



FARM POLICY COMMITTEE: 2022 IN REVIEW

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Hosted [six FARM Committee](#) meetings, including one hybrid meeting
 - Toured the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve
 - Held first Annual Forum with the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Completed and released the [Healthy Food Access Policy Compendium for Metropolitan Washington](#)
- Briefed the COG Board in October on food security priorities and FARM progress
 - Board passed [Resolution R50-2022](#) - Endorsing the Federal Child Tax Credit and Universal Free School Meals
- Supported key pieces of state, federal legislation to increase food security and food system resilience
 - Maryland Farm to Food Security Act
 - Virginia Fresh Match
 - Federal School Meals
- [Provided priorities](#) to the White House for the [National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#).

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WORK GROUPS

- Expanded new FARM Committee membership to include all interested COG member jurisdictions
 - Created two new Work Groups
 - Catalytic Opportunities
 - Outreach
- Catalytic Opportunities
 - Developed and approved a Charter for the Work Group
 - Developed a Scope of Work with support of Bainum Family Foundation to hire a consultant to advance FARM and Work Group priorities to:
 - Support Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and small farmers
 - Leverage procurement to support equity and the region's food and farm economy
- Outreach
 - Held a call with U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer's office to share FARM's priorities for continued, universal school meals.
 - Held an informational call with U.S. Representative Bobby Scott's office to learn

- about the [Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act](#) (Childhood Nutrition Reauthorization).
 - Coordinated outreach and topics for [FARM's first Annual Forum with the U.S. Department of Agriculture](#).
- Regional Agricultural Work Group
 - Held several virtual meetings and site visits to The Urban Farm Incubator and Forested in Prince George's County, MD, and to one of FRESHFARM's Pop Up Food Hubs in the District of Columbia.
 - Worked with a consultant to design and host a hybrid workshop to inform the update and relaunch of National Capital Farms.org
 - Hosted a virtual preview of the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies and potential legislative issues and bills.
- Metro DC Food Policy Directors and Food Security Coordinators Work Group
 - Applied to, and accepted into, a new National Community of Practice - [Regional Food Policy Council Project](#)
 - Held five coordination calls for information sharing on emerging food security issues.
 - Hosted a regional briefing for interested stakeholders on 2023 food security priorities, including legislative priorities, with the DC Food Policy Council, Maryland Food System Resiliency Council, and the Virginia Food Access Coalition.

ADDITIONAL MILESTONES

- Worked with partners to [provide initial organizing leadership](#) for the region to consider developing USDA Regional Food Business Centers Grant Application.
 - The group was approached by philanthropy which hired a consultant (Food Works Group) to lead application development.
 - A multimillion-dollar application for the Chesapeake Region was submitted by Virginia Community Capital, the lead applicant for a multi-state partnership which includes COG.
- Supported the FEMA-funded Regional Food and Water Resilience Project in partnership with the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA).
 - Provided space for an in-person Summit and helped transition from the project's planning to implementation phase.
- Adopted changes to FARM Policy Committee Bylaws.