

# DC Food Policy Council

## Virtual Meeting

### October 7, 2020



As you're waiting for the meeting to start, please review our virtual meeting guidelines:

- Please stay muted if not speaking
- Type questions into the chat
- Email with longer questions:  
[dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov](mailto:dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov)





# Agenda

- Working Group Updates
- DC Food Security Report Overview
- Federal Policy Updates
- Funding Opportunities
- Announcements

# Working Group Updates

- Nutrition & Food System Education
- Food Access & Equity
- Urban Agriculture
- Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs
- Sustainable Supply Chain



Speakers



Tambre Raye Stevenson, Founder/Principal, NativSol Kitchen; Founder/CEO, Women Advancing Nutrition, Dietetics, and Agriculture (WANDA)



Patrillie Hernandez, Health and Nutrition Specialist, Founder of Embody Lib



# Food Security in the District: Responding to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

DC Food Policy Council Meeting

October 2, 2020



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# Report Goals

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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.*



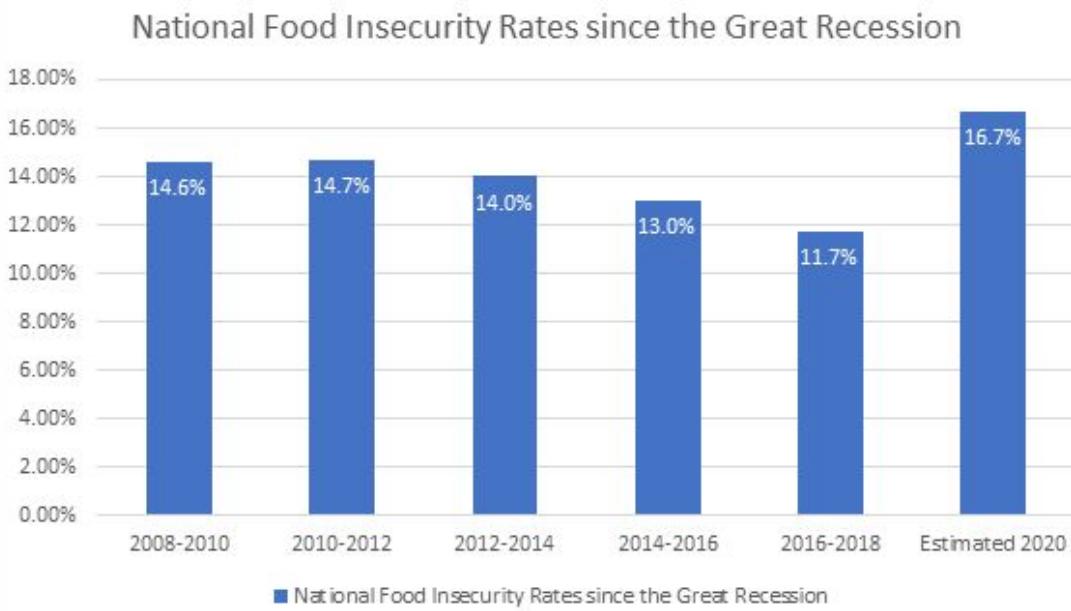
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# Data

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# Key Findings

## National Data

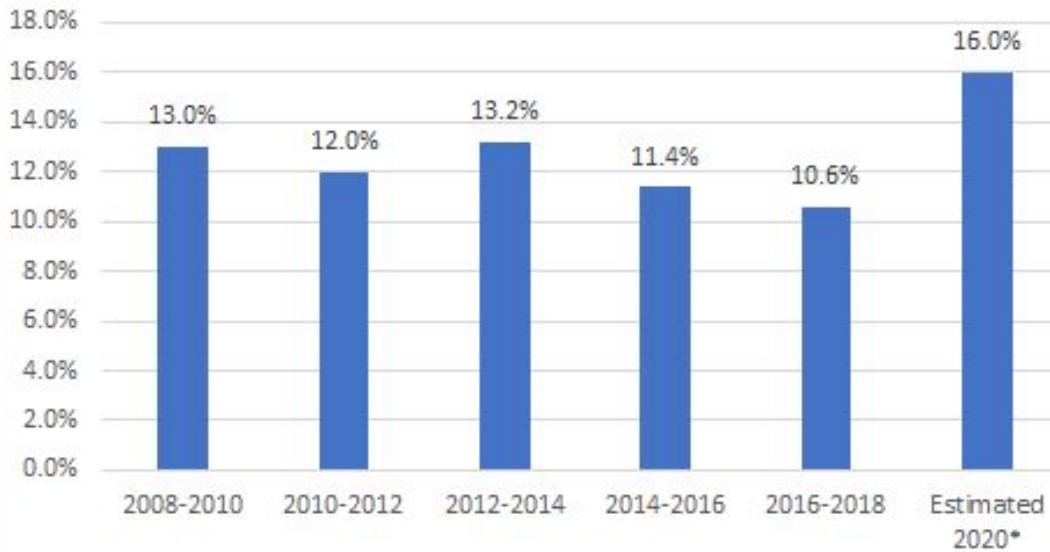


Nationally, food insecurity rates have **doubled** since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Pre-COVID: 11.1%
- June 2020: 21.9%
- Forecasted 2020: 16.7%

# Key Findings District Data

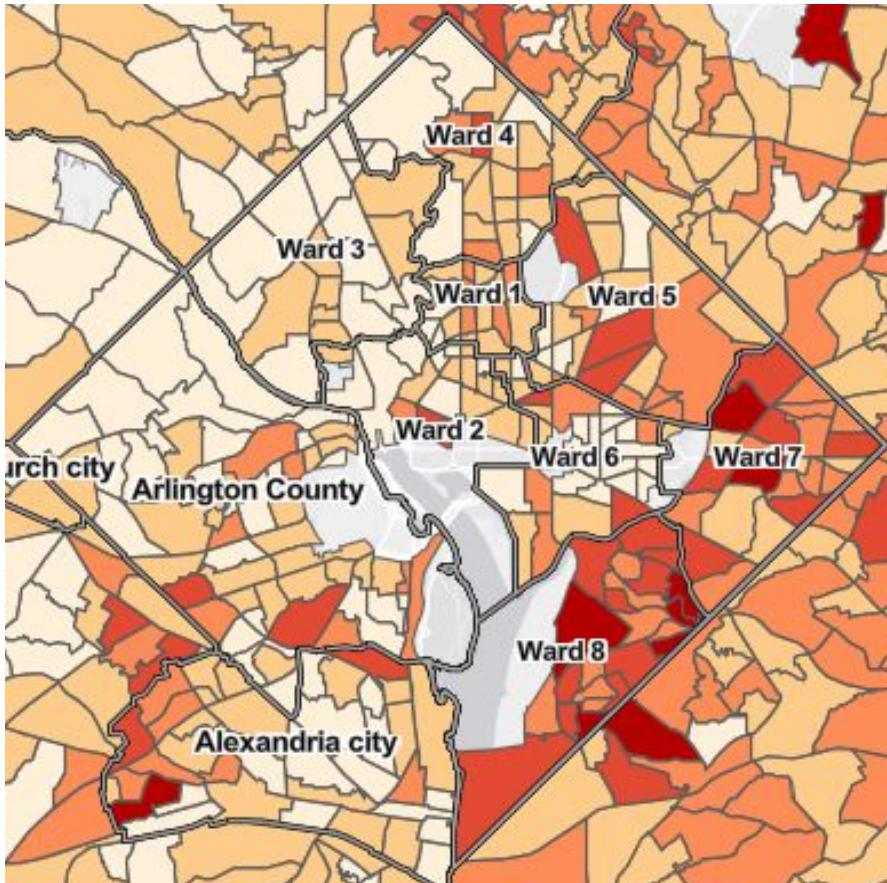
Food insecurity rates in the District (2008-2020)



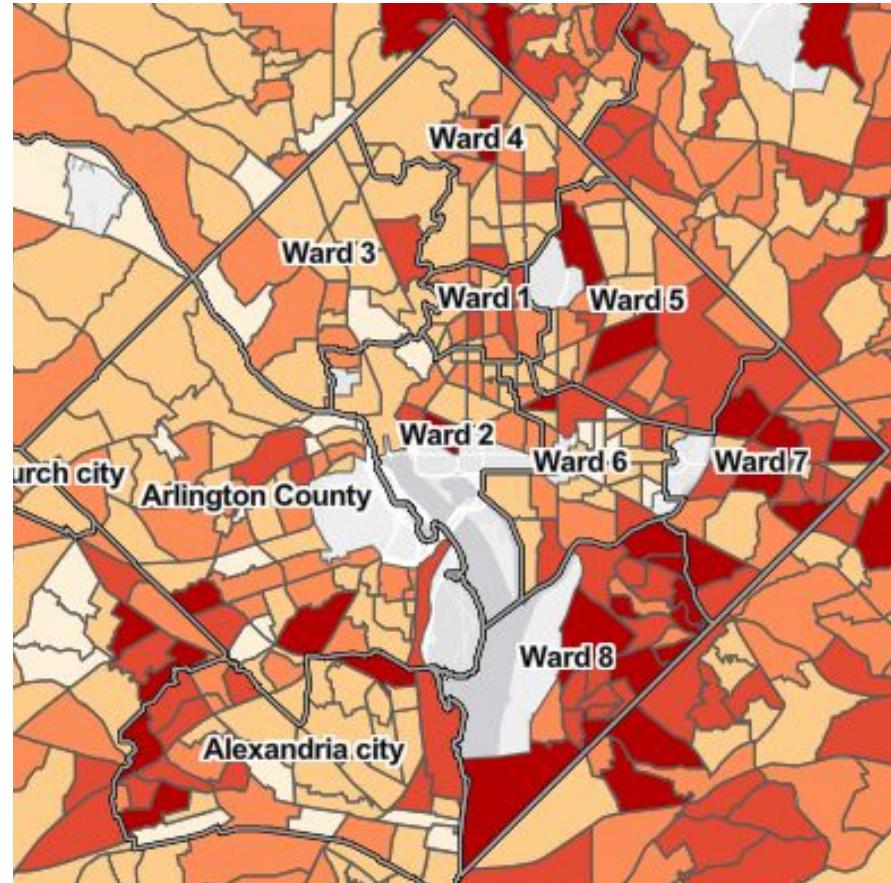
In the District, food insecurity rates have nearly doubled.

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

## Pre-COVID Food Insecurity

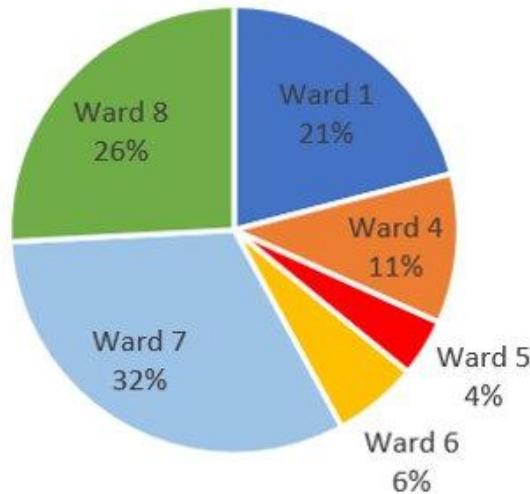


## 2020 Predicted Food Insecurity

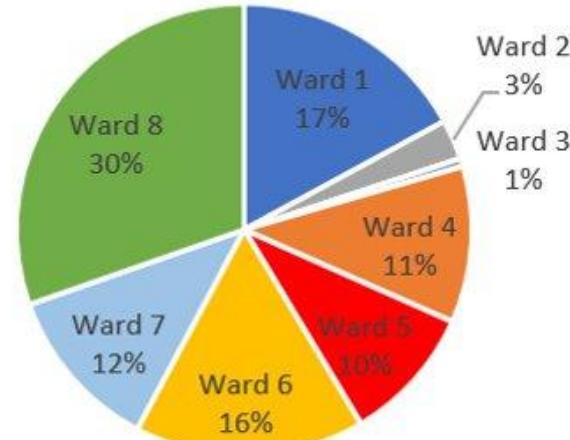


# Demand for Emergency Food Programs

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



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





# Disproportionate Impact by Population

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Certain District residents are disproportionately impacted:

- Black households
- Seniors
- Families with children
- Immigrants
- Food/hospitality sector workers



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# Response

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# The District's Emergency Response

## Overview: Emergency Food Distributed by the District

Grab-and-Go School Meals at DCPS Schools	625,000
Grocery Bags at DCPS Schools	24,645
Senior Meals Delivered	451,586
Get Help Hotline Grocery Deliveries	2,997
Meals for Unsheltered Individuals	32,679

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

Sources: DCPS; DACL; EOC; DHS. June-July 2020.



# Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs

- **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.*



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

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

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.



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# Recommendations

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# Selected Recommendations for Continued Emergency Response

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- **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.
- **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

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- 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.



**Executive Summary and Full Report  
available at:  
[dcfoodpolicy.org/foodsecurity2020](http://dcfoodpolicy.org/foodsecurity2020)**



# Mayor Bowser Invests \$3 Million to Improve Food Access in Underserved Neighborhoods

“With these strategic investments in neighborhoods that too often get overlooked by investors, we can increase access to high-quality, healthy food options for our families and neighborhoods.”

-Mayor Bowser

Read More:

<https://dmped.dc.gov/release/mayor-bowser-invests-3-million-improve-food-access-underserved-neighborhoods>



# Small Business Resiliency Fund

**About:** **\$3.0 Million grant fund** for small and local businesses aimed at supporting COVID-19 related-expenses to help businesses continue operations while protecting people, assets and presence.

**Eligibility:** Brick-and-mortar small businesses and independently owned restaurants

**Award:** \$10,000.00

**Timeline:** Applications **now open!**

The deadline to apply is **October 15, 2020 by 11:59 p.m.**

**Website:** [coronavirus.dc.gov/page/small-business-resiliency-fund](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/page/small-business-resiliency-fund)

**Email:** [dcresiliencyfund@cfenterprises.org](mailto:dcresiliencyfund@cfenterprises.org)



# Federal Policy Updates

- H.R. 8337: Continuing resolution signed by President Trump
- HEROES Act (pending)



Application  
period  
begins  
September  
21, 2020

# STREATERY WINTER READY

## GRANT PROGRAM

The Mayor's Office of Nightlife & Culture will provide grant recipients \$6,000 to assist with winterizing their outdoor dining spaces. The utilization of funds can include, but will not be limited to tents, heaters, propane, lighting, furniture, etc.

Eligible food retailers & non-food retailers must have at least one of the following:

- An active Sidewalk Cafe Permit
- A Temporary Sidewalk Cafe Permit (also known as a Streatery)
- An ABRA Summer Garden or Sidewalk Cafe Endorsement

Apply at [coronavirus.dc.gov/recovery-business](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/recovery-business)

Please submit questions to [nightlife@dc.gov](mailto:nightlife@dc.gov)

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GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Apply now! <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/recovery-business>

# Announcements

- **Friday, November 6:** Session 7 of Race, Racial Equity, and the DC Food System Discussion Series
- **Wednesday, December 2:** Next full FPC meeting
- **Add other announcements to chat and/or unmute yourself.**



Register/learn more at [dcfoodpolicy.org](http://dcfoodpolicy.org)