

Prince George's County Council Briefing

# FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE

January 20th, 2022



# Food Security Task Force

- The Prince George's County Food Security Task Force was established by Council Resolution 62-2020 to address:
  - issues related to the demand and supply of healthy food,
  - food health connections,
  - school meals,
  - and, overall food security in Prince George's County.
- Composed of 21 stakeholders from across the local food system
- Builds on the work of the Food System Study initiated by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

# Task Force Members

- **Alexandra Harris**, Community Developer III, Department of Homeland Security, Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management
- **Bridget Warren**, Legislative Liaison for Health, Human Services and Education, Office of the County Executive
- **Chris Keany**, Keany's Produce (aggregate supplier)
- **Dr. Darlene Saunders**, Special Projects Manager, Prince George's County Health Department
- **Deborah Archer**, Project Leader/Nutrition Educator, University of Maryland Extension, Maryland SNAP-Ed
- **Dennis Lewis**, Manager, Program Development & Community Relations, Prince George's County Department of Social Services
- **Elana Belon-Butler**, Director, Prince George's County Department of Family Services
- **Gail Livingstone**, Deep Roots Farm (farmer)
- **Joan Shorter**, Director of Food & Nutrition Services, Prince George's County Public Schools
- **Jon Wogman**, Chief Program Officer, Prince George's County Food Recovery Network

# Task Force Members, cont'd

- **Kim Rush Lynch**, Urban Agriculture Conservation Planner, Prince George's County Soil Conservation District
- **Leslie Jefferson**, Nutritionist, Healthy Living Sector, Giant Food (grocer)
- **Lindsay Smith**, Regional Food Systems Value Chain Coordinator, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- **Maria Martin**, Master Planner, Maryland National Capital Park, and Planning Commission
- **Nicole U. Hall**, Business Development Specialist, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation
- **Renee Carroll**, Director, Housing Counseling & Supportive Housing, United Communities Against Poverty (nonprofit which deals with direct hunger relief and/or anti poverty advocacy)
- **Roberto Melara**, Director, MD Region, Capital Area Food Bank
- **Stacey Little**, Vice President of Women's and Infants' Services and Community and Population Health at University of Maryland Medical System (hospital system community benefit department)
- **Rev. William M. Campbell**, Senior Pastor, Union Bethel AME Church (faith-based organization)

# Task Force Staff & IPHI Staff

## County Council

- **Hon. Todd M. Turner**, Dist. 4, 2014 - present

## Council Staff

- **Aimee Olivo**, Chief of Staff, Councilmember Dannielle Glaros, District 3
- **Leroy Maddox, Jr**, Legislative Officer,
- **Sandra Eubanks**, Committee Director, Education & Workforce Development
- **Sharon Williams**, Administrative Aide
- **Karen D. Campbell**, Director, Office of Communications,
- **Shelby McRae**, Technology & Communications Manager

## Institute for Public Health Innovation Staff

- **Evelyn Kelly**, Program Director
- **Julia Groenfeldt**, Program Manager
- **Sydney Daigle**, Senior Program Manager

# What is Food Insecurity?

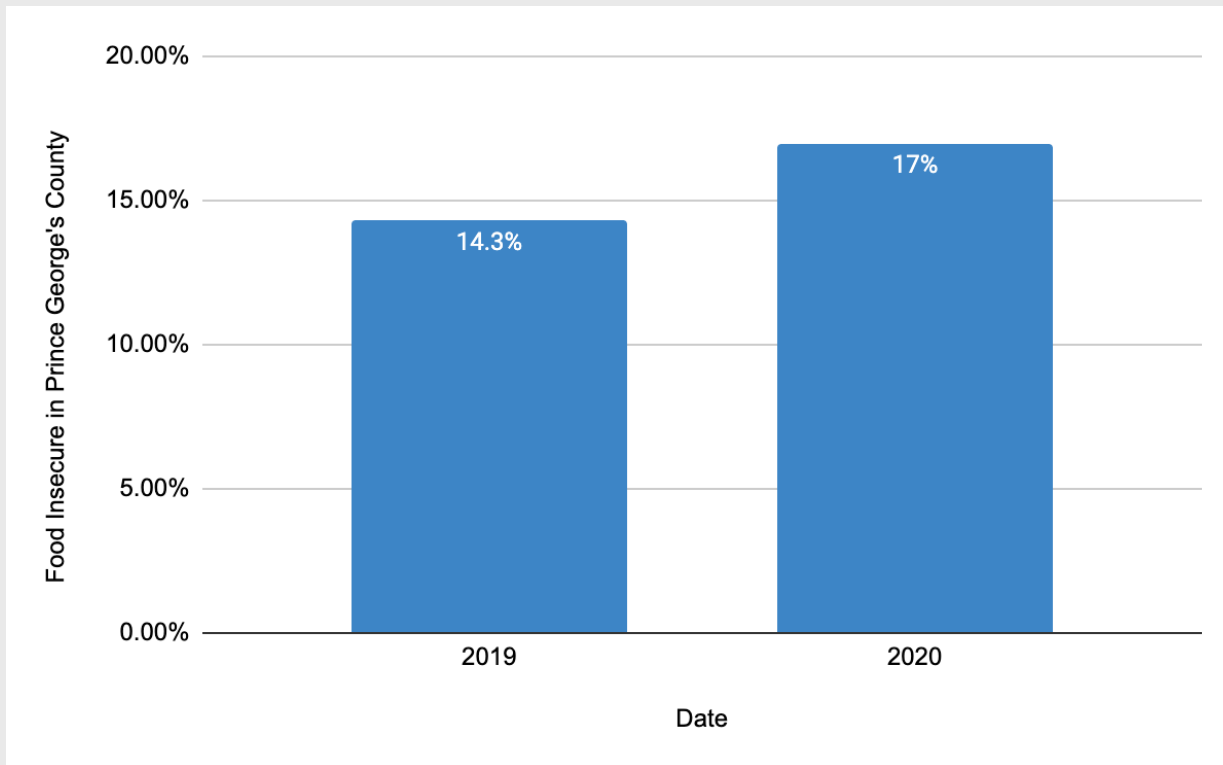


Figure 2. Food insecurity rates in Prince George's County, 2019 and 2020.

Source: [PGC Healthzone](#)

"...Access to adequate food for active, healthy living is limited by lack of money and other resources." – USDA ERS

# Pre and Post Pandemic Food Insecurity

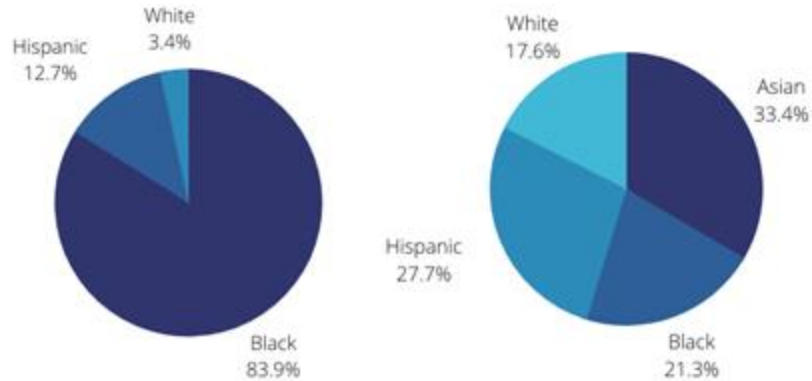
Food Insecure  
Pre-Pandemic

Newly Food  
Insecure

Food Insecure  
Pre-Pandemic

Newly Food  
Insecure

## RACE & ETHNICITY



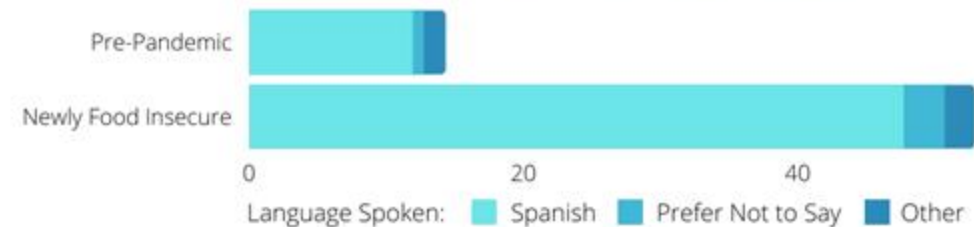
## DISABLED RESIDENTS



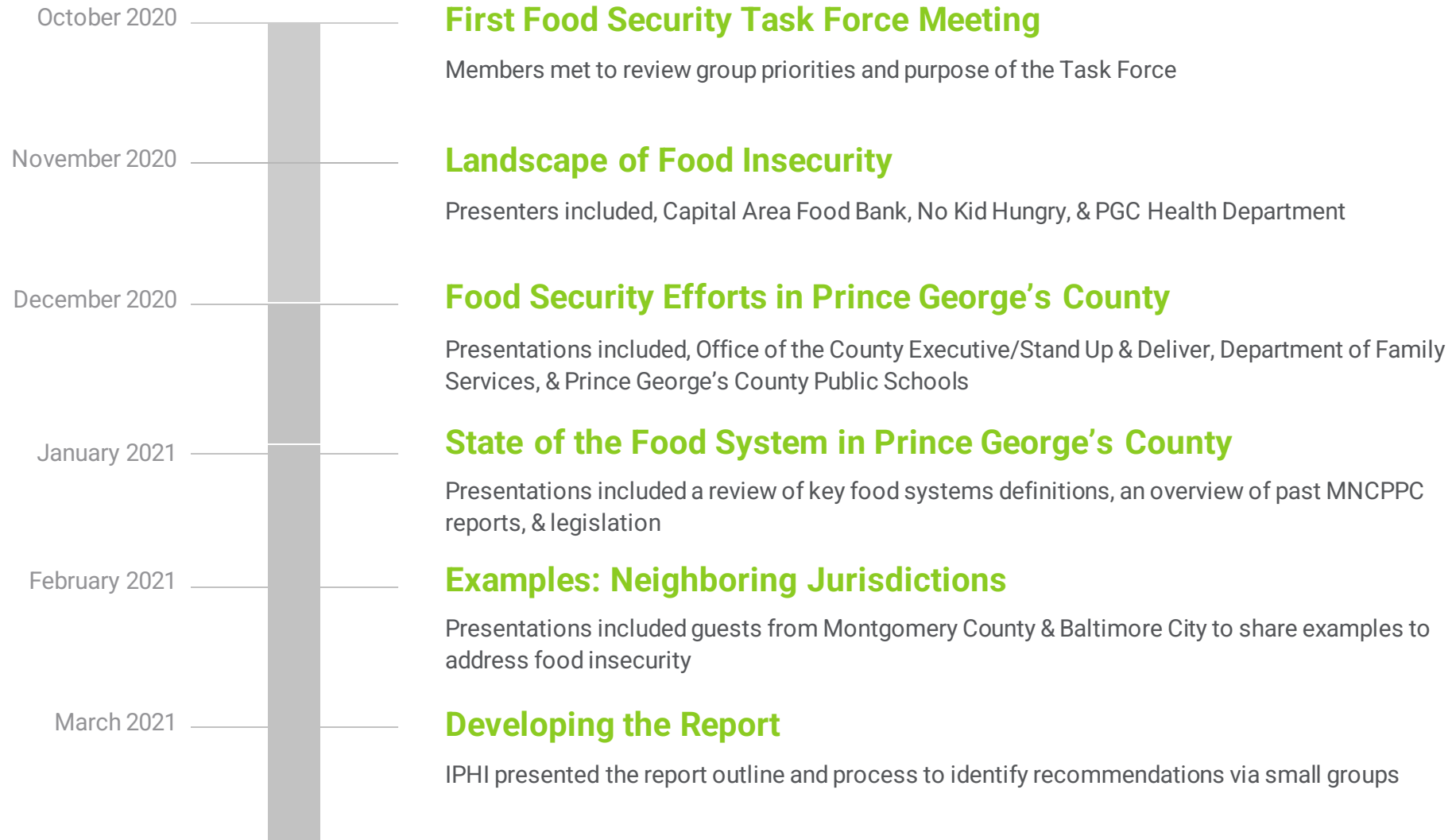
## CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD



## ENGLISH NOT SPOKEN IN HOME

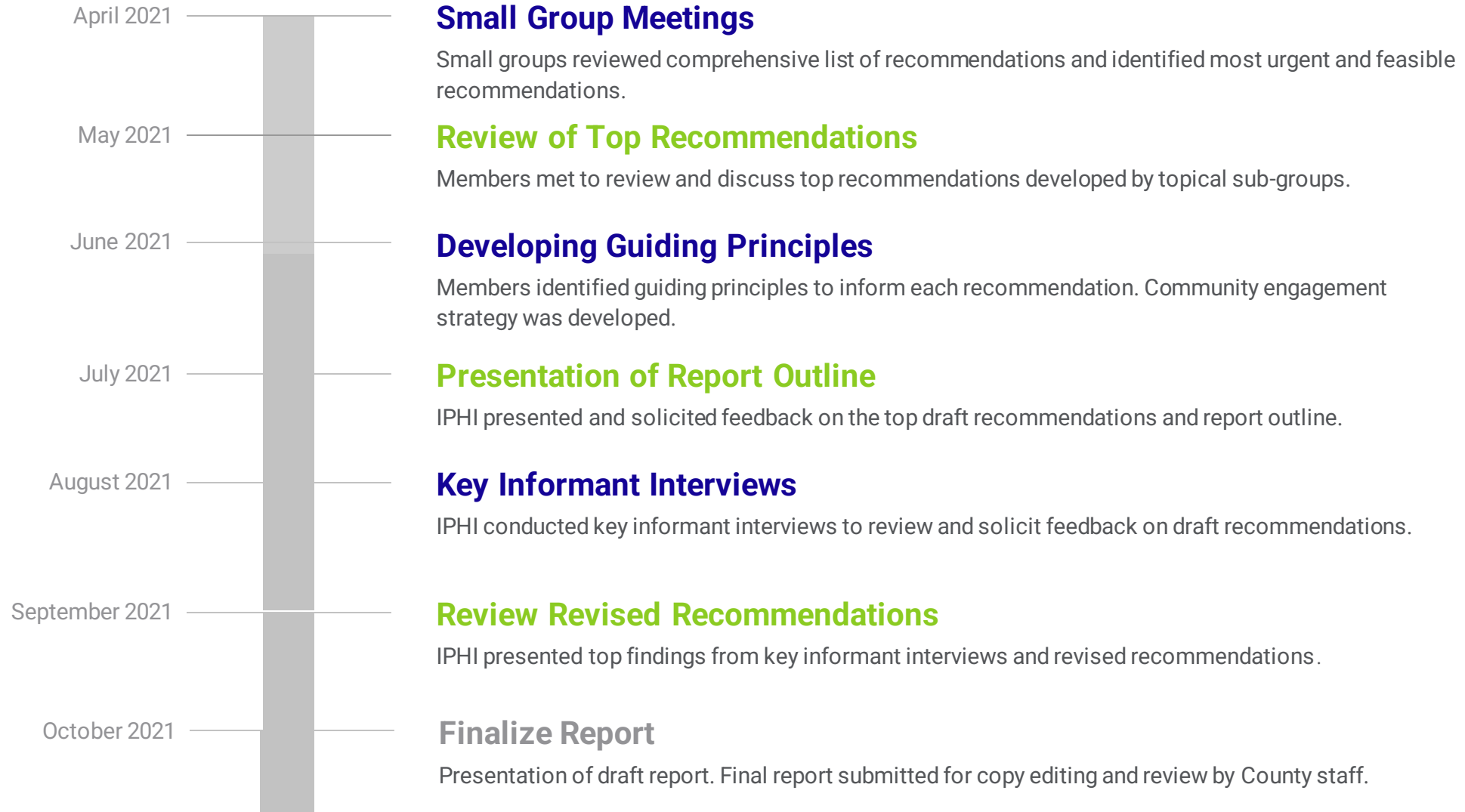


# Task Force Timeline in Review





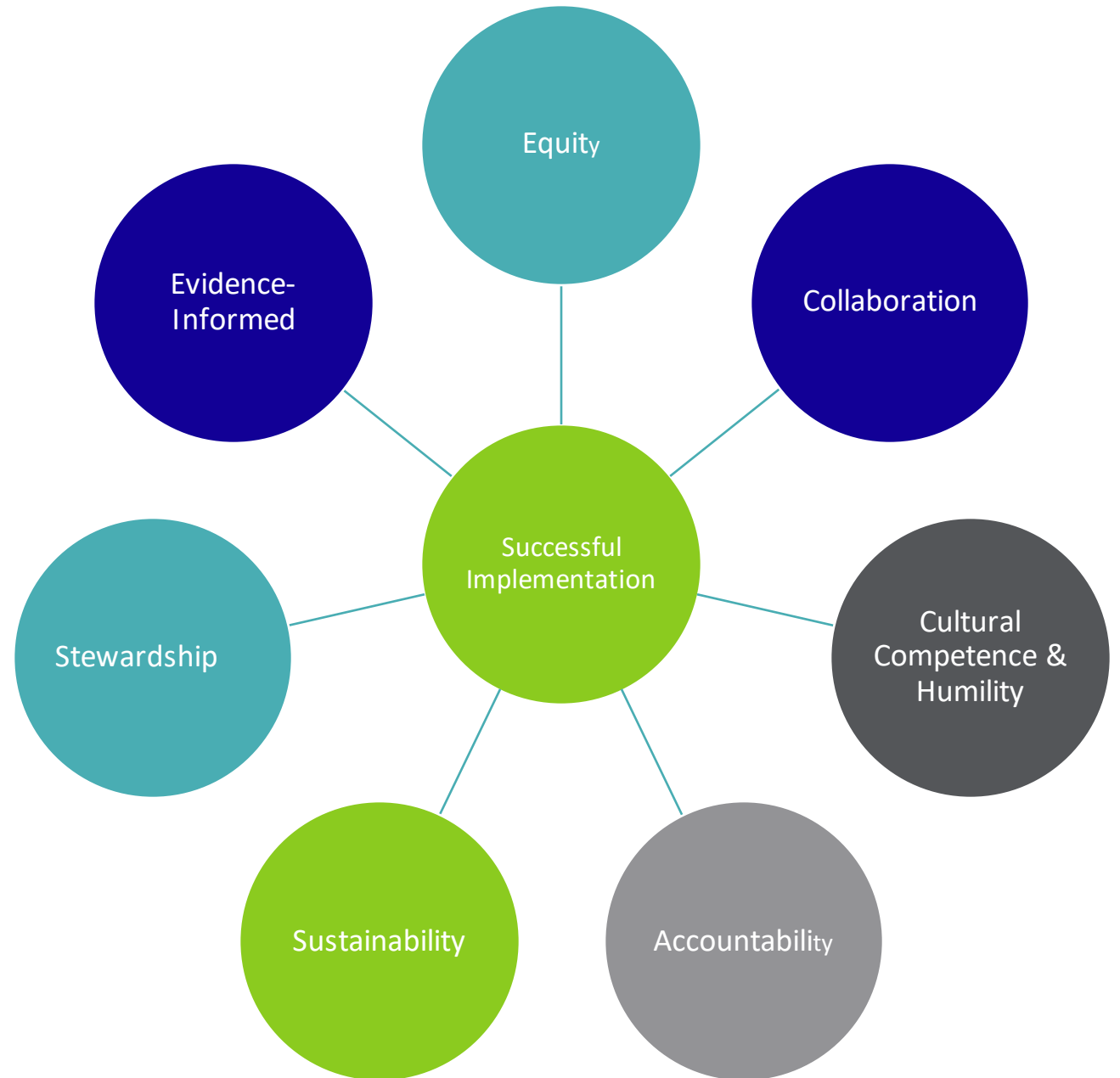
# Task Force Timeline in Review



# Shared Values & Guiding Principles

The Task Force identified a set of values and principles that should guide the consideration and implementation of its recommendations.

These guiding principles are universally applicable to any initiative, government agency, or contributing organization.



# Small Group Discussions



Individual and Resident Safety Net



Food Assistance Provider Capacity and Coordination



Government Agency Systems Response



Strategic and Long-Term Food Systems Planning



# Report Recommendations

# Action Plan Overview

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Overview of recommendation</b>
<b>Rational/evidence</b>	<b>Evidence-based research to support recommended action</b>
<b>Policy pathways</b>	<b>1-3 proposed policy options to implement the recommendation</b> ✓ Executive/Agency Action ✓ 2022-23 County Budget or Future Budget ✓ Legislation
<b>Audience/reach</b>	<b>Number of county residents that will be impacted</b>
<b>Expected cost</b>	<b>Estimated cost for implementation</b>
<b>Funding source</b>	<b>Proposed funding source for implementation</b>
<b>Lead partner</b>	<b>Proposed lead organization to implement recommendation or serve as lead convener</b> <b>Partner organization (either funded or unfunded) who will play a significant role in implementing recommendation</b>
<b>Barriers/limitations</b>	<b>Potential barriers to implementation</b>
<b>Recommended steps</b>	<b>Suggested key events or actions to initiate implementation</b>
<b>Key considerations for equity</b>	<b>Questions to guide implementation and to increase equitable opportunities to populations served and avoid unintended consequences or impacts</b>
<b>Resources for further reading</b>	<b>Suggested key resources or regional models</b>

# Foundational Recommendations

**A:** Create and fund a County Food Security Office

**B:** To inform and drive county food security decisions, gather, analyze and use data sources and systems

**C:** Increase participation in federal nutrition assistance programs

**D:** Develop a master communication strategy for food security, resilience, and emergency preparedness

*“A critical responsibility of the Food Security Office will be to collaboratively lead, coordinate, and communicate food security needs and resources.” – FSTF Report*



# A: Create and fund a County Food Security Office

## **Recommendation:**

Create a Prince George's County Food Security Office tasked with coordinating County agencies, securing funding, and engaging with community organizations to design and implement food security structures that facilitate a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system.

## **Policy Pathway:**

- ✓ Executive/Agency Action
- ✓ 2021-2022 County Budget

## **Case Study:**

The City of Baltimore has proactively undertaken an intergovernmental approach to collaboration on food issues.

## B. Gather, analyze, and use data sources & systems to inform and drive County government food security decisions

### **Recommendation:**

The Food Security Office will track and analyze relevant demographic data to identify and address current food security challenges and emergent needs. Robust data collection is imperative to document the needs of county residents, particularly under-resourced communities and those that have been historically marginalized.

### **Policy Pathway:**

- ✓ Executive/Agency Action
- ✓ 2021-2022 County Budget

### **Case Study:**

Montgomery County has developed an online food insecurity database, FoodStat, to enable government agencies and community partners to understand food security needs and vulnerability better.



## C. Maximize resident participation in federal nutrition assistance programs and school meals

### **Recommendation:**

The Food Security Office, the Prince George's County Department of Social Services, and Prince George's County Public Schools will coordinate efforts to increase enrollment in federal nutrition assistance programs and school meals. These programs are some of the most effective strategies for preventing and reducing food insecurity.

### **Policy Pathway:**

- ✓ Executive/Agency Action
- ✓ Legislation

## D. Develop a master communication strategy for food security, resilience, & emergency preparedness

### **Recommendation:**

Develop a master food security/resilience communication strategy that ensures accurate and timely information is available in multiple languages at varying proficiency levels across trusted platforms (e.g., app, text, phone, print, internet, social media, word-of-mouth).

### **Policy Pathway:**

- ✓ Executive/Agency Action
- ✓ 2021-2022 County Budget

# Recommended Strategies

- 1) Plan for future food security disruptions by developing an emergency food security plan that integrates food system experts into existing emergency management operations.
- 2) Increase access to bulk food purchasing, infrastructure, and resources for food assistance providers.
- 3) Co-locate food security and social safety net services and create closed-loop referral systems.
- 4) Improve transportation options for residents to access healthy food retailers and provider.



Photo courtesy of The Capital Market



# Recommended Strategies cont'd

- 5) Leverage state and regional partners for cross-jurisdictional food systems planning, coordinated communication, and infrastructure development.
- 6) Provide land access, infrastructure and resources to help agriculture flourish.
- 7) Continue to provide and expand market incentives and support to healthy food retailers of multiple sizes in target communities.



The background features a network diagram with various sized teal circles connected by thin lines, set against a teal gradient. A dark blue curved shape is on the left side.

# Food Security Task Force Member Panel

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**Stacy Little**, Vice President of Women's and Infants' Services and Community and Population Health, University of Maryland Medical System

**Lindsay Smith**, Regional Food Systems Value Chain Coordinator, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

**Roberto Melara**, Director, MD Region, Capital Area Food Bank

**Deborah Archer**, Project Leader/Nutrition Educator, University of Maryland Extension, Maryland SNAP-Ed

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# Q & A



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Thank you!