

## Food PAC

April 5, 2017

### Summer Food Service Program in Baltimore City (Panel Discussion)

*Alice Kennedy – Baltimore Housing*

*Melissa Moore – Family League of Baltimore*

*Noah Bers – Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPSS)*

What are you most proud of about your program?

- Family League:
  - o Family League is able to be innovative with the funding that comes in at the federal level. They look for best practices that allow them to thin down staff in order to increase the amount of money allocated to covering the cost of meals.
  - o FL has a staff of 5 that runs the whole program. Responsibilities includes monitoring compliance and paperwork.
  - o Increasing the price cap for food allows for more money to be given towards improving meal quality.
- Housing:
  - o We want all sponsors to come together as the City to say we're all in this together – it's a team effort to make sure as many children as possible have access to food throughout the City in the summer
  - o Housing is working with the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI) to look at the Vendor Request for Proposal (RFP) to increase quality of food and increase access for small businesses
  - o Housing has great staff. Roxanne Bagby is the program coordinator and Housing will be ramping up staff starting 4/10
  - o Housing is currently accepting applications for sites and working in partnership with Family League to coordinate site selection. We're making sure some sites that want to function year round to serve summer meals and after school meals can function under the same sponsor all year long
- BCPSS:
  - o Our staff prepare meals on site. The staff make meal quality possible
  - o Staff know the kids and come to understand each of the kid's specific needs and look after them much better than we could without them
  - o BCPSS has 650-700 cafeteria employees

What is your greatest challenge?

- Family League:
  - o The Summer Food Service Program began in the 1960s and hasn't changed since then. It was going to be re-authorized in congress but currently still waiting
  - o Based on the current regulations, sponsors can only serve 2 meals a day
  - o During the school year, BCPSS provides free breakfast and lunch, and Family League provides supper (giving children 3 meals/day) – but that's not the case in the summer

- For the last 2 years the City with Family League conducted a pilot demonstration project to serve supper (serving an extra 60,000 meals) but currently no pilots are being done for supper meals
- The need and want for supper meals is there. We believe in providing meals 365 days a year, 3 meals a day – but currently limited by federal regulations
- Housing
  - Figuring out how to shift the sites from paper reporting to electronic. Many sites that run small camps may not have immediate access to computer or internet access. We're figuring out how to work with smaller organizations/sites (10-30 children) – whether through a phone/app to be able to report electronically
  - We need to figure out how to adjust meal orders in real time. If we don't serve the meal, we don't get reimbursed but we still have to pay the vendor
  - This will help us have a more successful program. We're looking for the greater good of reducing food waste, reduce cost, increase efficiencies
  - We can adjust both ways – decreasing and increasing meals – make it easier to make every day adjustments
- BCPSS
  - Serving meals is dependent on a captive audience. Anyone can come in to receive a meal but without programs occurring, there's no way to serve enough meals to break even and there's no guarantee that kids will be there
  - Before, when there was funding for summer programming, we served more meals. Without programming, we serve fewer meals
  - Sites with programming are the most successful. Giving child programming and structure is most successful. That would be the dream – to have programs for kids everyday
  - Only half the eligible kids are participating in summer meals. Programming allows more children to eat meals

What do you hope to see in the future?

- Family League
  - Family League has been collaborating really well with Housing this summer. Hoping to have a unified front in changing how we procure food and improve food quality citywide
  - Working on contracts – if food quality isn't in the contract, it won't happen. Trying to bring more local, sustainable, healthy, fresher product
- Housing
  - Excited in moving this to a unified front. If we're all in conjunction with each other, knowing where we're moving, it'll make it easier for us to also push for things that we think need to change from an advocacy standpoint
  - Working with MSDE and at the federal level, having us all together as a cohesive front – my goal is that we reach as many parts of the city. The more we can pull all this together, the more we will have opportunities down the road. I think it will set us up to make stronger arguments from the City to end childhood hunger in the City of Baltimore
- BCPSS

- Need to start building summer food programs around the reality that kids might be in camp for 6 weeks, but summer is 11 weeks long. Kids' shouldn't go half the summer without meals
- Kids also need meals during longer breaks like spring break
- There is also labor costs – if kids aren't eating, we're hemorrhaging money

#### Mobile Meals (Family League)

- Family League started to map the gaps, laying food desert, summer sites, and child populations to identify gap areas. In those areas, they identified community who help identify mobile meal sites where children convene
- Mobile meals provide both meals and programming for children
- 12-14 mobile sites each year to serve breakfast and lunch at each location

#### Farm to Summer Movement (local products going into summer meals)

- Schools
  - Maryland growing season occurs when no one is in school. Summer is the peak growing system. It's an ideal time to integrate locally grown produce into meals.
  - Schools has a farm that operates all year round, where students can also work
  - Great opportunity for those products to end up in salad bars at schools. BCPSS is invested in food processing equipment at Great Kids Farm.
    - Has an educator and chef
    - High schools students help to process vegetables
    - Deliver to salad bars or made into pre-plated salad
- Family League
  - MD ranked #1 for Farm to Summer
  - Asked vendors to provide "MM" (Maryland Monday) when they are providing a product from MD

#### Fridays at the Fire Station (Housing)

- We will be launching Fridays at the Fire Station this summer. Looking at some fire stations, choosing some to fill in some gaps that will open for either breakfast or lunch – tying in community engagement and youth with fire safety
- We also plan to provide meals on Sundays at the Police Precinct.
- We hope to increase the level of youth engagement, community engagement, building trust and having more of a relationship with the police department
- Open to suggestions for names for Police Station Sundays
- Weekends is something that we've never done. We're targeting key areas to make food access happen 7 days a week

#### Questions from Food PAC

- Local Sourcing – Is there anything the city can do to facilitate local sourcing for larger scale food production for summer or after school meals?
  - Jessup is documenting what is going through in MD

- We're not seeing local product because we have thousands of meals and we don't have that amount of product line available
  - That's the challenge – we need to look at a regional perspective
- Can sites choose which vendor to use? It's great when kids are getting meals but we want to meals to line up with our nutrition education.
  - Family League: 2 years ago Family League did supper with St Vincent. Last summer was the first time we added the breakfast and lunch component. We're currently out to bid now and learned a lot from the service from last year and were able to add more components and changes for this year.
  - BFPI: Currently the 2 sponsors mirror each other in food requirements. For example, juice cannot sub in for fruit.
- Can you speak on the number of communities you are in and how do you identify a community champion?
  - Family League: We're in every part of the city. The most important thing is to go into those communities and ask residents to help identify people and sites. We don't have programs in the community except for mobile meals. Sites need to fill out an application, attend a training, Family League does a pre-site visit, Family League also visits during the first week of the program and will return within 30 days to watch a full meal service. Any child is able to get a meal from the program as long as they are under the age of 18
- Will you have any resource or guide listing open sites? It would be great to have a list or chart of where you can go to get meals.
  - We're working now to create a joint communications effort
  - You can also call 211 or go to [MDsummermeals.org](http://MDsummermeals.org)
  - Sponsors will send site information to MSDE which then will be uploaded to the site

**Food PAC Updates – April 2017**

<p><b>Baltimore Food Policy Initiative</b> <b>Alice Huang</b></p>	<p><b>Policy:</b> Baltimore City is excited to announce it is seeking Food Service Management Companies for its Summer Meals Program. The City is committed to supporting healthy eating, local businesses, local workforce, and environmentally sustainable practices. Vendors of all sizes and capacities are encouraged to apply. The Request for Proposals (RFP) is available on CitiBuy (<a href="https://www.baltimorecitibuy.org/bs/">https://www.baltimorecitibuy.org/bs/</a>) and applicants must register on CitiBuy before downloading the solicitation documents. Only proposals submitted by registered vendors will be accepted. To view the RFP, complete your registration in CitiBuy, log into your account, and select magnifying glass to search for the RFP number (Bid #B50004928 Summer Food Services Program). It can also be found by selecting “Bid” in the black bar, then “Open.” Proposals are due April 26, 2017.</p> <p><b>Other:</b> The Sustainability Town Hall will be held April 18 from 6-8pm. The focus will be on reviewing the Sustainability Plan Update with a focus on equity. There will be free food, activities and tree giveaways.</p>
<p><b>Civic Works</b> <b>Baltimore Orchard Project</b></p>	<p><b>Other:</b> Earth Day Work Day in Clifton Park: Give Clifton Park some TLC on Love Your Parks Day, also known as Earth Day! Join us for a volunteer event to show our love for Civic Works HQ by planting at our Food Forest, mulching young trees, removing invasive vines, making public art, and sprucing up our young tree nursery! Register at the link below. All ages welcome! <a href="http://www.civicworks.com/earth-day">www.civicworks.com/earth-day</a></p>
<p><b>Future Harvest</b> <b>Joanna Winkler</b></p>	<p><b>Other:</b> The Farm Alliance of Baltimore is still seeking applicants for Executive Director. Visit <a href="http://www.farmalliancebaltimore.org/about-us/jobs-internships/">http://www.farmalliancebaltimore.org/about-us/jobs-internships/</a> for application information.</p>
<p><b>Hungry Harvest</b> <b>Will McCabe</b></p>	<p><b>Program:</b> Our weekly community produce markets (Produce in a SNAP) have expanded to 8 sites throughout food deserts in the Baltimore City. We partner with Baltimore City Public Schools in food-insecure communities to sell fruits and veggies at half the cost of grocery store prices and we accept SNAP/EBT. You can see a complete listing of these locations at <a href="http://www.produceinasnap.com">www.produceinasnap.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Other:</b> Produce in a SNAP will continue operating throughout the summer and we are currently looking for partner organizations to help us raise awareness about this resource for families and individuals in need of access to affordable produce. <b>If anyone is interested in learning more about Produce in a SNAP or</b></p>

	<p><b>potentially partnering with us, please reach out to Will McCabe at <a href="mailto:will@hungryharvest.net">will@hungryharvest.net</a></b></p>
<p><b>Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future Food System Mapping Team</b></p>	<p><b>Program:</b> The Maryland Food System Map's new, online mapping application is now live. Visit <a href="https://mdfoodsystemmap.org">https://mdfoodsystemmap.org</a> to view, share and download food systems data.</p>
<p><b>Johns Hopkins University Global Obesity Prevention Center</b></p>	<p><b>Policy:</b> Supporting Sugar Free Kids agenda.</p> <p><b>Program:</b> Submitting a grant this summer to develop a mobile application for small stores to source produce. Working in WIC corner stores on a small project. B'more Healthy Communities for Kids impact analysis is underway and would love to share with Food PAC in the future.</p> <p><b>Other:</b> Follow us on Facebook /bhck1 and twitter and instagram @bmore4kids!</p>
<p><b>Maryland Farmers Market Association Yael Ben-Chaim</b></p>	<p><b>Policy:</b> The Farms and Family Act passed through House and Senate and will be going through Governor Hogan without funding. In the next few months we will plan ideas for the Farms and Family Act to be included in Hogan's budget for next year.</p> <p><b>Program:</b> We have a new program, Food Education, being launched at farmers markets this summer. Thank you, Food PAC for your help in planning the program. Please check out the MDFMA website for more information.</p> <p><b>Other:</b> Bike to Market at JFX on 5/7 Orioles game fundraiser on 5/23</p>
<p><b>Maryland Hunger Solutions</b></p>	<p><b>Policy:</b> We are supporting a variety of bill in the legislature including The Maryland Cares for Kids Act, The Hunger-Free Schools Act of 2017, and Maryland Meals for Achievement for Teens.</p> <p><b>Program:</b> We will be doing a lot of work regarding summer meals in Baltimore. We will be canvassing, helping pilot farmers markets, and getting summer meal sites up and running. We are looking for volunteers to help</p>

	with our summer meals work. Lastly, we will be doing social media blitz's around summer meals using #SummerMealsMD and would love support from our partners!
<b>University of Maryland Extension Neith Little</b>	<b>Program:</b> Our 2016 annual report is now online: <a href="http://extension.umd.edu/baltimore-city/about">http://extension.umd.edu/baltimore-city/about</a>  <b>Other:</b> Mar-May: Cultivate Baltimore urban farming workshops: <a href="https://extension.umd.edu/events/tue-2017-02-28-0930-cultivate-baltimore-workshops-urban-farmers">https://extension.umd.edu/events/tue-2017-02-28-0930-cultivate-baltimore-workshops-urban-farmers</a> May 20th, 4-H Youth Expo <a href="http://extension.umd.edu/baltimore-city/4-h-youth/4-h-youth-expo">http://extension.umd.edu/baltimore-city/4-h-youth/4-h-youth-expo</a> Mar-Oct Urban Homesteading series: <a href="http://extension.umd.edu/events/wed-2017-03-08-1830-urban-homesteading-series-2017">http://extension.umd.edu/events/wed-2017-03-08-1830-urban-homesteading-series-2017</a>

# Summer Meals Overview





# Overview

- **Federal Program**: A federal program through the Child Nutrition Authorization Act
- **MSDE**: In Maryland, it is regulated by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)
- **Federal Reimbursement**: \$3.77/lunch, \$2.15/breakfast
- **Sponsors**: Housing, Family League, BCPSS
- **Length of program**: 11 weeks (June 19 – September 1)



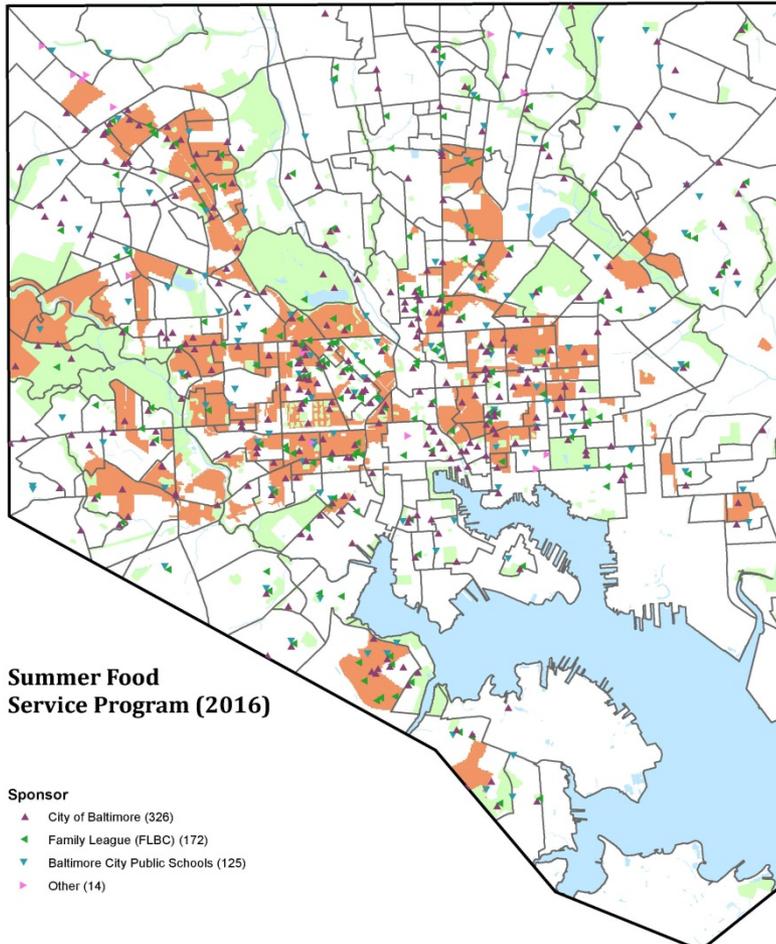
# 2016 Summer Meals

## Sponsors

- Housing: 326 sites
- Family League: 172 sites
- Schools: 125 sites
- Other: 14

## Impact:

Sponsor	# of Sites	Total Meals	Average Daily Participation (ADP)
Housing	326	676,135	13,034
Family League	172	181,658	5,261
BCPSS	125	291,859	8,424
<b>Citywide Total</b>		<b>1,292,742</b>	<b>22,864</b>



**Summer Food Service Program (2016)**

- Sponsor**
- ▲ City of Baltimore (326)
  - ▲ Family League (FLBC) (172)
  - ▲ Baltimore City Public Schools (125)
  - ▲ Other (14)



Neighborhoods  
2015 Food Desert



# Summer Meals Panel

Alice Kennedy

Deputy Commissioner  
Green Healthy & Sustainable Homes  
Baltimore Housing

Melissa Moore

Program Director of Food Access  
Family League of Baltimore

Noah Bers

After School & Summer Meals Coordinator  
Food & Nutrition  
Baltimore City Public Schools



# Discussion

- Station 1: Summer Meals Service Program
- Station 2: Summer Meals Teen Engagement
- Station 3: Sustainability Plan
- Station 4: TasteWise Kids