developed later this summer as well as the briefing to the County Council.
 - Overview of Small Group Process
 - Small group meeting #1 – Group discussion and brainstorm.
 - IPHI developed list of recommendations.
 - Small group meetings.
 - Task force reviews the recommendations developed by the small groups.
 - Small group meetings -- Held the first three small group meetings over the last few months.
 - Individual and resident safety net
 - Food Assistance Provider Capacity and Coordination
 - Government Agency and Systems Response
 - Developed big picture recommendations that were then presented to the 4th small group meeting to see if it was relevant for bigger food systems planning.

4. Developing Guiding Principles

- Review survey – We sent out a list of 75 options and asked you to pick 10 options from that – we compiled all the data into list of votes – RESULTS:
 - iii. What would it mean for the County to be empowering?
 - Creating tools that empower other groups to act and not dictate.
 - Make sure the local champions are there for long term sustainability.
 - Empowering is an overarching theme for others, like collaboration and equitable.
 - “For the people and by the people” – is that inherently a collaborative and equitable approach?
 - Yes, it's inherently collaborative but not necessarily equitable. Not all populations are included or served.
 - If you're empowering, there are strategies that are needed to be inclusive and equitable

- Need to keep an open mind and pay attention to when we're not equitable.
 - When we develop proposals and recommendations, we need to make sure we're incorporating an equity level in that we're addressing those that are sometimes missed or not included. We need to avoid being equal and try to be equitable.
 - Centering those who have disproportionately shouldered the burdens of the pandemic and make sure their needs are met. From there, we can look at the resources we have left and what is achievable. We need to level things in areas that are currently unequal.
- iv. What does it mean for the County to be transparent?
- Illustrating process and disclosing where these ideas came from.
 - It's not always clear what the impact an effort has, so when folks use the word transparent, are we talking about transparent accountability?
 - What recommendations are we making and what are the systems in place to make sure the County is accountable?
 - Transparency needs a level of community outreach so that people know what the strategies are.
- v. What would it mean for the County to practice sustainability?
- Involving local efforts and the people that are on the ground and can sustain the work.
 - Providing a sustainable platform to do the work.
 - Long term support and collaboration to provide support and help groups achieve the broader goals.
 - For me sustainability means that the program survives and thrives over the long term.
 - Build strong relationships with stakeholders and attract investors for long-term sustainability.
 - Also, a continuance between administrations as a priority.
 - Avoid the appearance of waste.
 - Use the resources you have efficiently – make sure you're collecting the data to define what success and efficiencies are.
 - Process management – When the next issue comes up, we can have quick response time (having proactive processes in place).
 - Within efficiency, allow for some inefficiency as there will be some trial and error.

vi. Draft Guiding Principles

- Empowering/collaboration
- Equitable
- Transparency
- Sustainability
- Efficiency

Next level choices (do these falls into the guiding principle buckets above?)

- c. Proactive
- d. Ethical
- e. Effective
- f. Communication

- Communication could fall under the bucket of transparency.
- Efficiency and effective and proactive can all go into one bucket. Could that also go into the sustainability bucket?
- Ethical could be under equitable.

Next level choices (do these falls into the guiding principle buckets above?)

- a. Accessible
- b. Flexible
- c. Strategic
- d. Accountable

- Accessible can fall under equitable/ethical
- Flexibility = agility/adaptable (can't plan a process for everything but agility helps).

Updated guiding principles:

- Empowering/collaboration
- Equitable/ethical/accessibility
- Transparency/communication/accountability
- Sustainability/proactive/agility
- Efficiency/effective

Missing:

- Innovation
- Innovation (could that be paired with sustainability)
- Quality
- Could we include something about data but also something about pushing the envelope to drive innovative solutions?

- Does innovation run counter to evidence-based? Maybe not, but it can be data-driven; maybe don't lead with innovation. but it after data-driven evidence-based.

5. Community Outreach Strategy

- a. Talked about distributing a survey at food distribution sites via a flyer (QR code that folks can complete the survey). Is that feasible to do?
 - i. Surveys have been helpful for some church groups.
 - ii. CAFB model? Challenging to survey 2000 clients (even while hiring someone to take the survey). They even offer gift cards and incentives, but it's hard to get results – need to be prepared for longer period to get the feedback.
 - iii. They also work with their Client Leadership Council to recommend changes to the services they provide. That might be a source to help facilitate feedback (but that's a smaller pool). As we define what we're evaluating, we can explore different options.
 - iv. SNAP-Ed has utilized QR codes to share recipes, provide health and wellness information, and possibly surveys. This was implemented at the state level. Our coordinator would be happy to share.
 1. The consulting team will reach out to more partners to see if they could be the distribution point for those surveys and see if the CAFB group is able to provide feedback.

6. Work Group Update

- 4th small group - Strategic & Long-Term System Planning
 - Group used the hour to think about the different root causes that intersect with food insecurity and what groups are currently working on those efforts. Asked how the County could align with those efforts?
 - Looked at recommendations from other reports to see what recommendations should be carried over.
 - Looked at the recommendations from group 1-3 to see if there's anything missing.
- Updates from volunteer:
 - The group discussed how many conditions intersect with food insecurity including economic opportunity, housing, and healthcare.
 - Decided to identify groups that have made recommendations in these areas in the last few years – priority issues:
 - Housing instability
 - Economic opportunity
 - Land and agriculture
 - Education
 - Health care access

- Reviewed reports on food waste, urban ag, and healthy food for all. The group felt that the recommendations that this group identified were strong. Additional recommendations or next steps should include:
 - urban agriculture and land use
 - Financing and action steps for each strategy (including a point person or agency)
 - Provide support to healthy food retailers
7. Open Discussion & Assignments for Next Meeting
- a. Arcadia released a new report on focused work they did with food insecure residents on the Route 1 Corridor in NOVA. Have not had a chance to review but wonder if useful to the focus groups? <http://arcadiafood.org/RT1Report>
8. Announcements from Taskforce Members
- a. New outdoor exhibit at the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum? <https://anacostia.si.edu/Exhibitions/Details/Food-for-the-People-Eating-and-Activism-in-Greater-Washington-6536>
 - b. <https://anacostia.si.edu/Exhibitions/Details/Food-for-the-People-Eating-and-Activism-in-Greater-Washington-6536>
 - c. Trailer in Brandywine is sited and painted. Pictures will follow soon.
 - d. If groups want to get meals from PGCPs, they need to fill out an application to get meals.
 - e. Registration link for the Food Rescue platform information session for food providers: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtdOmhrDgtGNFtDnPpvkVwjN5rE4-BrFcq>
 - f. Free nutrition education and classes <http://www.giantfood.com/nutrition>
 - g. There will be a supplementary budget for FY22 for the ARPA funding. More information will be provided soon.
9. Next Meeting – Friday, July 16, 2021
10. Adjourn
- The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:41 pm.



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE
AGENDA

July 16, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.

Please join meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/420177725>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122)

Access Code: 420-177-725

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
2. Review & Approval of Minutes – June 4, 2021
3. Updates:
 - CR-70-2021- Extension Resolution (Todd Turner)
 - Food Assistance Provider Call: TEFAP (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - Recap of last meeting priorities (Evelyn Kelly)
4. Capital Area Food Bank
 - The Hunger Report
5. John Erzen, Deputy Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
 - County Stand Up & Deliver/ARPA Update
6. Report Updates & Revised Submittal Schedule
 - Task Force Process Review
 - Draft Report Overview & Member Discussion
 - Guiding Values
 - Recommendations
 - Appendix
7. Assignments for Next Meeting
8. Announcements from Taskforce Members
 - Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
9. Next Meeting – September 2021
10. Adjourn

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

Prince George's County Council Food Security Task Force Minutes July 16, 2021

Attendees:

Council Member Todd M. Turner, Chair
Dr. Deborah Archer, University of MD Extension
Daphne Benbow, County Executive's Office
Dr. William Campbell, Senior Pastor, Union Bethel AME Church
John Erzen, County Executive's Office
Dennis Lewis, Department of Social Services
Stacey Little, UM Capital Region Health
Kimberly Rush Lynch, Soil Conservation District
Maria Martin, Parks & Recreation
Aimee Olivo, County Council Representative
Dr. Darlene Saunders, Department of Health
Joan Shorter, Prince George's County Schools
Daryl Sims, County Executive's Office
Lindsay Smith, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Sonia Welbourne, County Executive's Office

Consultants

Julia Groenfeldt, Prince George's County Food Equity Council
Evelyn Kelly, Institute for Public Health Innovation

Council Staff

Sandra Eubanks, Education & Work Force Development Committee Director
Leroy Maddox, Legislative Officer
Charlotte Aheart, Administrative Aide
Shirley Anglin, Administrative Aide
Lochelle Ferguson, Administrative Aide
Sharon Williams, Administrative Aide

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Chair Turner called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm welcoming the members. He indicated that there was one change to the agenda: the CAFB – The Hunger Report rescheduled to a future meeting.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes – June 4, 2021

The June 4, 2021 minutes were approved as presented

3. Updates:

- CR-70-2021- Extension Resolution (Todd Turner)
 - The Task Force report submittal date has been extended through the end of November.
- Food Assistance Provider Call (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - Last call on July 1st was an overview of the Emergency Food Assistance Program.
 - The next call on August 5th will focus on utility assistance resources.
 - The FEC is hosting an event on July 20th to celebrate the launch of three (3) new cold storage trailers in Prince George's County – Council Member Turner will be presenting on that.
- Recap of last meeting priorities (Evelyn Kelly)
 - Discussed the structure of our recommendations.
 - Reviewed our guiding principles that you all selected via a survey for how the recommendations should be implemented.

4. Capital Area Food Bank - The Hunger Report

- This item was deferred.

5. County Stand and Deliver Program/ARPA Updates

- John Erzen, Deputy Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office • County Stand Up & Deliver/ARPA Update
 - CEX submitted a resolution to County Council to allocate \$176 million to non-departmental where most funding is channeled through. Wanted to bring the administration into this to talk about those details.
 - Just marked the one-year anniversary of that.
 - Stand Up & Deliver (SUD) got more funding to bring the program into January 2022.
 - Phase 1 – May 2020 – April 2021 (provided 4.5 million pounds of food)

- Now in phase 4 – May 2021 – January 2022 (to provide 1.3 million pounds of perishable and non-perishable food) and prepared food for 90,400 citizens that involved 10 non-profit organizations.
- Received CDBG funding to implement the program.
- United Way is the fiscal agent for the program. They don't receive any administrative funding. Everything that is put into the program stays in the program.
- Three organizations non-profit PG, community support system, and the Ivy Community Charities.
- Grocery, restaurants, and other food purveyors are included into the program.
- In summary
 - 400,125 boxes of groceries
 - 244,300 prepared meals
- Questions:
 - Is there a chance that they would turn folks away or are they helping connect folks to resources?
 - There is a survey that must be completed for data purposes – this will show the need that will help increase services.
 - Also helping a get these questions out via a QR code.
 - At least 70% of the recipients of the food will need to be low income.
 - All sites will have bilingual staff.
 - Starting to distribute the survey by the week of August 15th.
 - As things wind down – what type of outreach are you doing to get folks signed up for other benefits?
 - They are encouraging all their sites to provide other resources to help folks receive other information and support services.

6. Report Updates & Revised Submittal Schedule

The revised submittal schedule will be later this fall.

7. Draft Report Overview & Member Discussion

- **Guiding Values**
 - Equity
 - Collaboration
 - Accountability
 - Sustainability
 - Stewardship
 - Evidence-Informed Decision-Making
 - The guiding principles can be found at:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wPOiQ7w89nQs8ytQROVBOhi_egPCT9dk7WubgReZ3ns/edit?usp=sharing

- **Recommendations**

- Here's the audit of the food systems reports:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1lXwHqXgM0dQwYbNVZxyQfOkGzomMyzUUqb3le9eWvPQ/edit?usp=sharing>
- Full list of recommendations:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pMsi_iF1VdN5dVT9gr_vB-Pz_VcjlOwa_PaXPA7rZJc/edit?usp=sharing
- See example recommendation:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rPXpNPclM03aBnX9uU87ZExqAagn2jZ-ubZEEq51SZc/edit>

- **Community Engagement:**

- Latin American Youth Center – CM Turner
- CASA de Maryland – CM Turner
- PGC Community College – Aimee
- Stand Up & Deliver sites – Dennis
- PGCPs Judy Center Steering Committee – Deborah Archer
- Bowie State – CM Turner can connect us
- Library System – Michael Gannon – Maria Martin
- Juanita Grant Foundation – Older Adults – Aimee recommended
- Dennis Lewis to Everyone - Our effort to End Youth Homelessness has a Youth Advisory Board that is operational that could provide some useful input.

8. Updates

- Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
 - Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith) Next Meeting – September 10th 2021.
 - MCGOC's leadership retreat is coming up – they're being presented with a proposal to make the FARM committee permanent.
 - Reconvening the regional calls on food assistance work.
 - Will have the food and nutrition services directors on to talk about school meals.
 - Also looking at a session on how school meals are changing.
 - Talking about child tax credit.

9. Announcements from Taskforce Members

- The MD Buy Local Challenge starts tomorrow! <https://www.buylocalchallenge.com/>
- Feed the fridge in Riverdale – hopefully they'll be more of those coming to PGC!
- Legislation for mobile grocery stores is moving forward

10. Next Meeting – September 10, 2021 or the following week (no meeting in August).

Because of the Labor Day weekend starting on September 3rd, the regular Task Force meeting date, the Task Force meeting will be moved to September 10, 2021.

11. Adjourn



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE

AGENDA

September 10, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/163288141>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(646\) 749-3122](tel:+16467493122)

Access Code: 163-288-141

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
2. Review & Approval of Minutes – July 16, 2021
3. Updates:
 - Food Assistance Provider Call: Utility Assistance & Healthcare Access (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
4. Report Updates & Revised Submittal Schedule
 - Task Force Process Review
 - Draft Report Overview & Member Discussion
 - Recommendations
 - Next Steps
5. Assignments for Next Meeting
6. Announcements from Taskforce Members
7. Next Meeting – October 1, 2021
8. Adjourn



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

Prince George's County Council Food Security Task Force Minutes September 10, 2021

Attendees:

Council Member Todd M. Turner, Chair
Dr. Deborah Archer, University of MD Extension
Nicole Hall, Economic Development
Leslie Jefferson, Giant Food
Dennis Lewis, Department of Social Services
Kimberly Rush Lynch, Soil Conservation District
Maria Martin, Parks & Recreation
Roberto Melara, Capital Area Food Bank
Aimee Olivo, County Council Representative
Dr. Darlene Saunders, Department of Health
Joan Shorter, Prince George's County Schools
Lindsay Smith, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Bridget Warren, County Executive's Office
Denisha Yearby, Union Bethel AME Church

Consultants

Sydney Daigle, Institute for Public Health Innovation
Julia Groenfeldt, Prince George's County Food Equity Council
Evelyn Kelly, Institute for Public Health Innovation

Council Staff

Sandra Eubanks, Education & Work Force Development Committee Director
Leroy Maddox, Legislative Officer
Charlotte Aheart, Administrative Aide
Shirley Anglin, Administrative Aide
Lochelle Ferguson, Administrative Aide
Sharon Williams, Administrative Aide

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Chair Turner called the meeting to order at approximately 1:07 pm welcoming the members.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes – July 16, 2021

The July 16, 2021 minutes were approved as presented

3. Updates:

- Food Assistance Provider Call (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - The August 5th call was focused on utility assistance and resources to sign up for new programs - we heard from folks at the County with DSS's energy assistance program, folks from Community Legal Services, the Salvation Army and WSSC's water program
 - The September 2nd call was focused on healthcare access and information and resources on how to enroll in ACA --we heard from Prince George's County Health Connect and Regional Primary Care Coalition
 - Our upcoming call will be on October 7th - Meeting link:
<https://forms.gle/Zm53nFNGu97pBiuw6>
- Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
 - Update provided.
- Chair Turner Updates
 - Stand Up & Deliver is continuing for the foreseeable future
 - The FEC hosted an event on July 20th to celebrate the launch of three (3) new cold storage trailers in Prince George's County
 - Did a kick-off on July 28th for the CAFB mobile grocery truck at Iverson Mall -- still identifying the locations and schedules in the County
 - Working on a more detailed overview of the County funding plan for ARPA
 - Working with the policy team to look at the recommendations this group is putting together
 - Announced that Task Force Member Dennis Lewis, of the County Department of Social Services, will be retiring at the end of September after 44 years of service in the field.

4. Report Updates & Revised Submittal Schedule

A. Task Force Process Overview

- IPHI reviewed previous recommendations and best practices
- Group discussions and recommendation brainstorm
- IPHI generates draft top recommendations

- Group feedback/ review recommendations
- Recommendations vetted through key informant interviews
- Final draft is submitted to the county council for review.

Conducted key informant interviews with:

- Prince George's County Public Schools Judy Center
- Latin American Youth Center
- Prince George's Child Resource Center, Inc.
- DSS Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project & Prince George's County Youth Action Board

Small group #4:

- The recommendations have been vetted and reviewed by a small group -- food systems planning small group
- Members met twice to review recommendations format and content
- Additional follow up interviews were held with members to share feedback on strategies related to their expertise
- Members identified additional stakeholders for consultant team to interview
- Small group members included Alison Mendoza Walters, Deborah Archer, Kim Rush Lynch, Lindsay Smith, Maria Martin, Nicole Hall, Sandra Eubanks, Todd Turner, Roberto Melara

B. Draft Report Overview & Member Discussion

Revised Recommendations Structure:

- Recommendation: Text has been shortened for ease of review
- Strategy: We have attempted to reduce text to provide critical information. This section provides supplemental information to the Action Plan.
- Policy Pathways: (No changes have been made)
- Executive/Agency Action / 2021-2022 County Budget / Legislation
- Case Study: Provided for all Foundational Recommendations. All case studies are from Maryland or region.
- The action plan was also revised to remove
- FSTF Values addressed (group decided that all values were included in all recommendations)
- Changed recommended actions to recommended steps
- Removed co-benefits from other strategies (too many)
- Removed links to other county reports (only a few underlying reports that are mentioned in the introduction and included in the appendix)

Draft Recommendations: - Key Changes:

- Foundational/pillar recommendations identified. These will each have a case study.
- Funding integrated across recommendations
- Language is streamlined, strategies rewritten to be actionable and reasonable

Vetted Recommendations

- Foundational Recommendation A: Create and fund a County Food Security Office
- Foundational Recommendation B: Update, maintain, and use data sources related to Food Security to inform decisions
- Foundational Recommendation C: Increase participation in federal nutrition assistance programs

Member Discussion/Comments

- Nicole Hall: Challenge getting information out to the county -- needs to be underscored -- after programs have ended, many folks say they've never heard of the program -- make sure we're using the right channels and getting out this information in an accurate way to meet people where they are. Also make sure that we're communicating this in multiple languages -- add this to the comms strategy text, action plan, and equity considerations
- Lindsay Smith: Building off Nicole's comments, I thought Evelyn's overview of the interviews was helpful. I don't think that the county's immigrant communities are specifically mentioned in the document and wonder if there is a need to do so.
- Lindsay Smith: I think this is a strong set of recommendations. Should we consider making Recommendation 5 "Improve transportation and *delivery* options to access healthy food retail..."
- Dennis Lewis: I think the subject of Food Security is a tough subject. I think the task force members have done a great job to address the issues.
- Leslie Jefferson: Yes, I think the document is going in the right direction... I have not had a chance to fully read it ...but it looks good Next Steps.

5. Assignments for Next Meeting

- Task Force Member to provide any additional feedback on proposed recommendations via Google docs by close of business Friday, September 17th.

6. Announcements from Taskforce Members

- The Mona Center Urban Farm is having an event tomorrow:
<https://www.pgscd.org/event/mona-center-urban-farm-open-house/>

7. Next Meeting – October 1, 2021 or the following week.

Chair Turner discussed the potential opportunity to move the meeting a week later October 8th to give the consultant team sufficient time to incorporate any additional comments for the members.

8. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 2:28 pm.



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE
AGENDA

October 8th, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/464393717>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122)

Access Code: 464-393-717

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
2. Review and Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2021
3. Updates:
 - Food Assistance Provider Call (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
 - Urban Farm Fowl Bill
4. Report Updates
 - Taskforce Process and Reflection
5. Presentation of Final Recommendations
6. Next Steps
7. Announcements from Taskforce Members
8. Adjourn

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

Prince George's County Council Food Security Task Force Minutes October 8, 2021

Attendees:

Council Member Todd M. Turner, Chair
Dr. Deborah Archer, University of MD Extension
Cristina Berthelot, SMADC
Dr. William Campbell, Senior Pastor, Union Bethel AME Church
Nicole Hall, Economic Development
Leslie Jefferson, Giant Food
Dennis Lewis, Department of Social Services
Stacey Little, UM Capital Region Health
Kimberly Rush Lynch, Soil Conservation District
Maria Martin, Parks & Recreation
Roberto Melara, Capital Area Food Bank
Aimee Olivo, County Council Representative
Dr. Darlene Saunders, Department of Health
Joan Shorter, Prince George's County Schools
Lindsay Smith, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Bridget Warren, County Executive's Office

Consultants

Julia Groenfeldt, Prince George's County Food Equity Council
Evelyn Kelly, Institute for Public Health Innovation

Council Staff

Sandra Eubanks, Education & Work Force Development Committee Director
Leroy Maddox, Legislative Officer
Charlotte Aheart, Administrative Aide
Shirley Anglin, Administrative Aide
Lochelle Ferguson, Administrative Aide
Sharon Williams, Administrative Aide

Welcome & Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:05pm.

Review & Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2021

The September 10, 2021 minutes were approved as presented.

Updates:

- Food Assistance Provider Call (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - The Food Assistance call was held on October 7th – the call included regional conversations on food assistance opportunities and challenges.
 - For the notes, please reach out to julia@pgcfec.org
 - The upcoming meeting will be held on 11/4 – register here: <https://forms.gle/k5uZPpcPGWZqn4Xd7>
- Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
 - The meeting was held today.
 - Regional food access calls will be reconvening this month – topics are school meals and upcoming regional legislation.
- Urban Farm Fowl Bill (CM Turner)
 - FEC and partners advocated for a bill to allow urban farm fowl in the County (this is part of a wider effort to help urban farms).
 - The bill will be reintroduced next year – the group needs more time to work out some of the questions and refine the bill.
 - Thanks to Council Member Glaros and partners for all their efforts on this.
- **Final Report Updates:**

Evelyn Kelly reviewed the Taskforce Process and Reflections over the past year of work, including the following Timeline:

 - **First FSTF Meeting - October 2020:** Members met to review group priorities and purpose of the FSTF.
 - **Landscape of Food Insecurity - November 2020:** Presenters included, Capital Area Food Bank, No Kid Hungry, and PGC Health Department.
 - **Food Security Efforts in PGC - December 2020:** Presentations included, County Executive's/Stand Up & Deliver, Department of Family Services, and Prince George's County Public Schools.
 - **State of the Food System in PGC - January 2021:** Presentations included a review of key food systems definitions, an overview of past Planning Department reports, and legislation.

- **Examples: Neighboring Jurisdictions - February 2021:** Presentations included guests from Montgomery County and Baltimore City to share examples to address food insecurity.
- **Developing the Report - March 2021:** IPHI presented the report outline and process to identify recommendations via small groups.
- **Small Group Meetings April 2021:** Small groups reviewed a comprehensive list of recommendations and identified most urgent and feasible recommendations.
- **Review of Top Recommendations- May 2021:** Members met to review and discuss top recommendations developed by topical subgroups.
- **Developing Guiding Principles: June 2021:** Members identified guiding principles to inform each recommendation. Comm. engagement strategy was developed.
- **Presentation of Report Outline: July 2021:** IPHI presented and solicited feedback on the top draft recommendations and report outline.
- **Key Informant Interviews- August 2021:** IPHI conducted key informant interviews to review and solicit feedback on draft recommendations.
- **Review Revised Recommendations - September 2021:** IPHI presented top findings from key informant interviews and revised recommendations.
- **Finalize Report - October 2021:** Presentation of draft report. Final report submitted for copy editing and review by County staff.

- **Developing the Report:**
 - During the first FSTF meeting, members provided feedback and input on the most pressing challenges related to food security in the County.
 - Survey #1 - How should County agencies and the County Council prioritize actions in the next year to advance food security of County residents; resilience within the local food system; and preparedness to respond to food-security challenges during disruptions?
 - Survey #2 - What are the top two barriers among and between government agencies within the food system in Prince George's County for three core functions: Communication, coordination, and collaboration; and data sharing?

- **Small Group Discussions**
 - Individual and Resident Safety Net
 - Food Assistance Provider Capacity and Coordination
 - Government Agency Systems Response
 - Strategic and Long-Term Food Systems Planning

- **Key Informant Interviews:**
 - Prince George's County Public Schools Judy Center
 - Latin American Youth Center
 - Prince George's Child Resource Center, Inc.
 - Department of Social Services Youth Homelessness Demonstration

- **Final Review & Feedback**
 - Task Force Members Reviewed Draft Recommendations: Sent draft recommendations to all Task Force members for additional review.
 - Solicited External Feedback: Met with experts to review and revise individual recommendations and action plans.
 - Reconvened Strategic and Long-Term Food Systems Planning Group (Small Group #4): Conducted additional review meetings. These Task Force Members that went above and beyond to develop and finalize the recommendations, including Lindsay Smith, Sandra Eubanks, Nicole Hall, Roberto Melara, Deborah Archer, Maria Martin, Council Member Turner, Kim Rush Lynch, and Alison Mendoza Walters

- **Report & Recommendations - Draft 1 Outline:**
 - Letter from Chair Turner
 - List of Task Force Members
 - Acknowledgments
 - Table of Contents
 - Authorization & Charge
 - Task Force Overview
 - Key Terms
 - Introduction
 - The Impact of COVID-19 on County Food Insecurity
 - Causes of Food Insecurity
 - Launching the Food Security Task Force
 - Research & Reports to Inform Recommendations
 - Guiding Principles
 - 11 Recommendations

- 4 Foundational Recommendations:
 - **Foundational Recommendation A:** Create and fund a County Food Security Office.
 - **Foundational Recommendation B:** To inform and drive county food security decisions, gather, analyze, and use data sources and systems.
 - **Foundational Recommendation C:** Increase participation in Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs.
 - **Foundational Recommendation D:** Develop a master communication strategy for food security, resilience, and emergency preparedness.

- 7 Recommended Food Security Policies & Programs:
 - **Recommendation 1:** Plan for future food security disruptions by developing an emergency food security plan that integrates food system experts into existing emergency management operations.
 - **Recommendation 2:** Increase access to bulk food purchasing, infrastructure, and resources for food assistance providers.
 - **Recommendation 3:** Co-locate food security and social safety net services and create closed-loop referral systems.
 - **Recommendation 4:** Improve transportation options for residents to access healthy food retailers and providers.
 - **Recommendation 5:** Leverage state and regional partners for cross-jurisdictional food systems planning, coordinated communication, and infrastructure development.
 - **Recommendation 6:** Provide land access, infrastructure, and resources to help agriculture flourish.
 - **Recommendation 7:** Continue to provide and expand market incentives and support to healthy food retailers of multiple sizes in target communities.

 - Conclusion
 - Appendix

- Task Force Discussion:

- Feedback:
 - Data sets and collection are complete
 - Local food emphasis has been added
 - Add “Integrated: network of policy and programs = important
 - Action plans look great - easy to read and highlights the goals
 - Guiding principles are great

- Items to add:
 - Expand attention to schools, colleges, and universities, and hospitals in the report.
 - “Integrated Food Security Office” instead of Food Security Office.

- Next Steps:
 - FSTF members review first draft & to submit comments by end of next week with edits.
 - Final copy edits
 - Submit final draft to County Council for internal review and design
 - Publish final report
 - Briefing to County Council

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00pm.



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE

AGENDA

November 5th, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/739591141>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: **[+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122)**

Access Code: 739-591-141

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
2. Review and Approval of Minutes – October 8, 2021
3. Updates:
 - Food Assistance Provider Call (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
4. Presentation and Approval of Final Report & Recommendations
5. Next Steps
6. Announcements from Taskforce Members
7. Adjourn

D. Food Related Legislation Overview

Food Related Legislation

In 2009, the *Rand Report* was a study commissioned to assess the overall public health condition of the Prince George's County community. In 2012, The Prince George's County Health Department utilized the data from the *Rand Report* to create an action plan entitled "*Prince George's County Health Improvement Plan 2011 to 2014: Blueprint for a Healthier County*". This plan put forth Priorities, Objectives, and Strategies.

Under ***Priority 2: Prevent and Control Chronic Disease in Prince George's County, Particularly Among Minorities***, The County determined that there was a need to increase access to healthier foods. This assessment was further bolstered by *Plan 2035*, a comprehensive plan laying out long term strategies and policy guidelines for the development of the County, which included 1) developing a healthcare and life sciences industry cluster targeting specific fields, such as clinical research, nutrition, and food safety and 2) Improving residents' access to fresh foods, in particular for households living in low-income areas with limited transportation options, and promote sources of fresh foods countywide.

The County Council voted affirmatively on a series of legislation (See Below) to accomplish these goals, from establishing and providing a regulatory framework for the operation of food trucks in Prince George's County through the concept of a Food Truck Hub, a designated area for food trucks to sell their products to enhancing the utilization of farmers markets.

Council Bills

CB-10-2014 established a permit and fee for a Sampler's License in County based Farmer's Markets.

CB-37-2014 encouraged and supported Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) acceptance and processing technology at farmer's markets.

CB-16-2015 provided certain limited exemptions to County licensing and health requirements for Food Truck Hubs.

CB-17-2015 clarified fixed locations for special food service facilities-mobile units (food trucks) for temporary periods and provided certain limited exemptions to County licensing and health requirements for Food Truck Hubs.

CB-51-2015 established a business license for special food service facilities-Mobile Units.

CB-89-2015 amended certain definitions and enforcement procedures for food service facilities to comply with recent changes to the Code of Maryland Regulations 10.15.03 and generally relating to food service facilities and food service manager certifications.

CB-16-2016 amended the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance concerning Farmer's Markets.

CB-48-2016 is companion legislation to CR-52-2016 and it eliminated the \$300.00 administrative license fee for Special Food Service Facility – Mobile Units at Food Truck Hubs in Prince George's County,

extended the operating hours of the Food Truck Hub pursuant to certain requirements, and required all applicants to provide a copy of their Federal Employer Identification Number as well as evidence of Combined Central Registration with the Maryland Comptroller's Office.

CB-69-2016 amended the Industrial Use Table to permit bakery products manufacturing / preparation with companion uses and Bakery Products Manufacturing uses generally within the Industrial Zones of Prince George's County.

CB-70-2016 allowed catering or food processing for offsite consumption in certain commercial kitchens located in residential zones.

CB-8-2018 relocated a food truck hub designated area.

CB-4-2019 clarified the method of operations at Farmer's Markets.

CB-21-2019 revised the food service manager certification time period.

CB-37-2019 reduced and eliminated certain food truck licensing fees.

CB-3-2020 established a Healthy Food Priority Area Tax Credit Program and related requirements.

CB-70-2020 defined Food Halls in the Zoning Ordinance, permitted the use in the I-1 (Light Industrial), I-3 (Planned Industrial/Employment Park), U-L-I (Urban Light Industrial), M-X-T (Mixed Use Transportation-Oriented), M-X-C (Mixed Use Community), and Commercial Zones of Prince George's County under certain circumstances, and provided certain parking, loading, and regulatory requirements for the use.

CB-71-2020 provided legislative intent and findings; defined children's meal at a food service facility; defined a food service facility; defined covered establishments; defined default beverages; defined independent food service facilities; established nutrition requirements for children's meals; established default beverages for children's meals; provided for certain qualifications, enforcement and penalties as it generally relates to healthy children's meals and beverages.

CB-75-2020 modified the definition of a Grocery Store Focus Area and made Healthy Food Priority Areas eligible for the Grocery Store Real Property Tax Credit.

Council Resolutions

CR-72-2013 endorsed the proposal of the Food Equity Council Task Force to establish a Food Equity Council.

CR-22-2014 expressed the concern of the Prince George's County Council to the United States Department of the Agriculture and United States Forest Service regarding horizontal drilling in the Potomac River watershed area and its potential to impact Prince George's County drinking water.

CR-15-2015 established the Food Truck Oversight Committee to provide continuing oversight and support of the Food Truck Hub Program created by CB-16-2015 and CB-17-2015.

CR-26-2016 authorized the creation of a Food Truck Hub at Pocket Park in the City of College Park.

CR-52-2016 eliminated the \$300.00 administrative license fee for Special Food Service Facility – Mobile Units at Food Truck Hubs in Prince George’s County.

CR-10-2017 temporarily waived the fees and associated technology charge involving inspections required to receive a Special Food Service Facilities-Mobile Units License.

CR-31-2017 authorized the creation of a Food Truck Hub at Bowie Town Center in the City of Bowie.

CR-23-2018 authorized the creation of a Food Truck Hub at Iverson Mall.

CR-20-2019 authorized the creation of a Food Truck Hub at Streetcar 82 Brewing Company in the City of Hyattsville.

CR-65-2019 allowed for the operation of food trucks throughout all Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission Facilities.

CR-66-2019 reduced the fee for the Mobile Unit Food Service Facility found in the Table of Fees.

CR-67-2019 encouraged the implementation of a Food Truck Healthy Options Certification Program.

CR-68-2019 authorized the creation of a Food Truck Hub in Downtown Upper Marlboro.

CR-73-2019 delegated authority to incorporated municipalities to regulate food trucks within their jurisdiction.

CR-62-2020 established the Prince George’s County Food Security Task Force to address issues related to the demand and supply of healthy food and areas with limited access to healthy food, food-health connections, school meals, and food security in Prince Georges County.

CR-99-2020 designated areas in Prince George’s County as Healthy Food Priority Areas.

E. Food Security Reports & Resources

Food Security Reports & Resources

- Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission. (2012). Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities.
https://issuu.com/mncppc/docs/urban_agriculture_report
- Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission. (2015). Healthy Food for All Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County.
<https://www.mncppcapps.org/planning/Publications/PDFs/304/Cover%20page,%20Introduction%20and%20Executive%20summary.pdf>
- Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission. (2019). Reduce, Recover, Recycle — Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD.
<https://issuu.com/mncppc/docs/foodwaste2019>
- Capital Area Food Bank. (2020). Hunger Report 2020: The State of Food Insecurity in Greater Washington.
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e764da62715f4931985ee493e15e0dfc>
- Capital Area Food Bank. (2021). Hunger Report 2021: Insights on Food Insecurity, Inequity, and Economic Opportunity in the Greater Washington Region.
<https://hunger-report.capitalareafoodbank.org/>
- RAND Corporation. (2021). Assessing Health and Human Services Needs to Support an Integrated Health in All Policies Plan for Prince George's County, Maryland.
https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA647-1-v2.html
- Healthy Food Policy Project. (2018). Prince George's County Food Equity Council: Taking on Food Swamps through Policy Change.
<https://healthyfoodpolicyproject.org/case-studies/prince-georges-county-md>
- John Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. (n.d.). Maryland Food Systems Map.
<https://mdfoodsystemmap.org/>
- Maryland Department of Planning. (2012). Planning for the Food System.
<https://planning.maryland.gov/Documents/OurProducts/Archive/72195/mg28-Planning-for-the-Food-System.pdf>
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. (2021). County Health Rankings & Roadmaps: Snapshot Prince George's, MD.
<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/maryland/2021/rankings/prince-georges-county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>
- Prince George's County Health Department. 2020. Healthy Food Priority Areas Prince George's County, Maryland.
<https://princegeorges.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/9f9202c51cc345ab9e0e1aa21a23bb76>

- Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation. (2017). Food Desert Relief Plan. <https://pgccouncil.us/540/Food-Desert-Relief-Plan>
- Office of the County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. (2021). Prince George's County Grand Slam 2021: Economic Development Platform. <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/36218/2021-Grand-Slam-Presentation-Deck-PDF>

F. Food Security Task Force Recommendations Audit

Strategy	Report	Policy Area	Complete	In Process	Not started	Not relevant /actionable	Notes	FSTF Tie-in	Considered by Small Groups?
Consider zoning incentives that would encourage the provision of land for mini grocery stores in areas at least one mile from the nearest grocery store.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 11: Launch a "mini healthy neighborhood grocery store" initiative to make healthy foods accessible within residential neighborhoods.			x		Could be done through the HFPA Map		x
Use tax credit incentives to attract and support mini healthy neighborhood grocery stores.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 11: Launch a "mini healthy neighborhood grocery store" initiative to make healthy foods accessible within residential neighborhoods.			x		Existing tax credits are focused on larger footprint stores	Use tax credit incentives to attract and support mini healthy neighborhood grocery stores.	x
Design bus routes to facilitate access to supermarkets, farmers' markets, and other healthy food destinations.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 13: Improve transportation options to healthy food outlets.			x		Could be assessed through the HFPA Map with updates	Resource the work of the HFPA map team	
Increase frequency of buses, especially on the weekends. Arrange bus schedules to accommodate the needs of consumers, and coordinate with farmers' market schedules.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 13: Improve transportation options to healthy food outlets.			x			Reassess public transit routes to determine if food is easily accessible/prioritized. Reassess services like The Bus with an eye to convenience	
In partnership with supermarkets, develop safe, affordable, and convenient shuttle services to supermarkets for residents, especially for elderly and disabled, who do not have transportation alternatives.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 13: Improve transportation options to healthy food outlets.			x				
Create safe routes to healthy food markets by ensuring pedestrian and bicycle safety. Provide necessary infrastructure such as sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, hand foot and bike paths that connect neighborhoods to food retail stores.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 13: Improve transportation options to healthy food outlets.			x			Promote food-centric planning	
Educate people about existing transportation services, such as Call-A-Bus.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 13: Improve transportation options to healthy food outlets.			x		Underfunded	Adequately fund Call-A-Bus	
Promote involvement of faith-based organizations in providing transportation to grocery stores and farmers' markets.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 13: Improve transportation options to healthy food outlets.			x		Churches already do this, just need coordination across county	Low lift with coordination support. Promote involvement of faith-based organizations in providing transportation to grocery stores and farmers' markets.	
Provide information on the County website about resources in the County where residents can get fresh fruits and vegetables at discounted prices and connect people to resources.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 14: Make healthy food affordable.			x			Low lift	
Incorporate more nutrition and food system education as well as culinary skill building across the school curriculum.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 17: Develop food literacy in the school community.			x		PGCPS Partnership	Long term goal	
Encourage and support establishment of food co-ops and food buying clubs.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 14: Make healthy food affordable.			x		Unclear on how government would do this	More relevant for FAPs; could also be a individual level community resilience strategy	
Encourage foraging for wild food not only in wilderness but also in residents' backyards. Educate people about native edible plants and how and when to forage.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 14: Make healthy food affordable.			x		DOE Campaign? Low impact		
Develop educational urban farms where students can work and learn about agriculture, food, and nutrition as well as grow what they eat.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 17: Develop food literacy in the school community.			x		ECO does this. PGCPS Partnership for larger scale.	Long term goal	
Encourage and authorize more retailers to accept SNAP and WIC.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.			x			Include this, critical. Consider providing support (infrastructure, TA) to retailers. Partner with the PGCHD Healthy Corner store initiative	x

Strategy	Report	Policy Area	Complete	In Process	Not started	Not relevant /actionable	Notes	FSTF Tie-in	Considered by Small Groups?
Provide funding support to local farmers to purchase mobile food processing facilities, freezers, and coolers.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 7: Promote local food processing and invest in food processing infrastructure.			x			Grant program to farmers	x
Establish extracurricular garden clubs and cooking clubs in each school.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 17: Develop food literacy in the school community.			x		Addressed in more expansive food system curriculum integration rec		
Partner with community organizations to provide support in applying to the programs, especially for women and seniors.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.			x		Puts a finer point on how to increase enrollment	Include in recs already	
Increase outreach activities, and actively recruit food-insecure people in a variety of venues.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.			x			Include in recs already	
Apply to the USDA's Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive grant program to develop local strategies to increase purchasing of fruits and vegetables among SNAP participants.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.			x			Included in recs (no dollar left behind) - Need a fundraising strategy including a federal grant audit	
Establish a community kitchen incubator. Many people who are willing to operate small-scale food processing businesses in the County cannot find commercial kitchens for production and end up going to neighboring counties; a loss of economic development opportunity.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 7: Promote local food processing and invest in food processing infrastructure.			x			Partnership between County agencies and private funders	
Create an annually updated, central list of current information on all programs, initiatives, and services related to food security.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.		x			211 is being explored currently.	Included as recommendation	
Ensure that every community in the County has regular access to food pantries with extended hours.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.			x			Covered as recommendation	
Promote gleaning programs at local farms.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.			x		Not a coordinated county effort. Low impact.		
Legalize backyard chickens.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.			x		Low impact		
Develop community kitchens for residents to gain cooking and food-related skills in group settings.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.			x		High price tag	MNCPPC partnership opportunity	
Get Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation involved in promoting local food processing.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 7: Promote local food processing and invest in food processing infrastructure.			x			Include as recommendation	x

Strategy	Report	Policy Area	Complete	In Process	Not started	Not relevant /actionable	Notes	FSTF Tie-in	Considered by Small Groups?
Encourage the establishment and expansion of food co-ops in the underserved neighborhoods by providing financing and development incentives and business training to residents.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 9: Encourage alternative food retail models to improve healthy food access.			x		The Capital Market was interested in this. Greenbelt could provide models		
In collaboration with the Memorial Library System and M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation, initiate a program to help low-income residents and seniors to order and receive groceries at libraries and community centers using public computers. Develop a partnership with supermarkets to make weekly free deliveries to these locations.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 9: Encourage alternative food retail models to improve healthy food access.			x			Could be expanded by County, provided by DFS	x
Provide incentives to local farmers who produce sustainably grown food for local consumption. These incentives may include allowing new farmers to farm on surplus government properties for free or at a reduced-rent as well as providing crop insurance; long-term, low-interest loans; and technical assistance.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 5: Increase sustainable local food production in rural and urban areas.			x				
Encourage supermarkets to sell imperfectly shaped but fresh produce at a reduced price at a designated place in the produce department.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland				x			EDC Campaign	
Help start food recovery and community gleaning programs; find donors and volunteers and connect them with low-income residents.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 14: Make healthy food affordable.		x			PGC Food Rescue US platform is being launched by FEC; mutual aid networks deliver directly to residents		
Create fruit orchards in public parks, and plant fruit and nut trees and other edible landscaping in public spaces, including streets. Encourage public to harvest and eat them.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 14: Make healthy food affordable.			x		Duplicative		
Encourage people to grow, preserve, and cook their own food. Advertise available programs that teach people these skills.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 14: Make healthy food affordable.					Duplicative		
Amend County regulations to be more "local food" friendly. Reduce red tape by easing and expediting permits, licensing, and other cumbersome bureaucratic procedures for producing, processing, distributing, marketing, and selling locally grown and processed food.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 4: Encourage local food consumption, and support the local food economy.		x			This is an ongoing process. Lots of progress still to be made.		
Support Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission's (SMADC) Hub and Spoke program. Encourage churches and other organizations to become "spokes" to distribute locally grown produce.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 4: Encourage local food consumption, and support the local food economy.		x			COVID-19 accelerated this.	Opportunities for food assistance providers to be included in a more formal hub and spoke structure	
Promote Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operations.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 4: Encourage local food consumption, and support the local food economy.		x			Ag marketing position promotes this.	Could county promote/subsidize shares?	
Allow roadside farm stands and on-farm sales.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 4: Encourage local food consumption, and support the local food economy.	x						
Support and promote farmers' markets.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 4: Encourage local food consumption, and support the local food economy.	x				More coordinated work could be done here but the County does support and promote, including through generous funding for the DVCP Program, Maryland Market Money	Grants for markets?	
Encourage local farmers to grow food year round by providing reduced-price material, technical assistance, and low-interest loans to build and operate hoop houses or green houses.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 5: Increase sustainable local food production in rural and urban areas.	x				SCD does this. SCD could advise on whether there is opportunity for expansion.		
Promote and support urban farms.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 5: Increase sustainable local food production in rural and urban areas.	x				Bloomin' PGC, SCD position, Park & Planning incubator farm project, etc		
Support new farmer education programs.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 5: Increase sustainable local food production in rural and urban areas.							
Establish a farm incubator to help new farmers start farming businesses.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 5: Increase sustainable local food production in rural and urban areas.		x			Park & Planning, SCD, and ECO City farms are collaborating to launch an incubator		
Preserve land for farming.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 5: Increase sustainable local food production in rural and urban areas.		x					

Strategy	Report	Policy Area	Complete	In Process	Not started	Not relevant /actionable	Notes	FSTF Tie-in	Considered by Small Groups?
Allow sales of produce grown at community and home gardens.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 5: Increase sustainable local food production in rural and urban areas.	x				Part of ZOR (community gardens)		
Ensure living wages for farm workers.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 5: Increase sustainable local food production in rural and urban areas.				x	Do we have enough farm workers in PGC for this to make impact?		
Partner with the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission to establish a regional food hub.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 6: Establish a food hub in the County to support local and regional food distribution and marketing.				x	Food hub has gone to a different county		
Apply for various federal programs that fund and provide technical assistance for food hubs to finance the food hub and get support for its development.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 6: Establish a food hub in the County to support local and regional food distribution and marketing.				x			
Expand the locations where small-scale, value-added food production is permitted.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 7: Promote local food processing and invest in food processing infrastructure.	x				ZOR and legislation that enabled commercial kitchens in churches, clubs, etc to be used for value-added food production		
Allow and promote mobile healthy food markets, particularly in underserved communities. A mobile food market can be a cart, truck, bus, or any other vehicle and must carry only fresh fruits and vegetables and other essential healthy food items. A mobile food market provides the most convenient access to healthy food. Bringing healthy food to the doorsteps of elderly and physically challenged people, who cannot travel to food stores as well as busy people who do not have time to shop, helps increase healthy eating.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 9: Encourage alternative food retail models to improve healthy food access.	x				CAFB Mobile market		
Increase food shopping alternatives on-line and by phone for residents who have difficulty traveling to grocery stores.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 9: Encourage alternative food retail models to improve healthy food access.		x			Some non-profits (LAYC) are providing this service as a result of the pandemic.	Could be expanded by County; provided by DFS	
Allow mini grocery stores that sell healthy foods within residential neighborhoods where there are no grocery stores either due to zoning or market conditions.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 11: Launch a "mini healthy neighborhood grocery store" initiative to make healthy foods accessible within residential neighborhoods.	x				Part of ZOR		
In mid- to high-rise residential buildings, encourage grocery stores to be on the ground level.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 11: Launch a "mini healthy neighborhood grocery store" initiative to make healthy foods accessible within residential neighborhoods.	x				ZOR use		
Define different types of food retail outlets (which are now all lumped together under "food and beverage stores"), reevaluate the zones where these uses are permitted, and make necessary adjustments to ensure an equitable distribution of healthy food retail outlets in the County, so that every neighborhood has an equitable access to healthy food.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 12: Looking through an equity lens, rethink zoning with food and health in mind to make access to healthy food easier.		x			Part of HFPA Map	Resource the work of the HFPA map team	
Promote mixed-use neighborhoods where food retail and residential uses are within close proximity to one another, and encourage medium- to high-density residential buildings to have food retail outlets within the same building.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 12: Looking through an equity lens, rethink zoning with food and health in mind to make access to healthy food easier.	x				ZOR use		
Make necessary changes to permit conventional and innovative agricultural activities, including food production and processing and sales of local produce, in all rural and appropriate urban areas.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 12: Looking through an equity lens, rethink zoning with food and health in mind to make access to healthy food easier.		x			This work began with the ZOR		
Teach people how to shop for healthy food with a limited budget. Provide information and sample shopping lists on the County website.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 14: Make healthy food affordable.		x			Provided through SNAP Ed and PGCHD Dine & Learn	Expand support for these programs	
Prepare a guidebook for residents on how to access affordable healthy food.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 14: Make healthy food affordable.				x			

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Increase participation in federal nutrition assistance programs.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.		x				Include in recs already	
Fund the Prince George's County's "SNAP to Health" initiative,295 and implement it as a strategy to improve nutrition for SNAP recipients.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.				x			
Encourage USDA to pilot grocery stores or mobile and pop-up markets in the County that only offer WIC approved foods but are available to all residents.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.				x	USDA doesn't do this but could fund this work.		
Continue to increase participation in school meals, especially school breakfast.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.		x				Include as recommendation	
Expand acceptance of SNAP and other federal nutrition assistance programs at all farmers' markets, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operations, and supermarkets.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.				x	It is fairly widely accepted, more of a market rate problem		
Expand the Maryland Market Money program that doubles federal nutrition benefits to all farmers' markets.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.	x				Funded generously through DSS		
Encourage and support sliding scale Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.				x	How?		
Expand mobile food pantries in the County.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.		x			Pandemic facilitated this, could be expanded further		
Start a food recovery program to divert safe surplus foods from landfills and redistribute to food insecure residents.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.		x				Task Force should support food recovery work through funding, promotion, coordination	
Encourage food processing and distribution companies, grocery stores, restaurants, institutions, and other places where cooked and uncooked food may be wasted to donate surplus food.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.		x					

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Redistribute through food pantries and community kitchens and as a possible resource for food-related businesses.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.		x					
Pilot a grocery store that sells deeply discounted recovered foods, available only for food assistance recipients, as a bridging program to help people move toward self-sufficiency.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.				x	More of a non-profit model; see Salvation Army store in Baltimore		
Encourage and support residents to grow their own food as a way to supplement food budgets.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.		x				Elevate and expand models started during pandemic (like Riverdale Parks's balcony garden program)	
Promote gardening in backyards, patios, windowsills, and community gardens.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.		x					
Offer free plots and seeds to federal nutrition assistance participants at community gardens.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.					I'm not sure if Parks & Rec does this?		
Prioritize youth developing skills in food production.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.				x	This strategy needs more detail to be actionable.		
Offer programs specifically for youth to develop these skills.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.					I'm sure this already exists.		
Promote University of Maryland Extension education programs on growing, preserving, and cooking food.	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.		x			Could be better supported by County		
Encourage and support residents gaining skills in cooking and food preservation	Healthy Food for Prince Georgians: An Assessment of Access to Healthy Food in Prince George's County, Maryland	Policy 18: Eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the County by ensuring access to affordable, sufficient, and healthy food for all people all the time.							
Establish a year-round indoor/outdoor farmers' market-style retail marketplace where food that could not make the regular markets or surplus unsold food is sold for a reduced price. This "second chance" market would not only rescue food that would otherwise be discarded, but also provide affordable healthy food for residents and create jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 1: Develop markets for products that would not have stayed in the food chain otherwise, which could also alleviate the challenge of access to healthy food in the County.				x	Is this a role for County gov?	Provide grants/incentives for indoor/outdoor farmers markets and retailers selling rescued food	x

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Help establish a food hub where surplus food, including "imperfect" produce, is sold for a significantly discounted price to mobile markets that exclusively serve healthy food priority areas.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 1: Develop markets for products that would not have stayed in the food chain otherwise, which could also alleviate the challenge of access to healthy food in the County.			x				
Encourage farmers to harvest "imperfect" produce and provide assistance to market it to retailers, restaurants, and value-added processors and sell it at the "second chance" market and regular farmers' markets.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 1: Develop markets for products that would not have stayed in the food chain otherwise, which could also alleviate the challenge of access to healthy food in the County.			x			Collaborate with Ag marketing specialist to encourage farmers to harvest and sell imperfect produce	
Encourage grocery stores to consider offering a reduced-price "imperfect" produce line.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 1: Develop markets for products that would not have stayed in the food chain otherwise, which could also alleviate the challenge of access to healthy food in the County.			x		LIDL does this		
Lobby for state legislation to allow nonprofits to sell donated food to cover transportation and handling expenses and still be covered by liability protection laws.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 2: Encourage donation of surplus food.			x			Advocacy goal for FSTF	
Lead by example by requiring the donation of excess edible food at County and M-NCPPC events and all events held in County and M-NCPPC facilities.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 2: Encourage donation of surplus food.			x			Develop a policy for county agencies to donate excess edible food	x
Encourage the Prince George's County Public Schools to develop a surplus food donation program as a part of share table, summer feeding, and community feeding programs. Use these programs to educate students and their parents about food waste reduction and hunger.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 2: Encourage donation of surplus food.			x			Great, easy lift, policy goal for PGCPSS	x
Encourage gleaning of unharvested food. Connect farmers and gleaners.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 2: Encourage donation of surplus food.			x			Facilitate volunteer connections to various FAP opportunities	x
Recruit entrepreneurs to launch a food runner enterprise. Provide a grant or low-interest loan for business start-ups.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 5: Help establish a sustainable "food runner" enterprise specialized in delivering surplus food to hunger-relief organizations.			x		Duplicative of food rescue work of FEC?	Provide a grant or low-interest loan for business start-ups focused on value-add or coordination for wasted food through EDC	
Help recruit potential food runners and train them on food safety and proper food handling and delivery.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 5: Help establish a sustainable "food runner" enterprise specialized in delivering surplus food to hunger-relief organizations.			x		Part of food rescue work of FEC		x
Advertise the food runner company to both food businesses and hunger relief organizations.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 5: Help establish a sustainable "food runner" enterprise specialized in delivering surplus food to hunger-relief organizations.			x		Duplicative of food rescue work of FEC?		
Recruit "social supermarkets" where recovered surplus food is sold for below-market prices and provide incentives to attract them to the County.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 1: Develop markets for products that would not have stayed in the food chain otherwise, which could also alleviate the challenge of access to healthy food in the County.			x				

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Connect food runners to the "second chance" market.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 5: Help establish a sustainable "food runner" enterprise specialized in delivering surplus food to hunger-relief organizations.			x				
	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Reduce Policy 2: Educate the public about date labels and clarify that date labels indicate food quality, not food safety.			x		FEC is working on individual food waste reduction campaign with DOE	Support campaign	
Encourage food retail outlets to: Change their aesthetics specifications for fruits and vegetables to include all fresh and good tasting produce, regardless of its shape, size, or color, or include a separate "imperfect" produce line.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Reduce Policy 6: Encourage food retail outlets to reconsider their policies, operational rules, and practices to prevent and reduce food waste.			x			EDC-sponsored campaign focused on reduce food waste at retail level	x
Encourage food retail outlets to: Sell bulk food as much as possible, so consumers can buy the amount they need.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Reduce Policy 6: Encourage food retail outlets to reconsider their policies, operational rules, and practices to prevent and reduce food waste.			x				
Encourage food retail outlets to: Display fewer amounts of produce to prevent spoilage. Sell produce that is not perfect quality at a reduced price.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Reduce Policy 6: Encourage food retail outlets to reconsider their policies, operational rules, and practices to prevent and reduce food waste.			x				
Encourage food retail outlets to: Sell food that is close to or past its expiration date for a reduced price. Sell ready-to-eat food for a reduced price after a certain time of the day.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Reduce Policy 6: Encourage food retail outlets to reconsider their policies, operational rules, and practices to prevent and reduce food waste.			x				
The County government should take the lead to facilitate the efforts of numerous organizations to recover and/or provide food to residents in need.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 3: Facilitate collaboration of food recovery and anti-hunger organizations and help them develop partnerships with food donors, which would increase the efficiency and volume of food donations.			x				
Convene a series of workshops with different food-sector businesses that donate or help donate food with hunger-relief and anti-hunger organizations. Identify any roadblocks that interfere with efficient donations and achieving zero-food waste in the County.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 3: Facilitate collaboration of food recovery and anti-hunger organizations and help them develop partnerships with food donors, which would increase the efficiency and volume of food donations.			x		Part of food rescue work of FEC		
Encourage food retail outlets to: Use or repurpose leftovers, excess food, and good parts of produce that may be damaged or is not appropriate for sale to prepare ready-to-eat food items.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Reduce Policy 6: Encourage food retail outlets to reconsider their policies, operational rules, and practices to prevent and reduce food waste.			x				

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Encourage food retail outlets to: Offer customers information on best storage options, food safety tips, and sample recipes.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Reduce Policy 6: Encourage food retail outlets to reconsider their policies, operational rules, and practices to prevent and reduce food waste.					x		
	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Reduce Policy 1: Launch a food waste awareness campaign. Educate the public about the food waste problem and how each person can reduce it and save money.		x				Strategy of the FEC's Food Waste Committee (opportunity for gov funding)	County gov. provide funding and agency partnerships
Encourage grocery stores to sell expired, but still good, food at a reduced price instead of discarding them.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 1: Develop markets for products that would not have stayed in the food chain otherwise, which could also alleviate the challenge of access to healthy food in the County.		x					
Educate people about liability protection for food donation.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 2: Encourage donation of surplus food.		x				Part of the role of the Food Rescue PGC	
Make donors aware of the federal tax incentives for food donations. Offer additional tax credits at the local level.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 2: Encourage donation of surplus food.		x				Part of the role of the Food Rescue PGC	
Identify convenient drop-off locations throughout the County for residents to donate their excess packaged food items and let anti-hunger organizations pick them up for distribution to people in need.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 2: Encourage donation of surplus food.					x	This sounds logistically challenging and potentially wasteful if non-profits get a lot of random things.	
Empower these organizations by joining their forces, connect them with potential food donors, help them with developing logistics, and acknowledge them for providing this much needed service to the food-insecure residents in the County.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 3: Facilitate collaboration of food recovery and anti-hunger organizations and help them develop partnerships with food donors, which would increase the efficiency and volume of food donations.		x				Stand Up and Deliver infrastructure could be leveraged for this	
Identify gaps in the current system that cannot be corrected without centralized logistical support. This is support that would minimize the need for expensive infrastructure like food bank warehouses and large distribution systems where efficiency can meet the needs instead.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 3: Facilitate collaboration of food recovery and anti-hunger organizations and help them develop partnerships with food donors, which would increase the efficiency and volume of food donations.						Incorporate this recommendation	
Recruit food businesses that volunteer to donate their surplus food.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 4: Establish a nonprofit food rescue organization.		x				Part of food rescue work of FEC	
Identify potential recipients, including local pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. Be sure to include recipients that can take prepared and perishable foods.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 4: Establish a nonprofit food rescue organization.		x				Part of food rescue work of FEC	
Recruit "food runners" who can transport food. Train them on how to safely handle food.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 4: Establish a nonprofit food rescue organization.		x				Part of food rescue work of FEC	
Exploit and expand an existing U.S. EPA database of potential donors, recipients, and food runners and establish a network system.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 4: Establish a nonprofit food rescue organization.		x				Part of food rescue work of FEC	
Using software, identify available surplus food and immediately find recipients and food runners to get the food from the donor and promptly deliver it to the recipient.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 4: Establish a nonprofit food rescue organization.		x				Part of food rescue work of FEC	

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Encourage the food runner company to purchase some vehicles so that people who do not have a car can also get a job as a food runner.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 5: Help establish a sustainable "food runner" enterprise specialized in delivering surplus food to hunger-relief organizations.				x	Hard to make a biz do this.		
Consider selling reliable surplus government cars for a low-price to the food runner company.	Reduce, Recover, Recycle Food Waste in Prince George's County, MD	Recover Policy 5: Help establish a sustainable "food runner" enterprise specialized in delivering surplus food to hunger-relief organizations.				x			
Based on national best practices, develop guidelines for the keeping of backyard chickens in the County.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 8: Permit backyard chickens in all residential areas.			x		FEC is working on this for urban farms, however		
Initiate a grant program to support urban farming and farmers markets.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 1: Recognize urban agriculture as a viable industry and use its as a tool to develop robust economy.			x				
Create a niche for urban agriculture in the county.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 1: Recognize urban agriculture as a viable industry and use its as a tool to develop robust economy.				x	Not actionable		
Plant fruit and nut trees on sidewalks and rights-of-way.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 11: Encourage edible landscaping.			x		While this is encouraged to a certain extent through UMD Extension programming, ECO, Groundsmith Collective, Neighborhood Design Center, etc. there really is no coordinated effort.		
Create edible landscapes in parks and other public places, including county government buildings.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 11: Encourage edible landscaping.			x		Low impact for food security		
Update the Landscape Manual to include a section on edible landscaping.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 11: Encourage edible landscaping.			x		FEC advocated for this but it wasn't included in the ZOR's revised Landscape Manual.		
Develop an urban agriculture plan.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 2: Integrate urban agriculture into land use planning.			x				
Engage residents and businesses in local food production planning.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 2: Integrate urban agriculture into land use planning.			x				
Develop innovative strategies and techniques to preserve land for urban agriculture.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 2: Integrate urban agriculture into land use planning.			x				
Establish a long-term (99-year) public land lease program to provide land to urban farms.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 3: Provide access to suitable land for urban agriculture activities.			x				
Allow use of public rights-of-way for food production with certain restrictions.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 3: Provide access to suitable land for urban agriculture activities.			x				
Establish a land bank to acquire tax-delinquent vacant properties for urban agriculture as an interim use.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 3: Provide access to suitable land for urban agriculture activities.			x				
Develop an urban farmland preservation program.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 3: Provide access to suitable land for urban agriculture activities.			x				
Create a special urban agriculture easement program to preserve vacant or unused land for urban agriculture.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 3: Provide access to suitable land for urban agriculture activities.			x				

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Establish a land trust as a nonprofit arm of county government to preserve land for urban agriculture.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 3: Provide access to suitable land for urban agriculture activities.			x				
Require establishment of community gardens in all future and, depending on land availability, existing apartment complexes.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 4: Establish community gardens in all neighborhoods.			x		This could cause negative impacts without community buy-in and adequate resources (eg. attract rodents if garden isn't maintained)		
In partnership with the Master Gardeners and building upon their Grow It Eat It program, develop a hands-on gardening education program.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 6: Provide education on urban agriculture and healthy eating.			x				
Create a new staff position at EDC dedicated to agriculture and urban agriculture	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 1: Recognize urban agriculture as a viable industry and use its as a tool to develop robust economy.			x			Create a new staff position at EDC dedicated to agriculture and urban agriculture	x
Initiate a low interest loan program for urban farms.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 1: Recognize urban agriculture as a viable industry and use its as a tool to develop robust economy.			x			Provide support to urban farmers, from low interest loans to access/reduced cost publicly owned land	x
Plan to provide much needed tools and infrastructure, particularly land, transportation, and water access, to help urban agriculture flourish.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 2: Integrate urban agriculture into land use planning.			x			Plan to provide much needed tools and infrastructure, particularly land, transportation, and water access, to help urban agriculture flourish.	x
Conduct an assessment study to determine the condition and needs of urban agriculture in the county.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 2: Integrate urban agriculture into land use planning.			x			Conduct an assessment study to determine the condition and needs of urban agriculture in the county.	
Identify available land that is suitable for urban agriculture.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 2: Integrate urban agriculture into land use planning.			x		Addressed in more expansive recs to some extent	Integrate other food system priorities, like identifying urban ag land, into HPPA map project	x
Let community organizations and garden clubs use public land for community gardens free of charge.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 3: Provide access to suitable land for urban agriculture activities.			x			Let community organizations and garden clubs use public land for community gardens free of charge.	x
Create a vacant-lot cultivation program for abandoned properties.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 3: Provide access to suitable land for urban agriculture activities.			x			Create a vacant-lot cultivation program for abandoned properties.	x
Establish aggregation hubs with commercial kitchens to help farmers create value-added products and easier access to wholesale and direct markets.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 7: Promote and support direct marketing opportunities for urban and suburban farmers.			x			Support development of aggregation hubs with commercial kitchens to help farmers create value-added products and easier access to wholesale and direct markets.	x
Provide free space for farmers markets on public and private property.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 7: Promote and support direct marketing opportunities for urban and suburban farmers.			x			Provide funding, access to space, and reduced permit fees to markets located in HPPA	
Institutionalize the agricultural marketing specialist position.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 1: Recognize urban agriculture as a viable industry and use its as a tool to develop robust economy.	x						
Develop partnerships with regional and national foundations and other funders to invest in urban agriculture in the county.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 1: Recognize urban agriculture as a viable industry and use its as a tool to develop robust economy.		x					

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Establish an "urban-agriculture incubator" to help new urban farmers grow.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 1: Recognize urban agriculture as a viable industry and use its as a tool to develop robust economy.		x					
Provide technical assistance to urban farmers in developing business plans, organic growing, and marketing.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 1: Recognize urban agriculture as a viable industry and use its as a tool to develop robust economy.	x						
Recognize urban agriculture as a land use that is separate from conventional agriculture.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 2: Integrate urban agriculture into land use planning.	x						
Consider incorporating urban agriculture into plans, including the General Plan, area and functional master plans, and sector plans.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 2: Integrate urban agriculture into land use planning.		x					
Establish a "food policy council" to help plan for urban agriculture and develop policy recommendations to support urban agriculture.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 2: Integrate urban agriculture into land use planning.	x						
Develop a food system plan that shows the place of urban agriculture in the bigger picture and analyzes it as part of local food production.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 2: Integrate urban agriculture into land use planning.					Unsure if this has been started.		
Prepare a publicly-owned land inventory and identify land appropriate for a variety of urban agriculture uses.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 3: Provide access to suitable land for urban agriculture activities.		x					
Initiate a farmlink program for urban agriculture to connect farmers to property owners.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 3: Provide access to suitable land for urban agriculture activities.					Inquire with Soil Conservation District Office		
Establish a yard-sharing program for homeowners to allow gardeners/ farmers to use their yards to grow food and in return get shares of harvests.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 3: Provide access to suitable land for urban agriculture activities.				x			
Provide incentives for developing a "farm subdivision."	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 4: Establish community gardens in all neighborhoods.					Check the ZOR		
Mandate land to be set aside for community gardens or urban farms in all new development in mid- and high-density residential and mixed-use zones.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 4: Establish community gardens in all neighborhoods.					Incentives were provided in ZOR		
Urge developers to build community gardens in new residential development projects, particularly high-density developments.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 4: Establish community gardens in all neighborhoods.		x			ZOR		
Encourage innovative designs to accommodate urban agriculture, including vertical farms.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 4: Establish community gardens in all neighborhoods.				x	Not sure what this would entail as far as government action.		
Encourage the building of green roofs and retrofitting of existing rooftops for food production.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 4: Establish community gardens in all neighborhoods.				x			
Consider converting old warehouses into indoor farms—particularly for aquaponics—and farmers markets.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 4: Establish community gardens in all neighborhoods.				x			
Incorporate agriculture education into the K-12 curriculum.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 6: Provide education on urban agriculture and healthy eating.		x			Check in with UMD Extension. Their staff have been working in this space and would know more about the schools they are partnering with. There is an Environment, Ag & Natural Resources Program at Gwynn Park, Fairmont Heights and High Point HS. They have greenhouses that they are working in. Also, Gwynn Park and Fairmont Heights have aquaponics programs.		
Promote urban agriculture as a viable career for youth as well as adults.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 6: Provide education on urban agriculture and healthy eating.	x				ECO and PGCC have an urban ag training program		

Strategy	Report	Policy Area	Complete	In Process	Not started	Not relevant /actionable	Notes	FSTF Tie-in	Considered by Small Groups?
Develop and support new farmer training programs.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 6: Provide education on urban agriculture and healthy eating.	x				ECO and PGCC have an urban ag training program	Provide funding and public land access	
In partnership with faith-based organizations, provide free workshops on healthy eating, growing, and preparing nutritious food.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 6: Provide education on urban agriculture and healthy eating.		x			PGCHD as well as UMD Extension provide courses		
Connect local urban and suburban farmers with consumers via creative marketing strategies and promotional materials.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 7: Promote and support direct marketing opportunities for urban and suburban farmers.		x			This was done previously through the Ag. Marketing Specialist Position, not currently in process		
Help establish and administer affordable farmers markets, particularly in food deserts.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 7: Promote and support direct marketing opportunities for urban and suburban farmers.		x			The Capital Market is a good example of this. They do not receive much govt support currently however they launched their first market at a Parks & Rec community center. Good model to replicate for other markets.	Provide funding, access to space, and reduced permit fees to markets located in HFPAs	
Allow farmers markets on private property.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 7: Promote and support direct marketing opportunities for urban and suburban farmers.	x				This update was made legislatively a few years ago		
Create a "mobile market" (farmers market on wheels) initiative to bring locally grown produce to neighborhoods.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 7: Promote and support direct marketing opportunities for urban and suburban farmers.	x				CAFB just launched a mobile market for the County		
Allow sales of produce and value-added products on urban and suburban farms and at some community gardens.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 7: Promote and support direct marketing opportunities for urban and suburban farmers.	x				Some of this is covered in CB-14. Generally no incidental sales but arranged sales (i.e. CSA pickup) are generally allowed.		
Allow produce grown in home gardens to be sold at farmers markets and community gardens.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 7: Promote and support direct marketing opportunities for urban and suburban farmers.	x				If you count an urban farm as a home garden, this is complete.		
Allow roadside farm stands.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 7: Promote and support direct marketing opportunities for urban and suburban farmers.	x				ZOR made this change.		
Create urban orchards in public parks where people can harvest fruit.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 11: Encourage edible landscaping.		x			A couple of municipalities have done this in the County.	Consider municipal projects as pilots to expand to County-properties	
Encourage residents and businesses to replace their lawns with edible ornamental plants.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 11: Encourage edible landscaping.		x			Does DOE promote this?		
Add a definition of "urban agriculture" to the Zoning Ordinance.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 12: Amend the Zoning Ordinance to accommodate urban agriculture uses and activities and remove, reduce, and/or loosen zoning barriers to urban agriculture.	x						
Add an "urban agriculture" use and subcategories to the Use Table.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	Policy 12: Amend the Zoning Ordinance to accommodate urban agriculture uses and activities and remove, reduce, and/or loosen zoning barriers to urban agriculture.	x						

Strategy	Report	Policy Area	Complete	In Process	Not started	Not relevant /actionable	Notes	FSTF Tie-in	Considered by Small Groups?
Allow the urban agriculture use in all zones, provided that different rules may apply to different types and in different zones.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	<i>Policy 12: Amend the Zoning Ordinance to accommodate urban agriculture uses and activities and remove, reduce, and/or loosen zoning barriers to urban agriculture.</i>	x						
Allow on-site sales at urban farms, community gardens, and market gardens.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	<i>Policy 12: Amend the Zoning Ordinance to accommodate urban agriculture uses and activities and remove, reduce, and/or loosen zoning barriers to urban agriculture.</i>	x						
Allow farmers markets on private property.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	<i>Policy 12: Amend the Zoning Ordinance to accommodate urban agriculture uses and activities and remove, reduce, and/or loosen zoning barriers to urban agriculture.</i>	x						
Allow use of commercial and industrial buildings, particularly warehouses, for urban agricultural activity.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	<i>Policy 12: Amend the Zoning Ordinance to accommodate urban agriculture uses and activities and remove, reduce, and/or loosen zoning barriers to urban agriculture.</i>	x						
Allow rooftop gardens and farms. Allow vertical farms.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	<i>Policy 12: Amend the Zoning Ordinance to accommodate urban agriculture uses and activities and remove, reduce, and/or loosen zoning barriers to urban agriculture.</i>	x						
Allow structures required for innovative growing techniques, such as hoop houses, aquaponics, and aeroponics.	Urban Agriculture: A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County, MD	<i>Policy 12: Amend the Zoning Ordinance to accommodate urban agriculture uses and activities and remove, reduce, and/or loosen zoning barriers to urban agriculture.</i>	x						

G. Definitions for Terms Listed in Action Plan

Definitions for Terms Listed in Action Plan Chart

Recommendation	Overview of recommendation
Rational/Evidence	Evidence-based research to support recommended action
Policy Pathways	1-3 proposed policy options to implement the recommendation. ✓ Executive/Agency Action ✓ 2021-2022 County Budget ✓ Legislation
Audience/reach	Number of County residents that will be impacted
Expected cost	Estimated cost for implementation
Funding source	Proposed funding source for implementation
Lead partner	Proposed Lead organization to implement recommendation or serve as lead convener Partner organization (either funded or unfunded) who will play a significant role in implementing recommendation
Barriers/limitations	Potential barriers to implementation
Recommended steps	Suggested key events or actions to initiate implementation
Key considerations for equity	Questions to guide implementation and to increase equitable opportunities to populations served and avoid unintended consequences or impacts
Resources for further reading	Suggested key resources or regional models