

# DC Food Policy Council Virtual Meeting October 6, 2021

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)



# Ice Breaker

What is your favorite fall food?

Groups of 4 (5 minutes)

# Agenda

- Introductions/Ice Breaker
- Working Group Updates
- FPC Terms Guide
- New Legislation Introduced: No Senior Hungry Omnibus Act
- Nourish DC Launch: October 7th
- Events/Announcements



# Working Group Updates

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



# FPC Racial Equity Terms Committee

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# Agenda

- Why we started this work
- Central principles of writing
- What we use and why
  - Food system terms
  - Specific groups of people



# Why We're Examining the Terms We Use

- Held Racial Equity Trainings for the FPC throughout 2020 and 2021
  - Engage residents living in communities that are historically marginalized due to structural racism in development of food policy
  - Acknowledge and address historic and current racial inequities in the food system
- Critical to understand those who are a part of our food system



# Our Central Principles when Writing about the Food System

- Apply an explicit racial equity lens to analyze how social, economic, health, environmental, and other disparities within the District affect the food system
- Provide historical context on why existing, pervasive inequities exist
- Whenever possible, provide specific information for racial and ethnic groups to illustrate inequities and the connections between the historical context and current environment (avoiding general terms like “the community”)
- Use people-first and self-identifying language that centers individuals as they see themselves and validates their experiences by focusing on people rather than conditions





# What We Use and Why

## Food Systems Terms



# Food Access

- Not just geographic access to healthy food, but also affordability and access to culturally appropriate food, reliable transportation, and time to shop, prepare, and eat healthy meals.



# Food Apartheid

- Coined by community activist Karen Washington, it is a term increasingly used in the food policy field to consider the root causes of low food access, such as race, geography, and economics.
- Leah Penimen, a Black farmer, activist, and ED of Soul Fire Farm, defines the term as “a human-created system of segregation, which relegates some people to food opulence and other people to food scarcity.”



# Food Desert

- Used by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to describe low-income census tracts where a substantial number or share of residents have low levels of access to retail outlets selling healthy and affordable food.
- The National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) states that “food deserts are the result of systemic racism and oppression in the form of zoning codes, lending practices, and other discriminatory policies rooted in white supremacy.”



# Food Swamp

- A term used by the USDA to describe areas with an abundance of less healthy food options.



# Locally- Grown Food

- Defined in the D.C. Code as food grown in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, or West Virginia.



# Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

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- A term coined by the USDA to describe “a farmer or rancher who is a member of one or more groups whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.





## Other Terms

- Food insufficiency
- Food security
- Full-service grocery store
- Urban agriculture





# What We Use and Why

Specific Groups of People



# Disability

- Use person-first language: people with disabilities. Note that the Deaf community typically prefers identity first language, and a growing number of people on the autism spectrum do as well. As always, use whichever term is preferred by the audience you're speaking with.



# East of the River

- While there's some agreement that "East of the River" has been used as a pejorative label, many residents want to build pride in the name, and see the name issue as less important than actually getting the investments and change residents seek. Most thought leaders and organizations continue to use "eat of the river" in its uncapitalized form.



# Clients

- When speaking about programs or agencies that provide services such as TANF, DHS, PSH, and DBH, use clients or participants, not recipients.

# Low-income

- The DC Fiscal Policy Institute guide recommends avoiding terms such as “poor”, “struggling”, “disadvantaged”, and “vulnerable”. Instead it recommends referring to low-income residents or neighborhoods, or “people with low incomes”.





## Other Terms

- Black/African American
- Gender/Sex
- Homelessness
- Latinx
- LGBTQIA+
- BIPOC
- Racial Equity
- White

# Food Policy Council Terms Guide

- To see the full FPC Terms Guide please visit:

<https://dcfoodpolicy.org/racial-equity/>



# New Legislation

B24-0419 - No Senior Hungry Omnibus Amendment Act of 2021

Learn more: <https://lims.dccouncil.us/Legislation/B24-0419>

Winnie Huston, DC Food Policy Council member





# Nourish DC Collaborative Launch!

Date: October 7, 11am (tomorrow!)

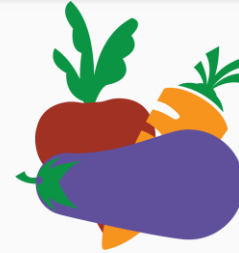
What: Nourish DC provides flexible loans, client-focused technical assistance, and catalytic grants to emerging and existing food businesses in the District of Columbia, with a preference for businesses located in or owned by residents of underserved neighborhoods.

Register here: [bit.ly/NourishDCLaunch](https://bit.ly/NourishDCLaunch)



# Events & Announcements

- **October 3-9:** DMV Food Recovery Week
- **Thursday, October 7:** Nourish DC Collaborative Virtual Launch!
- **Wednesday, December 1:** Next Full FPC Meeting
- To join a Working Group listserv, email the WG chairs or [dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov](mailto:dcfoodpolicy@dc.gov)
- **Add other announcements to chat and/or unmute yourself.**



**FOOD RECOVERY  
WEEK 2021**  
DC • MD • VA • OCTOBER 3-9