



## Policy Task Force Meeting Notes

Fairfax Food Council

March 19, 2024

10:00 am – 11:00 am

### Overview: Policy Topics

**Kerri LaCharite, George Mason University, FFC Policy Task Force Chair**

Kerri provided an overview of the policy issues discussed at the last meeting.

<p><b>Access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs like: SNAP Healthy Incentives and Vouchers for Veggies</li> <li>• Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) - more funding so schools that are now eligible</li> <li>• Universal free lunch at school</li> <li>• Improved accessibility to translators and interpreters.</li> <li>• Delivering food/transportation issue</li> <li>• How to get local produce at lower costs</li> <li>• Culturally competent food access</li> <li>• Military families' food insecurity</li> <li>• SNAP - opening to more households; increasing SNAP allotment per household member</li> <li>• SNAP at all farmers markets in Fairfax</li> <li>• Expand incentives for fruits &amp; vegetables in SNAP</li> <li>• Senior Nutrition programs</li> <li>• Food as Medicine policies</li> <li>• Healthy eating/nutrition education policies</li> <li>• Quality food in HeadStart</li> <li>• Fruit &amp; veggie voucher program offered by the county</li> <li>• Food Access Fund - invest in entrepreneurs to create more accessible and culturally appropriate food School meals debt</li> </ul>	<p><b>Agriculture/Food Production/Food Waste</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land use on apartment buildings' property (for gardens)</li> <li>• Change in state policy - so HOAs can't restrict people from growing food</li> <li>• Composting - increase food scrap-based composting efforts at smaller scale. Only policies exist for large commercial scale composting.</li> <li>• Community and neighborhood gardens</li> <li>• Rooftop gardens</li> <li>• Incentivizing apartment buildings to put gardens on roofs</li> </ul> <p><b>Institutional Procurement/Business/Labor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require certain percentage of school food from local farmers</li> <li>• Subsidy/tax credits to buy 'Virginia grown'</li> <li>• Healthy Vending machines (local government and schools)</li> <li>• Food system businesses (permitting, licensing, taxes for new food businesses)</li> <li>• Processing &amp; distribution infrastructure</li> <li>• Incentives for grocers</li> </ul> <p><b>General</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How policies of other systems impact food system (education, housing, transportation)</li> </ul>
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### Break-out Groups by Category (Pt. 1)

#### Group Activity

Work Group members selected one of three breakout rooms (1. Access, 2. Agriculture/Food Production/Food Waste, or 3. Institutional Procurement/Business/Labor). In each breakout room, members were tasked with identifying policies or goals that address the mission of the Fairfax Food Council and the grant objective:

*Mission- to advocate for an equitable local food system that produces and provides access to nutritious, sustainable, and affordable food for everyone.*

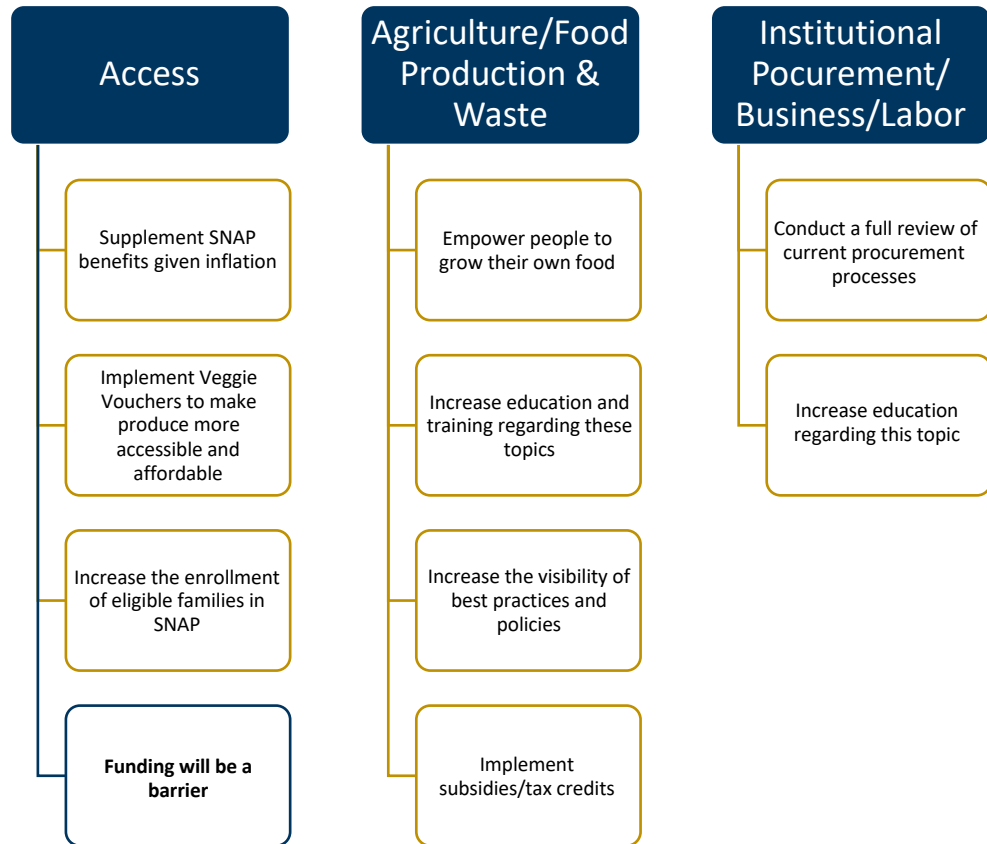
*Grant Objective- identify policy changes that can improve access for children and families to healthy food, including fruits and vegetables, for which the Fairfax Food Council can advocate.*

Groups were also asked to discuss barriers to achieve those goals.

### Reconvene & Report-outs

#### Group Discussion

Below are the policies/goals groups listed:



## Break-out Groups by Category (Pt. 2)

### Group Activity

Work Group members returned to their breakout rooms. This time, they were tasked with narrowing down their list of possible policies/goals to just two. To do this, they considered the following questions:

1. Does the policy/goal align with the mission of the Fairfax Food Council & the grant objective?
2. Which policy/goal is most important to address?
3. Which policy/goal is feasible within a year of when work is started?

## Reconvene & Report-outs

### Group Discussion

Below are the policies/goals that each group narrowed their priorities down to:

Access	Agriculture/Food Production & Waste	Institutional Procurement/ Business/Labor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement a Veggie Voucher Pilot</li><li>• Pilot may focus on the Bailey's Cossroads, Rt. 1 Corridor, or Reston/Herndon areas.</li><li>• Vouchers could be redeemed at grocery and cornerstores as opposed to just at farmers markets.</li><li>• Would vouchers be applied through SNAP EBT or another method?</li><li>• Board of Supervisors would need to fund and approve this pilot.</li><li>• A policy change may be required to secure funding, while implementation may require a programmatic effort.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase community engagement</li><li>• This is key to local food production and food waste management</li><li>• Need to break language barriers</li><li>• Need to break urban agriculture barriers (e.g., complexity of gardening, inaccess to garden beds/space, lack of time)</li><li>• This may require more of a programmatic effort than a policy change.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop a Mobile Market Toolkit</li><li>• This may require more of an advocacy effort than a policy change.</li><li>• Will continue to research a policy/goal for this category</li></ul>

Keep in mind that groups only had a few minutes to discuss these large topics. Much more research and discussion will need to take place before this task force selects a policy issue to prioritize.

## Homework

**Kerri LaCharite**

Research existing policies, best practices, etc. Explore what's out there in the food policy realm!

**Next Policy Task Force Meeting:** April 16, 2024 10:00 a.m. – 11: 00 a.m.