Welcome

Deputy Mayor John Falcicchio
Planning and Economic Development (DMPED)
Food Security in the District: Responding to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Ona Balkus, Food Policy Director, DC Office of Planning (OP)
Coronavirus Support Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, signed by Mayor Bowser on May 27:

“By July 15, 2020, the Food Policy Director ... shall make publicly available a study that evaluates and makes recommendations regarding **food access needs during and following the COVID-19 public health emergency**, including:

1. An **analysis of current and projected food insecurity rates**, based on data compiled across District agencies; and
2. A **plan for how to address food needs** during and following the public health emergency.”

*“Food insecurity” is defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life.*
DATA
Key Findings
National Data

Nationally, food insecurity rates have **doubled** since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Pre-COVID: 11.1%
- June 2020: 21.9%
- Forecasted 2020: 16.7%
Key Findings
District Data

In the District, food insecurity rates have nearly doubled.

- Pre-COVID: 10.6%
- June 2020: 21.1%
- Forecasted 2020: 16.0% (113,000 residents)
- Forecasted 2020 children: 28.6% (37,000 children)
Data

Source: CAFB 2020 Hunger Report
Demand for Emergency Food Programs

Total Grocery Bags Distributed
(4/12-6/8)

- Ward 8: 20%
- Ward 3: 22%
- Ward 7: 32%
- Ward 5: 4%
- Ward 6: 6%
- Ward 4: 11%

Total School Meals Served
(3/16-6/11)

- Ward 5: 12%
- Ward 6: 16%
- Ward 4: 11%
- Ward 3: 1%
- Ward 7: 12%
- Ward 2: 3%
- Ward 8: 30%
- Ward 7: 32%
Data

Disproportionate Impact by Population

Certain District residents are disproportionately impacted:
• Black households
• Seniors
• Families with children
• Immigrants
• Food/hospitality sector workers
RESPONSE
The District’s Emergency Response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overview: Emergency Food Distributed by the District</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grab-and-Go School Meals at DCPS Schools</td>
<td>625,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grocery Bags at DCPS Schools</td>
<td>24,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Meals Delivered</td>
<td>451,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get Help Hotline Grocery Deliveries</td>
<td>2,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals for Unsheltered Individuals</td>
<td>32,679</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Data on emergency food distributed comes from District agencies and reflects data captured from the March to early June.

Sources: DCPS; DoC; DoD; DMS; June-July 2020.
• Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) The District has distributed P-EBT to 46,029 children, about 67% of the children eligible.
• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): 78,767 residents enrolled, up from 64,966 pre-COVID.
• Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC): 15,160 residents enrolled, up from 14,898 pre-COVID.
• Farmers Markets Programs: WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (~17,500 residents) & the DC Health-funded Produce Plus Program (4,000 residents)

*Note: All data based on June/July 2020 reporting.*
Emergency Food Operations

Snapshot of Non-Profit Organization Emergency Food Operations in the District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Organization</th>
<th>Estimated Number of Meals Distributed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food &amp; Agriculture</td>
<td>4,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Area Food Bank**</td>
<td>3,554,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC Central Kitchen**</td>
<td>1,035,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC Food Project</td>
<td>320,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC Greens</td>
<td>3,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dreaming Out Loud</td>
<td>190,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Friends</td>
<td>204,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Rescue US-DC</td>
<td>12,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FreshFarm</td>
<td>18,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martha’s Table**</td>
<td>417,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oasis Community Partners**</td>
<td>363,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Planning Organization</td>
<td>7,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Central Kitchen</td>
<td>1,017,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YMCA of Metropolitan Washington</td>
<td>7,576</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Organizations, July 2020. * Many organizations distributed grocery bags, so these figures are estimates of meals produced with those grocery bags. **The figures for these organizations include meals and groceries prepared through a District government contract.
RECOMMENDATIONS
Selected Recommendations for Continued Emergency Response

- Maximize federal nutrition funding by ensuring every District resident benefits from programs for which they qualify.
- Expand public/private partnerships to increase funding for food assistance over the next year, with a focus on local Black- and Latinx-led organizations.
- Leverage the purchasing power of public and private institutions to help small and Black- and Latinx-owned food businesses recover.
- Expand transportation options for grocery shopping and delivery, such as the Department of For Hire Vehicles’ Taxi-to-Rail FY 2020 pilot, which provided free taxi rides for residents in Wards 7 and 8 to grocery stores.
Selected Recommendations for Food System Change & Planning

• Increase healthy food options in Wards 7 and 8, with a focus on supporting local Black-owned food businesses.

• Ensure that all District government food procurement contracts promote health equity, environmental sustainability, and the local food economy.

• Implement Mayor Bowser’s Strategy to Strengthen the DC Food Workforce to support job growth and career pathways in the food sector.

• Increase affordable commercial kitchen space, cold storage, storefronts, and retail opportunities for small food businesses.
Executive Summary and Full Report available at: dcfoodpolicy.org/foodsecurity2020 :
Community Organization Guest Panelists

Mireille Lopez-Humes, Deputy Chief Program Officer, Martha’s Table

Chris Bradshaw, Executive Dir., Dreaming Out Loud & DC Food Policy Council Member

Michael Curtain, Executive Director, DC Central Kitchen
Martha’s Table

Mireille Lopez-Humes, Deputy Chief Program Officer, Martha’s Table
Martha’s Table

Martha’s Table 40 years strong

At Martha’s Table, we believe that every Washingtonian deserves the opportunity to thrive.

We focus on:

Health & Wellness
We fight for food justice by increasing access to healthy food.

Education
We offer nationally accredited education programs beginning at birth.

Family Leaders
We promote family success by partnering with caregivers and providing fundamental resources.
Our COVID-19 Response: Supporting The Whole Family

Cash & Essential Family Resources:

March through June: 137 enrolled families
- $9,000/family in direct cash assistance
- $1,200/family in grocery store gift cards
- 4-month supply of diapers, wipes, and formula

July and Beyond: Up to 500 families
- $5,500/family in direct cash assistance
- Weekly dry goods and groceries
- Assistance navigating public and private resources
- THRIVE East of the River Partnership
Our COVID-19 Response: Supporting The Whole Family

Child Development & Education:

- Daily activity guides
- Developmental toys and resources
- Weekly discovery play dates
- Virtual “circle time”
- Daily 1:1 calls with parents

“To receive a stipend from your child's school...it’s like...wow! With the groceries and the delicious meals, it’s huge. Martha’s Table cares about us”
— Jalisa, MT Parent
Healthy Food Access

• **203,000 grocery bags** distributed March through August
• **More than 2 million meals** served
• **400% increase** in grocery distribution
• **10,000 D.C. residents** supported weekly
• At **18 grocery access sites** across the city
• Plus **warm meals, sandwiches, and healthy snacks every evening** to neighbors experiencing housing instability
Dreaming Out Loud

Chris Bradshaw, Executive Dir., Dreaming Out Loud & DC Food Policy Council Member
D.C. Central Kitchen

Michael Curtain, Executive Director, DC Central Kitchen
D.C. Central Kitchen

COVID-19 IMPACT DASHBOARD
As of September 21, 2020

1,854,730 meals distributed to children, families, and seniors
1,030,781 pounds of fresh fruits and veggies distributed to families
176,439 units of fresh produce and healthy snacks delivered to corner stores in food deserts
168 sites across DC have received our healthy food deliveries

WWW.DCCENTRALKITCHEN.ORG/COVID-19
What We’re Doing

• Serving nutritious meals to children at schools in Wards 6, 7, and 8
• Delivering tens of thousands of healthy meals to local shelters, senior citizens, and front-line nonprofits each week
• Distributing 5,000 bags of fresh, local produce at schools and partner nonprofits each week
• Providing deeply discounted fresh produce to corner stores
• Supporting grassroots mutual aid networks
• Sustaining nearly 20 new jobs at DCCK and through Get Shift Done while investing in living wages and healthcare for our staff
Partnering with District Government

- Operating feeding sites at 6 DC Public Schools
- Delivering healthy food to 55 corner stores in partnership with DC Health with special incentives for SNAP customers
- Distributing 1,500 bags of fresh produce each week at 4 school locations thanks to the Office of Planning & DC Food Policy Council
- Worked with OSSE to set up 9 mobile feeding sites through the summer food service program
- Ramped up meals for shelters and switched to individually packaged meals in partnership with Department of Human Services
Open Discussion

Q & A
CORONAVIRUS.DC.GOV/RECOVERY