

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 |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Appointed Members | | | | |
| Spike | Mendelsohn | 2 | Good Stuff Eatery; Santa Rosa Taqueria; We, The Pizza | 1/31/2019 |
| Eric | Kessler | 3 | Arabella Advisors | 3/1/2020 |
| Jonas | Singer | 1 | Blind Dog Café; Union Kitchen | 3/1/2019 |
| Jeremiah | Lowery | 4 | Universal Childcare NOW DC Coalition | 3/1/2018 |
| Alexander | Moore | 3 | DC Central Kitchen | 3/1/2018 |
| Paula | Reichel | 6 | Partnership for a Healthier America | 3/1/2018 |
| Alexandra | Ashbrook | 3 | Food Research & Action Center | 3/1/2020 |
| Caesar | Layton | 1 | Cultivate Ventures | 3/1/2020 |
| Tambra | Raye Stevenson | 8 | WANDA (Women Advancing Nutrition, Dietetics, and Agriculture) | 3/1/2018 |
| Chris | Bradshaw | 1 | Dreaming Out Loud | 3/1/2020 |
| Joelle | Robinson | 7 | Community advocate for health and urban agriculture | 3/1/2018 |
| Philip | Sambol | 5 | Oasis Community Partners, Good Food Markets | 3/1/2019 |
| Ex-Officio Members | | | | |
| Donna | Anthony | N/A | OSSE | Pleasure of the Mayor (left DC gov't) |
| Laine | Cidlowski | N/A | OP | Pleasure of the Mayor |
| Mark | McCain | N/A | DPR | Pleasure of the Mayor (left DC gov't) |
| Jen | Croft | N/A | DGS | Pleasure of the Mayor |
| Dr. Djinge | Lindsay | N/A | DOH | Pleasure of the Mayor |
| Vincent | Parker | N/A | DCRA | Pleasure of the Mayor |
| Dan | Guilbeault | N/A | DOEE | Pleasure of the Mayor |
| Roberta | Downing | N/A | DHS | Pleasure of the Mayor |

| | | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----|-------|-----------------------|
| Marie | Whittaker | N/A | DMPED | 1/2/2019 |
| Sam | Zimbabwe | N/A | DDOT | Pleasure of the Mayor |

| Name | Attendance | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----|--------------|------|------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----|-----|------|------|----------|------|
| | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | | | | | 2018 |
| | 6/17 | 8/3 | 10/5 | 12/7 | 2/1 | 3/13 | 4/5 | 6/6 | 8/2 | 10/4 | 12/6 | 12/8 | 2/7 |
| Appointed Members | | | | | | | | | | | | internal | |
| Spike Mendelsohn | N/A | yes | yes | yes | no | N/A | no | yes | no | yes | no | yes | no |
| Eric Kessler | N/A | yes | yes | yes | no | N/A | yes | no | yes | yes | yes | yes | no |
| Jonas Singer | N/A | no | yes | yes | no | N/A | no | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | no |
| Jeremiah Lowery | N/A | yes | yes | yes | yes | N/A | yes | yes | yes | no | no | no | yes |
| Alexander Moore | N/A | yes | yes | yes | yes | N/A | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Paula Reichel | N/A | yes | yes | yes | yes | N/A | yes | yes | yes | yes | no | yes | yes |
| Alexandra Ashbrook | N/A | yes | no | yes | yes | N/A | no | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Caesar Layton | N/A | yes | yes | yes | yes | N/A | yes | yes | no | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Tambra Raye Stevenson | N/A | yes | yes | yes | yes | N/A | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Chris Bradshaw | N/A | yes | yes | yes | yes | N/A | yes | yes | yes | no | yes | no | yes |
| Joelle Robinson | N/A | yes | yes | yes | yes | N/A | yes | yes | no | yes | no | yes | yes |
| Philip Sambol | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | (not yet appointed) | yes | yes | yes | no | yes | yes |
| Claire Benjamin | N/A | no | Stepped down | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Ex-Officio Members | Internal meeting only | | | | | Internal meeting only | | | | | | | |
| Donna Anthony | no | yes | no | no | yes | yes | yes | no | no | rep | | N/A | rep |
| Laine Cidlowski | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Mark McCain | no | no | no | no | yes | yes | no | no | no | no | | N/A | no |
| Jeff Jennings/Stephen Campbell/Jen Croft | yes | no | no | yes | no | yes | yes | no | no | rep | rep | N/A | rep |
| Dr. Djinge Lindsay/Amelia Peterson-Kosecki | no | rep | no | no | rep | rep | rep | rep | yes | no | rep | N/A | rep |
| Vincent Parker | no | yes | no | yes | yes | yes | yes | no | no | no | no | N/A | no |
| Dan Guilbeault | yes | yes | no | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | N/A | yes |
| Roberta Downing | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | no | N/A | no |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Pia Brown/Marie Whittaker | yes | yes | | yes | yes | yes | yes | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | yes |
| Sam Zimbabwe | yes | yes | no | no | yes | no | no | no | no | no | no | N/A | no |

Ex-Officio members are only required to attend meetings quarterly. In some instances, the official ex-officio representatives send other representatives when they are not able to attend. When that is the case, the attendance is marked as rep in the chart above.

Additionally, staff from agencies that are not included as formal ex officio members, such as from the DC Office of Aging, participate periodically.

2. *Please provide a list of the Council’s meeting dates, times, and locations for FY 2017 and FY 2018 to date.*

| Meeting Date | Time | Location |
|--|-------------------|---|
| Full Council | | |
| Wednesday, October 5, 2016 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 441 4 th St, NW – Old Council Chambers |
| Wednesday, December 7, 2016 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 441 4 th St, NW – Room 1107 |
| Wednesday, February 1, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 441 4 th St, NW – Old Council Chambers |
| Wednesday, April 5, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 441 4 th St, NW – Room 1107 |
| Tuesday, June 6, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 441 4 th St, NW – Old Council Chambers |
| Wednesday, August 2, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 2235 Shannon Place, SE – Taxicab Commission Hearing Room |
| Wednesday, October 4, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 441 4 th St, NW – Room 1107 |
| Wednesday, December 6, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 2235 Shannon Place, SE – Taxicab Commission Hearing Room |
| Wednesday, February 7, 2018 | 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM | 441 4 th St, NW – Room 1107 |
| Food Equity, Access, and Health and Nutrition Education Working Group | | |
| Wednesday, November 9, 2016 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Southwest Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Pl, SW |
| Wednesday, January 11, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 1100 4th Street, SW – 3rd Floor Large Conference Room |
| Wednesday, March 8, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Dorothy Heights/Benning Neighborhood Library, 3935 Benning Rd, NE |
| Wednesday, May 10, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 1100 4th Street, SW – 3rd Floor |
| Wednesday, July 12, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Southwest Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Pl, SW |
| Wednesday, September 13, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Dorothy Heights/Benning Neighborhood Library, 3935 Benning Rd, NE |
| Food Business and Labor Working Group | | |
| Monday, November 7, 2016 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 1100 4th Street, SW – DCRA Conference Room, 2nd Floor |

| | | |
|---|--------------------|---|
| Tuesday, January 17, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Petworth Library, 4200 Kansas Avenue, NW |
| Monday, March 6, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 1100 4th Street, SW – DCRA Conference Room, 2nd Floor |
| Monday, May 1, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 1100 4th Street, SW – 3rd Floor |
| Monday, July 10, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 1100 4th Street, SW – 6th Floor |
| Monday, September 11, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 1100 4th Street, SW – 6th Floor |
| <i>Sustainable Food Procurement Working Group</i> | | |
| Wednesday, November 2, 2016 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Library, 3160 16th St, NW |
| Wednesday, January 18, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Watha T. Daniel/Shaw Library, 1630 7th St, NW |
| Wednesday, March 1, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 1100 4th Street, SW – DCRA Conference Room, 2nd Floor |
| Wednesday, May 3, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 1100 4th Street, SW – DCRA Conference Room, 2nd Floor |
| Wednesday, July 26, 2017 | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | 1100 4th Street, SW – 3rd Floor |
| Wednesday, September 6, 2017 | 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM | 1100 4th Street, SW – 2nd Floor |
| <i>Urban Agriculture & Food System Education Working Group</i> | | |
| Thursday, November 10, 2016 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Southwest Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Pl, SW |
| Thursday, January 19, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Dorothy Heights/Benning Neighborhood Library, 3935 Benning Rd, NE |
| Thursday, March 16, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 1100 4th Street, SW – 6th Floor |
| Tuesday, May 9, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | 1100 4th Street, SW – 3rd Floor |
| Tuesday, July 11, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Kelly Miller Middle School, 301 49th St, NE |
| Tuesday, September 12, 2017 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Kelly Miller Middle School, 301 49th St, NE |

3. *Did the Council receive funds in FY 2017? 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.*

As an advisory body, the Food Policy Council (DCFPC) did not receive funds in FY17. However, the DC Office of Planning received funds for the following food policy related projects in FY17. OP received \$200,000 in operating funds in FY17 for the purposes of conducting a study of the DC food economy. The FPC assisted in the development of the scope of the study, provided recommendations for the content and approach, and assisted in connecting the researchers to the food business community.

This study advances two of the DFPC's main goals: monitoring regulatory barriers to the development of a local food economy, and collecting and analyzing data on the local food economy. It will help to inform the DCFPC's strategy development process, as well as provide recommendations directly to the Council and the Mayor for supporting and growing the local food economy.

4. *Did the Food Policy Council apply for any grant funding in FY 2017 and FY 2018, to date?*

Yes. The DCFPC applied for two grants in FY 2017.

The first application, for the USDA Food and Nutrition Service Farm to School Grant, was submitted jointly with staff from the Office of the State Superintendent of Education in December 2016. The DCFPC was not selected as a recipient of this grant.

The second application, submitted in February 2017, was for the Town Creek Foundation Food System Reform Program. The DCFPC was not selected as a recipient of this grant.

The DCFPC also recently applied for one grant in FY 2018. This application, submitted in February 2018, is for the Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States Community Benefit Program Organizational Capacity Building/Organizational Support Grant. Notification of the grant award is scheduled for April 2018.

5. *Please describe the Council's activities in FY 2017, highlighting what the Council considers its three biggest accomplishments in FY 2017.*

The DCFPC began operations in August 2016, with the full DCFPC meeting every other month and working groups during the off months. The DCFPC had a very full community engagement year, hosting 24 working group meetings and six full council meetings in FY 2017, its first full year of operations. For a full detail of the DCFPC's activities in FY 2017 (as well as partial FY 2016), please refer to the annual report released at the end of January.

The DCFPC considers its three biggest accomplishments in FY 2017 to be:

Launching the DCFPC: The DCFPC secured the appointment of its first 13 community-based members and 10 DC government agency ex-officio members and went on to develop and approve its first official Strategic Plan by March 2017. Since beginning to meet, the DCFPC heard presentations from 36 public and private organizations at its full board and public working group meetings and had more than 1400 meeting attendees. This community engagement and input on food policy issues is a core function of the DCFPC.

Legislation Development & Implementation Assistance: The DCFPC had success in engaging DC government partner agencies in the implementation of food-related legislation. Through public comment and oversight, the DCFPC assisted the Department of Health in the creation of the final regulations implementing the Cottage Food Amendment Act of 2013, which were released in late 2017. The DCFPC has also had success in engaging the Department of General Services in the implementation of the Urban Farming & Food Security Act of 2015. The DCFPC urban agriculture working group has worked with DGS to develop sample applications, scopes of work, select available parcels, and job descriptions to implement the 2015 Urban Farming legislation. The DCFPC has also provided input on new legislation by sharing information with the public about draft legislation and upcoming public hearings, as well as feedback from individual members of the DCFPC about improvements to legislation.

Learning: Food System Assessment and Food Economy Study: Through public meetings, research by the Office of Planning, and data collection efforts with the DCFPC members, the DCFPC has gathered a significant amount of data about the existing local food system. This information is being summarized and collected into a food system assessment that will be shared with the Mayor and DC Council before the end of the calendar year. In addition to the food system assessment, a separate study is being led by the Office of Planning the local and regional food economy and a create series of recommendations about how to support local food businesses and workforce.

6. *Please describe the Council's major goals for FY 2018 and the plan/timeline for completion.*

The DCFPC's main goal for calendar year 2018 is focusing on healthy food access for communities East of the River. This includes the long-term goal of identifying barriers to development of additional full-service grocery stores East of the River, as well as achieving more short-term food access options. Each of the working groups will be reorienting their work plans for the year towards this goal to focus the efforts of the DCFPC more in 2018. Each of the Council's four working groups will consider this goal in the context of its designated policy area and develop recommendations for regulatory or legislative changes necessary to achieve it. To facilitate this work, the Council has established a consistent framework for evaluating different approaches.

The DCFPC will continue to conduct and report on policy research, including the Food System Assessment, and food economy study, and setup structures and ongoing processes for community engagement outside of its working groups, such as working with related groups.

7. *What are the three biggest challenges that the Council currently faces?*

First, the issue of healthy food access in our low income and low food access areas (wards 5, 7, and 8) of the city is the most pressing issue of the DCFPC, and the same issue that cities all over the country and world are trying to tackle. While the city has a number of policies, legislation, and incentive programs for businesses and individuals in place, the problem is not solved. Other

cities around the country have each taken their unique approach to the problem, but is not one that has been successfully solved for. The problem is much deeper and goes to the history of systemic racism, poverty, and perceptions of communities and must be approached on that scale. In the coming year, the DCFPC will be working on both short and long-term efforts to address this issue by working with the DCFPC and a variety of public private partners. (see question 14 for more detail on the approach).

Second, focusing and prioritizing the work of the diverse membership and interests of the DCFPC has been a challenge in the first year of the council. By its nature, a group that is designed to bring together diverse participation from across many aspects of the food system is likely to find itself challenged to focus its efforts. Given the scale of the local food system, it took several necessary months of work to review existing needs, goals, and hear community feedback for a strategic plan for the DCFPC. None the less the DCFPC has accomplished a great deal, and wants to make a deliberate shift in 2018 from participants acting as attendees to participating and partnering on the work of the DCFPC, leveraging the engagement and community knowledge and experience of our local food system.

8. *How does the Council represent and solicit feedback from residents?*

- *What has the Council learned from this feedback in FY 2017?*
- *How has the Council changed its practices as a result of such feedback?*

The DCFPC receives feedback from residents at all its public meetings, which always include opportunities for public questions and comments. This feedback is generally recorded in the DCFPC's meeting notes, which are posted on the DCFPC website and shared with the DCFPC listserv after meetings. Additionally, individual members of the DCFPC have received feedback from individual community groups and organizations with an interest in food policy issues like urban agriculture, sustainable procurement, food businesses, and healthy food access. Other groups providing feedback include the DC Farmers Market Collaborative, the DC Good Food Purchasing Program Coalition, the Ward 8 Health Council, and the Healthy Youth and Schools Commission.

Community Engagement

DCFPC received around 1,350 attendees across eight full council meetings and twenty-eight working group meetings (seven for each of the four groups). The groups met across the city, holding meetings in Wards 1, 2, 6, 7, & 8.

The DCFPC also launched an online and social media presence, including: website (dcfoodpolicy.org), Facebook page (499 followers), Twitter (1,017 followers), and MailChimp listserv (1,052 subscribers).

At the February 7th, 2018, full DCFPC meeting the DCFPC voted to change the public working group meeting timing and structure to streamline the community engagement so that working

groups meet before or after the full DCFPC meetings, while also starting a different community outreach effort. This is intended to shift the format of the working groups to be more functional and achieve outcomes related to the goals of the DCFPC, reduce the overall number of meetings to concentrate the capacity of the members of the DCFPC and have more effective meetings. The DCFPC is planning to conduct a brief survey about community engagement in spring or summer 2018 to get additional feedback on the public engagement process.

The DCFPC has learned a great deal from this public feedback and feedback from working collaboratively with other District agencies. Some brief summaries are included below, broken out by the four working groups topics.

Food Equity, Access, and Health & Nutrition Education

- Grocery Stores, Food Access: The FEED-DC current financial incentive is not sufficient to attract grocery stores to a high poverty area; grocers see this as a plus, but insufficient to change a location decision compared to other metrics such as education level, projected population growth, and median income to determine locations. The District needs short term options to address food access needs such as transportation solutions in addition to seeking grocery stores to locate in low food access areas.
- Nutrition Education: Cultural competence using a community health worker model is paramount in achieving education goals.

Food Business & Labor

- Cottage Food: Many potential cottage food entrepreneurs especially East of the River may consider cottage foods to be high-risk due to lack of business plans or start-up information. DC government may want to consider providing some capacity-building resources on the Cottage Food Act. [DSLBD participated in these working group meetings and later provided funding for Cottage Food technical assistance.]

Sustainable Food Procurement

- Childcare Centers & Healthy Tots Act: There are resource and regulatory disparities between childcare centers and higher-level schools. Because childcare centers tend to be very small, there is a transportation cost issue for suppliers and catering companies – economies of scale are lost. Addressing nutrition education in childcare centers would make addressing the issue in K-12 much easier.
- Good Food Purchasing Program: The group met jointly with the Good Food Purchasing Program DC Coalition several times throughout the year and worked with DCPS and the Healthy Youth and Schools Commission on DCPS's baselining of the new standard in the coming school year.

Urban Agriculture & Food System Education

- Urban Agriculture: Definitions of agriculture should be expanded to include different production methods, scales, and products in order to be more inclusive of urban agriculture such as aquaponics or rooftop farms. DC has fewer agricultural resources or clear information about those resources than it would if it were a state, such as finding agricultural insurance, gaining access to capital or land, etc.

- Food System Education: Children should be provided with basic knowledge of agriculture, and that urban agriculture education can be leveraged to support food systems.
- School Gardens: Many gardens on school grounds are underutilized because staff change over or projects were done in an isolated way without community involvement, so there is not a culture of allowing the community to use the garden space after hours. Access to gardens or farms off school grounds by students is complicated by the need for field trip paperwork.

9. *Please provide a copy of all official correspondence sent by the Council in FY 2017 and FY 2018 to date.*

No official correspondence has been sent by the Council in FY17 or FY2018. The 2017 Annual Report of the DCFPC will be the first official submission to the DC Council.

10. *Please list all working groups and describe what each has worked on in FY 2017 and FY 2018, to date, and what recommendations they have contributed to the Food Policy Council annual report.*

- *Are there food policy issues not encompassed in the current working group topics that the Council would 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?*

The four existing working groups of the DCFPC are:

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

Food waste is not explicitly included in the DCFPC legislation as a key issue that the DCFPC should address, but the Sustainable Food Procurement working group has taken on this issue in part with the community group the DC Food Recovery Network. Additionally, the Council has identified the need to give greater attention Nutrition and Food System Education topics.

The current goals, metrics or targets and key successes of each of the working groups of the DCFPC are included in detail in the DCFPC 2017 annual report.

11. *At Councilmember Cheh's request, the Mayor created an additional FTE (\$80K) in the Office of Planning in the FY 2018 budget to support the Food Policy Director. Has this position been filled and what is/will be the scope of work for this FTE?*

The Policy Analyst position description for this position has been drafted, certified by the Department of Human Resources and approved by the Director of the Office of Planning. The position work plan on food policy analysis and research, administration and operations of the DCFPC, and general citywide systems data, and mapping. The position was posted publicly for hiring from January 22nd to February 2nd 2018. The position is expected to be filled in spring 2018.

12. *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 Urban Farming and Food Security Act of 2015 has not yet been fully implemented by the Department of General Services, or the Office of Tax and Revenue. There is no established process or procedure in place for a farm to apply for and receive a tax credit under this legislation. The available land for the commercial farming aspect of the legislation has been assessed, application materials developed, but the funded position to administer the law at DGS has not been filled, nor has an RFP been yet issued to provide land for farming. DGS currently expects to issue the RFP in spring 2018.

The Healthy Schools Act of 2010 should be updated to remain relevant in response to new national standards. The District should invest in healthier, higher quality childhood nutrition, establish new guidelines around nutrition and physical education, engage with the Good Food Purchasing program, and make grant funding for healthy schools available more widely. Amendments will keep our nationally leading legislation current, relevant, and providing the best possible health outcomes for our children.

The Food, Environmental, and Economic Development in the District of Columbia Amendment Act of (FEED-DC) should be amended to build on the successes of the program to acknowledge modern alternative grocery models, adapt the current healthy corners program, and allow the work of the program to continue to improve low food access areas.

13. *What national best practices in food policy does the Council believe should be implemented in the District?*

The DCFPC is exploring good food purchasing programs together with a local coalition of stakeholders and DCPS. The GFPP transforms the way public institutions purchase food by creating a transparent and equitable food system built on five core values: local economies, health, valued workforce, animal welfare, and environmental sustainability. Other major cities around the country are participating in this program that originated from the Los

Angeles Food Policy Council. DC should explore the program, understand potential ramifications, and collaborate with DCPS as they conduct a one-year baseline in the 2018-2019 school year, then apply the sustainable purchasing lessons learned to schools and other institutional purchasing programs.

Many other governments around the country have infrastructure for food preparation in the form of one or more **central kitchen** processing facilities to prepare food for institutional or commercial uses. This was originally included in the Healthy Schools Act (HSA) but has not been completed beyond initial studies. Additional processing space in the city could help bring down costs for daycare providers, senior meals, programs, commercial businesses, or even schools if they opt to self-operate in the future.

Fresh Food Financing Initiatives (FFFI)

Fresh food financing initiatives are designed to attract supermarkets and grocery stores to underserved urban and rural communities with the objective to stimulate investments of private capital in poor communities, remove financial barriers, reduce diet-related disease by increasing the access to healthy food, and create jobs with a quality workforce.

The programs aim is to provide grants and loans to qualified retail enterprises to cover predevelopment costs including, but not limited to, land acquisition financing, equipment financing, capital grants for project funding gaps, construction and permanent finance, and workforce development. These programs leverage city or state funds by working with private institutions to secure additional investment to the tune of five times the public outlay.

The success of these programs spawned the federal Healthy Food Financing Initiative, which has allocated more than \$7 million dollars annually for improving healthy food access since 2011.

Another best practice is to provide zoning and financial incentives promote the establishment and retention of neighborhood grocery stores in underserved communities. Zoning incentives include additional floor area in mixed buildings, reduction in required parking, and larger stores in industrial districts.

14. *Please describe the Council's top recommendations for the District government's priorities to improve the District's food system in FY 2018 and FY 2019.*

The DCFPC's overall goal is to expand healthy food access for underserved communities and to remove existing barriers to food retailers locating in or delivering to these communities.

The DCFPC recommends taking a two-part approach to healthy food access in wards 5, 7, and 8. First, to establish a new public private partnership for healthy food access builds on the successes of the FEED-DC Act and closes the gap in our lowest food access

neighborhoods. This expanded partnership would have additional funding in FEED-DC, as well as a new private financing partner to assist with additional access to capital and loans for grocers.

Second, that effort should be paired with short-term solutions for communities while full-scale grocery options go through the development process. Recommendations for the interim include transportation or delivery options to get communities and food better connected today.

15. When will the Food Policy Council provide an 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 DCFPC will be providing multiple reports to the DC Council and Mayor in FY18.

The Office of Planning in collaboration with the DCPFC is in the process of drafting the content for a full food system assessment for the District of Columbia as well as a food economy study that will be a deep dive into the District's food businesses. The assessment will include comprehensive look at the local food system, local policies and legislation and mapping out current conditions. The assessment will contain baseline data on

- food retail environment:(low food access areas, grocery stores, WIC-authorized stores, and healthy corner stores) and
- food assets (farmers' markets, community gardens, school gardens, emergency food providers, DPW food waste drop offs, and Joyful Food Markets),
- pertinent demographic statistics comparing each ward to DC as a whole,
- Health rates such as obesity rate; school meal eligibility, food insecurity rate; number of school gardens; and, acreage of community gardens and urban farms.