

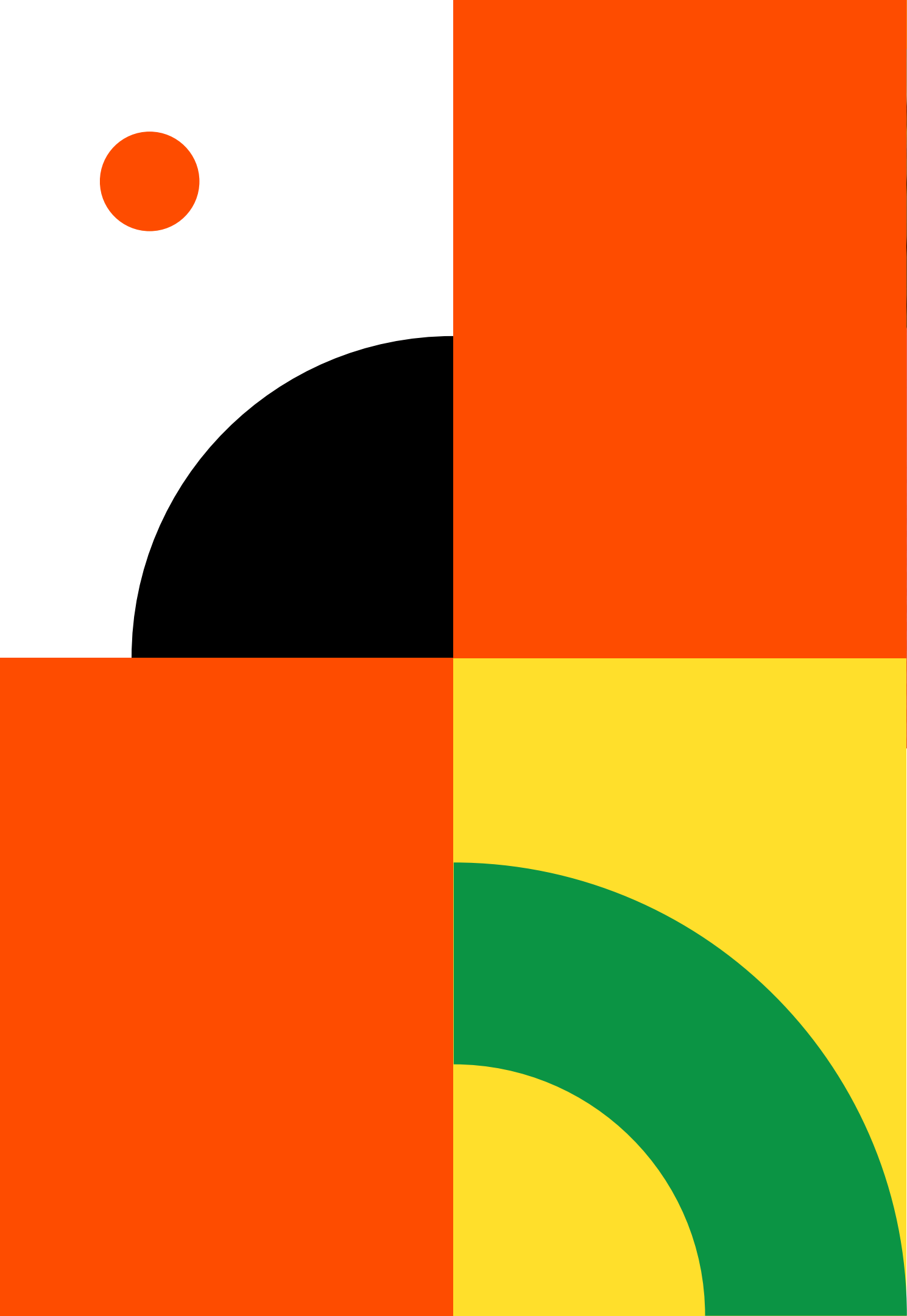


Food Policy Council

June 4, 2025

Land Acknowledgment

Washington DC and its surrounding areas sit on the ancestral land of the Nacotchtank and Piscataway peoples. We want to recognize those indigenous peoples and their communities, along with others across the country, and to lend our voice to theirs to uplift their past, present, and future communities.

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a vertical orange bar. To its left, there is a black semi-circle and a smaller orange circle above it. Below the orange bar, there is a yellow semi-circle and a green semi-circle to its right.

June 4 Agenda

DC FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

- Working Group updates (10 mins)
- Food Insecurity in the ALICE population (20 mins)
- SUN Bucks Update (5 mins)
- Budget Updates (10 mins)
- Events & Announcements (5 mins)



Icebreaker

Name, Pronouns

Organization

**Favorite food rainbow and/or
favorite first taste of summer**



WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Food Access & Equity



Urban Agriculture



Health & Nutrition Education



Sustainable Supply Chain



Entrepreneurship & Food Jobs



Reducing Food Waste





Food Policy Team

- **US Conference of Mayors, June 20**
 - Food Policy team and USCM Food Policy advisors drafted 2 resolutions
 - Mayor Bowser co-sponsored 2 resolutions on Healthy Food Access & Reducing Food Waste
- **Workforce Development Interagency CoP**
- **Procurement CoP and first interagency food rescues**
- **Hiring for a Food Policy Analyst!**

STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY FOR ALICE HOUSEHOLDS IN WARDS 7 & 8

Challenges and Strategic Policy
Recommendations

Sarah Krause, Joseph Mulholland, Maren Sautter, Emily Qiao
Georgetown Policy Innovation Lab

GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY | **McCourt School**
of Public Policy





WHO IS ALICE?

ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

Working individuals and families who earn above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but still not enough to afford basic necessities such as food and housing.



ALICE Income Thresholds in the District of Columbia

- A single adult earning between \$13,590 (FPL) and \$46,188 falls within the ALICE threshold
- A two-parent, two-child household earning between \$27,750 (FPL) and \$95,520 is also considered ALICE

How can the DC
Government improve
food security for
ALICE households in
Wards 7 and 8 by
expanding current
food and non-food-
focused programs
and policies?



Improving Food
Security in Wards
7 & 8

**CENTRAL RESEARCH
QUESTION**

ALICE POPULATION BY WARD

ALICE Households Are Most Concentrated in Wards 7 & 8

Ward 1: 9,126 households

Ward 2: 9,199 households

Ward 3: 6,957 households

Ward 4: 10,849 households

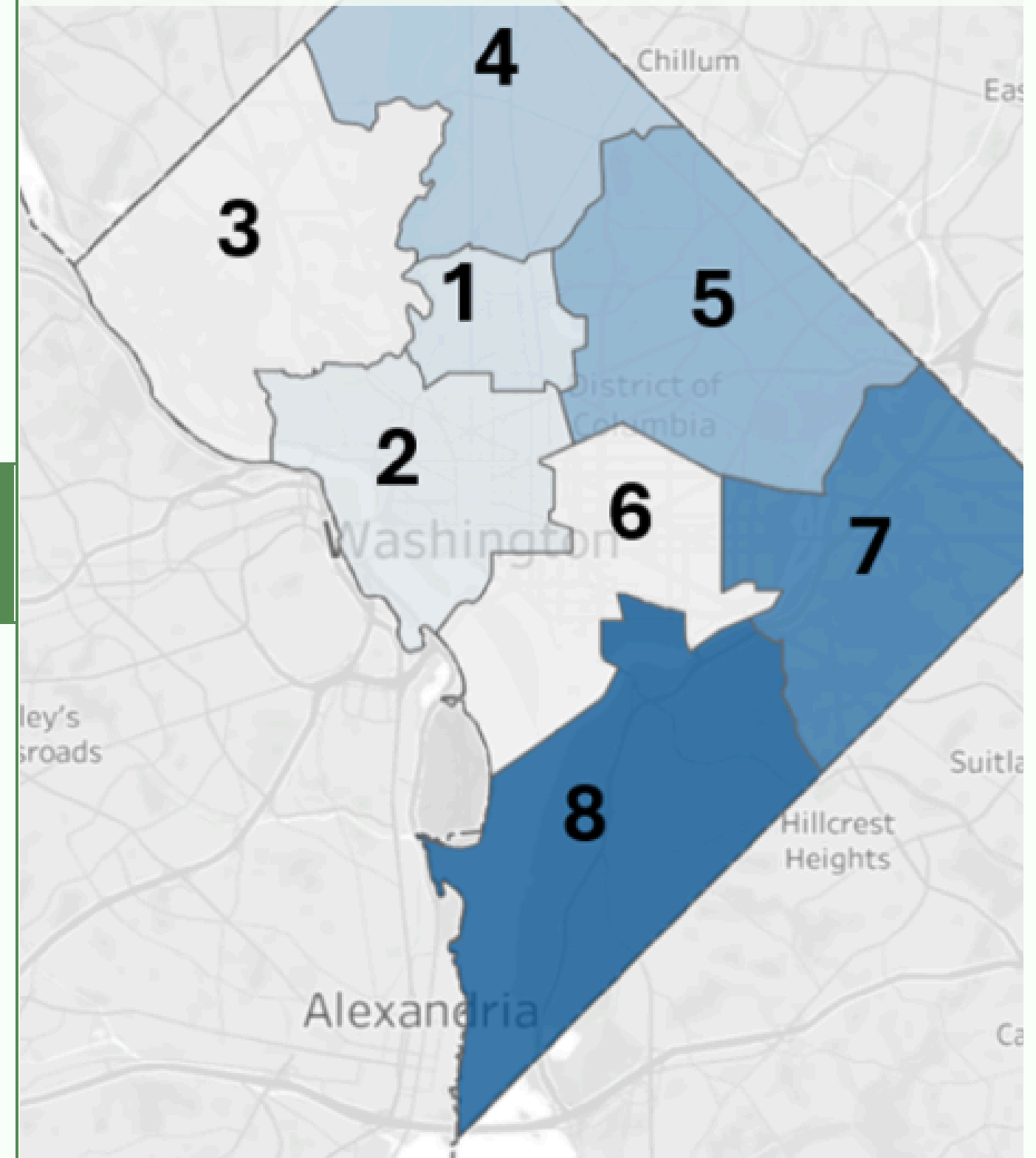
Ward 5: 12,144 households

Ward 6: 7,634 households

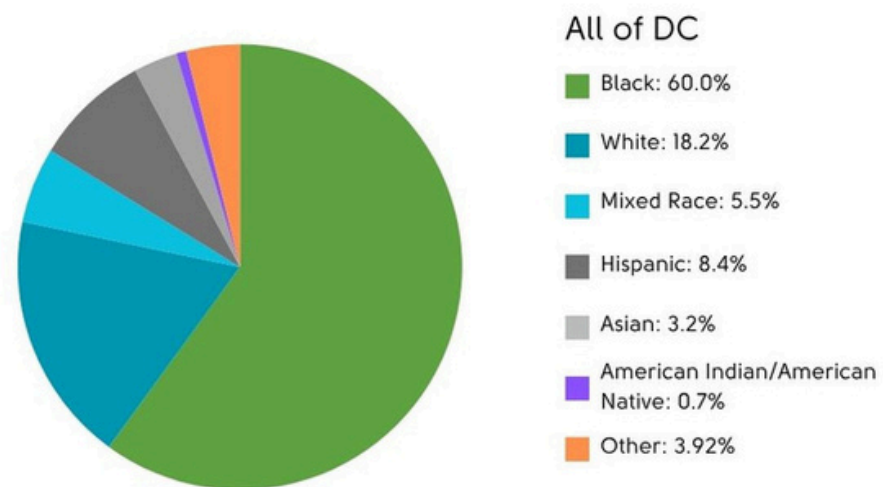
Ward 7: 13,636 households

Ward 8: 15,438 households

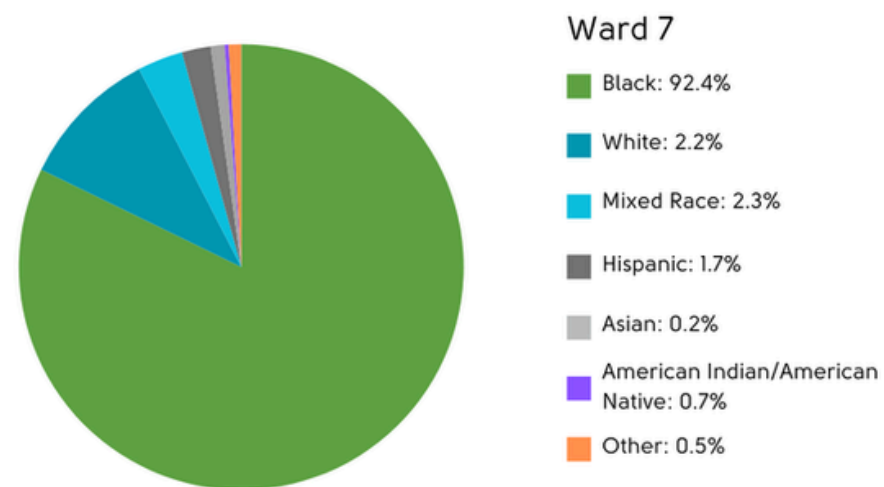
ALICE and FPL Population Density by Ward



Demographic Composition of ALICE Households

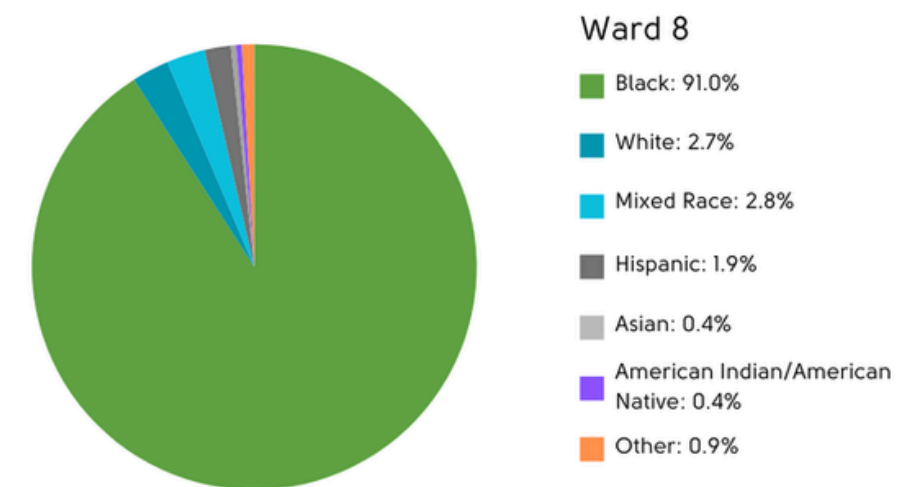


Demographic Composition of ALICE Households



Due to data inconsistencies, percentages are based on a recalculated total of 13,636 ALICE households (vs. 12,117 reported by United for ALICE). Data is based on: <https://www.unitedforalice.org/legislative-district-tool>

Demographic Composition of ALICE Households



Due to data inconsistencies, percentages are based on a recalculated total of 15,438 ALICE households (vs. 14,018 reported by United for ALICE). Values do not add up to 100%, due to rounding. Data is based on: <https://www.unitedforalice.org/legislative-district-tool>

City-Wide and
Ward-Level
Comparison

WHO MAKES UP ALICE HOUSEHOLDS

METHODOLOGY

1

Literature
Review

2

8 Interviews
with Nonprofit
Organizations

3

5 Interviews
with Advisory
Neighborhood
Commissioners

4

Qualitative
Analysis

Drawing on United Way data, research papers on food security, case studies from other jurisdictions, and 13 stakeholder interviews (analyzed using qualitative coding), we gathered insight into food security among ALICE households in Wards 7 and 8.

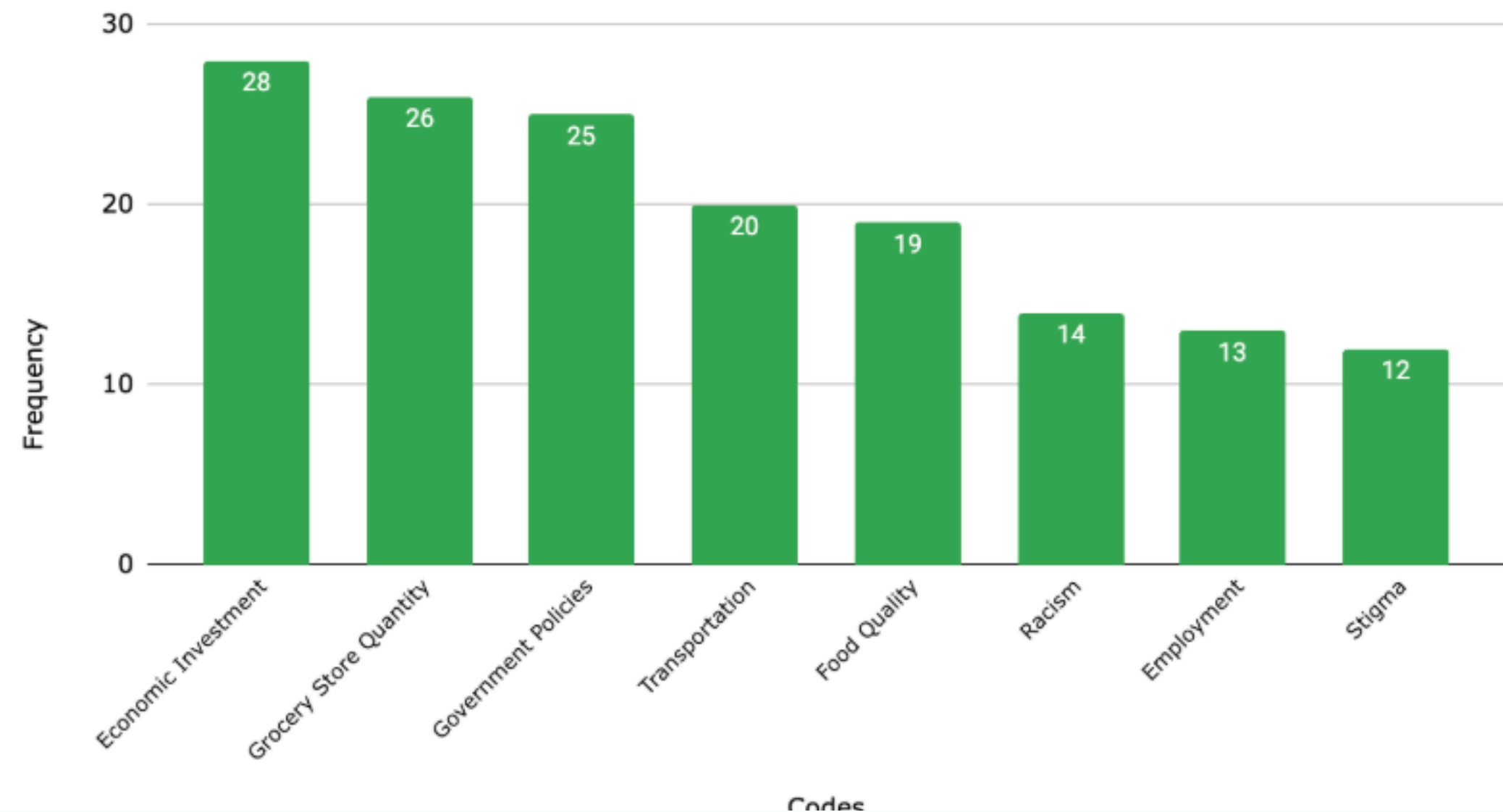
Most Frequent Barriers:

- Lack of Economic Investment
- Grocery Store Quantity
- Government Policies
- Transportation

Other Important Barriers:

- Food Quality
- Racism
- Employment
- Stigma

Code Frequency of Barriers to Food Security



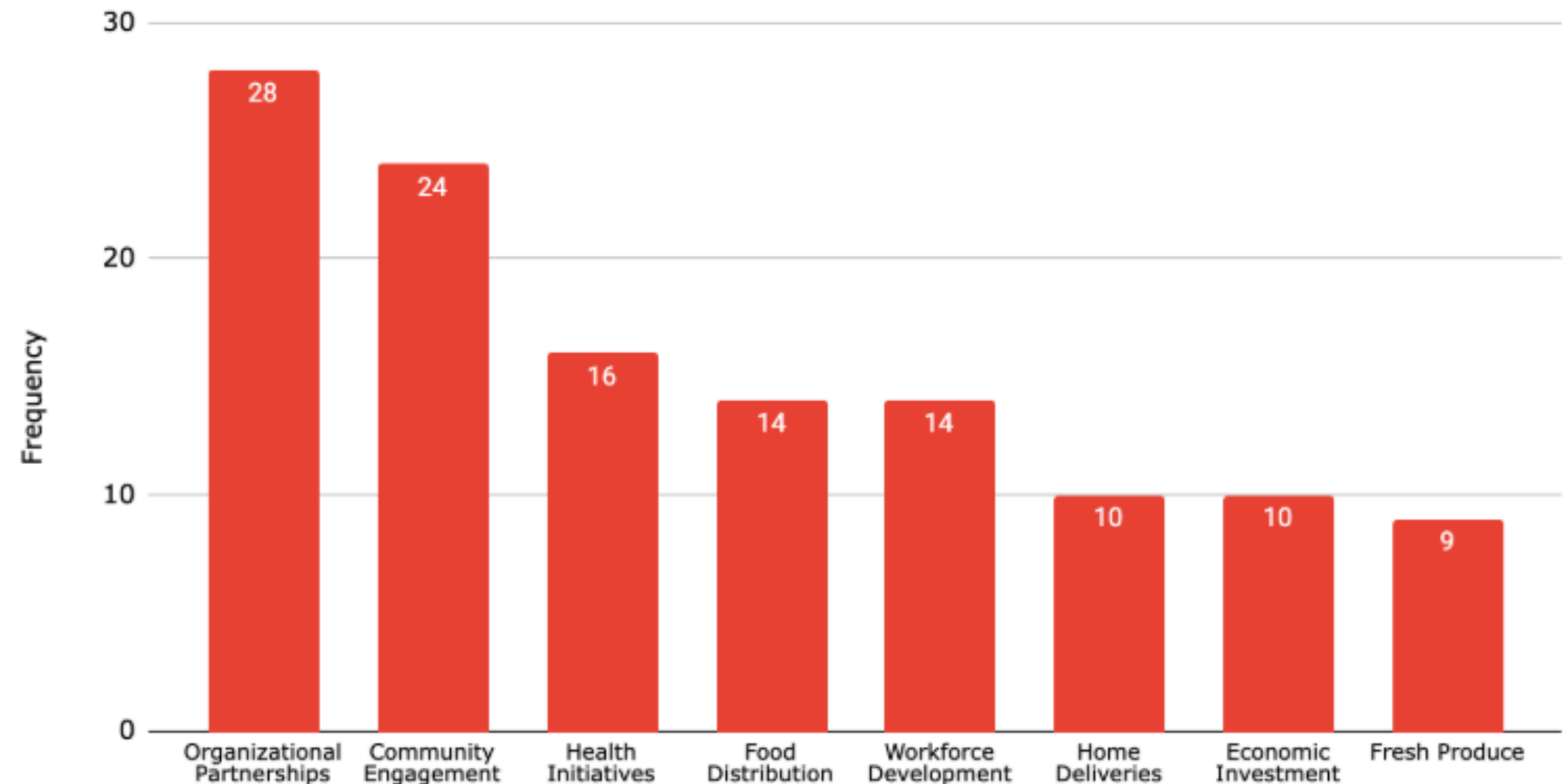
Barriers to Food
Security

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Most Frequent Existing Policies and Programs:

- Organizational partnerships
- Community engagement
- Health initiatives
- Food distribution
- Workforce development
- Home deliveries
- Economic investment
- Fresh produce

Code Frequency of Existing Food Programs in DC



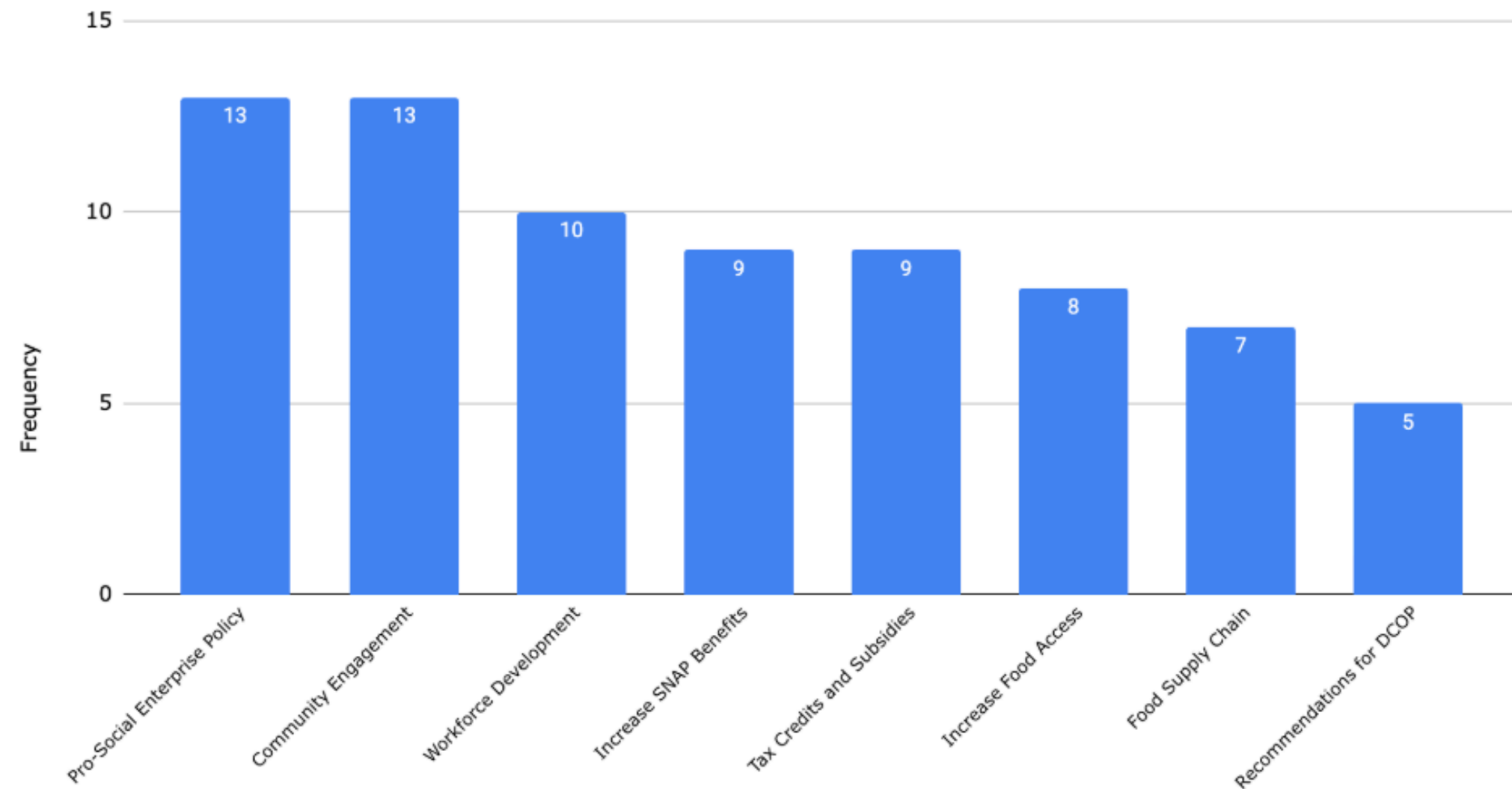
Building on
Strengths, Centering
Community

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Most Frequent Recommendations:

- Pro-social enterprise policy
- Community engagement
- Workforce development
- Increasing SNAP benefits
- Tax credits and subsidies
- Increasing food access
- Food supply chain
- Recommendations for DCOP

Code Frequency of Recommended Solutions to Food Insecurity



Recommended
Solutions

KEY TAKEAWAYS



RECOMMENDATION:

**STRENGTHEN AND
COORDINATE LOCAL
FOOD ECOSYSTEMS**

Support Social Enterprises in
Wards 7 & 8

Make Fresh Food More
Accessible

Establish a Central Food
Processing Facility



RECOMMENDATION:

**SUPPORT POLICIES THAT
LINK ECONOMIC AND
FOOD SECURITY**

Enable Organizations to
Serve ALICE Directly

Provide Direct Financial
Assistance and Targeted
Subsidies

Support Workforce
Development and
Upskilling



RECOMMENDATION:

**BOOST COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT &
INCREASE VISIBILITY OF
SUPPORT SERVICES**

Distribute a Food Access
Screenener and Visual Benefits
Guide

Reframe Food Assistance as
a Form of Social Insurance

Link the Screener to Action



RECOMMENDATION:

**FOSTER
COLLABORATION
BETWEEN THE DC
GOVERNMENT AND
ANC'S**

Establish an ANC Food
Working Group

Include ANC Voices in
Decisionmaking

Apply Lessons from Peer
Cities



THANK YOU



Get In Touch

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USE THE URL TO SEE
OUR COMPLETE
STORYMAP
INCLUDING OUR
RECOMMENDATIONS

<https://shorturl.at/7z4pA>

SUN BUCKS

SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

DC SUN Bucks 2025



WHAT IS SUN BUCKS?



SUN Bucks, or Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SEBT), provides grocery-buying benefits to income-eligible families when schools are closed for the summer.

SUN Bucks is a permanent federal summer nutrition program that launched in 2024. Congress established it to provide nutrition assistance to eligible students during the summer months to ensure continued access to food.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers the program at the federal level. Participating state agencies implement it locally at the state level (or in DC, District level).

DC SUN BUCKS OVERVIEW

- Each eligible student receives a one-time payment of \$120 for summer 2025
- Benefits will be loaded to either
 - A.) their household's existing SNAP/TANF EBT card OR
 - B.) a new DC SUN Bucks EBT card sent in the mail
- EBT cards are used like a debit card to buy food at any retailer that accepts SNAP benefits
- DC SUN Bucks branded cards are issued in the student's name
- SUN Bucks benefits expire 122 days after they're issued
- The eligibility period for the 2025 program year is July 1, 2024 – August 25, 2025
- Expected benefits will total \$9-10 million for up to 80,000 students in the District

DC SUN Bucks public website: sunbucks.dc.gov

INTERAGENCY PARTNERS

DC SUN Bucks is an interagency effort managed by:



DC Department of
Human Services (DHS)

Role:

- *Manages most DC SUN Bucks Call program responsibilities, including managing the DC SUN Bucks CMS, processing applications, sending program notices, processing verifications, etc.*



+ DC Health +

Role:

- *Manages DC SUN Bucks Call Center*
- *Oversees public outreach efforts about DC SUN Bucks*



Office of the State
Superintendent of Education (OSSE)

Role:

- *Provides NSLP Streamline student data for DC SUN Bucks eligibility system*
- *Oversees school outreach efforts about DC SUN Bucks*



**SUN
BUCKS**



Program Eligibility

Sunbucks.dc.gov





ELIGIBILITY – TWO PATHWAYS



PATHWAY 1: **Preapproval**

*(a.k.a Streamlined /
Automatically Eligible)*

No action is required to receive DC SUN Bucks **if ONE of the following applies** to a student between July 1, 2024 – August 25, 2025:

- A. Your child from age 5-18 receives SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid (with income at or below 185% FPL)
 - **Important DC Medicaid Info:** *If a 5-18yr old is NOT enrolled in a DC school, they need to complete a [Medicaid opt-in form](#)*
- B. Your student of any age gets free or reduced-price meals because you completed a school meal application and were approved.
- C. Your student of any age is enrolled in a NSLP participating school in DC and has the status of being in foster care, homeless, a migrant, or a runaway.
- D. Submitted a 2024 SUN Bucks application on July 1, 2024 or later, were approved, and are still attending a school that offers the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

Pathway 1: Preapproval

A Note about Medicaid Streamline Eligibility and the Medicaid Opt-In Form

What is a “Qualifying” Medicaid Program?

- Those that require an application to determine eligibility
- Income must be at or below 185% of the federal poverty level
- Automatic Medicaid through SSI or foster care does NOT qualify for DC SUN Bucks preapproval.

Why do Some Students Need to Submit the Medicaid Opt In Form to be Preapproved?

- DHS does not have enough information to streamline them if they're not enrolled in school, so they need to opt in.
- If they're determined eligible, they'll receive a preapproval notice and benefits. If not, they can submit a DC SUN Bucks application.

PATHWAY 1:

Preapproval

Key Points

- **More than 90% (~70,000) of eligible DC students are preapproved**
- Students who are preapproved will receive benefits ***without*** having to submit an application!
- Their benefits will be issued in early June.
- Benefits will continue to be issued to newly preapproved students throughout the summer.
Examples:
 - An eligible student submits the Medicaid opt in form
 - A student newly enrolls in SNAP
 - A student newly enrolls in TANF
 - A student newly enrolls in an eligible Medicaid program

PATHWAY 2:
**Submit a
DC SUN
Bucks
Application**

If a student is not automatically preapproved, they can apply and be eligible for DC SUN Bucks if they meet BOTH requirements below:

- Attend an NSLP-participating DC school

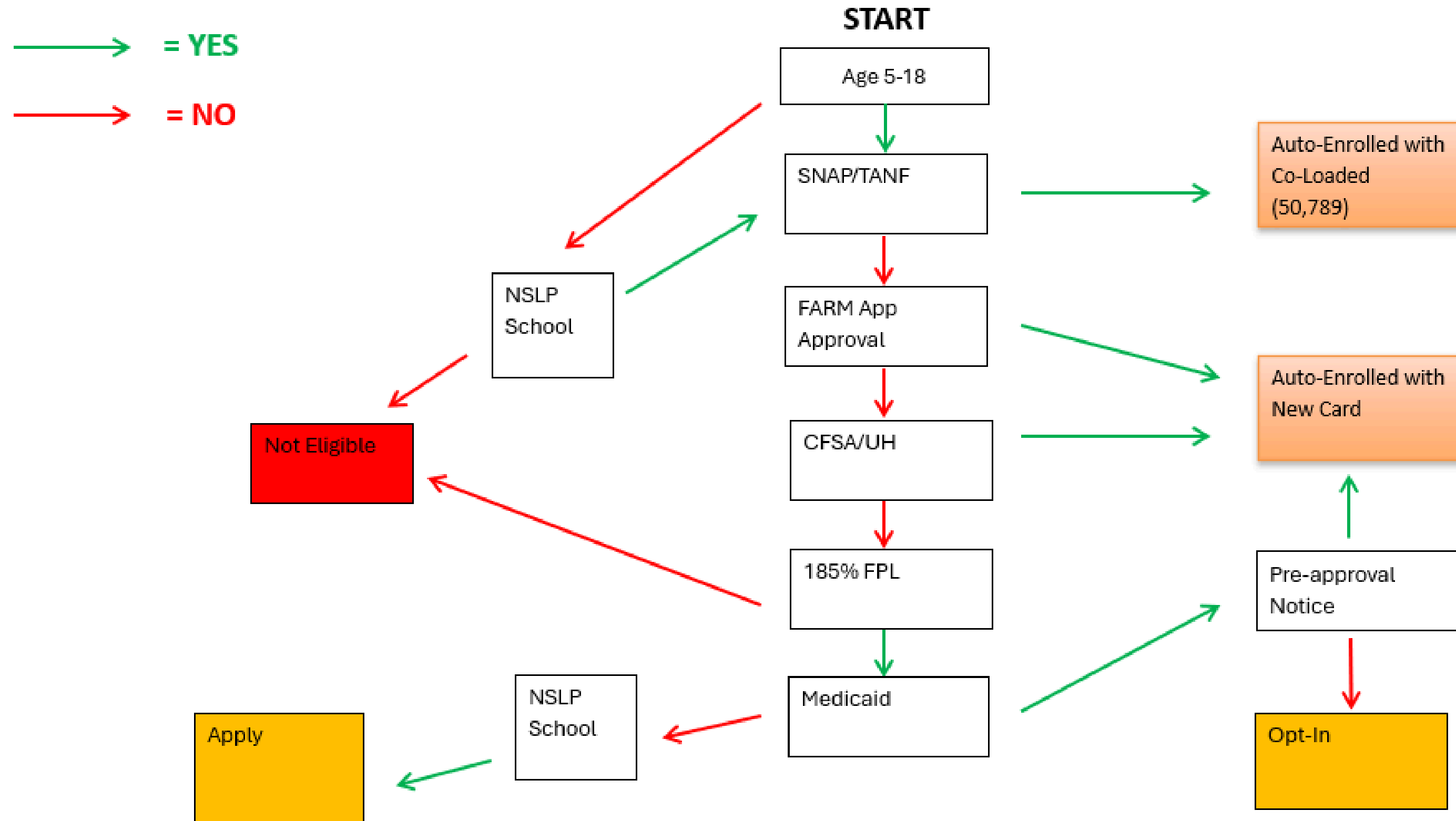
AND

- Household income is at or below 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL)

➤ *Check a school's status at the [NSLP School Search](#) page on [sunbucks.dc.gov](#)*

➤ *Check the current FPL thresholds in the FAQ "Is my student eligible?" at [sunbucks.dc.gov](#)*

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS FLOW



[What is SUN Bucks?](#)[FAQ](#)[NSLP Schools](#)[Contact Us](#)[Select Language](#) ▼Powered by [Google Translate](#)

NSLP School Search

NSLP School Search

The searchable list below includes public, charter, and private schools in the District of Columbia. It shows if each school participates in the National School Lunch Program ("NSLP") or does not (school listed as "not eligible"). You can use the search bar to find your student's school by typing the school name. If your school shows as NSLP, you can apply for SUN Bucks if your student is not already preapproved for benefits.

Show entriesSearch:

School Name	NSLP Status
Academia De La Recta Porta Icads Intl. Christian Day School	Not Eligible
Academy of Hope Adult PCS	Not Eligible
Achievement Preparatory Academy PCS - Wahler Place Elementary School	NSLP
Acton Academy of Washinton	Not Eliaible

The DC SUN BUCKS website provides a [searchable list](#) of NSLP participation statuses of local schools. Most DC Public, Charter, and some private schools participate.

3 WAYS TO CHECK ELIGIBILITY STATUS

1. **DC SUN Bucks Notices**

Streamline students will be sent preapproval notices in late May by email or mail addressed in the student's name. Notices will continue to be sent throughout the summer for newly preapproved students.

Applicants will receive an approval or denial notice by email or mail (if no email is provided).

2. **Eligibility Checker at sunbucks.dc.gov**

Provides generic eligibility status (preapproved, need to apply, not eligible) based on customer input (not linked to real time customer data)

3. **DC SUN Bucks Call Center – Call the Call Center**

Preapproved student records will show their Eligibility Status = Preapproved, Eligibility Type = streamline-participating program (e.g. SNAP, TANF, etc.)

ELIGIBILITY TYPES AND STATUSES

Pre-Approved Program Criteria/Status	CMS Eligibility Type	CMS Eligibility Status
SNAP	Food Streamline	Pre-Approved
TANF	Cash Streamline	Pre-Approved
FARM, foster care, homeless	NSLP Streamline	Pre-Approved
Qualifying Medicaid program & enrolled in a DC school	Medical Streamline	Pre-Approved
Qualifying Medicaid program, not enrolled in a DC school & submitted the Medicaid opt-in form	Medical <u>Opt In</u>	Pre-Approved
Applicant applied & approved between JUL 1, 2024 – AUG 25, 2024	Applicant	Pre-Approved

Not Preapproved	CMS Eligibility Type	CMS Eligibility Status
Applicant	Applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pending• Approved• Denied

Who can receive SUN Bucks?

There are three ways students can access SUN Bucks:

- **Automatically-enrolled:** These students will automatically receive SUN Bucks in 2024 and no further action is required to receive the benefits if they are:
 - ☐ between 5-18 years old and participated in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (**SNAP or food stamps**) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (**TANF or cash assistance**) at any point between July 1, 2023 and March 22, 2024.
 - ☐ Automatically eligible students can change their mailing address or opt out [here](#).
 - ☐ **Eligible and need to complete a short form:** These students must complete a short 5-minute confirmation form to receive SUN Bucks in 2024 if they are:
 - ☐ experiencing homelessness or in foster care; **OR**
 - ☐ submitted an application for free or reduced-price school meals during the 2023-24 school year that was approved; **OR**
 - ☐ Are PreK-3, PreK-4 or older students (18+) that are on SNAP or TANF and attend a school that participates in NSLP
- **Eligible and need to complete a full SUN Bucks Application:** Other students should apply for SUN Bucks if:
 - ☐ they attend a school that offers the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP). This includes all DC Public Schools, participating Public Charter Schools and a select number of private schools; **AND**
 - ☐ the household income is at or below 185% of the federal poverty level (aligned with qualifying for Free or Reduced Priced meals).

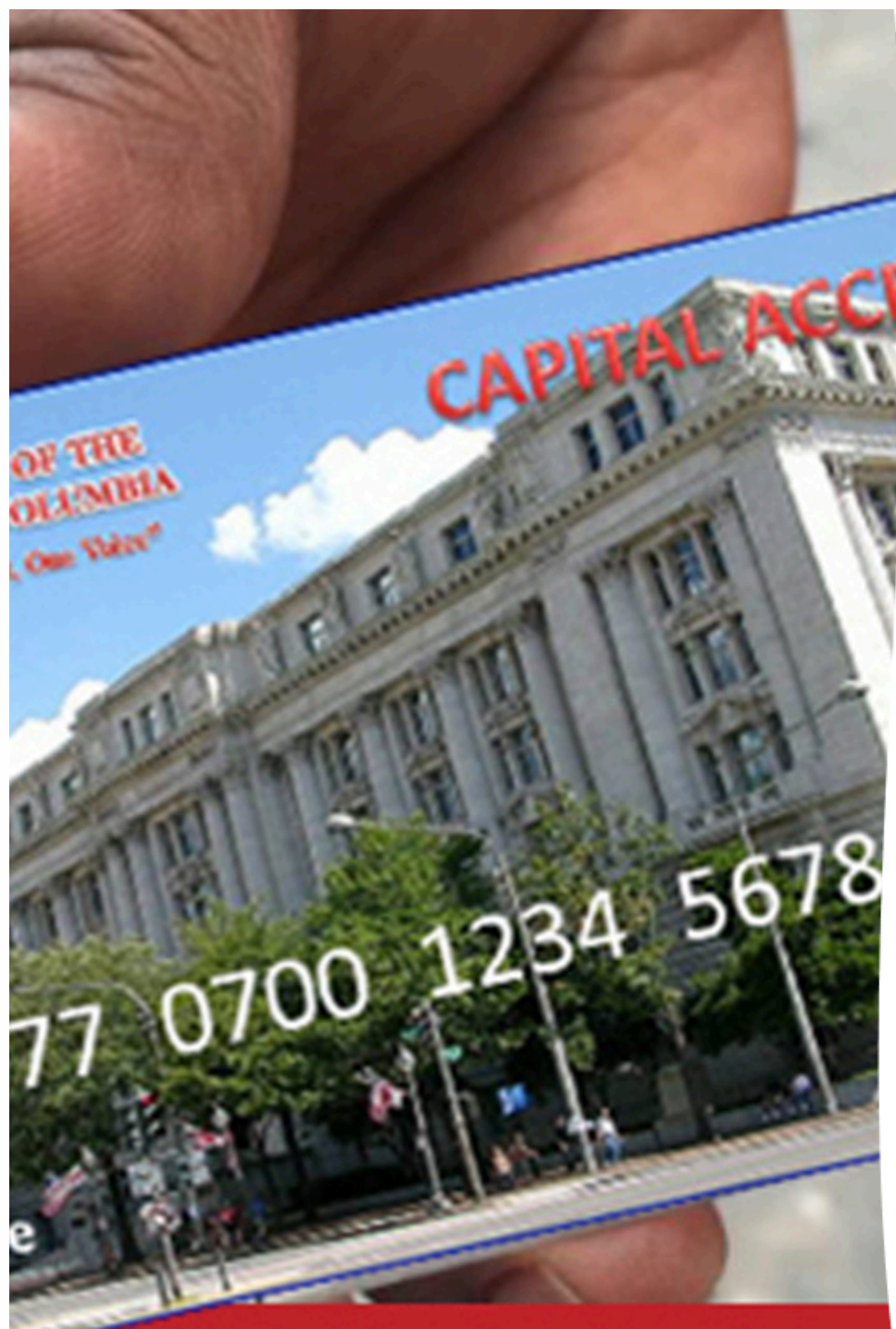
HOW WILL STUDENTS RECEIVE BENEFITS?

It depends on their eligibility type...

(NEW for 2025) **Households who participate in SNAP or TANF** receive benefits differently than other DC SUN Bucks participants. SUN Bucks will be loaded to their existing EBT card where they receive SNAP and/or TANF benefits, also known as “co-loaded.”

All other participants will receive a new, DC SUN Bucks branded EBT card.

2024 SUN Bucks cards will not work for 2025, BUT students should keep their 2025 DC SUN Bucks cards after they’ve spent their benefits! DC SUN Bucks will be loaded to this same card next year and moving forward if their student is still eligible.



BENEFITS SUMMARY: SNAP / TANF PARTICIPANTS

- Benefits issued to the household's existing EBT card if their student received SNAP/TANF **at any time since July 1, 2024**
 - Also known as “co-loaded” to same card where they receive SNAP/TANF benefits
- **June 11, 2025:** DC SUN Bucks issued and available for use
- Amount = \$120 x # of eligible students in the household (one-time payment)
 - 1 eligible student = \$120
 - 2 eligible students = \$240
 - 3 eligible students = \$360, etc.
- SUN Bucks benefits will automatically spend down first before SNAP benefits
- ~50,000 eligible DC students are preapproved through SNAP/TANF participation

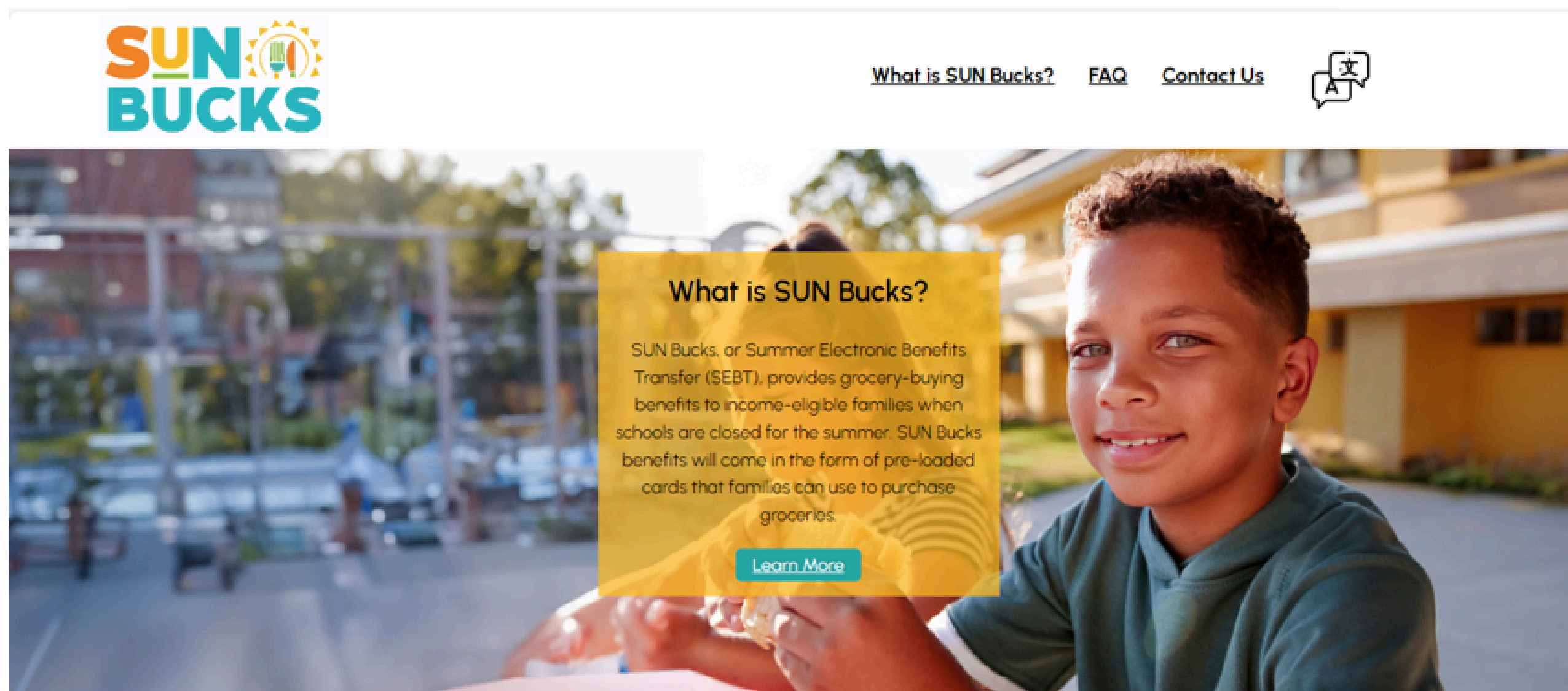


Website, Resources, FAQs and Additional Information

Sunbucks.dc.gov

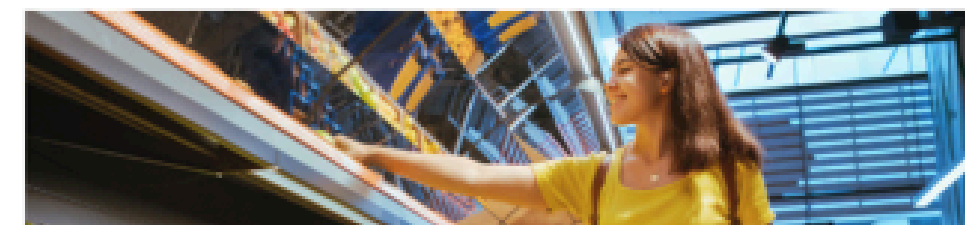


Website Walkthrough



How do I apply?

Some students are pre-approved for SUN Bucks and do not need to apply. These students will receive a pre-approval letter in the mail in



Website Walkthrough: FAQs



[What is SUN Bucks?](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Contact Us](#)



SUN Bucks Frequently Asked Questions

Program Benefits

SUN Bucks, also known as Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), is a new program to help families with students buy food during the summer. Each eligible student will receive \$120 for the summer, and funds will come pre-loaded on a card. You can use the card like a debit card to buy food at grocery stores, farmers markets, online retailers and other places that accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) EBT benefits.



Program Eligibility

Is my student eligible for SUN Bucks?



Do you have to be a US citizen to receive SUN Bucks?



No. You do not need to be a US citizen. Receiving SUN Bucks does not affect your student or your family's immigration status.

Will receiving SUN Bucks affect my ability to receive other government benefits?



Why was one of my students approved for SUN Bucks but not my other student?



Social Media Graphics Package Examples



**SUN
BUCKS**

Get help buying food for this summer

This summer, DC Government is launching SUN Bucks, a new program that gives families \$120 per eligible student to buy groceries.

Who is eligible?
Students who:

- Attend a District of Columbia Public School, a DC public charter school, or a DC private school participating in the National School Lunch Program;
- Are enrolled in Pre-K, elementary or secondary school, or are an adult learner; and
- Live in a household with an annual income less than or equal to 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

How do I apply?
Follow the QR code or visit sunbucks.dc.gov to apply.



sunbucks.dc.gov



**SUN
BUCKS**

በዚህ የበጋ ወቅድ ለእርስዎ
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[Sunbucks.dc.gov](https://sunbucks.dc.gov)



**SUN
BUCKS**

Obtenga beneficios de
alimentos para su estudiante
del DC este verano

sunbucks.dc.gov



Next Steps

Next Steps

1. Promote the program to your community using the SUN Bucks Toolkit.
2. Direct questions to the FAQ page.
3. Direct additional concerns to the SUN Bucks call center.

SUN Bucks Program Website

The SUN Bucks Website will include the following:

- FAQ Section
- Link to the application
- Eligibility and background information



Together,
we can **help more children thrive**
in the summertime and beyond.

Sunbucks.dc.gov



FY2026 BUDGET

PROPOSED BUDGET &
HOW TO SHARE YOUR VOICE

BUDGET PROCESS

Agency-level Planning

Agencies submit their budget requests to the Mayor.

Mayor's Proposal

Mayor submits a proposed budget to the DC Council (May 27)

Final Budget

Council Committees make changes (June 23 - 25)
Then, the full Council votes on a final budget.
(1st Vote: July 14, 2nd Vote: July 28)

FALL

JAN - FEB

MID-MAR

MAR - APR

MAY - JUNE

Performance Oversight Hearings

Council Committees hold public hearings about how each Agency is serving residents needs and their effectiveness in implementing last year's budget.

Budget Oversight Hearings

Council Committees hold public hearings about each Agency's proposed budgets for the next fiscal year. (May 29 - June 17)



COMMITTEE PROCESS

- Mayor's Budget Proposal is Submitted to Council
- Committee Process:
 - **Referral:** Individual Agency budgets are referred to Council Committees with Jurisdiction
 - **Hearings:** Committee holds budget oversight hearings on each agency within their purview, where they hear from the public and agency leadership
 - **Committee Markup:** Committee makes proposed changes to agency budgets based on what they learn from these hearings and public engagement
- Committee versions are consolidated into a new package that is voted on by the full Council (twice!)
 - Note: There is additional engagement and changes at the full Council stage

FY26 PROPOSED BUDGET: WHAT'S IN IT?



\$15 M for East Capital Gateway
Grocery Infrastructure



Expanded
Senior Home Delivered Meals



Maintained
Produce Plus, Joyful Food Market, Healthy Corner
Stores, Medically-tailored Home Delivered Meals



Expanded
DC Compost Food Waste
Collection Program



Restored
Donation & Reuse Grants



Restored
Urban Agriculture Infrastructure
& Operations Grants



Retail Development
Opportunities for Saint
Elizabeth's & Hill East



Ward 7 Small Area Plans
Implementation Grants



Lederer Communal Farm
Capital Improvement

AREAS TO CONSIDER & FOLLOW



Give SNAP A Raise & SUN Bucks



Secure DC's meal provisions for correctional facilities



Urban agriculture tax abatement



Food Waste Innovation Grants



Food Access Fund & Nourish DC



Specific restaurant support provisions



Produce Plus waitlist & Farmers Market support



Good Food Purchasing Program Assessment



Dept General Services Agency Food Scrap Collection



FY 2024

District Food Programs Impact By Numbers

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 congregated 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.

🥕 = Not funded in FY 2025

🥕🥕 = Not funded in FY 2024 and FY 2025

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

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

Your voice matters! Here are 3 ways to share your thoughts:



Testify at a Hearing

- Register on Council's website at least **2 business days** before the hearing.
- If you need language & ASL interpretation, inform the committee **5 business days** before the hearing.



Submit a written or voicemail testimony

- Typically, you have **10 days** after the hearing to submit.



Contact Committee or your Councilmember

Throughout the budget process, residents can call, email, or meet with Council offices about their concerns.

1. Find contact info for your Councilmember or the relevant Committee.
2. When contacting a Committee, email the Committee Chairperson and Committee Director.
3. When contacting an individual Councilmember, include their Legislative Director.

ROLE OF PUBLIC FEEDBACK

- Highlight programs that you think are important (make sure they stay funded!)
- Identify funding gaps or cuts that should be restored
- Identify new/additional areas of investment
- Suggest questions for Committee to ask Agency
- **Important budget changes are often made in response to public feedback**
 - **It's a big budget; the more eyes on it the better!**

TIPS FOR WRITING TESTIMONY

In written testimony:

- **Greet** the Committee Chairperson, Committee members, and staff
- **Introduce** yourself and, if applicable, your experience/interest in the topic
- **Explain** why you think a particular policy or program is important. Share any **personal experience** with the policy or program.
- Be clear about your **specific asks and recommendations**, to the extent possible.
- Close by **thanking the Committee** for the opportunity to testify.

Note:

- Following your testimony, the Committee may ask follow-up questions.

UPCOMING BUDGET OVERSIGHT HEARINGS

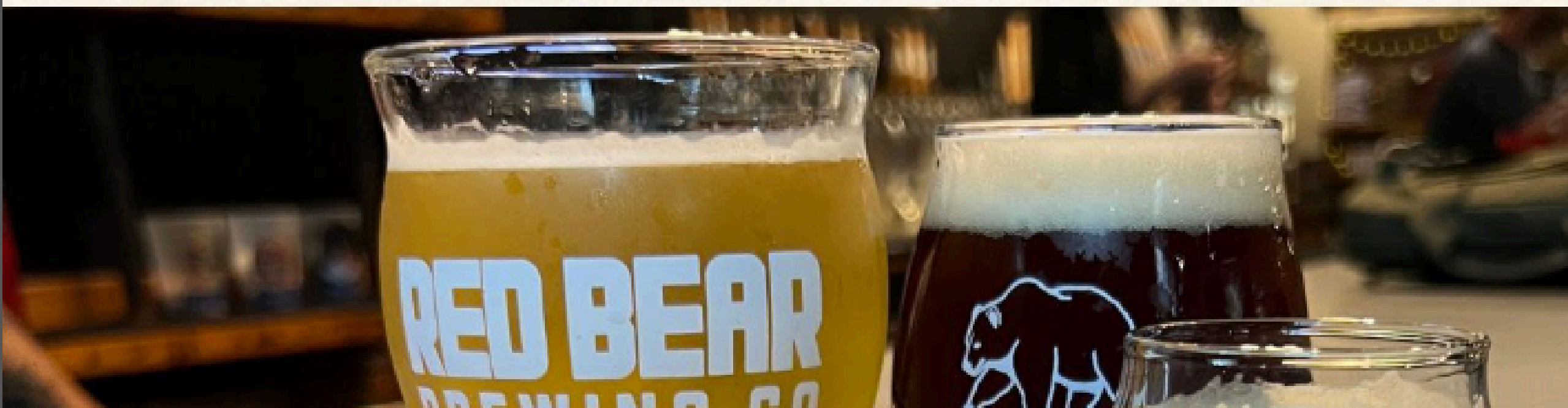
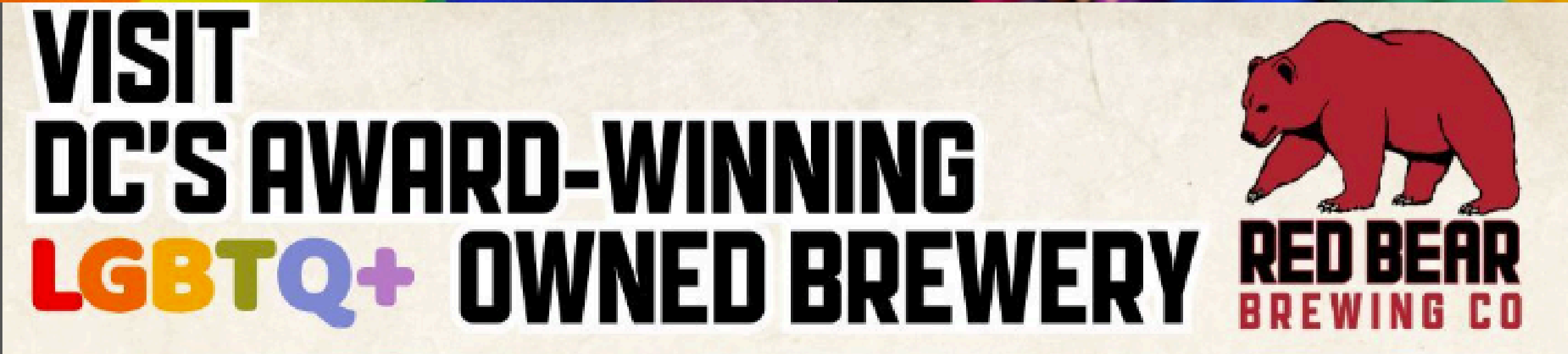
Agency	Food Programs	Date
Parks & Recreation	Summer & afterschool meals, communal farms, partner farms	6/5, 9:00 am
Healthcare Finance	Food is Medicine through Medicaid	6/5, 9:30 am
Health	WIC, SNAP-Ed, Produce Plus, Healthy Corner Stores, Joyful Food, Food is Medicine, Grocery Plus, Farmers Market Programs	6/6, 9:30 am
DC Public Schools	School meals, summer meals, Good Food Purchasing Program	6/6, 9:30 am
Licensing and Consumer Protection	Licenses/permits for food businesses	6/9, 9:30 am
Youth Rehabilitation Services	Meals served in juvenile detention centers	6/11, 12:00 pm
Aging & Community Living	Senior Community Dining, Home delivered meals program, Food4Choice	6/11, 9:30 am
General Services	Waste collection at District agencies	6/12, 10:00 am
Energy & Environment	Urban Ag, Green Food Purchasing, Donation & Reuse, Ditch the Disposables	6/13, 9:00 am



**SUPPORT LGBTQ+ OWNED
FOOD BUSINESSES DURING
DC WORLD PRIDE!**

10 LGBTQ+ Owned Food Businesses

- A League of Her Own
- Kiki
- Jane Jane
- Trade
- Shaw's Tavern
- Cordial
- as you are
- Capital Candy Jar
- Bar Betsie
- Red Bear





Upcoming Events

