

NYC Food Policy

Overview, Analysis & Opportunities

Presented by the
New York City Food Policy Alliance



Introduction & Welcome

NYC Council Speaker Adrienne Adams

Our Goals

- Introduce you to the NYC Food Policy Alliance
- Provide an overview of the landscape of food equity in NYC
- Review brief history of food policy and governance in NYC
- Overview of current legislative opportunities for the coming year, including those presented by *Food Forward NYC*,
- Discuss opportunities to advance food security and equity through the FY23 NYC Budget

Our speakers



Alice Bufkin
Citizens Committee
for Children



Ally Miller
Institutional Giving
Manager
EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD NYC



Ariel Savransky
Sr. Advocacy & Policy
Advisor
UJA FEDERATION of NY



Cheryl Huber
VP Food & Benefits
Access
UNITED WAY of NYC



Gabrielle Blavatsky
Policy Director
EQUITY ADVOCATES



Khadhazha Welch
Community Organizer
EQUITY ADVOCATES



Kathleen DiPerna
Director, Gov Relations
RETHINK FOOD



Dr. Rositsa Ilieva
Director of Policy
CUNY



Nicole Hunt
Associate Director,
Public Policy
FOOD BANK FOR NYC



Keith Carr
Senior Policy & Gov
Relations Manager
CITY HARVEST



Onika Abraham
Executive Director
FARM SCHOOL NYC

NYC Food Policy Alliance

A coalition of 40+ food system stakeholders working together to identify and advocate for public policies and funding that not only respond to today's crisis, but also address the vulnerabilities and injustices of the current food system.

- Launched in March 2020
- Develop Policy Platforms to advocate for resources to advance healthy food access, food justice and combat hunger
- Helped inform the NYC 10 Year Food Policy Plan

NYC Food Policy Alliance Member Groups

- Black Farmers United of New York State (BFU-NYS)
- Bronx Impact
- Chilis on Wheels New York
- City Harvest
- Citizens' Committee for Children of New York
- Community Food Advocates
- CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute
- Edible Schoolyard NYC
- Equity Advocates
- Farm School NYC
- Food Bank for NYC
- Hunger Free America
- Los Sures/Southside United
- LiveOn NY
- Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education and Policy
- Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty
- Phipps Neighborhoods
- Rethink Food NYC, Inc.
- RiseBoro Community Partnership
- Teens for Food Justice
- Urban Outreach Center
- Universe City
- UJA Federation of NY
- United Way of New York City
- United Neighborhood Houses
- West Side Campaign Against Hunger
- Wellness in the Schools

Current State of Hunger and Food Equity in NYC

NYers Still Facing Health & Financial Burdens

- Nearly 1.6 million New Yorkers struggle with food insecurity
- Unemployment in NYC is twice the national average
- Food prices have risen 10% since March 2021
- 80% of pantries and soup kitchens reported increase in demand over last year
- 516,000 SNAP-eligible New Yorkers are not enrolled
- 80% of families that cannot afford NYC cost of living are BIPOC
- Out of 57,000 farmers in NYS, only 139 are Black

Overview of NYC Food Governance

NYC Food Governance and Funding are Decentralized and Intersectional

- **Food governance and policy is controlled and influenced by several governing bodies**, including: Mayor's Office, Mayor's Office of Food Policy, City Council, Borough Presidents, Public Advocate and Comptroller
- **Other key stakeholders:** Advocates & Community Boards
- **11 Agencies procure food, play a major role in NYC Food budget**

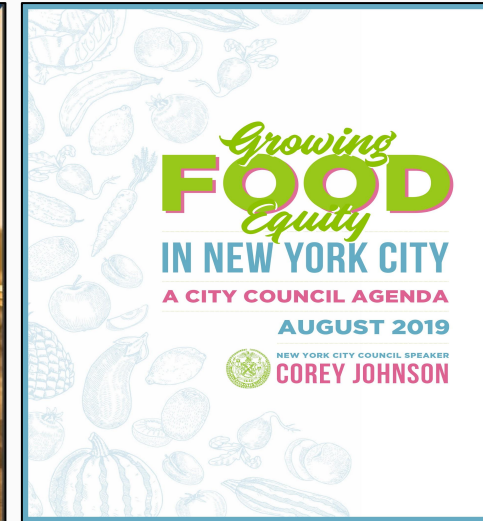
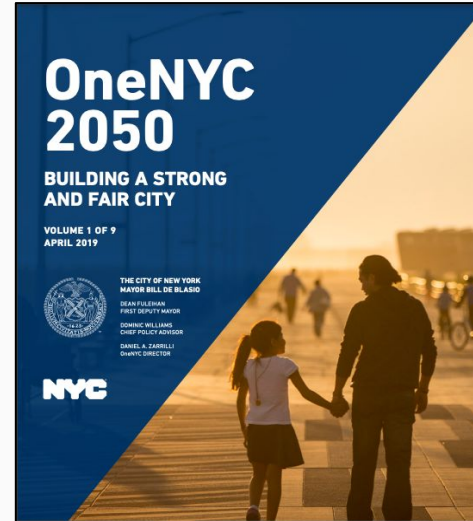
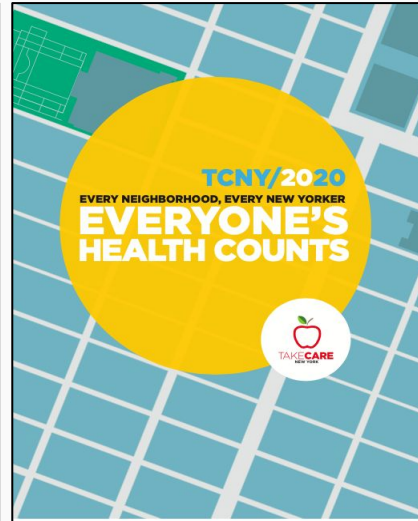
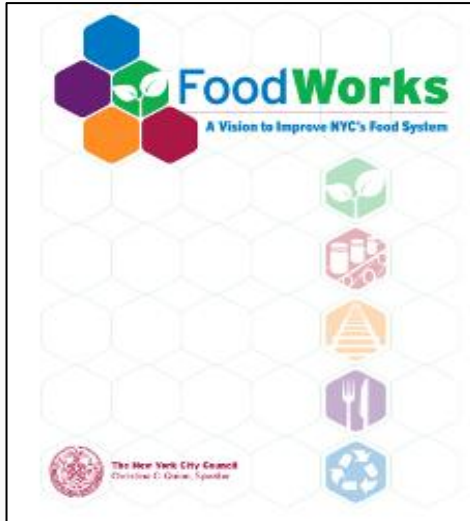
Mayor's Office of Food Policy

- Est. 2008
- Advance City's food policy agenda, coordinates multiple City agencies, convenes Food Policy Task Force
- Coordinates data analysis, reporting on City performance related to food policy, delivers the annual Food Metrics Report
- Partners with CBOs and advocates on GFFP
- Responsible for NYC 10 Year FPP



Kate MacKenzie
Director, Mayor's
Office of Food Policy

NYC's Previous Strategic Food Plans



Local Law 40: NYC 10 Year Food Policy Plan

This established, for the first time in NYC, a strategic 10 year plan for food policy to be developed by the Mayor's Office of Food Policy:

- Goals are to reduce hunger, improve nutrition & healthy food access, reduce waste, support farm economies, increase urban agriculture
- MOFP **must consult** with agencies, CBOs, community leaders & other stakeholders focused on food equity, justice, policy and insecurity
- Include implementation strategies for agencies
- 1st Plan due Jan 2021, then report every 2 years measuring progress

Overview of *Food Forward*: The 10 Year Food Policy Plan

From Food Policy in NYC Since 2008 to Food Forward NYC

Food Policy in New York City Since 2008

Lessons for the Next Decade

LONG VERSION



FOOD FORWARD NYC: A 10-YEAR FOOD POLICY PLAN

5 Key Goals of *Food Forward*

Goal 1: All New Yorkers have multiple ways to access healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food.

Goal 2: New York City's food economy drives economic opportunity and provides good jobs.

Goal 3: The supply chains that feed New York City are modern, efficient, and resilient.

Goal 4: New York City's food is produced, distributed, and disposed of sustainably.

Goal 5: Support the systems and knowledge to implement the 10 year food policy plan.

NYCFPA helped shape *Food Forward*

- Not just an emergency food plan!
- At Alliance's urging, MOFP integrated a Racial Equity framework into the plan
- Incorporated community feedback from listening sessions, including many Alliance recommendations (highlighted in following slides)
- Based on Alliance feedback, included section on integration of community voice into food policy process

What's NOT in *Food Forward*

- Any mention of community gardens, efforts to protect regional farmland
- Support for additional benefits outreach or education at the City Level
- Analysis of impacts of Get Food Program
- Calls for improving pay rates to City food contractors
- Efforts to Increase % of City Contracts to MWBEs, BIPOC producers
- Call for or commitment to support a Food Policy Council

Metrics

- Food Metrics Report
- Food Environment Equity Dashboard - NYC
- Analysis of Food Related Budget Allocations

NYCFPA 2022 Legislative Priorities

Improve Healthy Food Access & Reduce Hunger

- Revisit Donate NYC and ensure that smaller emergency food programs and food retailers are engaged in the development process
- Follow up with Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity on Restaurant Revitalization Plan
- Develop data sharing agreements among city and state agencies
- Include contact information for CBOs on Access NYC and Access HRA
- Collaborate with CBOs to create neighborhood outreach plans for benefit programs like P-EBT, SNAP and WIC.
- Explore ways to connect school kitchens after hours with food CBOs, expand emergency food programs at schools
- To expand and improve SNAP and WIC, on state & federal level

Improve Nutrition

- Landscape analysis to increase the amount of freshly prepared meals in public schools
- Pass Int. 1676-2019 and require DOE to create an implementation plan to ensure that every school child has access to scratch-cooked meals
- Support the passage of S. 6068 and pilot sending home frozen prepared meals to children.
- Provide nutrition education training to HRA and 311
- Work with the State of NY to enable all eligible people to obtain the multiple benefits at once
- Limit exposure to unhealthy food and food marketing

Increase Urban Agriculture & Improve Farm Economies

- We urge the NYC Government's GreenThumb Office and the Parks Department to negotiate a better, more equitable Community Garden License Agreement.
- Schools' access to cold storage, processing space, and preparation capacity, pursue federal \$\$
- Pursue development of critical food supply chain facilities, including co-packing and shared cold storage and food hubs in NYC
- Increase the share of regional food the City purchases, explore local food preferencing legislation
- Leverage City assets to create new urban farms

Increase Urban Agriculture & Improve Farm Economies

- Enforce requirements for all new developments to have green space without taking away urban farming and community garden space
- Establish an NYC Community Land Trust program
- Create an Urban Agriculture Zoning Code to promote the expansion of farming within the city limits
- Create a revolving or low-income loan program targeted to BIPOCs farmers and producers to start indoor urban growing operations
- Pass NYC Council Int.1653-2019 to permit the sale of agriculture within community gardens
- Hire the New Director of the Office of Urban Agriculture, and select members of the Urban Agriculture Advisory Board

Support Labor & Workforce Development In the Food System

- Use the City's purchasing power to support MWBEs in the food sector
- Create new City financing and TA plans to support worker-owned cooperatives and CBOs running Co-Ops
- Create an NYC Green Jobs Initiative with a food systems focus, and support creation & expansion of career pathways in the food sector, centering BIPOC, immigrants, youth and the formerly incarcerated

Support Labor & Workforce Development In the Food System

- Improve PASSPort, simplify RFPs and speed up invoicing for City contractors, offer TA
- Promote and support economic mobility of food systems workers by providing livable wage jobs
- Strengthen worker protections and ensure safe working conditions across the food system
- Partner with labor advocacy organizations to ensure equitable enforcement of labor laws, protect right to Unionize
- Decriminalize food vending without a license and focus on compliance over punitive action

Improve Administration of Food Programs

- The City should empower the Mayor's Office of Food Policy to oversee and support administration of food for all City Agencies,
- Identify opportunities to adapt and enhance the 10YFPP to meet the City's ever changing needs with each subsequent report.
 - We strongly encourage the City to support the creation of an independent Food Policy Council.
- Hold an oversight hearing and require the MOFP to create a report evaluating the impacts and outcomes of COVID-19 Food Programs.

FY23 Budget Opportunities

Food Initiatives in the Executive Budget

- Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP): \$53.4 million
- Waste disposal: \$38.8 million which includes a portion for composting
- Urban farms in NYCHA developments: \$2 million
- Senior Meals and Case Management: \$14.8 million

Utilize the Food System as a Catalyst to Build Wealth in Communities

- \$5M to establish a new Food Justice Grant program
- Invest in the establishment of food cooperatives and community food hubs to leverage community-owned food and retail infrastructure.
- \$3M to fully fund the Citywide Community Land Trust Initiative to preserve deeply-affordable housing, community & commercial spaces.

Adequately Support Emergency Feeding System & Benefits Assistance

- An additional \$63.5M to the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) budget to accommodate adding produce and continued need.
- Invest \$42.7 Million in new home delivered meals funding to combat hunger for older adults and prepare for the end of emergency DFTA Recovery Meals (formerly GetFood)
- \$10M to HRA for benefits outreach & streamlined applications.
- \$250M per year for an Earned Income Tax Credit Expansion
- Cost of Living adjustment for Human Service Workers

Ensure Healthy School Food & Nutrition Education For All

- \$3.5M for additional school food managers in OFNS
- \$50M per year in DOE's Capital Plan for a planned phase-in of 500 more cafeteria redesigns.
- \$500,000 in funding for Food-Ed Hub within the Tisch Food Center.
- \$37M in sustained, flexible funding for food ed programs at all schools.

Strengthen Urban Agriculture & Youth Development Pipeline

- \$101.6M in baseline funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and \$20M for Work Learn Grow.
- Fully Restore Funding for NYC Composting programs.
- \$247,500 for the Office of Urban Agriculture to hire a Director & staff.
- Invest in and provide technical assistance to urban agricultural startups through a grant or low interest loan program.
- Invest in GreenThumb to hire outreach coordinators, Youth Leadership Council coordinator, & compensation for its youth program.

Questions & Feedback?

Get in Touch!

SUBJECT AREA	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT NAME	EMAIL
Children's Issues	Citizens Committee for Children	Alice Bufkin	abufkin@cccnewyork.org
Emergency Food	Food Bank for NYC	Nicole Hunt	nhunt@foodbanknyc.org
	United Way of NYC	Cheryl Huber	chuber@uwnyc.org
Farming & Urban Agriculture	Farm School NYC	Onika Abraham	onika@farmschoolnyc.org
Food & Nutrition Education	Edible Schoolyard NYC	Ally Miller	am@esynyc.org
Food Policy & Advocacy	Equity Advocates	Gabrielle Blavatsky	gabrielle@nyequityadvocates.org
Food Systems Research	CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute	Rositsa T. Ilieva	rositsa.ilieva@sph.cuny.edu
Food Rescue	City Harvest	Keith Carr	kcarr@cityharvest.org
	ReThink Food	Kathleen DiPerna	kathleend@rethinkfood.org
Seniors & Home Delivered Meals	UJA Federation	Ariel Savransky	savranskya@ujafedny.org