



Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Distribution & Access Subcommittee
August 25, 2022 1:00pm-2:30pm

1. **Welcome**
2. **Group Discussion**
 - a. Recommendation Review: *Local Food System Coordination Body*
 - **Suggestions for the following section:** At minimum, the body should include local government (including food security coordinators, health departments, school systems, social services, agriculture/extension, and emergency management), farmers, and non-governmental organizations including food assistance organizations and advocacy organizations, and residents of the locality with lived experience from each jurisdiction represented by the body.
 - I. Add municipalities, adult daycare, Department of Aging, and large institutions or “anchor institutions” to reach a larger population
 - II. Add including but not limited to....in order to categorize examples or types. The phrase “at minimum” could cover this suggestion
 - III. Add line for best practices to obtain maximum reach: department of aging, educational institutions, adult daycare, hospital systems, board of education, Judy Center, local WIC Program, etc.
 - IV. Who makes the determination for county or regional within a jurisdiction? As written the recommendation indicates every county will be represented either at the county or regional level, leaving the county’s community to determine where the coordinating body lives.
 - V. Regional level coordinating bodies may be better supported, counties could share resources.
 - VI. Funding mechanism would travel via MDEM to each local jurisdiction, acknowledging there are regions which have



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existing groups (such as Western Maryland Regional Policy Council), so funding would support those existing groups. Funding would be at the county level for those groups being newly created.

VII. Funding Question: If a coordinating body has three counties combined together, will each county receive funding separately (receiving three times the funding)?

- **Suggestions for the following section:** The local food council should be required to establish a continuous food system coordination plan which uses data and best practices to determine the needs of the jurisdiction and outlines strategies and tactics that are inline with the State's Food System Resiliency Council (FSRC) goals.
 - I. "Continuous" is indicated to convey the ongoing effort related to the coordinating group's work.
 - II. Add, "Which obtains and uses data", indicating the coordinating groups may need to collect or obtain data and best practices, if not already established.

b. Budget and Funding

- MDEM was determined to be the best place to start funding dissemination, since MDEM has a funding mechanism.
- **Suggestions for the following section:** The State should provide optional funding for the startup and ongoing coordination support of the local food system through local government. Funding will be disseminated through the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to local food system coordination bodies, up to \$100,000 via a three-year sliding scale. (Note: overall funding request is 2.4 million annually) The funding should also provide stipends to allow residents with lived experience of food insecurity and food assistance recipients to participate in the local food council without engendering the burden of lost work time, childcare arrangements, or other hardships participation in daytime/normal business hour meetings and activities might bring. The State should also consider providing competitive grant funding for discreet projects related to improving/expanding production, distribution, access, and waste management within the food system.
 - I. What does optional refer to? Optional infers the county has the ability to accept or decline funding. Funding



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amounts will be determined by the managing agency, based on the needs of existing group operation or newly created group needs (acknowledging pre-existing groups will not need the same amount of funding support as a newly created group).

- II. Concerns indicated that each group should receive the same amount to be fair. Population based funding was voted against due to analysis needs.
- III. Funding is annual, the three year sliding scale was not worked through thoroughly.
- IV. If funding is disseminated by county or regionally, this could incentivize counties to decline regional sharing of resources to receive full funding individually.
- V. Funding is for operational needs not programmatic work initially. Supplemental funding is needed for ongoing operations from the State.
- VI. Should the jurisdiction be responsible for funding support?
- VII. What are some potential items that can be funded under, "ongoing coordination support"?

c. SPINE Review/Updated

- State Partnerships Improving Nutrition and Equity (SPINE) – aims to address food and nutrition security through sustainable and equitable actions to tackle economic and social conditions limiting food and nutrition security across the lifespan
- SPINE implemented in collaboration with five Local Health Improvement Coalitions (LHICs) who are required to develop a food security subcommittee and add a food security goal to their community action plan priorities.
- Each LHIC was provided \$20,000 each for the 8 month project funding could be used for:
 - I. Salaries as needed to support project activities
 - II. Stipend for external partners
 - III. Payment for activities related to the goals on food security
 - IV. Provision of materials
 - V. Printing services
- Funding may not be used for food, lobbying, purchase of medical equipment, or provision of direct clinical services.
- Feedback from SPINE will be sent with the meeting minutes

3. Next Steps and adjourn



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- a) Subcommittee members provide feedback to final draft of D&A recommendation, by September 16th