



FY 2024 District Food Programs Impact By Numbers

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, the District of Columbia Government invested millions of local dollars towards food programs aimed at building a more equitable, healthy, and sustainable local food system. Below is a summary of key locally-funded initiatives across our food system and their impacts on our communities.

Equitable Food Access



Department of Human Services

Give SNAP A Raise: 🍅 DC Council funded nearly \$40 million in temporary SNAP benefit boosts, up to 10% of the household's federal maximum monthly allotment. The District provided \$3.5 million per month in additional SNAP benefits to 80,000 households between March and September 2024.

Department of Health

Joyful Food Markets: Martha's Table hosted a total of 373 pop-up produce markets across 56 schools in Ward 7 & 8 and distributed 48,832 bags of free groceries to 6,988 residents.

Medically-Tailored Home-Delivered meals: Food and Friends delivered medically-tailored meals to 2,530 residents with serious illness and their caregivers, which were the only source of food for 39% of clients.

Department of Health Care Finance

Produce Rx: DC Greens distributed monthly grocery funds to over 800 Medicaid-enrolled patients with a diet-related illness who are prescribed fruits and vegetables by medical professionals.

Department of Aging and Community Living

Community Dining Sites: 43 congregate meal sites across all wards served nearly 300,000 free nutritious meals to 4,418 residents over 60 years old; participation increased from the previous year and returned to a similar level prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Home-Delivered Meals: 2,960 seniors received free meal deliveries; 642 seniors on the waitlist due to limited funding.



Local Food Economy

Department of Health

Healthy Corner Stores: DC Central Kitchen provided produce, storage, and technical assistance to 56 participating small stores (2 new stores). 22,210 SNAP customers shopped at 33 locations that provided \$5 coupon for \$5 on produce purchases with SNAP through federal funds—a 46% increase from FY 2023. Total sales of healthy food across all stores also increased by 16.4%.

Produce Plus: FRESHFARM distributed \$40/month for buying fruits and vegetables at farmers markets to 8,001 residents, an increase from 7,579 residents in 2023. 13,000 eligible residents applied with 37% waitlisted - the funding increased in FY 2025 Budget to serve more residents. 98% of survey participants reported eating more fruits and vegetables.

Deputy Mayor's Office for Economic Planning and Development

Food Access Fund: 🍅 Over \$3.7 million in the fourth round of grants was awarded to 6 food businesses in Ward 5, 7 and 8.

Nourish DC Collaborative*: 🍅 Capital Impact Partners leveraged the District's FY 2021-23 \$4.5 million investment to secure private and federal funds to continue supporting food businesses in the city's food apartheid areas through low-interest loans, gap financing, [grants to enhance cold storage infrastructure](#), and technical assistance to over 1,100 businesses.

Department of Small and Local Business Development

"Waste Not, Want Not" Lines of Credit: \$225,000 in flexible loans were awarded through EatsPlace to 12 small food businesses to fund innovative solutions to reduce food waste.

*Capital Impact Partners received a no-cost extension through FY 2026 and federal funding to continue operating the Nourish DC Collaborative.



Climate & Sustainability



Department of Public Works

Curbside Composting Pilot: 9,000 participating households diverted 2.8 million pounds of food waste with a 98% satisfaction rate.

New Food Waste Smart Bins: 30 bins accessible 24/7 to drop off food scraps were installed in February 2025; resident surveys and community meetings in all 8 wards were conducted to decide sites accessible for residents particularly those in multi-family properties.

Food Waste Drop-Off sites: 12 staffed weekend drop-off sites at farmers markets and community sites across all wards diverted a total of 746,701 pounds of food waste, though overall participation decreased with the start of curbside composting pilot.

Department of Energy and Environment

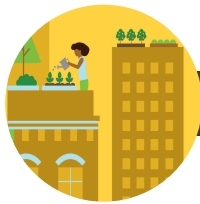
Donation & Reuse Grants: 3 organizations conducting food recovery and food waste prevention education received \$27,550 in total; collectively recovered 16,104 pounds of edible food, which were distributed to 2,745 event attendees.

Department of General Services

Piloted **food waste collection** at Fire and Emergency Medical Services sites.

DC Public Schools and Public Charter Schools

In SY 2023-24, 1 in 4 schools **composted**, and 1 in 3 schools operated a **share table** where students can give unwanted food to others.



Urban Agriculture

Department of Energy and Environment: Office of Urban Agriculture

Urban Agriculture Infrastructure and Operations

Grants: 8 farms in Wards 1, 5, 7 and 8 received a total of \$69,818 in grants to increase food production, improve irrigation, expand farming job opportunities, and build a farm to grow produce for seniors.

Urban Farm Tax Abatement: for the first time, the tax program that incentivizes private landowners to implement urban farms on their properties reached the maximum capacity participation under available funds.

Rooting DC: 700+ residents attended the District's annual, free, day-long urban gardening and food systems event.

Department of Parks and Recreation

Communal Farms: 14,000 pounds of produce were grown at 3 farms in Wards 1, 5, and 7 and provided to residents at weekly giveaway events in addition to 83,000 pounds of food donated by 12 partners. 3,000 vegetable seedlings were also grown and given away. In publicly accessible communal farm food forests, 63 fruit trees and 230 fruit bushes were also planted.

Office of the State Superintendent of Education

\$1.9 million was awarded to support **FRESHFARM's FoodPrints**, which provided hands-on gardening, cooking, and nutrition education to 7,600 PreK3 through Grade 5 students in 21 DC Public Schools.

School Gardens: 134 DC Public Schools and Public Charter Schools operated gardens in SY 2023-24, an increase from 124 in the previous year. Among schools with gardens, 28% of students engaged in garden-based learning, and one in five teachers and staff incorporated garden-based teaching.

Legislation Not Currently Funded

Secure DC's Sec.32 on food in jails (2024)
Give SNAP a Raise Act (2023)
No Senior Hungry Act (2023)
Save Good Food Act (2018) - repealed



Past Local Food Programs Not Funded in FY 2025

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Food Access Fund | Food Waste Innovation Grants |
| Urban Agriculture Grants | Ditch the Disposable Grants |
| Healthy Tots Wellness Grants** | Donation and Reuse Grants |

Sources: 1. Each District agency's responses to [Performance Oversight Pre-Hearing Questions and Oversight Documents](#).

2. Office of the State Superintendent of Education "[District of Columbia Healthy Schools Act 2024 Report](#)"

**In FY 2025, farm-to-child care funding is provided through [the Whole Child and Educator Wellness Grant](#).

To learn more, visit dcfoodpolicy.org