



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Environment & Production Subcommittee
August 18, 2022 1:00pm -2:00pm

1. Welcome
2. Group Discussion
 - A. Brief Review of [Food System Resiliency Council: Parking lot](#) – [Environment and Production Subcommittee](#)
 - 1) [Regional Agriculture Center across MD](#) – aggregation, marketing, sales and distribution, and then adding bulk buying, storage, processing, equipment rentals, a commercial kitchen and other services. There is an existing center, [Southern MD Agriculture Development Commission](#), which receives line budgets from the State of Maryland and is a 501c3, receiving grant funding outside of the funding provided from the State. The recommendation would support current center activities and expand to other regions in the State.
 - 3M Buildout per Center (*including feasibility study in phases*)
 - 1M for each 10 acre site
 - 35,000 training and technical support(USDA inspected meat processing plants, organic grain storage, and conventional and organic grain and pulse mills
 - I. Rationale: adoption of more feed grain, Eastern Shore has a significant amount of organic chickens, and potential land that could produce grain (currently organic grain is coming from abroad)
 - II. Suggestion: Funding allocation for analysis and feasibility study (refer to Vermont food system work). Feasibility studies could be included in the



\$550,000 funding request for FSRC research and assessment.

- 2) Climate Change and regenerative agriculture and Food waste Updates: https://foe-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/cwaterman_foe_org/EREqC_2khaRAmLDeJjHHn5EBjZlmICDasdXUJBOSNzLYxQ?e=1Fq7HA
- There are items that overlap, that could be included in the budget request:
 - I. Fund the grant program to reduce and compost school waste established in §7-129 of the Education Article.
 - Other drafted recommendations presented during the meeting:
 - I. Establish a pilot conservation grant program to fund capital and other transition-related costs, coupled with technical assistance, to support Maryland farmers to voluntarily: a) Transition to growing climate-friendly types of food (foods with a relatively lower lifecycle greenhouse gas footprint such as fruits, vegetables, legumes, fungi, etc); or b) Transition to climate-friendly agricultural practices within the same type of food (e.g. conventional to pasture-based animal production, conventional to organic, etc.)
 - II. Provide outcome-based payments to farmers for implementing effective healthy soils/carbon sequestration practices by measuring organic carbon or organic matter. – This idea was developed by thinking about healthy soils in a scientific way, to measure carbon or organic matter. This would be a voluntary program, testing soil for carbon with payment to the participating farmer, akin to the annual nutrient management report.
 - III. Increase prioritization of and funding for enforcement and technical assistance around nutrient management plans for MDA.- Subcommittee members agreed to discuss further, and to engage MDA about this recommendation.

B. DBM Funding Request



- 1) The budget request process is different this year, the FSRC will be submitting to DBM separately. Budget justifications will be submitted in the governor's request, for items ready for presentation (approval from the current governor is unknown, and once the new governor enters it is unknown whether the budget request will be supported).
- 2) Due date to DBM is September 1st,
- 3) Request form to MDEM due by August 22, 2022
- 4) Items for consideration:
 - Food and Agriculture Resilience Mechanism (FARM) program – Funded at \$200,000 instead of the 1.25M in the original bill, and did not include \$500,000 for the Farm-to-School Grant Pilot Program. Del. Charkoudian's group will be working on this DBM request.
 - Funding the FSRC – 100,000 (one-time funding) was included in the supplemental budget for FY23. 550,000 for the Food Policy Director and three support personnel (State Food Council program manager, Local Food Council Liaison, and Grant Specialist). Another 550,000 to fund research and assessment initiatives. MDEM will submit a budget justification on behalf of the FSRC.
 - Cold Storage Capacity – 3M in infrastructure investment in accordance with assessment results. A budget request to DBM is desired, however there is no designated group to determine metrics with justification, for the [DBM budget request form](#). Details needed include, but not limited to personnel needs, travel, equipment/tools, fuel/utilities, and supplies/materials.
 - I. This item coincides with a newly developed recommendation, to leverage resilience (solar) infrastructure of Resilience Hubs and other community infrastructure (i.e. churches, community centers, etc.) by expanding with cold chain infrastructure. This will allow for community distribution channels to connect local farmers with local consumers. These farmer direct marketing



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distribution channels will be in food secure and insecure communities.

- II. Suggestions: Survey MBF and Capital Area FB to provide an estimate of local food pantries, and other community centers that could use cold storage capacity, to determine a number. The Montgomery County Food Council has been putting together these sorts of numbers for County -level proposals . While the numbers are not ready, our feasibility study has a lot of these numbers and we have more related to the Farm to Foodbank program.
 - III. Per conversations with the D & A subcommittee chair, the interest is in local distribution (i.e. churches, community centers) at the county level, which is a closer access point for receiving and distribution. This includes an education component related to funding/grants.
 - State grant-funded program for food council start-up, sustainment, and expansion costs – \$250,000 funding request can be associated with the newly developed recommendation by the Distribution and Access subcommittee, and will be included in the November 1st report to the general assembly. It is unclear whether this item will be ready for the DBM request.
 - Source separation of food waste education – \$200,000 initial investment with \$150,000 sustainment, the request will be completed with Del. Charkoudian's group, with assistance as needed from Lisa Lachenmayer, and subcommittee chair Dr. Stephanie Lansing.
- 5) An email chain will be created for the volunteer group to work together to complete DBM request forms.

C. Recommendation Development

3. Next steps and adjourn



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