

## **Comprehensive List of Recommendations for Food Security Task Force Small Groups**

### **Individual, Family, & Community**

- Improve transportation options to access healthy food outlets and FA providers.
- Launch a food waste awareness campaign
- Increase participation in federal nutrition assistance programs
- Ensure accurate, timely information about FA is available to all residents including those with limited english proficiency and/or low literacy through multiple trusted platforms (app, text, phone, print, internet, social media, word-of-mouth)
- Locate food distribution locations in accessible, safe locations.
- Use available data/information to make decisions about where to distribute food
- Launch a multilingual, multicultural community ambassadors program to leverage social networks to disseminate information
- Launch series of coordinated multi-platform media campaigns about FA
- Provide education for all residents including low literacy multilingual audiences on WIC, TANF, SSI (work requirements under 50 with no dependents, public charge rule), and self-sufficiency (federal programs were meant to be temporary assistance).
- Create a “one stop shop” for residents to learn about and receive assistance navigating everything they are eligible for. (i.e. Medicare, Medicaid, Affordable Care Act Enrollment, Housing, Utilities, Employment, Literacy, Financial Literacy, GED, Community College enrollment, Childcare, Legal Status in the US)
- Leverage Prince George's County Public Schools Partnership to distribute food resources.
- Use County infrastructure (like school buses, DPWT, etc.) to deliver food to homebound residents or in hard-to-reach areas
- Provide small grants for activities related to social cohesion and food security
- Include community leaders, organizations, and networks in planning for future FS disruptions

### **Food Assistance Provider Capacity and Coordination**

- Make food security is a line item in the County budget
- Partner with farmers markets to buy at a reduced rate or glean products
- Develop a centralized resource hub/website that houses comprehensive information on food distribution locations, operating days/times, transportation available, and eligibility
- Develop state or county-wide provider and partner working group to quickly respond to emergency situations
- Develop a master coordination; communication plan to improve food access. Ensure information is available in multiple languages and is issued across a variety of platforms (e.g. social media, county newsletters, county website)
- Strategically invest in additional transportation, refrigeration/freezer, general dry storage, and related capacity for food assistance providers
- Establish systems that facilitate communication between providers and allow providers to share unused food and resources quickly
- Increase funding for restaurants that want to participate in Stand Up and Deliver
- Recreate the Get Shift Done model and pay county residents who are out of work to volunteer at pantries
- Develop a volunteer referral center
- Create guides and tools to help organizations efficiently share access to available licensed kitchens and transportation. These resources are hard to find expensive to purchase and maintain, and are often only needed a portion of the time.
- Increase diverse products available through food assistance providers through increased donations and food recovery from farmers and ethnic and international grocery stores.

- Standardize Food Assistance Provider collection of data on clients and services provided
- Create a plan and provide training to Stand Up and Deliver participants particularly to equip providers in dealing with language barriers, people without cars, people with disabilities
- Develop a comprehensive county-provider cohort/registration that ensures providers are providing regular data regarding distributions. Incentivize participation with access to training resources
- Establish grants (\$10 000) specific to food distribution providers and increase funding to faith and community-based organizations
- Identify (through mapping) dense locations of at-risk residents who are homebound or lack access to transportation and facilitate connections with County-owned facilities/land in those locations to serve as provider food distribution points
- Increase walk-up sites and provide Stand Up and Deliver delivery options to folks with limited access to transportation
- Increase transparency around Stand Up and Deliver participation criteria so that small providers and pantries are able to participate
- Provide public information on Stand Up and Deliver impact and outcomes
- Work with organizations and faith-based providers to increase volunteer transportation assistance
- Establish partnerships with food suppliers (and local producers) to order bulk food for providers or help providers establish bulk purchasing coops
- Support the launch and expansion of the county's food recovery platform
- Facilitate local food procurement for pantries; supplement payments to local farmers so that pantries can pay market rates and coordinate logistics

#### **Government Agency and Systems Response (FA= Food Assistance; FS= Food Security)**

- Create and fund a County Food Security Office
- Update, maintain, and use data sources related to FS to inform decisions
- Create an online hub for FA program info and data and map food distribution in real time
- Create a robust Incident Command Structure plan
- Apply for all available public and private FS funding.
- Collect and report health data and data on race, ethnicity, country of origin and language preference.
- Support small and large food and farm business preparedness in the food sector.
- Develop values-based emergency procurement contract templates and processes to quickly launch them.
- Identify and designate critical food facilities in each neighborhood for prioritized access and recovery support.
- Develop ongoing and crisis-oriented monitoring to identify food system failures and factors that can lead to them.
- Ensure that emergency food supplies are culturally appropriate, safely used, and anticipate special dietary needs of community members.
- Train staff in each agency to serve on an emergency food response team in times of crisis.