

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT

MARY M. CHEH, CHAIR

FY 2019 Performance Oversight Questions
Food Policy Council

1. Please provide a list of the Council’s current members, including its ex officio members from the District government. For each member, please provide the following:
 - The member’s name.
 - The Ward in which they reside (not necessary for ex officio members).
 - The agency or organization the member represents.
 - When the member’s term expires.
 - Attendance record for all official Council meetings.

First Name	Last Name	Ward of Residence	Organization/Agency	Date of Term Expiration
Food Policy Director				
Ona	Balkus	6	OP	Pleasure of the Mayor
Appointed Members				
Christopher	Bradshaw	1	Dreaming Out Loud	3/1/2020
James	Huang	5	Unity Healthcare	3/1/2022
Winnie	Huston	4	DC Greens	3/1/2022
Kristy	McCarron	5	YMCA DC	3/1/2022
Spike	Mendelsohn	2	Good Stuff Eatery; Santa Rosa Taqueria; We, The Pizza	3/1/2022
Tambra	Raye Stevenson	8	WANDA (Women Advancing Nutrition, Dietetics, and Agriculture)	3/1/2021
Emi	Reyes	4	Latino Economic Development Center	3/1/2022
Philip	Sambol	5	Oasis Community Partners, Good Food Markets	3/1/2022
Andre	Towner	7	DC Baptist Convention	3/1/2022
Beverley	Wheeler	1	DC Hunger Solutions	3/1/2022
Ex-Officio Members				
Bridgette	Acklin	N/A	DHS	Pleasure of the Mayor
Gizachew	Andargeh	N/A	DDOT	Pleasure of the Mayor
Katie	Baskett	N/A	DMPED	Pleasure of the Mayor
Dan	Guilbeault	N/A	DOEE	Pleasure of the Mayor
Emily	Johnson	N/A	OP	Pleasure of the Mayor
Lindsay	Palmer	N/A	OSSE	Pleasure of the Mayor

Ankoor	Shah	N/A	DC Health	Pleasure of the Mayor
Vacant			DPR	
Vacant			DGS	
Vacant			DCRA	
Other Active Agency Reps				
Sara	Beckwith	N/A	DC Health	
Beth	Hanna	N/A	OSSE	
Robert	Jaber	N/A	DCPS	
Katherine	Mereand	N/A	DSLBD	
Amelia	Peterson-Kosecki	N/A	DC Health	
Virginie-Marie	Roure	N/A	DSLBD	

*Please see Appendix 1 for record of attendance.

2. Please provide a list of the Council's meeting dates, times, and locations for FY 2019 and FY 2020 to date.

October 10, 2018: 5:30 to 8:00 pm, 441 4th ST. NW, Room 1107

December 12, 2018: 5:30 to 8:00 pm, 441 4th ST. NW, Room 1107

February 6, 2019: 5:00 to 7:30 pm, 441 4th ST. NW, Room 1107

April 3, 2019: 5:00 to 7:30 pm, 441 4th ST. NW, Room 1107

June 5, 2019: 5:00 to 7:30 pm, 441 4th ST. NW, Room 1107

August 7, 2019: 5:00 to 7:30 pm, 441 4th ST. NW, Room 1107

October 2, 2019: 5:00 to 7:30 pm, 441 4th ST. NW, Room 1107

December 4, 2019: 5:00 to 7:30 pm, 441 4th ST. NW, Room 1107

3. Did the Council receive funds in FY 2019? If so, please provide the following:

- The amount of the funding.
- The source of the funding.
- A list of all expenditures.
- A description of how these funds furthered the Council's mission.

The Food Policy Council received \$25,000 in nonpersonal funds in FY 2019 via the budget of the Office of Planning. The FPC used this funding for a variety of operational costs that supported the Food Policy Council's mission. Specifically, the funding covered several event spaces for key FPC events, including the 2018 annual retreat, the event space for both Community Meals, communications and printing, registration fees for professional conferences, professional travel, and swag items for community events.

The FPC was not able to spend all of the funding in FY19 due to the Director's maternity leave and the timing of Milan Urban Food Policy Pact conference (in early October 2019, FY20).

Please see below for a list of all expenditures:

FPC – operating expenses FY 2019

<u>Expense</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Catering for 2018 FPC retreat	\$644.50
Meeting space fee for 1 st Community Meal	\$618.75
Meeting space fee for 2 nd Community Meal	\$240.76
Fees associated with the FPC website	\$100.00
Subcontract to DC Central Kitchen for Employer Guide for DC food businesses	\$644.01
National Food Policy Conference registration fees (2 staff and intern)	\$250.00
Printing costs for the 2018 DC Food System Assessment	\$1,648.00
Registration fees for Chesapeake Food Summit (staff and appointed members)	\$273.35
Photo rights fees for use in publications	\$229.00
Round trip flight for Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt to accept the Milan Pact Award on behalf of the District	\$1,818.43
Annual subscription to Civil Eats (food policy newsletter)	\$35.00
Food Policy Books for FPC library	\$293.86
FPC swag for community engagement	\$386.08

4. Did the Food Policy Council apply for any grant funding in FY 2019 and FY 2020, to date? If so, please describe the grant, whether or not it was received, and how it will be used.

The FPC received a \$25,000 grant from the Kaiser Permanente Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic States to create a workforce development strategy focused on the food industry. The grant began in July 2018 and ended in June 2019. The FPC used part of the grant to convene a large group of food workforce development and industry stakeholders in February 2019. This convening provided important insight into the barriers, challenges, and opportunities for

advancement of food workers in the District and informed the creation of the *Make Food Work: A Strategy to Strengthen the DC Food Workforce*, which will be published in early 2020.

The FPC then used the remainder of the grant to subcontract the creation of an Employer Guide for food business employers who want to better support their workers. DC Central Kitchen created *An Employer Guide to Promoting Workforce Development in the Food Industry* which draws on interviews with District-based food business employers and distills tangible ways that employers can support their workers through training and connection to existing resources for support. The Employer Guide has been finalized and will be publicly released at the same time as the *Make Food Work: A Strategy to Strengthen the DC Food Workforce*.

In FY 2020, the FPC has applied to host an Emerson National Hunger Fellow in the spring/summer of 2020 (<https://www.hungercenter.org/what-we-do/emerson-fellowship/>). If selected, the Congressional Hunger Center contributes funding for the Fellow's stipend.

5. In its FY 2019 oversight responses, the Food Policy Council provided its 2019 DC Food Policy Priorities. Please describe what actions have been taken in furtherance of these priorities, the results of these actions, and any planned activities for FY 2020. As part of this response, please indicate what the Council considers its three biggest accomplishments in FY 2019.

The FPC received tremendous support for its 2019 DC Food Policy Priorities from community organizations, partner agencies, the DC Council, and District residents and made significant progress in 2019. The FPC created a 2019 DC Food Policy Priorities End of the Year Accomplishments document to highlight the progress made (see Appendix 3 for a full list of the progress made on the 2019 priorities).

Within **Food Access and Equity**, the District made significant progress to advance healthy food access and the connection to food as medicine through the establishment of four new healthy food retail stores in Ward 7 and 8 (3 of which are coming on line in 2020) and the implementation of the Produce Rx Pilot Program between DC Greens, Giant, AmeriHealth, and DC Health. The District was recognized internationally for its healthy food access programs and food as medicine programs at the 2019 Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Awards in October 2019. The FPC also participated in the George Washington University Medical School's Obesity Summit and hosted medical students to explore the District's food as medicine programs and healthy food access initiatives. The FPC staff also researched food as medicine programs across the country and created educational materials for the public on national best practices and the current

practices in the District (available at <https://dcfoodpolicy.org/resources/reports/>). In September 2019, the Food Policy Director convened a panel on the role of food policy, access, and nutrition in supporting positive maternal and infant health outcomes at Mayor Bowser's Second Annual Maternal and Infant Health Summit. The FPC also assisted the Mayor in drafting comments on the proposed cuts to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and created an advocacy guide for District residents to submit comments to the USDA on the proposed cuts.

Within **Sustainable Procurement**, the District made significant progress to improve institutional food procurement, especially in the school system. The Healthy Students Amendment Act of 2018 (HSAA) increased the District's investment in school breakfast, required the District to align its food procurement with the Good Food Purchasing Program, and called for a study on best practices for developing a centralized kitchen. The FY 2020 budget included funding to implement the HSAA, funding for a 10-school pilot for self-operated school food services in DC Public Schools, and funding for the Department of Public Works to increase compost participation and awareness across the District. The Food Policy Council staff also conducted an internal analysis of the District's food procurement contracts in spring 2019 to inform future work on improving institutional food procurement in the District.

Within **Urban Agriculture**, the District made significant progress to expand the land and resources available for urban food production. The Department of General Services leased two parcels of District government land to farmers through the Urban Land Lease Program, and the FY 2020 budget created the Urban Agriculture Office within the Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE). The FPC's Urban Agriculture Working Group has provided ongoing guidance to DOEE on this new Office's priorities, including co-hosting a listening session with DOEE to solicit feedback on what the new office should prioritize and distributing an online survey to solicit more public feedback. In addition, the Urban Agriculture Working Group continued to facilitate and hold important conversations to increase collaboration between urban farmers and the University of District of Columbia (UDC) College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability, and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) program.

Within **Local Food Business and Labor Development**, the District made significant progress to increase visibility and attention to the District's food economy and food workers. The FPC released the DC Food Economy Study in summer 2019 which detailed the economic and employment impact of the District's food system. As detailed above, the FPC also received a grant from the Kaiser Permanente Foundation to develop a food workforce development strategy and held a stakeholder convening, conducted stakeholder interviews, and created *Make Food Work: A Strategy to Strengthen the DC Food Workforce*

that builds upon the existing District resources and policies supporting food workers. In addition, the National League of Cities named the District as one of 4 U.S. cities to participate in its 2019 Shared Equity in Economic Development (SEED) Fellowship Program to identify strategies to bring food cooperatives to the District. Finally, opportunities for small-scale cottage food production were expanded through the Cottage Food Expansion Amendment Act of 2019.

Within **Nutrition and Food System Education**, the District made significant progress to determine the landscape of nutrition and food system education in the District. FPC's Nutrition Education Working Group members assisted DC Central Kitchen in hosting a Nutrition Educators Summit in July 2019 that convened over 60 nutrition educators in the District to discuss priorities like shared measurement of knowledge and behavior change, education across different populations and settings, and opportunities for further collaboration. The Nutrition Education Working Group is playing a central role in implementing the recommendations that came out of the Summit.

The FPC also made significant progress to ensure that DC's food policy priorities are acknowledged and shared across District government. Located within the DC Office of Planning (OP) and affiliated with OP's Citywide Strategy and Analysis Division, the FPC leverages the agency's expertise in spatial analysis, data visualization, and systems-thinking on issues such as housing, transportation, and sustainability to enhance its analysis and reporting on the District's food system. At the same time, the FPC partners with OP staff to ensure that food systems and food policy priorities are integrated into the city's long-range planning processes and citywide plans. For example, the FPC and OP collaborated to ensure the proposed Comprehensive Plan language reflects the years of progress that the District has made in advancing food policy since the last Comprehensive Plan update in 2011. With guidance from the FPC, the Comprehensive Plan Draft Update supports the expansion of healthy food access and urban agriculture in the District; uplifts the role of small food businesses, workforce development, and the food economy; and works to address health disparities. In addition, the FPC created a guide for residents to understand the many proposed food policy changes included in the Comprehensive Plan Draft Update and the impact of long-range planning on the District's food system (available at <https://dcfoodpolicy.org/policy/legislation/>).

While all of these accomplishments have been important to advancing the District's food system, the FPC has been especially excited about its role in:

- 1) **Supporting the creation of the Office of Urban Agriculture within the DC Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE).** The FPC has collaborated closely with DOEE to ensure that the new Office is responsive to the needs and challenges of urban food production in the

District. In September 2019, the FPC's Urban Agriculture Working Group co-hosted a listening session with DOEE to help inform the functions and priorities of the new Office. Throughout summer and fall 2019, the FPC collaborated with DOEE staff to disseminate a survey on the new Office and hosted DOEE staff at several Urban Agriculture working group meetings to hear from and engage with community stakeholders. The Food Policy Director has also participated on the interview panel for the new position. The ongoing collaboration between the FPC and DOEE is a great example of the FPC's role in facilitating connections between District agencies and food system stakeholders and ensuring the District's food policy priorities are aligned across agencies.

- 2) **Generating important insights about the District's food system in the DC Food Economy Study and 2018 Food System Assessment.** The FPC has published several reports over the past year that aggregate and analyze data about the District's food system and food economy to create a more holistic understanding of the unique role that food plays in the District. These reports are the first of their kind to articulate the size and scope of the District's food economy and food system and examine the connections between food and economic development, health and nutrition, and sustainability. These reports allow the District government and its community partners to explicitly focus on food as a unique driver of economic and cultural growth, evaluate progress made in the food system, and pinpoint opportunities for greater collaboration, investment, and policy change. For example, the findings from the DC Food Economy Study revealed the tension between low wages of workers in the food economy and the challenges with retention and recruitment of workforce ready candidates for food businesses. Together, those insights highlighted an important gap in the food system and shaped the District's first workforce development strategy explicitly focused on food workers.
- 3) **Furthering its commitment to community and stakeholder engagement.** While the FPC has included community voices and stakeholders from its inception as a public council, it has prioritized strengthening the range and diversity of community voices over the past year. The FPC has enacted several new changes and programs to increase stakeholder engagement and leverage the vibrancy of the existing FPC audience to expand its reach to other stakeholders, including those most impacted by inequities within the food system. The FPC has prioritized engagement with populations most impacted by a lack of healthy food options in their communities through its Community Meal series. In addition, the FPC has celebrated and highlighted the work of local organizations and entrepreneurs establishing new healthy food retail in Wards 7 and 8 through spotlight presentations at the FPC meetings. See Question 6 for further

details on efforts made in FY19 to expand the range and diversity of voices. Community and stakeholder engagement continue to be a key FPC priority for 2020, and we look forward to continuing to build on the progress made this year.

6. In its FY 2019 oversight responses, the FPC stated that it wanted to expand the range and diversity of voices it hears from through community engagement. Please describe what FPC has done during FY 2020 to achieve this goal.

In FY 2019 the FPC made significant efforts to increase the range and diversity of voices it heard from District residents.

First, the FPC launched the Community Meals Series with DC Greens co-hosting two events which engaged over 135 community members, including many residents in Wards 7 and 8. The first Community Meal was held in December 2018 at the THEARC (Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Center) Black Box Theater in Ward 8. Nearly 60 community members from Wards 7 and 8 participated in the community dinner, and the program focused on how healthy foods impact health and wellbeing. Nutrition education and health professionals from Children's National Hospital, Dreaming Out Loud, DC Greens, and Office of the State Superintendent of Education presented on ways that individuals can incorporate healthier cooking practices for themselves and their families into their daily routines.

The second Community Meal was held in May 2019 at Savoy Elementary School in Ward 8. Over 75 community members from Wards 7 and 8 participated in the community lunch, and the program focused on local urban agriculture and food production. Representatives from Dreaming Out Loud, Hustlers 2 Harvesters, Good Food Markets, and DC Central Kitchen highlighted how residents can grow their own food, buy from local farmers, and support local farmers in accessing more resources like land and funding to expand their work.

The program was successful in targeting those residents that are directly affected by food access challenges and who do not generally attend FPC meetings. The next Community Meal is planned for January 2020 and will focus on urban agriculture and entrepreneurship. This will give residents another avenue to discuss challenges and engage with District policy makers.

Second, the FPC participated in many community events throughout the year, including the Youth Food Justice Summit at UDC, the Ward 8 Health Council pop-ups, the Ward 8 Giant Fall Fest, and Rooting DC. At these events, Food Policy Council members and staff answered questions, received input and ideas, distributed information, and encouraged residents to get involved with the FPC.

Third, the Food Policy Director presented and facilitated conversations at several major conferences and community meetings throughout the year that drew significant numbers of District residents. These included Rooting DC, where she co-presented with DC Hunger Solutions and DC Greens about how to navigate the District's budget process and its importance for food policy issues; the Chesapeake Food Summit, where she facilitated a conversation about investing in our food workforce and presented on the FPC's upcoming *Make Food Work: A Strategy to Strengthen the DC Food Workforce*; the Ward 7 Health Alliance, where she presented and received feedback on the FPC's efforts around food access; and more.

In FY 2020 thus far, the FPC has renewed its focus on achieving these goals through several avenues. In October, the FPC released an online survey to garner feedback and ideas to inform its 2020 priorities. Through 73 detailed responses, the FPC received valuable input on where it should turn its focus in 2020. In October, the FPC also co-hosted with DSLBD, DOES, and Wacif a convening of small food businesses, entrepreneurs, and advocates to discuss strategies to support food cooperative businesses in the District as part of the SEED Fellowship, mentioned previously. In November, the FPC dedicated significant time at its annual retreat to develop strategies to increase resident engagement and incorporated action steps into all working group work plans. Centering resident engagement as a core tenet of the FPC will enhance project outcomes and ensure that more residents who are disproportionately impacted by the District's food policies are heard and involved.

Finally, the FPC welcomed 6 newly appointed members in November 2019: Winnie Huston, Emi Reyes, James Huang, Kristy McCarron, Andre Towner, and Beverley Wheeler. These new members bring unique experiences and expertise, including in the healthcare sector, senior hunger, the faith community, business investment, and nutrition education, to the FPC's work. They have infused the Council with renewed energy and we look forward to their contributions in 2020.

7. Please describe the FPC's major goals for FY 2020 and the plan/timeline for completion.

In December 2019, the FPC published the 2020 DC Food Policy Priorities for strengthening the District's food system (please see Appendix 2 for the 2020 DC Food Policy Priorities). These priorities are based on many conversations we had at FPC public meetings and working group meetings throughout the year and represent a menu of options for stakeholders to engage.

The Working Groups each have detailed action plans to move forward on these priorities. We will highlight several planned initiatives here:

- The FPC will support the creation of a DC Good Food Investment Fund to provide grants, loans, and technical assistance to locally owned food businesses serving parts of the District underserved by healthy food options. Several community development financial institutions have expressed interest in creating this type of fund, modeled off the Michigan Good Food Fund and the California FreshWorks Fund.
 - The FPC will develop and publish a Centralized Kitchen Study on best practices for developing such a facility in the District, in accordance with the Healthy Students Amendment Act of 2018. The RFP will be released in January 2020, and the study will be completed by the end of the fiscal year.
 - The FPC will publish and begin implementation of *Make Food Work: A Strategy to Strengthen the DC Food Workforce*. This will include engagement with District agency partners, food business owners and workers, trade associations, and other partners.
 - The FPC will provide guidance to the new Director of Urban Agriculture at DOEE and collaborate with the Director to successfully implement the Land Lease Program and the Property Tax Abatement Program.
 - The FPC will develop a coordinated network of nutrition educators and lead efforts to develop shared metrics and evaluation tools.
8. Please provide a copy of all official correspondence sent by the Council in FY 2019 and FY 2020 to date.

The Council sent no official correspondence in FY 2019 and FY 2020 to date.

9. Please list all working groups and describe what each has worked on in FY 2019 and FY 2020, to date, and what recommendations they have contributed to the Food Policy Council annual report.

There are currently 5 active FPC Working Groups:

- Food Access & Equity
- Nutrition & Food System Education
- Sustainable Supply Chain (formerly Sustainable Procurement)
- Urban Agriculture
- Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs (formerly Local Business & Labor Development)

The response to Question 5 provides a summary of each Working Group's contributions in FY 2019 and FY 2020, to date. Through each Working Group's meetings throughout the year and conversations with District residents, they created the 2020 DC Food Policy Priorities, which also serve as the recommendations for the FPC annual report. The annual report will be

published in spring 2020, once the relevant District agencies have released their 2019 data.

- Are there food policy issues not encompassed in the current working group topics that the Council would like to work on?

The current working groups touch on all relevant food policy issues that the FPC would currently like to work on.

- The statute describes the working groups as focusing on: (1) Local food business and labor development; (2) Food equity, access, and health and nutrition education; (3) Sustainable food procurement of locally grown food; and (4) Urban agriculture and food system education. Does the Council have recommendations for how to amend the working groups to better reflect the mission and priorities of the Council?

Within the working group topics set by legislation, the FPC has evolved in its work to meet the changing priorities of the District and the practicalities of running the FPC. For example, we created a 5th working group “Nutrition & Food System Education” to combine the two education-related topics originally split between two working groups in subsections (2) and (4) of the legislation. We have also expanded subsection (3) to be entitled “Sustainable Supply Chain” to adequately cover issues related to sustainability in the District’s food supply, but still have an emphasis on institutional procurement.

10. What current District laws and regulations related to the food system have not yet been implemented fully or stand in the way of strengthening the District’s food system?

The Workplace Wellness Act of 2014, incorporated into B20-750, Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Support Act of 2014 - Title I, Subtitle J, will soon be fully implemented via the publication and finalization of regulations that would set healthy food and beverage nutrition and procurement standards for all District agencies, including at meetings, events, in vending machines, and through onsite vendors.

Save Good Food Amendment Act of 2018, enacted into DC Law 22-212 in March 2019, creates a tax credit for the donation of certain healthy foods; expands liability protections to cover more forms of food donation; requires DC Health to revisit date label regulations; requires DC Health and the Office of Waste Diversion to create a guide on food donation; and requires DC Health to train health inspectors on the information contained in the guide. The tax credit section of the legislation is subject to appropriations and will cost \$5.7 million over four-year financial plan; the rest of the Act has gone into effect.

The Urban Farming and Food Security Act of 2015

The Land Lease Program and Property Tax Abatement, both created in this Act, have yet to be fully implemented. The recently introduced Urban Farming Land Lease Amendment Act of 2019 will address some technical problems with the original bill that hampered implementation. These Programs will also now fall under the purview of the new Director of Urban Agriculture at DOEE. The FPC plans on collaborating with the new Director to ensure robust neighborhood engagement surrounding the land parceled leased to farms, strategies to connect farmers to developers who could benefit from the tax abatement, and other tactics to ensure successful implementation of these vital programs.

Lastly, the FPC has prioritized **identifying and cataloguing District regulations and licensing that present challenges for small food businesses**. Many small food businesses in the District struggle to navigate the complex process of obtaining the necessary government approvals and licenses to open for business. Greater understanding of these challenges will help businesses plan their course of action and highlight opportunities for the District to streamline its requirements.

11. Given its geographic position, the District's food system is inextricably linked to the regional food system. Has the Food Policy Council been engaging with the District's regional partners in its policy efforts? If so, please describe such efforts taken in FY 2019 and FY 2020, to date.

The FPC recognizes that the strength of the District food system is interconnected with the regional food system and has worked with its regional partners to advance food policy priorities. The FPC staff regularly communicate and convene with regional food policy councils including the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative, the Montgomery Council Food Policy Council, and Prince George's County Food Equity Council to share best practices on community engagement, priority setting, and workforce development-related projects, as Montgomery County and Prince George's County also received grant funding from Kaiser Permanente Foundation to strengthen food businesses and support food workers. At the June 2019 FPC meeting, these regional food policy councils presented on their current strategic priorities and participated in the working group meetings to share their efforts with the District's stakeholders.

The FPC has also been an active member of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Regional Agricultural Working Group. In fall 2018, the FPC staff provided data on the District's food system and urban agriculture for the working groups' *What Our Region Grows Report* and provided comments to

ensure that report reflected a balance between traditional agriculture and emerging opportunities for urban agriculture. In March 2019, FPC staff presented at a regional working group meeting and shared the District's food policy priorities with the Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtaining Results (VALOR) program participants. In June 2019, the Food Policy Director presented on the DC Food Economy Study at a regional sustainable supply chain conference, making the economic case for greater supply chain collaboration in the region.

The FPC regularly participates in broader regional food system convenings and conversations. In April 2019, the FPC staff participated in a regional food policy council gathering hosted by Johns Hopkins' Center for a Livable Future. The convening was focused on identifying the major challenges across the regional food policy councils and facilitating conversations about lessons learned and best practices. The FPC was recognized at that meeting for its intentional community engagement strategies like the Community Meals series with DC Greens and the dissemination of its annual Priorities. The FPC remains active with the Center for a Livable Future's Food Policy Network, including advising on the upcoming national conference of food policy councils in the fall of 2020.

The FPC also participated in the annual Chesapeake Food Summit held in October 2018 and October 2019. The Food Policy Director and FPC staff attended both summits, and several FPC members and ex-officio government members attended as well. In October 2018, the Food Policy Director moderated a panel on innovative models for healthy food access. In October 2019, the Food Policy Director spoke on a panel focused on efforts to build sustainable career pathways in the food sector and highlighted several insights from the *Make Food Work: A Strategy to Strengthen the DC Food Workforce*.

12. What national best practices in food policy does the Council believe should be implemented in the District?
 - a) **Good Food Investment Funds:** Several other states now have investment funds administered by community development financial institutions (CDFIs) that provide flexible loans, catalytic grants, and technical assistance to locally-owned, community-driven fresh food retail stores in underserved areas. For example, the Michigan Good Food Fund (MGFF) is a \$30 million public-private fund providing flexible capital for projects across the healthy food system – including production, distribution, processing, and retail – and explicitly focuses on racial and social equity and access to capital. Launched in 2015, the MGFF has invested \$11 million thus far into 28 food businesses across the state and supported more than 420 jobs. California's FreshWorks Fund is another financing fund used to expand healthy food access for low-income Californians. Since its inception in 2011, FreshWorks has generated hundreds of millions of dollars in economic impact and created thousands of

jobs across the state. A 2016 evaluation found that a \$42 million one-time investment in just three community grocery stores created 263 living wage jobs (with health and retirement benefits) and spurred an annual economic impact of \$33 million with an additional \$8 million in federal, state, and local taxes generated each year. Several, CDFIs in the District have expressed interest in creating a fund targeted at food businesses owned by District residents. The District could explore options for developing and seeding a fund in conjunction with these CDFIs to increase fresh food access and support local business owners and entrepreneurs.

- b) **Integrating Food as Medicine into Citywide Policies:** Given the success and international recognition of the District’s healthy food as medicine programs including Produce Plus and Produce Rx, the District is well poised to better integrate and systematize its approach to food as medicine into its citywide policies. Several states have established key strategic planning efforts to strengthen their food as medicine interventions or create sustainable funding through healthcare. For example, Massachusetts released the *Massachusetts Food is Medicine State Plan* in June 2019 after two years of assessing the need for and access to food as medicine interventions across the state. The plan highlights fifteen key recommendations to improve access to and strengthen food as medicine initiatives, including screening for food and nutrition needs in the healthcare setting, supporting patient connection to appropriate existing resources, investing in food as medicine interventions within community-based organizations, and recognizing food as medicine as a state policy and budget priority. Other cities and states have worked to establish Medicaid waivers to pay for nutritional services for low-income patients. For example, Maryland established the “Living at Home 1915(c)” Medicaid waiver in 2011 to allow physically-disabled individuals to receive a range of services including home-delivered meals and nutrition services. As the District continues to invest in healthy food as medicine interventions, it could consider the other promising food as medicine practices across the nation and examine what policies could strengthen and sustain its efforts.
- c) **Connecting Food and Climate Change:** The food system has a significant impact on climate change and the District’s resiliency in the face of increasingly frequent severe weather events. In 2019, the EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health brought together 37 world-leading scientists from across the globe to make recommendations on how to address both diet-related chronic disease and climate change through changes to people’s diets. Several cities in the U.S. have taken steps in line with the EAT-Lancet Commission’s recommendations. For example, Oakland has researched the impact of decreasing meat consumption at public schools on its carbon footprint, and New York City, Seattle, and others have implemented curbside compost collection. Although the District has many initiatives related to supporting sustainable food systems, they have not been

catalogued and there is no comprehensive plan to measure the District's carbon footprint related the food system and set a course for action.

Related, other cities like Boston and Toronto have published resiliency plans related to their food systems. As part of the 2017 Climate Change and Health Strategy, the city of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, completed a high-level vulnerability assessment of the impact of climate change on its food system. The assessment showed that the "last mile" (the nearest food hub to its final destination) of food distribution at both the neighborhood and city-wide levels was extremely vulnerable to global climate change and local weather events. Houston provides an example of the potential results of such a plan is not published and acted upon. When hurricane Harvey struck the city in 2017, the road closures and sustained flooding depleted grocery stores and locked out food banks from delivering due to breaks cross the supply chain. The result was a spotlight on a non-resilient food system that created food insecurity in the wake of a climate related disaster. In the resulting days, food banks in Houston went from shuttling 350,000 pounds of food per day to almost 1,000,000 pounds per day.

13. Please describe the Council's top recommendations for the District government's priorities to improve the District's food system.

The FPC has developed the 2020 DC Food Policy Priorities which build on the success of the 2019 DC Food Policy Priorities. The FPC, in conjunction with District residents, created the 2020 DC Food Policy Priorities to align with the evolving needs of the District's food system and residents. The Priorities are designed as a vision and a menu for different stakeholders to plug in. This includes District government, which has a significant role to play in each Priority. The Priorities are listed in full in Appendix 2 and available at www.dcfoodpolicy.org.

14. When will the Food Policy Council provide its annual report to the Council on the state of the local food economy and food access across the District, as is required by the Food Policy Council and Director Establishment Act of 2014?

The FPC is working to complete its update to the annual report to the Council on the state of the local food economy and food access across the District and will publish the update in spring 2020. The update will include legislative highlights, a list of the FPC's achievements in 2019, and recent data on food insecurity, including senior hunger, expanding healthy food access, and supporting local businesses, entrepreneurs, and the food workforce in the District. The updated report will build on the 2018 Food System Assessment and provide important information on the state of the District's food system.

15. In its FY 2019 oversight responses, the Council indicated that it would release a Food Workforce Development Strategy in FY 2019. What is the status of that report and when is it expected to be released?

The Food Policy Director and staff have finalized *Make Food Work: A Strategy to Strengthen the DC Food Workforce* and will publish the Strategy in early 2020. The Strategy has gone through the District's relevant review processes and is now undergoing final design. In addition to support from Kaiser Permanente, the Strategy has been endorsed and co-branded by the District's Office of Planning, Department of Employment Services and the Workforce Investment Council. Support from these agency partners and their engagement are crucial to the success of its implementation across the District, but the inclusion of the agency partners added to the complexity of the review process and extended the time needed for review.

The Strategy provides a roadmap for improving job quality, expanding opportunities, and increasing equity within the food workforce and thereby the food economy in the District. Although the food economy is often considered as part of larger hospitality or tourism sectors, this report highlights the unique challenges faced by workers in the food economy and the unique opportunities to decrease unemployment and create meaningful career pathways within this industry. The Strategy leverages insights from stakeholder interviews, the February 2018 convening, and promising practices from across the country.

The implementation of the Strategy will be spearheaded through the FPC's Entrepreneurship and Food Jobs Working Group and build on the District's existing efforts to support workers and create meaningful career pathways for District residents. The FPC plans to use the Strategy to guide the District and its partners in their efforts to strengthen the DC food workforce.

2020 DC Food Policy Priorities

The DC Food Policy Council has identified the following priorities across five strategic themes to strengthen the District's food system in 2020. To accomplish these priorities, the Council will strive to create welcoming spaces and discussions that engage diverse voices and perspectives. We welcome partners to support and contribute to our work.

Food Access & Equity:

1. **Create a DC Good Food Investment Fund to invest in locally-owned food businesses serving District neighborhoods with low access to healthy food.** As a public/private partnership, this Fund would provide catalytic grants, flexible loans, and technical assistance to address the District's persistent grocery gap, preserve and support small businesses owned by District residents, and create high-quality jobs.
2. **Promote programs that explore how nutritious food can improve health.** The District is at the forefront of piloting innovative programs that provide nutritious food to help prevent and treat diet-related disease. Strengthening connections with the healthcare industry, continuing to collect data to analyze program effectiveness, and increasing awareness among District stakeholders will be key to demonstrating the connection between food and health.
3. **Celebrate and increase awareness of new grocery options in DC.** In 2019, several new grocery businesses opened or announced plans to open in low food access areas in the District, including: Lidl in Ward 7, Market 7 in Ward 7, and Good Food Markets in Ward 8 (all set to open in 2020), and Fresh Food Factory in Ward 8 (opened in 2019). Celebrating these businesses and encouraging residents to visit the new stores will sustain these businesses and encourage future investment.

Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs:

1. **Identify strategies to increase affordable commercial kitchen space, cold storage, storefronts, and retail opportunities for District food entrepreneurs.** District residents who own hyperlocal food businesses struggle to access commercial kitchens, storefronts, and retail partners to bring their products to market. As real estate prices increase, more support is needed to create a thriving hyperlocal food business economy.
2. **Deploy innovative strategies for food businesses to support high-quality food jobs and careers.** In 2019, the Food Policy Office within the Office of Planning, Department of Employment Services, and the Workforce Investment Council created the DC Food Workforce Development Strategy to create more meaningful career pathways within the food sector. In 2020, this Strategy will be amplified and deployed to District agencies and businesses.
3. **Identify and catalogue District regulations and licensing that present challenges for small food businesses.** Many small food businesses in the District struggle to navigate the complex, costly process of obtaining the necessary government approvals and licenses to open for business. Greater understanding of these challenges will help businesses plan their course of action and highlight opportunities for the District to streamline its requirements.

2020 DC Food Policy Priorities

Nutrition & Food System Education:

1. **Conduct a DC nutrition education landscape analysis.** At the DC Nutrition Educators Summit in July 2019, educators called for a comprehensive summary of nutrition education programs in the District to better understand the gaps and opportunities for expanding access to nutrition and food system education for District residents.
2. **Enhance collaboration among DC nutrition educators.** At the DC Nutrition Educators Summit in July 2019, educators expressed the need for shared resources including: curriculum, evaluation metrics, funding coordination, and asset mapping. A well-organized collaborative approach will enable food and nutrition educators to achieve their goals.
3. **Increase connections between the healthcare sector and nutrition and food system education.** Healthcare providers are currently unaware of many nutrition education resources available to patients. To address that gap, the Council plans to research national best practices on referrals to nutrition and food system education and encourage collaboration between educators and clinicians to learn needs and opportunities.

Urban Agriculture:

1. **Expand the Urban Land Lease Program and Urban Agriculture Tax Credit in collaboration with the new Director of Urban Agriculture.** In 2019, the District created a crucial new resource for urban farmers: the Director of Urban Agriculture position within the Department of Energy and the Environment. The new Director will need support and guidance to expand the Urban Land Lease Program and Urban Agriculture Tax Credit, as well as provide other key assistance for farmers. The Food Policy Council will convene forums and provide on-going guidance to support the new Director.
2. **Explore funding opportunities for an Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Fund:** In collaboration with the new Director of Urban Agriculture and University of the District of Columbia, the Council plans to identify funding to assist farmers with needed infrastructure to make their farms thrive. Common infrastructure needs include hoop houses, greenhouses, water infrastructure, and cold storage. These relatively small investments would greatly increase the amount of fresh, locally-grown produce available year-round to District residents and would promote job creation as farms expand their operations.

Sustainable Supply Chain:

1. **Determine how District food policy can address climate change and increase the District's preparedness for severe weather events.** For the District to be a national leader among cities tackling climate change, it will be crucial to create food policies that decrease the District's carbon footprint. At the same time, food policy can play a critical role in better preparing the District for increasingly frequent severe weather events.

2020 DC Food Policy Priorities

- 2. Publish the centralized kitchen study.** In 2020, the DC Office of Planning will develop and publish a study required by the Healthy Students Amendment Act of 2018 on best practices for developing a centralized kitchen in the District. A centralized kitchen could prepare and store food for public institutions; support local farmers; and provide job-training programs. The Food Policy Council will convene stakeholders to provide guidance on the study, which will be released in fall 2020.
- 3. Develop best practices for institutional food procurement in the District.** Building on research conducted in 2019, the Food Policy Council will convene key District agencies, private institutions, and other partners to consider how food procurement can be a tool to promote health, sustainability, and equity.



Food Access & Equity

- Create a DC Good Food Investment Fund to invest in locally-owned food businesses serving District neighborhoods with low access to healthy food.
- Promote programs that explore how nutritious food can improve health.
- Celebrate and increase awareness of new grocery options in DC.

Nutrition & Food System Education

- Conduct a DC nutrition education landscape analysis.
- Enhance collaboration among DC nutrition educators.
- Increase connections between the healthcare sector and nutrition and food system education.



Urban Agriculture

- Expand the Urban Land Lease Program and Urban Agriculture Tax Credit in collaboration with the DC Director of Urban Agriculture.
- Explore funding opportunities for an Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.

2020 DC Food Policy Priorities:

Enhancing health, equity, and sustainability by engaging diverse voices and perspectives



Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs

- Identify strategies to increase affordable commercial kitchen space, cold storage, storefronts, and retail opportunities for District food entrepreneurs.
- Deploy innovative strategies for food businesses to support high-quality food jobs and careers.
- Identify and catalogue District regulations and licensing that present challenges for small food businesses.



Sustainable Supply Chain

- Determine how District food policy can address climate change and increase the District's preparedness for severe weather events.
- Publish the centralized kitchen study.
- Develop best practices for institutional food procurement in the District.



2019 DC Food Policy Priorities End-Year Accomplishments

Food Access & Equity:

1. Create a Locally-Owned Healthy Food Retail Investment Fund for community-driven food businesses in underserved areas.
 - ✓ *Creating this Fund continues to be top priority in 2020.*
 - ✓ *More healthy food retail opening in Wards 7 & 8: Fresh Food Factory in Ward 8 (open), Lidl in Ward 7 (2020), Good Food Markets in Ward 8 (2020), and Market 7 in Ward 7 (2020)*
 - ✓ *The FPC assisted the Mayor in drafting comments on the federal cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and created an advocacy guide for District residents interested in submitting comments to the USDA on the proposed cuts.*
2. Promote Food as Medicine programs for food-insecure populations.
 - ✓ *The Produce Rx Pilot Program with DC Greens, Giant, AmeriHealth, and DC Health officially launched and received additional funding in the FY 2020 Budget.*
 - ✓ *FPC staff is researching food as medicine programs in the District and best practices nationally.*
 - ✓ *FPC hosted GWU medical students for a panel discussion of food as medicine in the District.*
 - ✓ *DC won the top prize for the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Awards for its innovative food as medicine programs.*
 - ✓ *The Food Policy Director moderated a panel on the role of food policy, food access, and nutrition in supporting positive outcomes for families at Mayor Bowser's Second Annual Maternal and Infant Health Summit.*
3. Establish an Online Grocery Delivery Pilot.
 - ✓ *USDA is piloting SNAP online purchasing in 8 states.*

Sustainable Procurement:

1. Streamline and improve institutional food procurement.
 - ✓ *The Healthy Students Amendment Act of 2018, which increases the District's investment in school breakfast and requires that DCPS move towards aligning procurement with the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP), passed.*
 - ✓ *DC School Food Advisory Council is convening stakeholders and hosted DCPS presentation on GFPP baseline study results.*
 - ✓ *FPC staff completed a study on current food procurement contracts in the District and best practices nationally.*
 - ✓ *The Healthy Shelters Act of 2019, which would increase nutrition standards for meals at homeless shelters, was introduced in DC Council.*
 - ✓ *In June 2019, the Food Policy Director presented on the DC Food Economy Study at a regional sustainable supply chain convening hosted by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Regional Agricultural working group and helped make the economic case for greater supply chain collaboration in the region.*

2. Move towards developing a DC Food Processing and Innovation Center (“central kitchen”).
 - ✓ *The Fiscal Year 2020 Budget provides the Office of Planning (where FPC is located) with \$100K to conduct a best practices study on developing a central kitchen.*
3. Pilot self-operated school food services in a limited number of DCPS schools.
 - ✓ *The Fiscal Year 2020 Budget includes funding for DCPS to conduct a 10-school pilot of self-operated school food services in school years 2020-21 and 2021-22.*
4. Explore best practices for increasing organics diversion.
 - ✓ *DC Food Recovery Working Group is organizing 3rd annual DC Food Recovery Week in October 2019.*
 - ✓ *New resource: Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic released national best practices report on organics recycling requirements.*
 - ✓ *The FY 2020 budget included funding for DPW to increase composting participation and awareness of composting in areas that currently have low participation efforts.*

Urban Agriculture

1. Expand the Urban Land Lease Program and Urban Agriculture Tax Credit.
 - ✓ *DGS leased 2 parcels of District government land to farmers in the District.*
 - ✓ *Both the Land Lease Program and Tax Credit will be managed by the newly created Urban Agriculture Office within the Department of Energy and Environment.*
2. Increase financial support and resources for urban farms in the District.
 - ✓ *The Fiscal Year 2020 budget creates a new Urban Agriculture Office within DOEE. The working group will cohost listening sessions with DOEE to solicit feedback on what this office should prioritize.*
 - ✓ *Working group has engaged UDC in on-going conversation about how to better support urban agriculture in the District.*

Local Food Business & Labor Development:

1. Elevate the DC Food Economy Study.
 - ✓ *Food Economy Study was published in 2019.*
 - ✓ *Sustainable DC 2.0 included goals around strengthening the District’s food economy through improved workforce practices.*
2. Publish and begin implementation of the DC Food Workforce Development Strategy.
 - ✓ *February 2019: FPC held a successful stakeholder convening to support the development of the strategy.*
 - ✓ *Draft in-progress: On-track to be published Winter 2019.*
3. Expand the Cottage Food Act of 2013 to make it easier for small, at-home food producers to operate in the District, such as increasing the current annual revenue cap (\$25,000).
 - ✓ *Cottage Food Expansion Amendment Act of 2019 passed first reading in December 2019.*

Nutrition & Food System Education:

1. Identify needs and opportunities for increased nutrition and food system education.
 - ✓ *July 2019: Nutrition Educators Summit: DC Central Kitchen and partners hosted Summit to identify strategies for increasing and better aligning nutrition education.*

2. Support local food producers that promote and preserve DC culture and food traditions.
 - ✓ *The FPC has strengthened partnership with DSLBD and promoted grant opportunities like Grown in DC at FPC meetings.*

More Progress!

- ✓ FPC co-hosted two community meals with DC Greens' Community Advocates Program.
- ✓ FPC published 2018 Food System Assessment.
- ✓ FPC published list of food resources during federal government shutdown.
- ✓ New FPC members were appointed to the FPC.
- ✓ The Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs Working Group was created!