

DC Council Committee on Health
Councilmember Christina Henderson, Chair
FY 2025 Performance Oversight Questions
Food Policy Council (FPC)

- 1. Please provide a list of Office of Planning Food Policy FTEs, including title, grade, percentage of time spent on food policy, and whether the position is vacant/filled.**

The Office of Planning Food Policy FTEs include:

- Kashaf Momin, Food Policy Analyst, Resilient Food System Infrastructure, Grade 12, 100%, filled
- Julia Raymond, Food Policy Analyst, Grade 12, 100%, filled
- Ashley Stephens, Community Engagement Specialist, Grade 12, 25%, filled
- Rebecca Schwartzman, Community Planner, Grade 13, 5%, filled
- Vacancy: Food Policy Analyst, Grade 12, 100%, vacant

- 2. Please provide a list of the Food Policy Council's (FPC) current members, including its ex officio members from the District government. For each member, please provide the following:**
 - a. The member's name;**
 - b. The Ward in which they reside (not necessary for ex officio members);**
 - c. The agency or organization the member represents;**
 - d. The Working Group which the member co-chairs, where applicable;**
 - e. When the member's term expires, and whether they are eligible for reappointment after their current term; and**
 - f. Attendance record for all official FPC meetings in FY 2025 and FY 2026, to date.**

Responses to A – E:

Public Members:

| Name | Working Group | Organization | Ward | Term End Date | Eligible for Reappointment? |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---|------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Mya Price | Food Access & Equity | Root Cause Coalition & Global Food Institute (George Washington University) | 3 | 3/1/2026 | Yes |
| Rachel Clark | Sustainable Supply Chain | R. Clark Consulting | 5 | 3/1/2028 | No |
| Natalia Kalloo | Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs | Trini Vybez | 4 | 3/1/2028 | No |
| Angela Chester-Johnson | Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs | Plum Good LLC | 8 | 3/1/2026 | Yes |
| Nick Stavely | Food Access & Equity | FreshFarm | 1 | 3/1/2028 | Yes |
| James Huang | Nutrition & Health | Gallaudet University | 5 | 3/1/2027 | No, and stepping down in 3/2026 |
| Dalila Boclin | Sustainable Supply Chain | Locus Impact | 5 | 3/1/2027 | Yes |
| Jose Morales | Sustainable Supply Chain | Keany Produce | 5 | 3/1/2026 | Yes |
| Carrie Vaughn | Urban Agriculture | Building Bridges Across the River | 3 | 3/1/2027 | Yes |

Ex Officio Members

| Name | Agency | Working Group |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| Alyssa Wooden | DOEE | Sustainable Supply Chain |
| Angela Tucker | DPR | |
| Brian Fox (Interim) | DOEE | Urban Agriculture |
| Chellee Walker | DSLBD | Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs |
| Emily Pretlow | DHS | Food Access & Equity |
| Emir Gur-Ravantab | DLCP | Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs |
| Erika Nunez | DGS | Reducing Wasted Food |
| Hannah Francis | DC Health | Food Access & Equity |
| JoAnn Jolly | DC Health | Nutrition & Health |
| Kashaf Momin | OP | Sustainable Supply Chain |
| Kimberly Thompson | OSSE | Nutrition & Health |
| Rachel Manning | DPW | Reducing Wasted Food |
| Robert Jaber | DCPS | |
| Tariq Sheriff | DMPED | Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs |

Responses to F: Attendance Tracking is below, with Y marking present, N marking absent, AA marking approved absence, and NA marking no longer applicable as no longer in that position.

| Name | Seat Designation | Oct-24 | 2024 Retreat | Dec-24 | Feb-25 | Apr-25 | Jun-25 | Aug-25 | Oct-25 | Dec-25 | 2025 Retreat |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Caroline Howe | Director | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Rachel Clark | Public Member | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Carrie Vaughn | Public Member | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Jose Morales | Public Member | N | Y | N | Y | N | Y | N | Y | Y | Y |
| Natalia Kalloo | Public Member | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Mya Price | Public Member | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| James Huang | Public Member | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | N | N | N |
| Angela Chester-Johnson | Public Member | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Nick Stavely | Public Member | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | AA | Y | Y | N |
| Dalila Boclin | Public Member | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Jessica Green | Former DHS Ex Officio | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | N | Y | N | N |
| Kate Lee | Former DOEE Ex Officio | Y | Y | Y | Y | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Hannah Francis | DC Health Ex Officio | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| Jo-Ann Jolly | DC Health Ex Officio | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | AA | AA | AA | AA | AA |
| Emir Gur-Ravantab | DLCP Ex Officio | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| Kimberly Thompson | OSSE Ex Officio | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | N | Y | Y | Y |
| Erika Nunez | DGS Ex Officio | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | AA | Y | Y |
| Rachel Manning | DPW Ex Officio | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Tariq Sheriff | DMPED Ex Officio | Y | Y | Y | AA | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Robyn Douglas / Rob Jaber / Kelsey | DCPS Ex Officio | Y | Y | Y | N | N | N | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Ben Byrd | Former DSLBD Ex Officio | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N/A | N/A | N/A |

3. *Please provide a list of the FPC's meeting dates for FY 2025 and FY 2026, to date, including a link to the meeting minutes.*

The Full Food Policy Council meetings took place on:

- a. December 3, 2025: [Slide Presentation](#) and [Recording](#)
- b. October 1, 2025: [Slide Presentation](#) and [Recording](#)
- c. August 6, 2025: [Slide Presentation](#) and [Recording](#)
- d. June 4, 2025: [Slide Presentation](#)
- e. April 2, 2025: [Slide Presentation](#) and [Recording](#)
- f. February 5, 2025: [Slide Presentation](#) and [Recording](#)
- g. December 11, 2024: [Slide Presentation](#)
- h. October 9, 2024: [Slide Presentation](#) and [Recording](#)

Additional public Food Policy Council meetings took place for specific trainings throughout the year across several working groups. This is in addition to Working Group meetings that were focused on moving priorities forward and several smaller stakeholder convenings including an LGBTQ+ stakeholders group and several migrant roundtables.

Training on BEST ACT in 2025: In 2025, both DLCP and DC Health made significant changes based on two new pieces of legislation -- the [2022 Business & Entrepreneurship Support to Thrive \(BEST\) Act](#) and the [Street Vendor Modernization Act of 2023](#). Food Policy hosted a training in October 2025 to hear from both agencies about new licensing processes. The recording is [here](#).

Understanding US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Grant Language: The Food Policy team offered a training for farmers, food businesses, and other stakeholders interested in applying for open USDA grants to translate some key USDA terminology.

Rooting for Equity: In partnership with George Washington University, the Food Policy Council hosted a public meeting to discuss the intersections between affordable housing and urban agriculture. The [session covered the report's findings](#) in greater depth than the brief overview in the full FPC meeting in February 2025.

4. *Did the FPC apply for or receive funds from the District or federal government, or private sources, in FY 2025 and FY 2026, to date? If so, please provide the following:*

- a. The amount of the funding;*
- b. The source of the funding; and*
- c. A description of expenditures.*

| FY | Funding Source | Funding Amount | Expenditures |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| FY25 | District | \$9,887.61 | \$7,687.60 |
| FY25 | Federal | \$237,129 | \$10,700.84 |
| FY26 | District | \$25,000.00 | \$5,808.24 |
| FY26 | Federal | | \$29,171.24 |

Federal Funds:

The FPC received funding from USDA's Resilient Food System Infrastructure grants, via DMPED. OP received \$237,129 in FY25 that will fund a Food Policy Analyst focused on building a sustainable supply chain through District procurement until March 15, 2027. This enabled OP to hire a Food Policy Analyst focused on food procurement who began in late August 2025.

In the 5 months of their tenure, they have compiled the District's commitments and legislation to advance values-based procurement, which are live on the FPC website as well as a tracker of all major food contracts in the District to support meal programs. They also started to develop guidance on contract language for agencies to mandate stronger practices around encouraging local sourcing, limiting processed foods, promoting plant rich meals and more and has worked with two agencies so far on incorporating stronger language in their meal contracts. She has been convening the Food Procurement Community of Practice on a monthly basis (rather than quarterly) to accelerate knowledge sharing for agencies that manage meal programs.

To continue progress on making a central food processing facility a reality in the District, they conducted a cost analysis with OCA to assess the costs of building and operating a central food processing facility and how these costs compare to current meal costs. The analysis revealed that the District could potentially save \$25M+ a year in meal costs with a CFPF, in addition to achieving other benefits that are harder to quantify such as reduced health care costs in the long run etc. Additionally, they have been coordinating with DCPS, DYRS, OCP and OCA on a warehouse pilot to operationalize how the District can shift to a model of centralized storage and joint purchasing – two key elements of central processing facility. Regarding collaborations outside District agencies, they worked with Johns Hopkins University MPH students to evaluate food procurement and food waste management practices at DC college campuses and shared learnings via DOEE's network of DC university sustainability leaders.

2025 Local Funding: Prior to Mayor's Order 2025-053, the Food Policy team spent \$7,687.60 of the \$25,000 allocated. This was spent on:

| Item | Amount | Justification |
|--|-------------------|--|
| Congressional Hunger Center | \$2,423.20 | Second half of payment for Emerson Hunger Fellow |
| Food Policy Council Retreat | \$1,130 | Sourcing breakfast and lunch from a DC CBE for FPC Retreat |
| Software | \$941.89 | This includes Mailchimp (our email software), Wordpress (website management), and graphic design software |
| Translation | \$1,049.51 | Translating 3 Food Policy documents |
| Engagement | \$1,105 | FPC provided \$25 gift cards to residents who attended community engagement sessions including our LGBTQIA+ roundtable, a grocery access roundtable, and the Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid surveys |
| National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference | \$1038 | Food Policy staff attended the Food Resources Action Center's National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference |
| FY25 Spend | \$7,687.60 | |

2026 Local Funding as of February 2026

As of February 2026, the Food Policy team has spent \$5,808.24 of our FY26 budget.

| Item | Amount | Justification |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Food Policy Council Retreat | \$790.25 | Sourcing breakfast and lunch from a DC CBE for FPC Retreat |
| Software | \$585.99 | This includes Mailchimp (our email software), Wordpress (website management), and graphic design software |
| Emerson Hunger Fellow | \$4,432.00 | This is the Food Policy team's cost share for the Congressional Hunger Center's fellowship program |
| Subtotal as of Jan 2026 | \$5,808.24 | |

5. Please list all FPC working groups and describe each working group's primary goals and accomplishments in 2025 and 2026, to date.

a. Food Access & Equity

i. 2025 Goals: Enable District residents to access increased local and Federal food benefits they deserve and are eligible for

1. Educate the public about legislation aimed at increasing funding for food access programs
2. Increase enrollment of seniors and people with disabilities in food access programs
3. Support DC residents in navigating and participating in food access programs, with no wrong door approaches to benefit access and food services

ii. 2025 Accomplishments:

1. Along with Urban Ag and Sustainable Supply Chain Working Group, promoted opportunities to testify about the [Farmers Market Support Amendment Act of 2025](#).
2. SNAP funding distributed during government shutdown
3. Funding for fresh produce distributed by CBOs during government shutdown
4. Timely promotion of changing, up-to-date SNAP information during the shutdown both to the public and to decision-makers considering the SNAP funding that was distributed during the federal government shutdown

b. Sustainable Supply Chain

i. 2025 Goals: Improve District procurement through the purchase of more nutritious, sustainable, and local & regional food

1. Ensure that Central Food Processing Facilities in DC are designed to foster values-based procurement
2. Support the passing of Farmers Market legislation based on 2024 Working Group recommendations
3. Support Communities of Practice for food-procuring agencies, offices, and institutions
4. Release procurement study and socialize findings to improve procurement

ii. 2025 Accomplishments:

1. Released the Redstone procurement study and disseminated findings through workshops with government
2. Launched procurement CoP for food-procuring agencies and staff
3. Supported the successful passage of Farmers Market legislation

c. Reducing Wasted Food

i. 2025 Goals: Improve food waste prevention and diversion among residents, and businesses, and District government

1. Help DC government agencies lead by example with food waste prevention and diversion practices
2. Build capacity among DC businesses to prevent and divert food waste

3. Encourage a "make the most of your food" mindset and improve understanding of food waste prevention

ii. 2025 Accomplishments:

1. Incorporated food waste messaging into DCHR wellness events and programming
2. Created training with DC Health for Food Navigators and SNAP-Ed Partners that covered food waste prevention and reuse strategies and date labeling
3. Supported a "make the most of food" mindset with resources shared at 10 community events with local retailers, District agencies, and a local farm
4. Bolstered relationships with food procuring agencies in DC government

d. Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs

i. 2025 Goals: Reduce barriers to new food businesses successfully launching and growing, especially in Wards 7 and 8.

1. Understand barriers for cottage food businesses and other food entrepreneurs, while also lifting up stories of success
2. Release food business registration road map with support of DC Health and DLCP
3. Promote funding opportunities for food businesses from all District agencies, nonprofits, and local entities
4. Identify opportunities for local food businesses of multiple types to access the Certified Business Enterprise designation

ii. 2025 Accomplishments:

1. CBE roundtable on existing barriers that informed guidance for agencies on working with CBEs
2. Training with DC Health and DLCP on updates to food business licensing
3. Included more than 10 different food business funding opportunities – local, federal, and philanthropic – promoted in at least 6 of the 2025 FPC newsletters
4. Drafted a one-pager about benefits for food businesses of becoming a CBE

e. Urban Agriculture

i. 2025 Goals: All District residents have access to knowledge and resources to grow food for themselves.

1. Update, release and publicize urban agriculture map, including farms and assets like greenhouses
2. Complete and share outcomes from the urban agriculture and affordable housing case study
3. Update and publicize urban agriculture classes in the District
4. Pursue discussions with DC Water for free and accessible water for all District urban farms and community gardens

ii. 2025 Accomplishments:

1. OSSE & OP updated Urban Ag maps, opportunity to clarify definitions and create annual update process
2. Urban agriculture and affordable housing case study finalized and presented at Feb FPC meeting
3. Drafted list of agricultural and garden educators to integrate as an additional resource to urban agriculture map
4. Developed connections for Wangari Gardens and Marvin Gaye Greening Center with DC Water

f. Health & Nutrition

- i. 2025 Goals: Reduce the burden of diet-related chronic disease in Washington, D.C. by improving access to food education, enhancing nutrition workforce capacity, and increasing opportunities for reimbursement of services.
 1. Increase access to food education programs for youth and adults in Washington, D.C.
 2. Increase capacity for food and nutrition related community-based organizations to work with the healthcare sector.
 3. Reduce barriers to entry for residents in Washington, D.C. to become licensed as a nutritionist or credentialed as a registered dietitian nutritionist.
- ii. 2025 Accomplishments:
 1. DC Health navigating changes to SNAP Ed, while also monitoring the 1115 waiver process. DC Health also initiated a partnership with the Board of Dietetics to identify workforce data trends, promote opportunities to LDNs, provide credentialing support.

2026

In 2026, the Food Policy Council is setting collective goals across the FPC, with each Working Group having a specific workplan with engagement objectives, agency accountability objectives, and policy objectives.

Food System Priorities:

- Develop strategy for reaching 20 acres of urban farmland in the District, including strengthening land lease, building equity in Urban Farm Tax Abatement, and leveraging public, private, and federal land.
- Unified business licensing and approval platform to include farmers markets, vendors, and food businesses.
- Move District agencies towards food donation, food waste reduction, and food scrap collection.
- Passage and funding of initiatives that lead to transparency and improved values-based purchasing.
- Minimize negative impacts of federal benefits changes to District resident food access
- Evaluate nutrition education needs after the end of SNAP Ed and prepare for the 1115 Food as Medicine Waiver implementation.
- Develop a food retail strategy that incorporates existing initiatives and community input to expand geographic, economic, physical, and educational access in low food access areas.

Transparency & Data Sharing Priorities

- Create a District food system data dashboard, incorporating data around purchasing, production, food distribution and food waste
- Update DC urban agriculture map and develop clear process for updating annually
- Create resource directories including map, list, and calendar for
 - Farm education opportunities
 - Nutrition education opportunities
- Roadmaps for cottage food businesses, food vendors, and other food business microenterprises
- Resources for share tables disseminated to DC Public and Charter Schools
- Compile food access resources and promote existing resources including locally, federally, and philanthropically-funded resources

6. What were the three most significant food policy accomplishments for the District in FY 2025? What are the FPC's three primary goals regarding District food policy for FY 2026?

In FY25, the District was able to make substantial progress in many areas, but the three most significant (in no particular order) were navigating during the changing economic and food access realities; achieving major progress around food procurement; and substantially changing how small businesses can get food to communities by supporting farmers markets, amending cottage food regulations, and modernizing food vending.

1. The Food Policy Council served as a critical convening body amidst many changes throughout 2025. In particular, in the uncertainty of the government shutdown, we convened emergency food providers as well as agencies to ensure we were all getting the best information in a rapidly changing environment. Amidst this, the Food Policy Council website served as the place that DHS directed all residents to find food resources. This also helped direct decision-makers to better understand impacts of these federal changes. With Mayor Bowser's commitment, the District was the only jurisdiction in the country to issue full SNAP benefits on time in November 2025.

Our meetings featured clear updates on the impacts of HR1 on food systems in the DMV (with a presentation from LaMonika Jones from the Food Research & Action Center and DC Hunger Solutions), impacts of the federal layoffs and financial insecurity on food security (with a data-rich presentation from the Capital Area Food Bank), and consistent information throughout the year on the DC and Federal budget process.

Beyond the emergencies of 2025, the Food Policy Council and team were able to bring together key groups of stakeholders to better understand policy and systemic challenges that communities were facing amidst much change. This included members of the LGBTQ+ community and the organizations that serve them; migrants and the Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid network; and workforce development providers.

2. The District has seen substantial progress in many of our procurement goals and moving policy forward towards values-based procurement. In January 2025, the Food Policy Council's Sustainable Supply Chain Working Group hosted several conversations with the authors of the Redstone Center's report on [Food Procurement in the District of Columbia](#), which alongside internal analysis of opportunities that The Lab @ DC conducted, immediately allowed us to put some solutions into practice, such as the creation of the Food Procurement Community of Practice (CoP). This CoP has been able to address some specific workforce challenges, promote food donation, and consider how to best implement Green Food Purchasing requirements and Environmentally Preferable Products and Services (EPPS) standards on food and food serviceware.

With funding from the USDA Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure grants, the Food Policy team was able to hire Food Policy Analyst focused on procurement. They have been facilitating the CoP and conducted a detailed analysis of our current food purchasing and potential costs and benefits of moving towards a central food processing facility.

3. In FY25, the District made significant progress in making it easier for producers and small food businesses to get communities the food they need and deserve. The Food Policy Council has been convening farmers market operators and vendors since 2023, and the Farmers Market Support Amendment Act addressed many of the key concerns of that group by creating a dedicated team within DC Health to support markets, funding grants to support market development in low food access areas, and supporting DLCP to make a single application portal to coordinate amongst the 12+ agency divisions to get a market license.

The District has also made real progress on implementing the Vendor Modernization Act, the Business and Entrepreneurship Support to Thrive Act, and amendments to Cottage Food regulations. Reducing food business licenses to \$99, creating a pathway for vendors to serve hot foods prepared at home through the Micro-Enterprise Home Kitchen program, and enabling cottage food businesses to sell wholesale to restaurants and other food retailers all represent major steps towards implementing these legislations. DLCP's announcement of their work to develop DC Bridge – a single application portal for businesses – will be significant progress.

The full list of the Food Policy Council's FY26 priorities is above in the response to Question #5, but as a top three:

- Develop and begin implementation of a food retail strategy that incorporates existing initiatives and community input to expand geographic, economic, physical, and educational access in low food access areas.
- Implement and fund District initiatives that lead to transparency and improved values-based purchasing.
- Minimize negative impacts of federal benefits changes to District resident food access and nutrition education by increasing knowledge about these changes, developing public-private partnerships to promote existing benefits and programs, and strategically investing local funding to fill gaps.

7. Please describe all reports and publications developed by or published by the FPC or the Office of Planning's Food Policy team in FY 2025 and FY 2026, and provide hyperlinks where available. For reports in development, please provide an estimated publication date.

OP's Food Policy team Published Reports

[Approaches to a Centralized Food Processing Facility in the District](#)

Throughout 2023, the Office of Planning worked with various agency stakeholders as well as a team of consultants to understand the physical resource needs for Central Food Processing for District food service. One key theme that emerged was the challenge of having one single facility that could meet the needs to create the District's meals and meal components, so the analysis explored the possibility of multiple facilities that could serve various purposes. Key findings were shared in February 2024 in the Food Policy Council meeting, and the report was released in early FY25. The slides from that presentation are [here](#), and the recording of the presentation is available [here](#).

- [Summary](#)
- [Full report](#)

FY24 Food Economy & Food Access Report

The FY24 Food Economy & Food Access report shares key findings around food insecurity, job growth and changes in the District, and reports on the \$24 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds the District invested from FY21 - FY24 to increase equitable access to nutritious food and rebuild a resilient food economy. It also reports on the first year of Summer EBT in the District, the impacts of rising costs of food, the rising food insecurity amongst the Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained and Employed (ALICE) population, the impacts of Nourish DC, and the impacts of DPR's shift from community gardens to communal farms.

2025 Federal Government Shutdown Resources

The Food Policy Council compiled this list of resources available during the 2025 shutdown, including resources that are always available, as well as those only available during the shutdown. This was updated daily or every two days as the shutdown proceeded.

Updates to Make Food Work: A Strategy to Strengthen the DC Food Workforce

In 2025, with significant changes to workforce training options in the District, the Food Policy team updated the list of workforce training providers in Make Food Work.

Annual Updates to Farmers Market Resources

For the last several years, OP's Food Policy team has worked with DC Health, DPW, and farmers market operators to ensure that there is one shared GIS map with all farmers markets, their benefits, and the food waste dropoffs. This map is then the basis of many other regional resources, including printed documents about farmers markets and nutrition incentives. However, as the Farmers Market Support Amendment Act of 2025 moved market management and promotion to DC Health, OP may or may not continue this annual update.

Food Policy Council and FPC Working Groups' Published Reports:

Food Procurement in the District of Columbia: (2025): The District of Columbia spends millions per year on food procurement, feeding tens of thousands of children, seniors, and vulnerable residents each day. While the District has recognized that this spending is an opportunity to use public tax dollars to advance equity, health, and sustainability, it has struggled to shift its purchasing behaviors to fully realize these goals. The Sustainable Supply Chain Working Group advised the George Washington University's [Redstone Center's new report](#), which examines current procurement policies and practices to identify barriers to implementing better food procurement in the District. Watch [a recording of a presentation on the report here](#).

Rooting for Equity: Applied Research to Advance Urban Agriculture in Washington DC's Affordable Housing Communities: In collaboration with the DC Office of Urban Agriculture and George Washington University, Rooting for Equity explores how urban agriculture can thrive within Washington, DC's affordable housing communities. While the District works toward ambitious goals for both new food-growing spaces and expanded affordable housing, these priorities can be seen in competition with one another. This study examines how urban agriculture can bridge the two – improving food security, fostering community engagement, and advancing sustainability. Drawing on insights from residents, urban farmers, developers, and government officials, the research highlights current barriers, opportunities, and pathways for new collaboration. The findings

emphasize the need for community-driven models, sustained investment, and policies that center equity in order to make urban agriculture a viable part of affordable housing solutions. [Read the full report here](#). You can also watch a [recording of the convening presenting the report here](#).

OP's Food Policy Team Reports in Development:

Mapping Physical, Geographic, and Economic Access to Food and Health Impacts: The Food Policy team, in partnership with OP's Data & Visualization team, will be releasing a map and associated report that highlights specific areas of the city where residents cannot walk or take public transit to a grocery store in 20 minutes or less. This geographic and physical access is then layered on top of census data to identify areas that face demographic barriers to food access, including higher percentages of households with income less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Line, households without car ownership, households receiving SNAP, households with limited English proficiency, and households of seniors living alone. We are working to layer on additional health indicators to help inform existing and future programs, as well as to inform the District's retail strategy.

Improving LGBTQIA+ Food Security: In FY25, the Food Policy team was lucky to host an Emerson Hunger Fellow to focus on barriers to and solutions to improve food security in the LGBTQ+ community in the District. While the published report is expected in Q2 of FY26, the presentation on the findings were shared in a [full Food Policy Council meeting](#) as well as several sessions with LGBTQ+ stakeholders and the Food Policy team and the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs has moved forward with several recommendations. This is going through final reviews and will be released by June 2026.

Updates to College Hunger Assessment: The Food Policy team is in final design for a report around challenges facing students on college campuses to release by June 2026.

Cost-Benefit Analysis for a Central Food Processing Facility: Based on research conducted in late 2025, the Food Policy team is working to release an updated report on potential costs and savings from investing in a Central Food Processing Facility, with a goal of release by June 2026.

2025 Food Economy & Food Access Report: The 2025 Food Economy & Food Access Report is in IQ review and is anticipated to be released by March 2026.