

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE FEDERAL CHILD TAX CREDIT AND UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS

WHEREAS, state and local governments, businesses and other organizations have recognized the importance of food security and having locally and regionally produced food and agriculture products for a host of benefits including, healthy food access, diverse sources of supply and distribution, food system resilience, protection of our agricultural lands, and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in September 2021 the COG Board established the Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee to improve food security in the region, supporting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and small farmers, focus on farmland preservation, land use regulations, environmental sustainability, and resilience, improve communicating regional food system data, and leverage procurement to support equity and the region's food and farm economy; and

WHEREAS, the mission of FARM and its work program is to support development of long-term regional direction and collaboration toward a more resilient, connected food and farm economy (food system) across urban, suburban and rural communities in the metropolitan Washington region that provides more of the region's food needs; and

WHEREAS, FARM has identified national strategy priorities to improve food security in the region based on lessons learned from local and state policies and programs in the last decade, and the public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the second White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health has been held (the first since 1969) and a new National Strategy has been released to address these issues; and

WHEREAS, economic insecurity and poverty are root causes of food insecurity and other disparities; and

WHEREAS, addressing persistent food insecurity requires bold local, state, regional, and federal action with evidence-based approaches; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board has included support for free school meals for all students, and other policies which reduce childhood poverty, as part of its annual legislative priorities; and

WHEREAS, the FARM Committee has affirmed the necessity of universal, free school meals to increase childhood food security in outreach to the federal government and legislators on several occasions; and

WHEREAS, the Child Tax Credit (CTC), included in the American Rescue Plan in 2021 helped to cut child poverty nearly in half, for all racial and ethnic groups measured, and led to the lowest level of food insecurity for households with children recorded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

The board supports permanent passage of the federal Child Tax Credit and a pathway to universal free school meals without delay. The board directs the Executive Director, or his designee to share this resolution with Congressional leadership and the members of the metropolitan Washington regional Congressional delegation. Furthermore, the board encourages COG member jurisdictions to work with their local school districts, school boards, relevant agencies and departments to communicate the benefits and financial cost of free school meals for all students.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was adopted by the COG Board of Directors
October 12, 2022
Janele Partman
COG Communications Specialist**