

Food Policy Council Meeting

Feb 4, 2026

5 - 6 pm

899 N Capitol St NE



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.

February Agenda

DC FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

- Food Policy Council Votes
 - 2026 Priorities
 - Bylaws Updates
- Oversight Overview
- Food Policy Council Procurement Amendment Act
- DC Health Updates
 - Equitable Food Access Initiative
 - 2026 DC Produce Incentive Programs Preview

Icebreaker

Name, Pronouns, Organization

What brings you here?

Current favorite soup!



Updating By-Laws Working Groups

The Act requires working groups and suggests these topic areas:

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





Updating By-Laws *Ad Hoc Working Groups*

Past: In 2022, the FPC has also created several ad hoc advisory groups: Internal Racial Equity, Resident Engagement, and Annual Report Advisors.

Updated: In 2025, the FPC has also created an ad hoc advisory group on Food Systems Research, Food Retail, and Data Transparency.



Food Policy Council

Ex Officio Members

- Dept of Human Services
- DC Health
- Dept of Licensing & Consumer Protection
- Dept of Parks & Recreation
- Office of State Superintendent of Education
- District Dept of Transportation
- Dept of Energy & Environment
- Deputy Mayor of Planning & Economic Development
- Dept of Small & Local Business Development
- Dept of General Services
- DC Public Schools
- Office of Planning



Updating By-Laws

Ex Officio Members

The act requires 12 ex officios, from agencies listed on prior slide.

Ex officio members from other District agencies may serve on the FPC if designated by the agency's Director:

- Department of Public Works
- Department of Healthcare Finance



2026 PRIORITIES

Food System Priorities

- Develop strategy for reaching 20 acres of urban farmland in the District, including strengthening land lease, building equity in Urban Farm Tax Abatement, and leveraging private, public, and federal land
- Unified business licensing and approval platform to include farmers markets, vendors, and food businesses
- Move District agencies towards food donation, food waste reduction, and food scrap collection
- Passage and funding of the Procurement Amendment Act to lead to transparency and improved values-based purchasing
- Minimize negative impacts of federal benefits changes to District resident food access
- Evaluate nutrition education needs after the end of SNAP Ed and prepare for the 1115 Food as Medicine Waiver implementation
- Develop a food retail strategy that incorporates existing initiatives and community input



2026 PRIORITIES

Transparency & Data Sharing Priorities

- Create a District food system data dashboard, incorporating data around purchasing, production, food distribution and food waste
- Update DC urban agriculture map and develop clear process for updating annually
- Create resource directories including map, list, and calendar for
 - Farm education opportunities
 - Nutrition education opportunities
- Roadmaps for cottage food businesses, food vendors, and other food business microenterprises
- Resources for share tables disseminated to DC Public and Charter Schools
- Compile food access resources and promote existing resources including locally, federally, and philanthropically-funded resources





BUGET & PERFORMANCE OVERSIGHT

Budget Process

Agency-level Planning

Agencies submit their budget requests to the Mayor for the next fiscal year (from October 1 to September 30).

FALL

Mayor's Proposal

Mayor submits a proposed budget to the DC Council in mid-March. (Last year was April 3.)

MID-MAR

Final Budget

Council Committees make changes and the full Council votes on a final budget.

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.



Upcoming Performance Oversight Hearings

Agency	Food Programs	Date
Department of Transportation	Public space permits for markets, urban forests	1/28/2026
General Services	Food scrap collection at District agencies	1/29/2026
Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services	Meals served at juvenile detention centers	2/2/2026
Dept of Behavioral Health	Meals served at St. Elizabeth's	2/2/2026
Department of Corrections	Meals at DC jails	2/4/2026
Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency	Emergency food contracts	2/9/2026
Food Policy Council	Policy analysis, coordination, values-based purchasing	2/11/2026
Department of Parks and Recreation	Public space permits for farmers markets, urban forests	2/12/2026
Department of Public Works	Curbside composting, food waste dropoffs	2/12/2026
Office of Planning	Food Policy Division, Comp Plan	2/12/2026

Upcoming Performance Oversight Hearings

Agency	Food Programs	Date
DC Health	School Meals, Good Food Purchasing	2/18/2026
DC Public Schools	Food and Market Programs;	2/18/2026
Office of Contracting and Procurement	Overview all purchasing	2/18/2026
Department of Energy and Environment	Urban Agriculture & Infrastructure Grants Sustainable DC	2/20/2026
Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection	Licenses/permits for food businesses	2/24/2026
University of DC	Agriculture Extension, Food Hubs	2/25/2026
Department of Human Services	Food is medicine through Medicaid	2/26/2026
DC Water	Water access for farms	3/2/2026
Office of State Superintendent of Education	DC Youth Meals (Summer) Various Food Program Funding	3/4/2026
Department of Small and Local Business Development	TBD	TBD
Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development	TBD	TBD

**What should I
share?**



Once you identify a program or an issue you want to give feedback on, think about:

- What is working well?
- How is the program benefiting your community?
- What is not serving your/community's needs?
- What challenges are you facing in accessing the services/program?
- What concerns do you have?
- How can the program be improved?

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!**

TESTIFYING LIVE (VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON)

Before you testify:

1. **Register** at the Council's Hearing Website **2 business days** before
2. **Language or ASL interpretation:** request 5 business days before
3. **Write** your testimony
4. **Upload** your written testimony on the Council's Hearing page
5. **Practice** reading at loud

How to sign up & submit a written testimony:

- Watch a video recording at dcfoodpolicy.org/get-involved/budget-guide/

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.

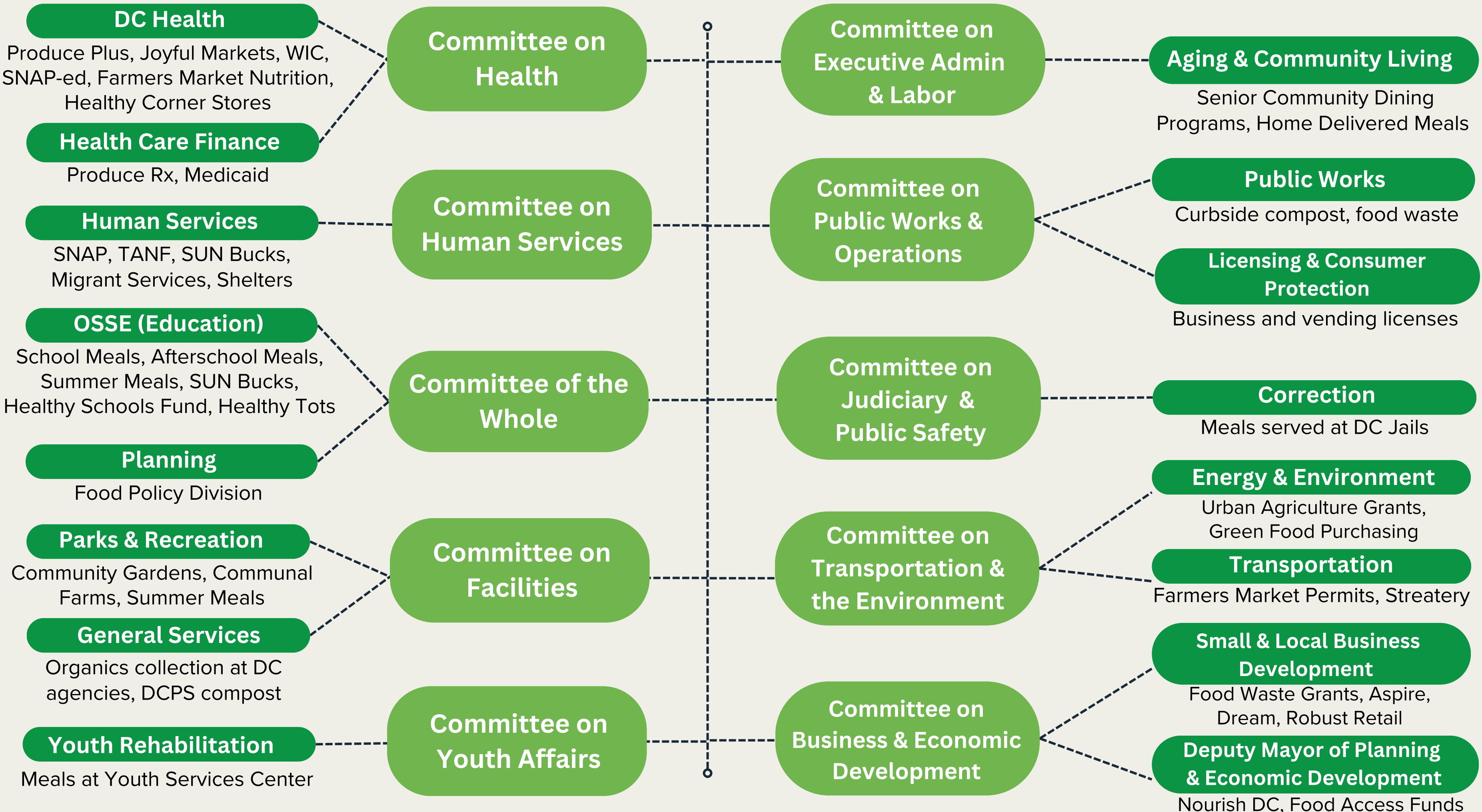


Contact Committee or your Councilmember

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.

Council Period 26 (2025-2026)



Learn more about how to engage with the Budget Process

VIDEO TRAININGS

Food Policy Council



OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays in February
and March
10 – 11am
on Teams

Register on our website
at [DCfoodpolicy.org](https://DCfoodpolicy.org/meetings)
/meetings

BUDGET GUIDE

Visit the Food Policy
Council website for:

Hearing Schedules

Chart of Agencies &
Council Committees

Testimony Tips

How to navigate the DC
Council Hearing Page

Printable Guide

FOOD POLICY COUNCIL PROCUREMENT AMENDMENT ACT

View the Community Advocacy Guide for the bill via the QR code below or on the FPC website:



Why Food Procurement? Producing, processing, distributing, consuming, disposing of food have a significant impact on climate, economic development, and public health.



CLIMATE

The food system is both responsible for and vulnerable to the effects of climate change. One third of all anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions come from food system activities. The effects of climate change (drought, storms, heat) disrupt the food supply.



ECONOMY

The food industry is a major, and growing, contributor to the District's GDP and employment. The District's food economy is worth \$5.47 billion, and contributes over 70,000 jobs. Employment in the food economy grew by 72% between 2001 and 2016.



HEALTH

Nutrition is a leading driver of death and disability in the U.S., including heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, and cancer. Nutrition-related chronic disease is a leading cause of death in DC, and disproportionately affects Black residents, who face higher rates of heart disease, diabetes, and cancer mortality.

Values-based procurement (VBP) is a strategy to use tax dollars to catalyze food systems change.

- If we use our procurement to buy “good food” this will help transform the food system impact on equity, health, and sustainability
- Effective VBP could result in:
 - Improved nutritional quality of institutional food
 - Reduced reliance on major food service contracts
 - Stronger values-based supply chains
 - Enhanced support for the District’s food economy
 - Reductions to the carbon footprint of the District’s food system
 - Improved regional food system resilience and emergency preparedness

The District has made several commitments toward VBP:

- Signing the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration (2022)
- Signing [The Cool Food Pledge](#) (2022)
- Passing the [Green Food Purchasing Amendment Act](#) (2021)
- Adopting the [Good Food Purchasing Program](#) for DC Public Schools (2018)
- Passing the Healthy Students Amendment Act (2018)
- Passing the [Healthy Schools Act](#) (2010)
- Establishing and updating the Environmentally Preferable Products and Services (EPPS) Program (2010 and 2021)

Food Policy Council Procurement Amendment Act of 2025

This legislation would help achieve these commitments by empowering the Office of Food Policy to:

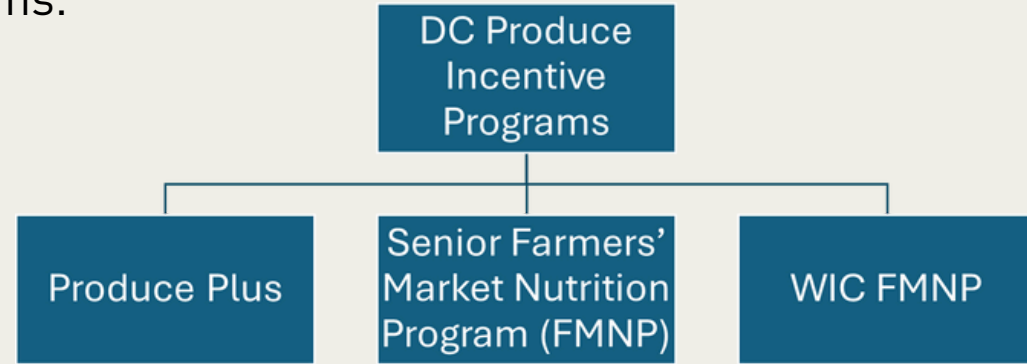
- Help agencies develop solicitations and contracts that meet all applicable District laws and standards, require more vendor transparency, and incorporate best practices for nutrition, sustainability, and local food procurement
- Ensure that solicitations reach a wide audience of high-quality prospective vendors
- Serve on evaluation panels to contribute food sector subject matter expertise in procurement decisions
- Develop and maintain food procurement standards, practices, and templates
- Compile food purchasing data and track impact of food purchases across all agencies

How to Support the Bill

- **A hearing on the bill is planned for March - details TBD**
- **Community members should come out and voice their support for values-based procurement and for the legislation**
- **FPC Advocacy Guide provides more info**

2026 DC Produce Incentive Programs

- The DC Produce Incentive Programs (PIPs) is an umbrella term to refer to DC Health’s federally and locally funded farmers’ market programs.



- The DC PIPs run from June - November annually; however, program enrollment and/or card activations begin in April.

Program	Enrollment Dates	Benefit Activation Dates
Produce Plus	Early April (date TBA)	June 1 – September 30
Senior FMNP	Grocery Plus participants are automatically eligible; no separate enrollment necessary.	Late April – September 30
WIC FMNP	DC WIC participants are automatically eligible; no separate enrollment necessary.	May – September 30

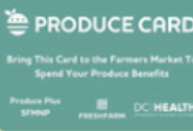

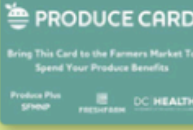









- Program Resources and FAQs:


- [Produce Plus](#)
- [Senior FMNP](#)
- [WIC FMNP](#)


Beginning
June 2026


Produce Incentive Programs at DC Farmers' Markets

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	LEARN MORE
 Produce Plus	WHO? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC Resident Ages 16+ Eligible for: SNAP/EBT, WIC, CSFP, Medicaid, SSDI, and/or TANF 	WHAT? \$40 per month to spend at participating farmers' markets on fresh fruits, vegetables and cut herbs. WHEN? June 1 – November 30  (202) 888-4834
 Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)	WHO? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC Resident Ages 60+ Enrolled in Grocery Plus (CSFP) 	WHAT? \$50 per season to spend at participating farmers' markets on fresh fruits, vegetables, cut herbs and honey. WHEN? June 1 – November 30  (202) 299-3775
 WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (WIC FMNP)	WHO? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC Resident Enrolled in DC WIC 	WHAT? \$30 per season to spend at participating farmers' markets on fresh fruits, vegetables and cut herbs. WHEN? June 1 – November 30  (202) 299-3775
 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	WHO? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC Resident Household with gross monthly income that does not exceed 130% of the Federal Poverty Level 	WHAT? Benefits loaded onto EBT card for use at SNAP-accepting grocery stores, corner stores, and farmers' markets. WHEN? Year round  (202) 727-5355
 Market Matching	WHO? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Nutrition Program participants including SFMNP, WIC FMNP, and SNAP 	WHAT? Dollar-for-Dollar match at participating farmers' markets. Ask your market manager to learn more. WHEN? Varies by market  <i>Ask your market manager to learn more about market matching.</i>
 SUN Bucks (Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer)	WHO? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Households with students attending a DC school participating in the National School Lunch Program AND Annual incomes not exceeding 185% of the Federal Poverty Level 	WHAT? Eligible students receive \$120 for use at SNAP-accepting grocery stores, corner stores, and farmers' markets. WHEN? Enrollment Period: June - August  (202) 888-4834


 Scan for the [DC Market Guide](#) to find markets that accept these programs.
dchealth.dc.gov/page/wic-senior-farmers-market-nutrition-programs


 DC HEALTH
 GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA


 Scan for more information about [Federal Nutrition Programs in DC](#).
dchealth.dc.gov/service/nutrition-and-physical-fitness-bureau

Summer 2025

Spread the Word!



The National Farmers Market Management Survey collects insights from market managers nationwide to better understand operations, funding, and vendors. Your input helps farmers market leaders, researchers, and policymakers develop resources and strategies that strengthen markets across the country.

The survey takes just 20 minutes, and all responses are confidential. Representative results rely on ample participation and state level data will be available in states with high enough response rates. By participating, you contribute to a national effort that supports farmers markets and the communities they serve.

Questions? Visit our website at CANR.MSU.EDU/NFMS for more information or to meet the team!



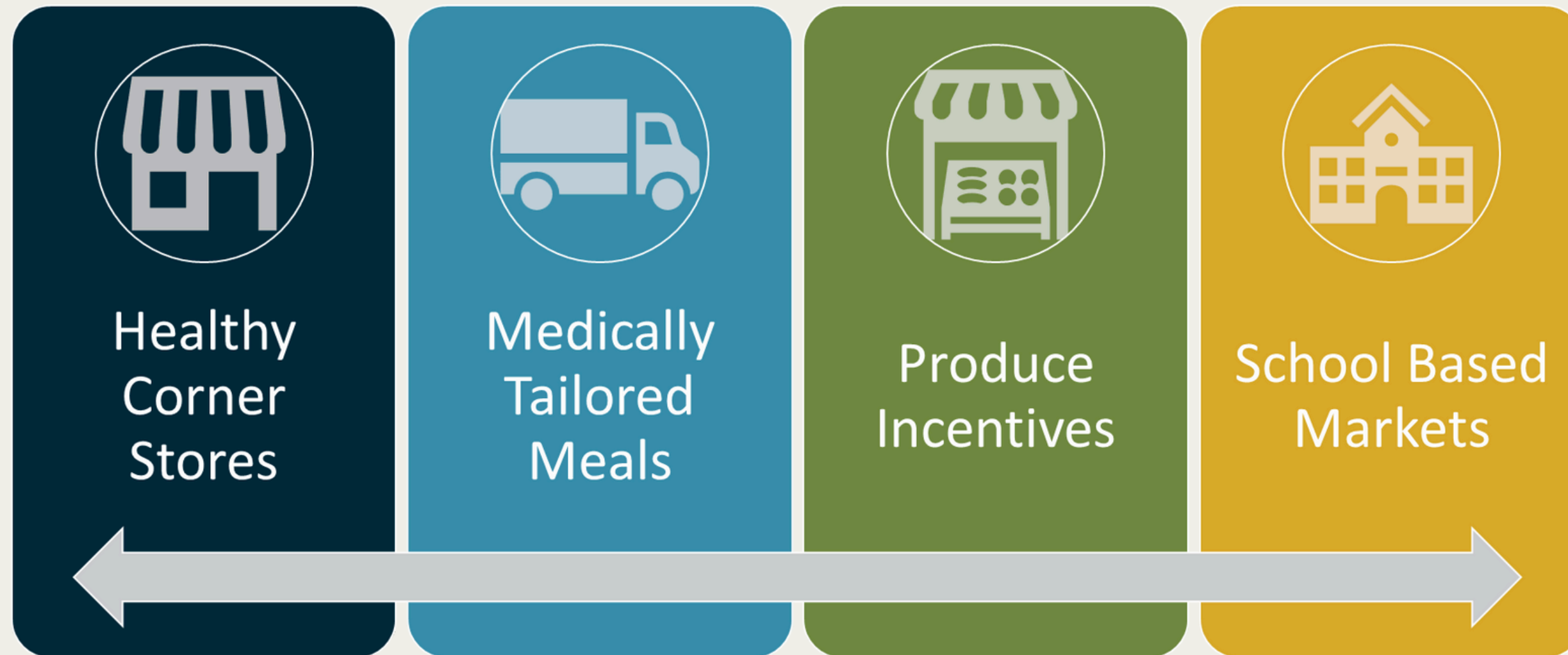
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Fun Fact: DC has one of the highest concentrations of farmers' markets per capita (over 5 markets per 100,000).
Our voice and opinion matters!

The National Farmers Market Survey will be open **February 17, 2026** through **March 31, 2026**.

DC Health's Equitable Food Access Initiatives

DC Health will be recompeting local funding for the following programs in spring 2026:



Grants will be awarded for a start date of October 1, 2026.

The District's funding opportunities can be found on the [Mayor's Office of Community Affairs webpage](#).

Upcoming Meetings

- March 7, 2026: Rooting DC, free urban agriculture and food systems gathering, 9 am - 4 pm

