



Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Distribution & Access Subcommittee

July 28, 2022 1:00pm-2:00pm

1. Welcome
2. Group Discussion
 - a. Introduction of Local Policy Board Working Document –Meg Kimmel
 - b. Open Discussion for Recommendations Development - Local Food Policy Councils
 - 1) This recommendation was created with organizational guidance from Community Mediation Centers, similar to Local Management Boards, and existing councils
 - 2) Funding is recommended to accompany this recommendation
 - 3) The local policy group should be routed through the FSRC or an overseeing agency. The group can be regional or county (acknowledging there are existing multi-jurisdictional coalition that functioned during the pandemic, and currently through recovery)
 - 4) The recommended entity goals include:
 - Recommendations for localized food policy to local governments
 - Coordination of local food initiatives, organizing local resources
 - Collaboration between multiple stakeholders in the food system (i.e. public and private organizations and industry)
 - Provide dedicated annual funding
 - A. Grant funding
 - B. State budget
 - 5) Recommendation Specific Criteria:
 - No limit to what organization, can be an established



- government office or non-profit, or newly created council
 - Be located within the region/county
 - Include appropriate government officials/staff, food bank reps, and at least two neighbors with lived experience (one currently redeeming food assistance benefits, and one food insecure) **Noted suggestions:** adding urban farmers and non-urban farmers, agricultural individuals. Provide compensation for the two neighbors with lived experience.
 - Consist of appropriate and relevant players to completely represent the local food system
 - Non-discrimination policy and recognize the role that systemic racism has on food insecurity
 - Use data and best practices for any programming and levels of need determination, including from recognized government and non-government organization
 - Commit to working with community leaders and those who have or are currently experiencing food insecurity within the regional/county when determining policy recommendations and new programming initiatives.
 - Be able to receive and potentially coordinate and disburse funding to other organizations in the regional/county
 - Provide education and make recommendation to state and local government
 - Be able to attend an annual or bi-annual meeting with the Council to connect, network, and share information on best practices and new initiatives
- 6) What exists now
- Maryland Food Bank/Capital Area Food Bank (including partners)
 - Various local Food Policy Councils (not is all counties)
 - FSRC
 - **Noted suggestions:** Adding locally appointed food policy/food security coordination person, local food banks, and school systems, emergency management, advocacy organization (i.e. no kid hungry), Health Department, early



childhood coalitions, other groups involved in the food system

7) Major Players

- Food System Resiliency Council
- Existing Food Policy Councils
- Current Food Coalitions
- Offices of Food Policy
- Maryland Food Bank and Capital Area Food Bank
- State Agencies
- Local food assistance organization
- Social Services coalition

8) Things to consider/work through

- Food Banks need operational autonomy
- Securing regular funding, especially if tied to goals to make permanent FSRC
- Conversation needed with jurisdictions to ensure this would be beneficial
- Is a 501c3 designation needed for funding, donation distribution (should be kept flexible based on region/county)
- Funding (two lines: emergency funding, baseline organizational funding), should funding go directly to Emergency Management? Another funding distribution option is application based funding which includes a competitive option for discrete special projects (a committee may be needed to rank proposed projects for the competitive option). Funding distribution can be determined by population/vulnerability or some type of calculation (i.e. [OOC](#) funding)
- Funding request should be submitted by Sept 9th, it is suggested to indicate a dollar amount for this recommendation.
- National theft of SNAP and TCA benefits – suggested D&A recommendation development was not supported at this time
- Montgomery County Food Council has begun project



management to develop a strategic plan to end childhood hunger. Progress on this project will be shared

3. Next Steps and adjourn

- Drafted recommendation will be presented to the FSRC for consideration