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## Establishing Equitable Food Systems Through Procurement



Policy & Advocacy Track



# **Presented by**



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## **Learning Outcomes**

- $\circ$  What is an equitable food system
- Discuss the difference between equitable and equal access in food
- $\circ$  What is values-aligned procurement
- How to incorporate equity into food purchasing
- How to apply values aligned procurement practices in CACFP







## **Who is D.C. Hunger Solutions?**

 We work to create a hunger-free community and improve the nutrition, health, economic security, and well-being of low-income District residents.

### •<u>Vision for D.C. Hunger Solutions</u>:

Marry policy and practice to end poverty and hunger in the nation's capital by insisting on the highest and best use of federal nutrition programs.







## **Who is D.C. Hunger Solutions?**

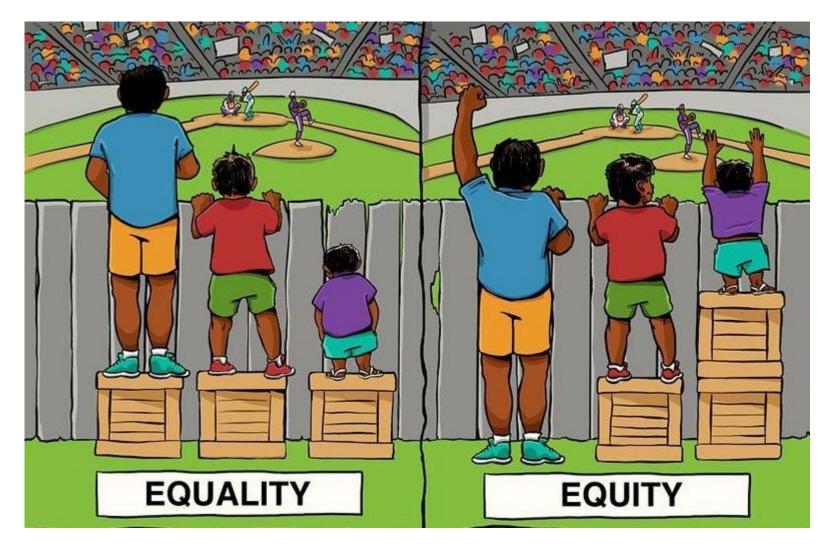
- $\circ$  Review local policies and procedures.
- $\circ$  Bring promising programs to the city.
- Provide data related to program participation
- Educate the public regarding poverty and hunger outcomes in D.C.

























#### EQUALITY:

Everyone gets the same-regardless if it's needed or right for them.



#### EQUITY:

Everyone gets what they need-understanding the barriers, circumstances, and conditions.









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## What is Equity?

Act of being fair, just and impartial; recognizing that we all do not have the same privilege and advantage; allocating resources and opportunities to evoke change (particularly social change).









## **Equity vs. Equality in Food**

- *Equity* provides food resources and purchasing opportunities within the food system that evoke social change.
- *Equality* provides the same food resources and purchasing opportunities within the food system regardless of a person's privilege or access.









## **Equitable Food System Terminology**

- <u>Food Access</u>: accessibility and affordability of/to food resources (including travel time to shopping, availability of foods, and food prices.
- **Food Sovereignty**: Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.
- **Food Apartheid**: A system of segregation that divides those with access to an abundance of nutritious food and those who have been denied that access due to systemic injustice.







## **Equitable Food System Terminology**

- **Food Justice**: Holistic and structural view of the food system that sees healthy food as a human right and addresses structural barriers to that right.
- **Systemic/Institutional Racism**: Public policies, institutional practices, cultural norms that reinforce differences and devalue people of one group as compared to another, generally, that's rooted in history. It disadvantages people of color and centralizes whiteness.









## **Building an Equitable Food System**

- $\circ$  Evaluate programs and policies governing food.
- $\circ$  Assess how people can access food.
- Determine how people can nourish themselves and their families.
- $\circ$  Who holds the power in food systems?
- o What food resources are available?









## **Values-Aligned Procurement**



#### **OUR VALUES**

We believe that farm to school activities built on these six shared community values will move us closer to a just, equitable food system that promotes the health of all school children and benefits producers, workers, educators, and their communities:

Economic justice: Farm to school and ECE isn't just about food miles, it's about the livelihoods of the people who grew, harvested, processed, and prepared this food. We have the chance to build relationships between producers, workers, and consumers in ways that enrich communities and address economic racial injustices.

Environmental justice: Education and the purchasing power of meal programs can shift our food system away from practices that contribute to climate change and pollute communities of color, and towards a more equitable, sustainable use of our soil and water.

Health impact: Farm to school and ECE activities go beyond getting kids the calories they need, but also give them the tools for childhood nourishment and lifelong health. In addition to key nutrients provided by school meals, kids should be empowered with the knowledge and skills to build healthy habits later in life and increase their sovereignty in our food system. School nutrition professionals should receive the equipment, training, and operational support to increase whole-ingredient, scratch cooking of healthier and tasty meals.

Prioritizing racial equity: Progress towards a just food system requires us to address the historic and ongoing structural racism embedded in our food system and to actively promote food sovereignty and racial equity in farm to school and ECE activities.

Respecting workers and educators: School nutrition professionals play essential roles in promoting fresh, healthy foods for our kids. The workers who harvest, process, transport, prepare and serve the vast majority of our nation's food supply deserve — but don't currently have — the same legal protections as workers in other industries in our country. Policies and practices should respect their rights and value their work appropriately.

Animal welfare: Humane treatment of animals in food production is a key part of a respectful, relational – not extractive – food system. Inhumane conditions in meat and poultry production are intertwined with the corporate consolidation of our food system, and the prioritization of cheaply produced meat at the expense of animal welfare, worker safety, farmer livelihoods, and community health.

In order for these values to be actualized, it is important that the most impacted stakeholders in our communities have a core role in the development and implementation of all farm to school efforts.



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## **Procurement + Equity in Food**

How to be equitable following proper procurement

- Micro Purchase
- Small Purchase Procedures
- Formal Procurement







## **Procurement + Equity in Food**

• Procurement Regulations in CACFP/CNPs

- Defining 'Local'
- Geographic Preference
- Small Business, Women Owned Businesses, Persons of Color Owned Businesses.









## **Purchasing Strategies in CACFP**

- Farm to Early Care and Education
- $\circ$  Conversations with local producers
- $\circ$  Purchasing with supply chain shortages
- $\circ$  Purchasing while following meal pattern flexibilities
- Equitable Meals/Meal Components
- Culturally Appropriate Meals
- $\circ$  Building Vendor Database

















## **Contact Information**

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