D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

Minding the Grocery Gap in the District of Columbia

A 2026 Update



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About D.C. Hunger Solutions

D.C. Hunger Solutions, established in 2002 as an initiative of the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC), is dedicated to eradicating hunger and poverty and enhancing the nutrition, health, economic security, and well-being of low-income residents of Washington, D.C. The organization employs a three-pronged strategy: improving access through public policies related to hunger and nutrition, maximizing participation in federal nutrition programs, and educating the public about hunger and its root causes. By collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, government agencies, community organizations, businesses, and advocates, D.C. Hunger Solutions effectively reduces hunger, supports economic security, and improves health outcomes in the District.

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Executive Summary

Food insecurity remains a persistent challenge in the District of Columbia, with too many households struggling to afford the food they need. In 2025, over 15 percent of households in the District of Columbia were living in poverty.[1] According to the Capital Area Food Bank's *2026 Hunger Report*, 39 percent of households in the District of Columbia and 38 percent of total households in the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) region face food insecurity, reflecting little change from 2025 and underscoring persistent regional disparities.[2]

While the factors driving food insecurity are not new, the pressures facing District households have intensified, as food prices remain elevated alongside the rising costs of housing, utilities, child care, transportation, and other basic needs. At the same time, changes to federal nutrition assistance programs, including enrollment and eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and new barriers to accessing benefits like the return to work requirements and the elimination of benefits for refugees, asylum seekers, and survivors of trafficking, threaten to widen the gap between what households can afford and what they need.

Grocery retailers, particularly small and independent stores, are navigating a more challenging operating environment as compliance requirements and financial pressures increase. These challenges affect retailers' ability and willingness to participate in SNAP and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), potentially reducing the number of places where residents with low income can use their nutrition benefits and further limiting access to affordable, nutritious food.

Food insecurity in the District is rooted in longstanding structural inequities, including persistent poverty and the unequal distribution of wealth, resources, and essential goods and services. These disparities continue to shape where residents can afford to live, shop, and access healthy food. While higher-income communities have greater access to full-service grocery stores, markets, and fresh food retailers, residents in underserved neighborhoods often face a combination of limited household resources, fewer grocery store options, higher prices, and inadequate access to affordable, healthy, and culturally relevant foods. Closing the grocery gap, therefore, requires more than attracting additional stores. It requires addressing the economic and structural conditions that shape food access, strengthening the viability of food retailers in underserved communities, and ensuring that residents can use nutrition benefits where they shop.

Policymakers, advocates, food retailers, and community leaders must work together to advance policies and investments that build a more equitable and resilient food



system, one in which access to nutritious, affordable, and culturally relevant food is treated as a fundamental component of community well-being, rather than a privilege determined by neighborhood or income.

In November 2025, D.C. Hunger Solutions released an update to the previous year's *Minding the Grocery Gap* report that analyzed data from October 2024 through September 2025 and found that the total number of full-service grocery stores in the District increased from 76 to 80. However, this modest growth was unevenly distributed across the city. While several wards gained grocery stores, Wards 7 and 8, home to some of the District's highest rates of poverty and food insecurity, continued to have the fewest full-service grocery stores, with three in both Ward 7 and in Ward 8, respectively.

The 2025 report also examined the broader policy landscape shaping food access, including ongoing investments in farmers' markets, grocery home delivery models, and values aligned procurement practices. The report highlighted both progress and persistent gaps, and called for stronger policies and sustained investment to expand grocery access, strengthen local food systems, and ensure that residents can access nutritious and affordable food.

Building on this work, the 2026 report continues to assess grocery store access across all eight wards, examine policy and economic shifts affecting food access, evaluate progress toward closing the grocery gap, and identify opportunities for stronger policy implementation and investment. The report also considers how recent changes to federal nutrition assistance programs and District policy landscape may affect food affordability, household purchasing power, and the long-term viability of equitable food access across the District.

The 2026 report includes data from October 2025 to September 2026. For the purposes of this report, the term "east of the river" will be used to refer to communities located east of the Anacostia river, which have historically experienced greater disparities in food access and health outcomes. This distinction is particularly important following the June 2022 redistricting, which expanded the boundaries of Wards 7 and 8 to include areas west of the Anacostia River with comparatively higher-income residents.

Impacts of Federal Changes on Food and Grocery Store Access

Over the past year, the federal government has passed a variety of legislation and new guidance that has had a deep impact on the nation's food system. These changes have disrupted the administration of SNAP and other public benefit programs and created broader implications for the delivery and effectiveness of other critical nutrition assistance programs, and altered how hunger and poverty are measured.

In the District of Columbia, these changes have caused harmful ripple effects for hundreds of thousands of residents and their families. Ongoing changes to SNAP, as well as other benefit programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Medicaid, amplify the burden already felt by District residents. Changes to SNAP work requirements, utility allowance, stocking requirements for SNAP retailers, and the cost to administer SNAP, have placed unnecessary stress on the local D.C. economy.

H.R. 1: One Big Beautiful Bill

The budget reconciliation law (H.R. 1) was enacted in July 2025.[3] The legislation has resulted in a plethora of reductions to the national public safety net including a historic and unprecedented $187 billion in cuts to SNAP. The legislation impacts SNAP in a variety of ways, namely shifting the financial burden to run the program to states, removing access for certain humanitarian groups, and expanding work requirements required for participants.

» SNAP Administrative and Benefit Cost Shifts

As of October 1, 2026, states began shouldering a greater share of SNAP administrative costs, with the federal government's share decreasing to 25 percent and the states' share increasing to 75 percent, marking a significant departure from the program's longstanding federal funding structure. These changes will shift financial responsibility from the federal government to states in two key areas: program administration and benefit costs (beginning October 1, 2027),[4,5] placing substantial pressure on state budgets nationwide.[6] In the District of Columbia alone, the administrative cost shift is projected to increase annual costs to $39.3 million in fiscal year (FY) 2027.[7] Beyond the direct fiscal impact, these changes represent a fundamental shift

in the federal government's role in supporting low-income households and may limit the District's ability to invest in other public benefit programs and desired public priorities.

» SNAP Eligibility and Public Charge

Recent federal policy changes have reduced access to nutrition assistance for certain immigrant populations. Refugees, asylees, and other humanitarian entrants have historically been eligible for SNAP and other federal nutrition programs, helping many newly arrived families meet their necessary food needs. However, changes to federal eligibility rules as of October 1, 2026, have resulted in some humanitarian populations losing access to these benefits.[8]

At the same time, changes to the 2026 public charge final rule may discourage some eligible families from seeking assistance. Under updated guidance, immigration officials may now consider an applicant's use of certain public benefits, including SNAP and WIC, as part of a public charge determination and may also consider a dependent's use of benefits when evaluating a household's financial circumstance.[9] While these rules do not apply to all immigrants, their expansion is likely to create a chilling effect that causes some eligible families to avoid food assistance programs all together out of fear that participation could affect their immigration status.[10] SNAP participant data requests from the federal government and the federal occupation of the District over the past year, has also resulted in similar effects. Families are frightened to apply and access public benefits. As a result, food insecurity among immigrant families will only increase the demand for local food assistance throughout the District.

» Changes to SNAP Enrollment and Eligibility Loss of Federal Benefits

The past year has seen one of the most significant declines in SNAP participation in recent history. Nearly 10,000 D.C. residents have lost SNAP since H.R. 1 was enacted.[11] In D.C., nearly 17,000 residents could be at risk of losing SNAP assistance if they are unable to meet the monthly work requirements. These changes only move the goalpost further for individuals already trying to make ends meet and increase their need for other resources in the interim.

The consequences extend beyond increased food and economic insecurity among affected households: As benefits decline, so does spending power in local communities. A 2025 analysis from the National Grocers Association found that SNAP drove a total output of $91.2 million across grocery and other retail industries in D.C.[12] SNAP is not only the nation's most effective anti-hunger program, but it is also a powerful economic driver, supporting grocery stores, farmers' markets, and other neighborhood-level food providers. As fewer residents receive benefits, the District risks losing millions of dollars in economic activity, with impacts felt by both large and small food retailers that rely on SNAP spending as a stable source of revenue.

SNAP Food Restrictions

For SNAP households, food restriction waivers can add another layer of complexity to an already challenging food environment. When benefits are limited to certain food categories, households may have to navigate unfamiliar rules, reconsider purchases that fit their budgets and household needs, and pay out of pocket for restricted items if they choose to buy them. These restrictions may be especially burdensome for families with children, households managing different dietary preferences or needs, and individuals who rely on SNAP to stretch limited resources throughout the month. In D.C., where there is no food restriction waiver currently in place, residents can continue to use SNAP benefits to purchase eligible foods without these additional restrictions. However, the growing adoption of waivers in other states, including neighboring Virginia, underscores the potential for a more fragmented food assistance landscape in the region. Such differences could create confusion for households shopping across state lines and reinforce the importance of maintaining a consistent, accessible SNAP program that allows participants to make food choices based on their household needs and circumstances.

The federal government has increasingly encouraged states to pursue restrictions on the types of foods that can be purchased with SNAP benefits. As of August 2026, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved 23 state waivers that prohibit the purchase of certain items, including sugar-sweetened beverages and sweets.[13] These restrictions run counter to one of SNAP's core principles of allowing households to make their own food-purchasing decisions.

For decades, USDA declined similar waiver requests due to concerns about participant stigma, administrative challenges, retailer burden, and importantly, the lack of evidence that purchase restrictions improve diet quality or health outcomes.[14,15] Research has consistently shown that SNAP participants purchase foods in patterns similar to other shoppers and that increasing the purchasing power of low-income households is a more effective strategy for encouraging healthy food choices.[16,17] Implementation of SNAP restrictions has already been halted in five states following the June 2026 Aragon et al. v. Rollins et al. court ruling, which challenged whether the federal government has the authority to approve such restrictions under existing SNAP law.[18]

Beyond concerns about consumer autonomy, these restrictions could create significant operational challenges for grocery stores and other SNAP retailers. Stores would have to reprogram point-of-sale systems, retrain staff, field customer questions, and comply with complex rules that vary from state to state.[19] These burdens are likely to fall most heavily on smaller and independent retailers that rely on SNAP sales but have fewer resources to invest in implementing the changes. Ultimately, the restrictions risk creating confusion at checkout, increasing stigma for SNAP participants, and making program administration more complicated for both retailers and consumers.

Lack of Grocery Store Access and Root Causes

Economic Stability and Poverty

Economic stability remains one of the strongest predictors of food security in the District. Income and employment directly influence a household's ability to afford nutritious food and keep pace with the city's high cost of living. In 2026, 15.4 percent of District residents lived below the poverty line, up from 14.5 percent in 2025, reflecting ongoing economic challenges across the city.[20] Ward 8 continues to experience the greatest economic hardship, with its poverty rate increasing from 26.8 percent to 30.6 percent, while Ward 7 maintained the second-highest poverty rate at 22.9 percent.[21] In contrast, Wards 3 and 4 had the lowest poverty rates citywide at 7.7 percent and 10.9 percent, respectively.[22]

These disparities are also reflected in household income. Ward 3 continues to have the highest median household income at approximately $141,849, while median household incomes in Wards 7 and 8 were substantially lower at roughly $69,109 and $50,931, respectively.[23] Unemployment and poverty remain concentrated in these communities, where historic disinvestment and limited economic opportunities continue to affect residents' ability to afford essential needs, including food. Recent economic conditions may have further compounded these challenges, as the Washington metropolitan region experienced the largest employment losses of any major metropolitan area between January 2025 and January 2026.[24]

Food Affordability

Rising food costs continue to strain household budgets across the District, particularly for low-income families. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, food prices in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria region increased 5 percent between July 2025 and July 2026.[25] Grocery prices for food consumed at home rose 5.6 percent over this same period.[26] District residents already face some of the highest grocery costs in the nation, spending an average of $11,083 annually on groceries compared to the national average of $7,881.[27] These rising costs increase the risk of food insecurity and underscore the importance of expanding access to affordable grocery options in underserved communities.

Housing

Housing costs are another factor placing considerable pressure on household finances in the District of Columbia. Shelter costs are typically a household's largest expense, and when families spend a large share of their income on rent, mortgages, utilities, and property taxes, they have fewer resources available for other necessities such as food, health care, and transportation. In 2024, approximately 38 percent of District households were considered housing cost-burdened, meaning they spent more than 30 percent of their income on housing.[28] With a median home value of $737,100, homeownership remains out of reach for many D.C. residents, contributing to the District's high share of renter households (58.5 percent).[29] However, median monthly rent in the District exceeded $1,900, underscoring the challenges many residents face in maintaining stable housing while

meeting basic needs even while renting.[30] As housing costs continue to rise, more households are forced to make difficult tradeoffs between shelter and adequate dietary intake.

Child Care

Child care is often one of the largest household expenses after housing and presents a significant financial challenge for many D.C. families. The city has some of the highest child care costs in the nation, with infant and toddler care typically costing upwards of $21,000 per year, per child.[31] These expenses can consume a substantial share of household income, particularly for families with multiple young children. D.C.'s child care subsidy program can help offset these costs for eligible families, but access to affordable, reliable child care remains an important component of household economic stability.[32] For single-parent households, child care often costs nearly 50 percent of the parent's average yearly salary, often exceeding housing costs.[33]

Beyond the direct financial burden, the high cost of child care can also create workforce challenges for parents and caregivers. When affordable, reliable child care is unavailable, some parents may be forced to reduce their work hours, turn down employment opportunities, or leave the workforce altogether to care for their children.[34] This loss of income further strains household budgets and makes it more difficult to afford necessities. While the District's universal pre-K helps reduce costs for some households, families continue to face considerable financial pressures that contribute to economic hardship.[35]

Market Challenges and Perceived Profitability

Grocery store availability is shaped in large part by the economics of the food retail industry. Unlike many other businesses, grocery stores typically operate on very thin profit margins, meaning retailers carefully evaluate whether a potential location can generate enough sales to cover operating costs and remain profitable. Factors such as household income, consumer-spending patterns, population density, and competition from nearby stores all influence where grocery retailers choose to locate.[36] As a result, neighborhoods with lower purchasing power may be viewed as higher-risk investments, even when residents have a strong need for additional food access.

While independent grocers are often viewed as a potential solution for underserved communities, they frequently face greater financial challenges because they lack the purchasing power of larger chains and often operate with even tighter margins. A 2024 study from the National Grocers Association found that inflationary pressures and rising operating costs have had a particularly significant impact on independent grocers, many of which have been forced to pass these higher costs on to consumers.[37] As food prices rise, households may become more cautious in their spending, reducing sales growth and further constraining already narrow profit margins. Consequently, communities that struggle to attract major retailers may also face challenges attracting smaller independent grocers, despite significant unmet demand for affordable and healthy food options.

Development and Real Estate Barriers

Beyond profitability concerns, the cost and feasibility of development can present significant barriers to grocery store expansion in D.C. The District's limited land area creates unique challenges for grocery store development. At just 68 square miles, Washington, D.C., would be the smallest state in the nation by geographic size if granted statehood.[38] This compact footprint creates intense competition for land use among housing, commercial development, schools, parks, and other public infrastructure. These constraints are particularly challenging for larger supermarkets and big-box grocers, which often require substantial square footage to operate efficiently. High construction costs, rent, and utilities further increase the financial burden of opening and operating a grocery store in the city. Even where demand exists, the cost of acquiring, developing, and maintaining a suitable site can make a grocery project financially unfeasible, limiting opportunities to expand food access in the city.

Transportation

While profitability and development barriers influence where grocery stores are located, transportation often determines whether residents can realistically access them. Transportation remains a significant factor affecting food access in the District of Columbia, particularly in neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River, where grocery store access is already among the lowest in

the city. Residents in these communities often face longer travel times to reach full-service grocery stores and may travel outside the District to nearby Maryland communities to access a wider variety of affordable food options. These challenges are compounded by the District's uneven transit infrastructure. Although Wards 7 and 8 are home to a substantial share of the District's residents, just six of the 98 total Metrorail stations are located east of the Anacostia River within the city.[39]

Transportation barriers also reflect broader racial and economic disparities. Wards 7 and 8, which have the highest concentrations of Black and lower-income residents, are among the communities most affected by both limited grocery access and transit inequities. District data shows that 60 percent of D.C. bus riders are Black, while 60 percent of rail riders are White.[40] Additionally, 68 percent of bus riders have household incomes below $50,000, compared with 51 percent of rail riders who have household incomes above $75,000, highlighting the critical role bus service plays for lower-income residents.[41] This is an important reason why recent transit changes, including the closure of the DC Circulator and WMATA's Better Bus network redesign, which eliminated 527 bus stops across the region last year, have had a significant impact on how residents move throughout the city.[42,43] For households without access to a personal vehicle, longer trips to purchase groceries can create additional financial and time burdens, particularly for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and families purchasing food for an entire household.

Other Factors Affecting Food in D.C.

Climate and Environmental Impacts on the Food Ecosystem

Food access in the District is increasingly influenced by environmental conditions and climate-related disruptions. Extreme heat, severe storms, flooding, and supply chain disruptions can affect food production, transportation, and distribution, ultimately increasing food prices for consumers.[44] These impacts are often felt most acutely by low-income households, which have fewer resources to absorb rising costs. Environmental challenges can also affect the reliability of local food production efforts, community gardens, and regional suppliers that help support the District's food system.

Cultural Relevance

Food access is not solely about whether food is available, but whether it reflects the cultural preferences, traditions, and dietary needs of the communities being served. Washington, D.C., is home to residents from a wide range of racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds whose food traditions shape nutritional needs and purchasing habits. Yet, of the city's 79 full-service grocery stores, only five specifically focus on international foods, all of which primarily serve Latin American communities. As a result, many residents from other cultural backgrounds may still face limited access to familiar and culturally relevant foods. When grocery stores do not offer foods that reflect the communities they serve, residents may encounter additional barriers to accessing healthy and familiar options.

Population Growth and Neighborhood Change

Population growth and neighborhood change also shape food across the District. Since 2010, Washington, D.C.'s population has grown by more than 91,000 residents, increasing demand for housing, services, and food retailers.[45] As the city has grown, many neighborhoods have experienced redevelopment and gentrification. While these changes can attract grocery stores and other retailers, the benefits are often not shared equally. Moreover, rising costs can reduce the amount families have available to spend on food, further demonstrating that food access is influenced not only by the location of grocery stores, but also by these broader economic climate and demographic changes.



Methodology

This review, conducted by D.C. Hunger Solutions, looks at the number of full-service grocery stores across the District of Columbia. For purposes of this report, full-service grocery stores are defined as business establishments with a minimum of 50 percent of the store's total square footage, or 6,000 square feet, primarily engaged in retailing designated food products for home consumption and preparation. These metrics were established in 2012 by the District of Columbia Office of the Chief Technology Officer and Alcohol Beverage and Cannabis Administration.[46] The data for this report was collected from various sources, including local government databases and economic reports. The focus was on the number of full-service grocery stores in each ward and changes in median household income from 2025 to 2026.

D.C. Hunger Solutions also analyzed a number of indicators of food security, poverty, and health among D.C.'s residents, including median income, race and ethnicity, health outcomes, availability of transportation, and education. Data was gathered from publicly available sources indicated throughout the report and verified where possible.

Grocery Store Data Shifts Since 2025

Number of Grocery Stores

In 2026, the total number of full-service grocery stores in Washington, D.C., is 79, down from 80 in 2025. This change reflects the closures of Morazan Grocery Store in Ward 4 and the Safeway in Ward 5. While the opening of a new Streets Market in Ward 6 partially offset these losses, the reduction highlights the challenges of maintaining and growing grocery access across the city.

Despite the addition of a new store, significant disparities in grocery access persist across the District. Wards 7 and 8 saw no increase in full-service grocery store access and continue to have just three full-service grocery stores each. Conditions are particularly challenging in Ward 8, where only one of the ward's three grocery stores is located east of the Anacostia River. With an estimated 80,000 residents living east of the river, the vast majority of Ward 8 residents are left to rely on only this single full-service grocery store to purchase food locally. This forces many households to travel considerable distances, and in some cases outside of the city, to purchase groceries. These barriers are particularly burdensome to residents without access to a vehicle, older adults,

Change in Number of Full-Service Grocery Stores and Poverty Rate in D.C. Overall and by Ward, 2025–2026

Ward	Population	Number of Full-Service Grocery Stores (2025)	Number of Full-Service Grocery Stores (2026)*	Number of Full-Service Grocery Stores in Pipeline (2025)	Number of Full-Service Grocery Stores in Pipeline (2026)	Median Household Income (2025)	Median Household Income (2026)	Difference in Median Household Income by Ward	Percentage of Individuals Below the Poverty Line (2025)	Percentage of Individuals Below the Poverty Line (2026)
D.C.	**681,294**	**80**	**79**	**5**	**3**	**$127,299**	**$130,086**	**$2,787**	**14.50%**	**15.40%**
1	81,010	12	12	0	1	$126,387	$132,588	**$6,201**	11.60%	13.00%
2	80,347	14	14	1	0	$131,405	$132,753	**$1,348**	11.20%	11.00%
3	81,004	17	17	2	0	$141,849	$144,877	**$3,028**	7.40%	7.70%
4	85,682	11	10	0	0	$128,210	$127,583	**($627)**	8.70%	10.90%
5	90,611	10	9	0	1	$97,817	$102,771	**$4,954**	14.70%	14.90%
6	84,376	10	11	2	1	$138,047	$138,170	**$123**	11.30%	10.50%
7	90,540	3	3	0	0	$69,109	$71,088	**$1,979**	22.40%	22.90%
8	87,724	3	3	0	0	$50,931	$52,769	**$1,838**	26.80%	30.60%

Sources:
Washington D.C. Economic Partnership; Open Data D.C.; D.C. Office of Planning Demographic Data Hub

Notes:
*Morazan Grocery Store on 3928 14th Street NW (Ward 4) closed January 2026
*Safeway on 1601 Maryland Avenue NE (Ward 5) closed May 2026

individuals with mobility challenges, and lower-income households. The continued lack of grocery access east of the Anacostia River reflects decades of structural and institutional disinvestment and underscores the persistent inequities in access to healthy and affordable food across the District.

While grocery store growth remained limited over the past year, several new developments are planned across the city. Three additional grocery stores are currently in the development pipeline, including two new Streets Market locations in Wards 1 and 6 that are expected to open within the next year. In addition, Sprouts Farmers Market plans to open its first District location in Ward 5 by 2028 **(see Appendix B)**. Although these investments represent positive momentum for the city's food retail landscape, none of the planned stores are located east of the Anacostia River, where grocery access remains the most limited.



Grocery Store	Ward
SAFEWAY 11 Locations	Ward 1
	Ward 2
	Ward 2
	Ward 3
	Ward 4
	Ward 4
	Ward 6
	Ward 6
	Ward 6
	Ward 7
	Ward 7
STREETS MARKET 9 Locations	Ward 1
	Ward 1
	Ward 1
	Ward 2
	Ward 2
	Ward 2
	Ward 3
	Ward 6
	Ward 6
WHOLE FOODS MARKET 8 Locations	Ward 1
	Ward 2
	Ward 2
	Ward 3
	Ward 3
	Ward 4
	Ward 6
	Ward 8
GIANT 7 Locations	Ward 1
	Ward 2
	Ward 3
	Ward 3
	Ward 5
	Ward 6
	Ward 8
TRADER JOE'S 6 Locations	Ward 2
	Ward 2
	Ward 3
	Ward 5
	Ward 5
	Ward 6

Policy Shifts Since 2025

The District continues to recognize equitable grocery access as essential to the health, economic security, and well-being of residents across all eight wards. Yet, significant inequities remain, particularly in neighborhoods as residents face higher food costs, limited retail options, and greater barriers to accessing healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant foods. Changes to SNAP eligibility and work requirements, growing pressure on household food budgets, and increased demands on the District's basic needs infrastructure threaten to deepen existing disparities in food access. At the same time, these changes create an opportunity for the District to pursue a more ambitious food access agenda — one that protects and expands residents' purchasing power, strengthens neighborhood grocery infrastructure, supports small and community-owned food businesses, and directs public investment to communities that have been historically underserved.

Ensuring that every District resident can access healthy, affordable food also requires sustained public investment, coordinated policy action, and a commitment to building a more equitable and resilient local food system.

Supermarket Incentive Tax

As of October 1, 2026, the District's Supermarket Tax Incentive has undergone significant changes intended to provide greater flexibility to support both new grocery development and the preservation of existing supermarkets.[47] Under the current framework, eligible new supermarkets can receive real-property and personal-property tax exemptions for up to 10 years. For supermarkets certified after October 1, 2026, the standard exemption period will be reduced to five years. Supermarkets certified before October 1, 2026, will remain eligible for the existing 10-year exemption.

The updated incentive also expands the circumstances under which an existing supermarket may qualify for relief. In addition to new development and substantial rehabilitation, the law creates a pathway for certain improvements to existing supermarkets and allows qualifying supermarkets experiencing financial hardship to seek a five-year exemption. The new improvement category lowers the investment threshold, making the incentive potentially more accessible to existing stores seeking to make meaningful improvements to their facilities and operations.

The changes also introduce a stronger connection between continued public support and community need. Following the initial exemption period, the mayor may extend a supermarket's tax exemption in increments of up to five years when the store demonstrates that continued assistance is necessary for its financial or operational viability and that it is meeting a community need that would otherwise remain unmet through access to a variety of food and grocery options. Extension applications must provide information about the supermarket's service to the surrounding community, including product quality and variety, staffing, cleanliness and appearance, responses to community concerns, and plans to address ongoing community needs.

SNAP Stocking Requirements

New stocking requirements are also increasing the operational burden on SNAP-authorized retailers across the country. Finalized in 2026, the updated standards require retailers to carry at least seven varieties of foods within each staple category: dairy, vegetables and fruits, grains, and protein.[48] Retailers must also stock perishable foods in at least three of the four categories. Stores that are unable to meet these requirements risk losing their authorization to accept SNAP benefits. At the same time, changes to the WIC food package and minimum stocking requirements in 2024 are beginning to take effect, creating additional necessary steps for retailers that participate in both programs.[49,50,51]

Expanding food choices for customers is a desirable goal, however, these requirements have implications that extend beyond the products available on store shelves. Implementing these changes are predicted to be costly for both small and large retailers alike.[52] Small retailers, including corner stores and family-owned businesses, often face higher purchasing costs because they lack the buying power of larger grocery chains. Meeting the new stocking standards may require stores to purchase additional inventory that exceeds their budgets or carries a higher risk of spoilage, particularly for perishable items. As a result, some retailers may decide to stop participating in the programs altogether.

Such outcomes could have serious consequences for D.C. residents, especially in parts of the city where access to full-service grocery stores is already limited and many households rely on smaller neighborhood retailers for staple items.[53]

Recommendations for Improving Grocery Store Access in D.C.

Increase the Locally Funded SNAP Benefit

The District has long recognized that federal SNAP benefits often fall short of meeting residents' nutritional needs. In 2023, the Give SNAP a Raise Amendment Act temporarily increased SNAP benefits by 10 percent, helping families keep pace with rising food costs.[54] The Give SNAP a Raise Amendment Act temporarily increased the maximum monthly SNAP benefit in the District by 10 percent, an average boost of $47 per recipient that helped families keep pace with rising food costs.[55] However, that supplemental benefit expired in 2024, and households have since returned to lower benefit levels despite continued increases in the cost of food, housing, transportation, and other necessities.

The average monthly SNAP benefit in Washington, D.C., is approximately $197 per person, or about $6.50 per day.[56] By comparison, USDA reported that the District had the highest per-capita food sales in the nation in 2025 at $11,708 annually, which equates to approximately $32 per day in food purchases per resident.[57] While SNAP is intended to supplement a household's food budget rather than cover all food costs, this comparison illustrates how difficult it can be for SNAP recipients to keep pace with the high cost of food in the District. Restoring and expanding the District-funded SNAP supplement would help strengthen the purchasing power of low-income households, enabling families to afford more nutritious food while also supporting local grocery stores and food retailers.

Increasing SNAP benefits not only reduces hunger and supports better health outcomes, but also strengthens the local economy by directing additional purchasing-power to grocery stores, corner stores, farmers' markets, and the workers they employ. Given the continued rise in food costs across the region, D.C. Hunger Solutions strongly supports increasing the District's local SNAP supplemental benefit to help bring total household SNAP resources in line with the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan, the federal benchmark for the cost of a nutritious, affordable diet. A more adequate benefit would help ensure that SNAP households can better afford healthy food while generating additional economic activity in communities across the District.



Good Food Cities

In 2025, Washington, D.C. was selected as one of six cities participating in the Good Food Cities initiative, joining Baltimore, Chicago, Denver, Indianapolis, and Wichita. Led by the Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA), this national initiative seeks to strengthen local food systems and expand access to affordable, nutritious food in underserved communities. Rather than introducing a one-size-fits-all program, Good Food Cities invests in existing community assets, local leadership, and cross-sector partnerships to make healthy food a lasting part of everyday life. Grounded in the social determinants of health framework, the initiative recognizes that factors such as housing, income, transportation, and community conditions all influence a family's ability to access and afford healthy food.

In Washington, D.C., Good Food Cities is focused on two priority communities in Wards 7 and 8, where partners are working to expand healthy food access through school food pantries, healthy corner store initiatives, and other community-driven strategies. These programs help bridge food access gaps in neighborhoods with limited grocery store options and higher rates of poverty and food insecurity. By bringing together residents, community organizations, retailers, researchers, and government agencies, the initiative aims to address longstanding disparities in food access while building a more equitable, resilient, and community-centered food system.

Invest in a Central D.C. Food Processing Facility

Establishing a central food processing facility in D.C. would help strengthen the District's food system by improving efficiency, reducing costs, and supporting equitable grocery access. By processing and distributing locally and regionally sourced foods, the facility would make it easier for grocery stores, particularly smaller neighborhood retailers and corner stores, to stock fresh, affordable produce and staple items. It could also contribute to less food waste as perishable goods have to travel less distance from farm to table. This facility could play a key role in advancing the District's local procurement and food equity goals.

Explore Public-Private Grocery Store Models

While alternative grocery store models like publicly owned grocery stores and co-ops have increasingly emerged as strategy to address persistent food access gaps, they often require substantial public investment, ongoing operational oversight, and long-term financial commitments. Alternatively, a public-private grocery partnership may offer a more feasible and sustainable model for expanding access to healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant groceries in the District by combining public support with private-sector expertise and operational capacity. When government, grocery retailers, community organizations, developers, financial institutions, and residents work together, public resources can be leveraged to address the significant costs and risks associated with opening or sustaining grocery stores in underserved communities, while creating conditions for long-term private investment. Strengthening public-private grocery store partnerships by leveraging District dollars, tax incentives, publicly owned land, infrastructure investments, or other public resources can help make grocery retail viable in communities where traditional market conditions may otherwise discourage investment. Furthermore, when engaging with grocery retailers, the District should adopt an asset-based approach that highlights neighborhood strengths, existing consumer demand, community networks, and opportunities for long-term growth.

Successful public-private grocery store partnerships can help to establish clear expectations for affordability, product quality, culturally relevant foods, local workforce, accessibility, and meaningful community engagement, producing measurable benefits for residents. Furthermore, a community-centered approach to public-private grocery partnerships must extend beyond attracting retailers to underserved neighborhoods. In neighborhoods where residents have historically faced inequities in grocery access and economic investment, the District has an opportunity to use public resources to address food access and affordability while advancing broader community wealth-building goals. This requires ensuring that residents have a meaningful role in shaping grocery development priorities, influencing retailer commitments, and evaluating whether public investments are delivering tangible benefits.

The District should consider establishing resident-led or resident-informed advisory structures to guide publicly supported grocery projects from planning through implementation. Residents should help identify neighborhood needs, including affordable staple foods, culturally relevant products, transportation access, store hours, and opportunities for local employment and business development. Their participation should be adequately supported and should carry a clear connection to decision-making, rather than

D.C. Good Food Purchasing Program Coalition

The D.C. Good Food Purchasing Coalition is a local coalition working to transform local food procurement in the District of Columbia by adopting values-aligned food procurement policies. The coalition aims to use institutional purchasing to support healthier food systems that benefit nutrition, local procurement, fair working conditions, environmental sustainability, equity, and animal welfare. It is a collaboration between organizations like D.C. Hunger Solutions, D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) Food and Nutrition Services, DC Greens, the DC Food Policy Council, and many other community partners and government agencies taking a major step toward a fairer, more sustainable, and community-centered food system in the District.

serving solely as a consultation exercise after major decisions have been made. At the same time, public investment should be structured to deliver measurable benefits beyond the opening of a grocery store. The District could establish partnership agreements that include affordability benchmarks, SNAP and WIC acceptance, healthy food availability, local hiring and career advancement, and opportunities for locally owned businesses to participate in the food supply chain.

Cooperative ownership and other community wealth-building models that allow residents to share in the economic benefits generated by grocery development help ensure that these commitments remain meaningful over time.

Public-private grocery ownership recognizes that food insecurity is shaped not only by the physical availability of grocery stores, but also by household purchasing power, economic opportunity, transportation, and longstanding disparities in investment and wealth. By connecting grocery development to resident leadership, affordability, local economic participation, and transparent accountability, the District can move toward a model in which these partnerships do more than expand retail options: They help build a food system that is responsive to community priorities and contributes to greater economic stability and equity.

Increase Public Transportation Networks in Low-Access Areas

Improving food access requires improving transportation access. Future transportation planning should prioritize Wards 7 and 8, which continue to face limited transit access and a scarcity of full-service grocery stores. In addition to expanding transit infrastructure, the District should continue investing in programs that make transportation more affordable and accessible for residents facing mobility and financial barriers. The District and WMATA's Metro Lift and MetroAccess programs have helped improve transportation access for many residents. However, policymakers should explore opportunities to better coordinate these programs, including allowing eligible MetroAccess users to receive Metro Lift fare discounts, ensuring that residents with disabilities can fully benefit from transportation affordability initiatives while accessing food, health care, and other essential services.

Ongoing Funding for Grocery Delivery Services

In the District's fiscal year 2027 budget, a suite of innovative grocery access models received critical funding to help close longstanding gaps in food availability, especially in underserved communities. These investments reflect a growing commitment to equity-driven solutions that meet residents where they are. Home-delivered meals, the Grocery Access Pilot Program, and food retail investment opportunities represent a meaningful step forward.

Ongoing Funding for Local Food Initiatives

As food costs continue to rise and federal nutrition benefits face significant reductions, local food assistance programs are becoming increasingly vital to the District's food security network. With an estimated 17,000 SNAP participants at risk of losing benefits due to new federal work requirements, demand for food pantries, community meal programs, and other local food initiatives is expected to grow. At the same time, funding for many of these programs has remained largely flat in recent years, limiting their ability to meet increasing community needs. Expanding support for local food programs can help ensure residents maintain consistent access to nutritious food while strengthening the District's capacity to respond to growing food insecurity.

- **Healthy Corners Program**, which provides low-cost fresh and frozen produce to corner stores in low-income communities in D.C.
- **Produce Rx**, which allows health care providers to prescribe fresh fruits and vegetables to D.C. Medicaid patients experiencing diet-related illness
- **Grocery Plus** (federally known as Commodity Supplemental Food Program), which provides free nutritious food to D.C. seniors
- **SUN Bucks** (otherwise known as Summer EBT), which provides households with eligible school-age children food assistance during the summer
- **Nourish DC Collaborative**, created in partnership with the government of the District of Columbia to support the development of a robust ecosystem of locally owned food businesses, neighborhood vibrancy, and health equity in D.C.

Establish and Fund a D.C. Food Security Data Initiative

D.C. Hunger Solutions recommends the establishment and funding of a dedicated food security data initiative to ensure policymakers, advocates, and community organizations have access to timely and reliable information on hunger and food access. This need has become increasingly urgent following the federal government's decision in 2025 to discontinue the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement (CPS-FSS) and its resulting Household Food Security in the United States report.[58] Together, for nearly three decades, these resources served as the nation's primary source of food insecurity data and were widely regarded as the "gold standard" for measuring hunger. Without this federal resource, the District of Columbia risks losing critical insight into how changes to SNAP, school meals, Medicaid, and other public programs affect residents. The D.C. government should invest in ongoing local data collection and reporting to identify emerging needs, evaluate program effectiveness, target resources more strategically, and measure progress toward reducing food insecurity. Reliable, community-level data is essential for ensuring that food policy decisions are driven by evidence and responsive to the needs of District residents.

Establish Healthy Food Priority Areas

Establishing Healthy Food Priority Areas would allow the District to identify hyper-local communities most affected by limited grocery access and develop targeted strategies to close the gap. These areas would serve as focus zones for coordinated investment, bringing together public agencies, local organizations, residents, and food retailers to expand access to affordable, nutritious foods. Strategies could include incentives for full-service and alternative format grocery stores to open in underserved neighborhoods and promote other innovative models to bridge the gap. By concentrating resources where the need is greatest, D.C. can strengthen local food systems, support neighborhoods, and ensure every resident has convenient access to healthy, affordable options.

Build a Longer Table

Expanding grocery access requires more than attracting new stores. It also requires meaningful engagement with the residents who experience food insecurity and food access barriers firsthand. Communities should play an active role in identifying challenges, shaping solutions, implementing strategies, and evaluating progress to ensure investments reflect local needs and priorities. Building a more equitable food system requires creating space for as many community voices as possible, particularly those most affected by limited food access, and ensuring those voices remain at the table throughout the decision-making process rather than being consulted only at isolated moments. Many of the most effective solutions already exist within communities and can be strengthened through sustained investment, co-creation, and long-term partnership.

The Broader Impact of Grocery Stores

Grocery stores are more than places to purchase food. They are important community points that support economic development, public health, and neighborhood vitality. In addition to providing access to healthy and affordable food, grocery stores create local jobs, generate tax revenue, support local and regional food producers, and often serve as anchor tenants that attract additional commercial investment. The presence of a grocery store can encourage other retailers and services to locate nearby, helping to strengthen commercial corridors and stimulate broader neighborhood development.

The benefits of grocery stores extend beyond economic activity. Access to full-service grocery stores can improve residents' ability to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, and other nutritious foods, which are associated with better health outcomes and lower rates of diet-related disease. These impacts are particularly significant in Wards 7 and 8, where many residents are impacted by food apartheid — which acknowledges the historic and systematic inequities that restrict access to healthy, affordable food — and have the lowest rates of fruit and vegetable consumption.[59] At the same time, these wards experience some of the District's highest rates of diabetes, hypertension, and heart attacks.[60] Furthermore, residents of Ward 8 have an average life expectancy of approximately 69.2 years, compared with 87.8 years in Ward 3, a gap of roughly 19 years.[61] Therefore, expanding grocery access is not only a food security strategy, but also an investment in economic opportunity, community development, and health equity.

Conclusion

Food insecurity in the District of Columbia remains both a persistent challenge and a growing concern. While the number of full-service grocery stores remained relatively stable in 2026, significant disparities in food access continue to exist, particularly in Wards 7 and 8 and in communities of color east of the Anacostia River. Residents in these neighborhoods continue to face the combined effects of limited grocery store access, transportation barriers, fewer economic opportunities, and higher rates of poverty. At the same time, food access citywide is increasingly being shaped by broader forces such as housing affordability, child care costs, neighborhood gentrification, federal policy decisions, and the overall cost of living. These challenges underscore that food insecurity is not simply about the availability of food, but about whether residents have the resources, opportunities, and infrastructure needed to consistently access healthy and affordable options.

The 2026 policy landscape has made these challenges even more urgent. Significant federal changes to SNAP threaten to weaken critical supports that help residents afford food and maintain economic stability. As federal investments in nutrition assistance decrease, the D.C. government, community organizations, and alternative food assistance providers are increasingly being asked to fill the gap.

Addressing these challenges will require sustained leadership, investment, and collaboration across the District. With the District undergoing a major transition in political leadership, there is an opportunity to reaffirm and strengthen the city's commitment to food access and food security. The District should continue prioritizing grocery access in underserved communities by actively recruiting new grocery partners, identifying and addressing the factors that deter grocers from locating in these neighborhoods, and investing in alternative and innovative grocery access models where traditional development may not be feasible. Complementary investments in local food programs, transportation infrastructure, community engagement, and food security data collection will help ensure that resources are directed where they are needed most.

Achieving a more equitable food system will also require continued collaboration among residents, community organizations, businesses, universities, and government leaders, as well as a sustained commitment to addressing the structural barriers that contribute to food insecurity. As federal nutrition support shrinks, local leadership and investment will become increasingly important not only for ensuring access to healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant food, but also for advancing economic opportunity, racial equity, and community well-being. With thoughtful planning, targeted investment, and community-centered solutions, the District of Columbia can continue moving toward a future where access to healthy food is determined not by a resident's zip code, income, or background, but by a shared commitment to ending hunger in the nation's capital.



Appendix A: Grocery Store Locations

GROCERY STORE NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP CODE	WARD	OPEN IN 2025	OPEN IN 2026
EL PROGRESO MARKET	3158 MOUNT PLEASANT STREET NW	20010	Ward 1	Yes	Yes
GIANT	1345 PARK ROAD NW	20010	Ward 1	Yes	Yes
HARRIS TEETER	1631 KALORAMA ROAD NW	20009	Ward 1	Yes	Yes
LIDL	3100 14TH STREET NW, #116	20010	Ward 1	Yes	Yes
PANAM GROCERY	3552 14TH STREET NW	20010	Ward 1	Yes	Yes
SAFEWAY	1747 COLUMBIA ROAD NW	20009	Ward 1	Yes	Yes
STREETS MARKET	3146 MOUNT PLEASANT STREET NW	20010	Ward 1	Yes	Yes
STREETS MARKET	2400 14TH STREET NW	20009	Ward 1	Yes	Yes
STREETS MARKET	1864 COLUMBIA ROAD NW	20009	Ward 1	Yes	Yes
TARGET	3100 14TH STREET NW	20010	Ward 1	Yes	Yes
WHOLE FOODS MARKET	967 FLORIDA AVENUE NW	20001	Ward 1	Yes	Yes
YES! ORGANIC	1825 COLUMBIA ROAD NW	20009	Ward 1	Yes	Yes
ALDI	5300 SOUTH DAKOTA AVENUE NE	20011	Ward 2	Yes	Yes
CAPITOL SUPER MARKET	1231 11TH STREET NW	20001	Ward 2	Yes	Yes
GIANT	1400 7TH STREET NW	20001	Ward 2	Yes	Yes
MARKET AT COLUMBIA PLAZA	516 23RD STREET NW	20037	Ward 2	Yes	Yes
SAFEWAY	1855 WISCONSIN AVENUE NW	20007	Ward 2	Yes	Yes
SAFEWAY	1701 CORCORAN STREET NW	20009	Ward 2	Yes	Yes
STREETS MARKET	1255 22ND STREET NW	20037	Ward 2	Yes	Yes
STREETS MARKET	1221 MASSACHUSSETTS AVENUE NW	20005	Ward 2	Yes	Yes
STREETS MARKET	2617 P STREET NW	20007	Ward 2	Yes	Yes
TRADER JOE'S	1914 14TH STREET NW	20009	Ward 2	Yes	Yes
TRADER JOE'S	1101 25TH STREET NW	20037	Ward 2	Yes	Yes
UNION KITCHEN GROCERY	1251 9TH STREET NW	20001	Ward 2	Yes	Yes
WHOLE FOODS MARKET	1440 P STREET NW	20005	Ward 2	Yes	Yes
WHOLE FOODS MARKET	2201 I STREET NW	20037	Ward 2	Yes	Yes
LIDL	4000 WISCONSIN AVENUE NW	20016	Ward 3	Yes	Yes
GIANT	4303 CONNECTICUT AVENUE NW	20008	Ward 3	Yes	Yes
GIANT	3336 WISCONSIN AVENUE NW	20016	Ward 3	Yes	Yes
MAGRUDER'S	5626 CONNECTICUT AVENUE NW	20015	Ward 3	Yes	Yes
MOM'S ORGANIC MARKET	4250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE NW	20008	Ward 3	Yes	Yes
RODMAN'S	5100 WISCONSIN AVENUE NW	20016	Ward 3	Yes	Yes
SAFEWAY	5545 CONNECTICUT AVENUE NW	20015	Ward 3	Yes	Yes
STREETS MARKET	3427 CONNECTICUT AVENUE NW	20008	Ward 3	Yes	Yes
TARGET	4500 WISCONSIN AVENUE NW	20016	Ward 3	Yes	Yes
TARGET	3505 CONNECTICUT AVENUE NW	20008	Ward 3	Yes	Yes
TRADER JOE'S	2101 WISCONSIN AVENUE NW #A	20007	Ward 3	Yes	Yes
WAGSHAL'S	3201 NEW MEXICO AVE NW	20016	Ward 3	Yes	Yes
WAGSHAL'S	4845 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE NW	20016	Ward 3	Yes	Yes
WEGMANS	41 RIDGE SQUARE NW	20016	Ward 3	Yes	Yes
WHOLE FOODS MARKET	4530 40TH STREET NW	20016	Ward 3	Yes	Yes
WHOLE FOODS MARKET	2323 WISCONSIN AVENUE NW	20007	Ward 3	Yes	Yes
YES! ORGANIC	3425 CONNECTICUT AVENUE NW	20008	Ward 3	Yes	Yes

GROCERY STORE NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP CODE	WARD	OPEN IN 2025	OPEN IN 2026
AVENUE SUPERMARKET	5010 1ST STREET NW	20011	Ward 4	Yes	Yes
INTERNATIONAL PROGRESSO MARKET	7719 GEORGIA AVENUE NW	20012	Ward 4	Yes	Yes
JOCELYN'S MARKET	6404 GEORGIA AVENUE NW	20012	Ward 4	Yes	Yes
MORAZAN GROCERY STORE*	3928 14TH STREET NW	20011	Ward 4	Yes	No
SAFEWAY	6500 PINEY BRANCH ROAD NW	20012	Ward 4	Yes	Yes
SAFEWAY	3830 GEORGIA AVENUE NW	20011	Ward 4	Yes	Yes
TARGET	7828 GEORGIA AVENUE NW	20012	Ward 4	Yes	Yes
WALMART SUPERCENTER	5929 GEORGIA AVENUE NW	20011	Ward 4	Yes	Yes
WALMART SUPERCENTER	310 RIGGS ROAD NE	20011	Ward 4	Yes	Yes
WHOLE FOODS MARKET	7130 12TH STREET NW	20012	Ward 4	Yes	Yes
YES! ORGANIC	4100 GEORGIA AVENUE NW	20011	Ward 4	Yes	Yes
ALDI	901 17TH STREET NE	20002	Ward 5	Yes	Yes
COSTCO WHOLESALE	2441 MARKET STREET NE	20018	Ward 5	Yes	Yes
GIANT	1050 BRENTWOOD ROAD NE	20018	Ward 5	Yes	Yes
MOM'S ORGANIC MARKET	1501 NEW YORK AVENUE NE	20002	Ward 5	Yes	Yes
SAFEWAY*	1601 MARYLAND AVENUE NE	20002	Ward 5	Yes	No
TARGET	1515 NEW YORK AVENUE NE	20002	Ward 5	Yes	Yes
TRADER JOE'S	701 MONROE STREET NE	20017	Ward 5	Yes	Yes
TRADER JOE'S	350 FLORIDA AVENUE NE	20002	Ward 5	Yes	Yes
UNION KITCHEN GROCERY	1625 ECKINGTON PLACE NE	20002	Ward 5	Yes	Yes
YES! ORGANIC	3809 12TH STREET NE	20017	Ward 5	Yes	Yes
GIANT	300 H STREET NE	20002	Ward 6	Yes	Yes
HARRIS TEETER	1201 1ST STREET NE	20002	Ward 6	Yes	Yes
SAFEWAY	415 14TH STREET SE	20003	Ward 6	Yes	Yes
SAFEWAY	1100 4TH STREET SW	20024	Ward 6	Yes	Yes
SAFEWAY	490 L STREET NW	20001	Ward 6	Yes	Yes
STREETS MARKET	51 M STREET NE	20002	Ward 6	Yes	Yes
STREETS MARKET	1442 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE SE	20003	Ward 6	No	Yes
TRADER JOE'S	750 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE SE	20003	Ward 6	Yes	Yes
UNION KITCHEN GROCERY	538 3RD STREET NE	20002	Ward 6	Yes	Yes
WHOLE FOODS MARKET	600 H STREET NE	20002	Ward 6	Yes	Yes
YES! ORGANIC	410 8TH STREET SE	20003	Ward 6	Yes	Yes
LIDL	2224 TOWN CENTER DRIVE SE	20020	Ward 7	Yes	Yes
SAFEWAY	2845 ALABAMA AVENUE SE	20020	Ward 7	Yes	Yes
SAFEWAY	322 40TH STREET NE	20019	Ward 7	Yes	Yes
GIANT	1535 ALABAMA AVENUE SE	20032	Ward 8	Yes	Yes
HARRIS TEETER	401 M St SE	20003	Ward 8	Yes	Yes
WHOLE FOODS MARKET	101 H STREET SE	20003	Ward 8	Yes	Yes

Notes:
*Morazan Grocery Store on 3928 14th Street NW (Ward 4) closed January 2026
*Safeway on 1601 Maryland Avenue NE (Ward 5) closed May 2026

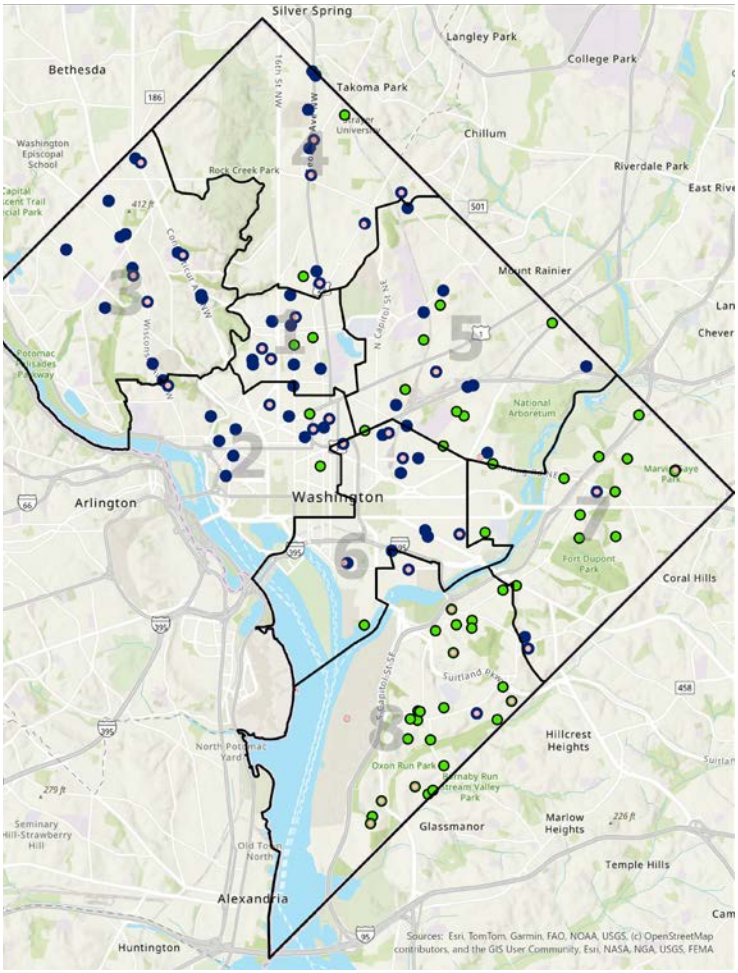
Appendix B: Grocery Stores in the Pipeline

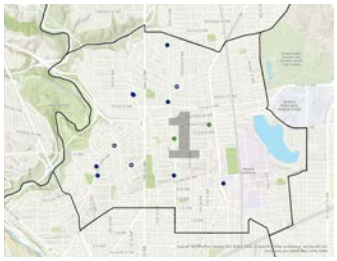
WARD	STORE NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP CODE	YEAR OPENING
1	STREETS MARKET	1301 U STREET NW	20009	2026
5	SPROUTS MARKET	RESERVOIR DISTRICT NW	20001	2028
6	STREETS MARKET (THE WHARF)	798 MAINE AVE. SW	20024	2026

Appendix C: Grocery Store Maps by Ward

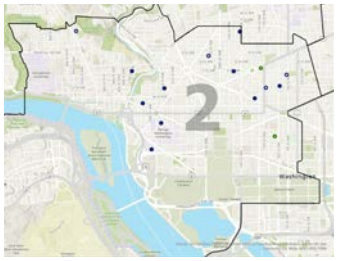
Legend

- Ward Boundaries
- WIC Retailer Locations
- Healthy Corner Store Locations
- Full Service Grocery Store Locations

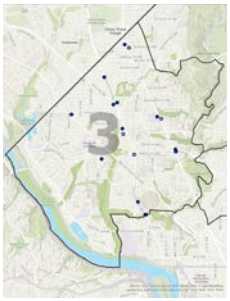




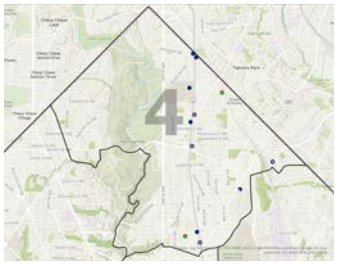
WARD 1



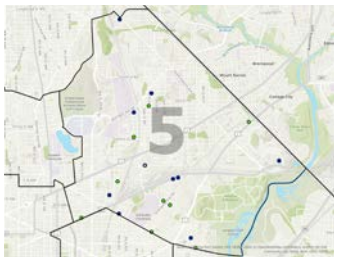
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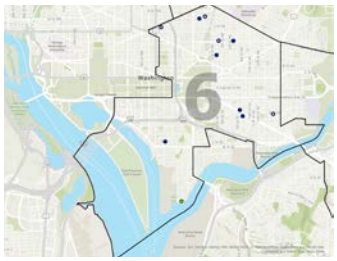
WARD 3



WARD 4



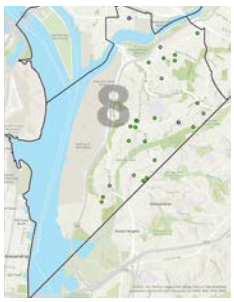
WARD 5



WARD 6



WARD 7



WARD 8

Endnotes

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