

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING ACTIONS TO REDUCE FOOD INSECURITY IN THE METROPOLITAN
WASHINGTON REGION**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is comprised of the 24 jurisdictions of the National Capital Region's local governments and their governing officials, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

WHEREAS, COG has recognized the importance of food security and the numerous benefits of having locally and regionally produced food including, healthy food access, diverse sources of supply and distribution, food system resilience, protection of our agricultural lands, and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the COG Board of Directors affirmed the need to create a forum for cross-sector, systems based learning, collaboration, and action to increase food security, food system resilience, equity, and the capacity of the region to provide for more of its food needs by establishing the Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee (FARM); and

WHEREAS, FARM and the Board continue to urge state and federal action to increase resources for healthy school meals, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the federal Child Tax Credit, and more, since FARM's creation; and

WHEREAS, the Board, in addition to the FARM and Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC), have been briefed by Capital Area Food Bank and other local and regional partners on factors driving persistent, high levels of food insecurity in the region, including growing rates amongst middle class families; and

WHEREAS, the Board and its policy committees are committed to increasing collaboration at COG and with regional partners to support bringing more resources to addressing food insecurity and its root causes like poverty, economic insecurity, and inequality; and

WHEREAS, addressing persistent food insecurity requires concerted and bold local, state, regional, and federal action with evidence-based approaches, innovation, and collaboration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

1. The Board supports immediate and continued multi-pronged action at the local, state, and federal levels to improve deployment of existing resources and advocates for greater investment in policies, programs, and practices which reduce food insecurity.

2. The Board directs the FARM Policy Committee and it's Work Groups to continue to prioritize and advance policies and programs that assist member local governments in providing healthy food access to all residents in the National Capital Region including a new Local Food Procurement Challenge.
3. The Board directs COG staff to continue to partner with the Capital Area Food Bank, and to strengthen relationships with the Maryland Food Bank, the Arlington Food Assistance Center, Loudoun Hunger, and other stakeholders in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia to identify and promote equity-focused, high-impact short and long-term local and regional strategies, investments, and systems to address increasing food insecurity in the region.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT Resolution R28 -2025 was approved by the COG Board of Directors on October 8, 2025

Kayla Joyner
Government Relations Associate