

**FRAMEWORK FOR ENGAGING
THE DANE COUNTY FOOD COUNCIL
TO ADDRESS THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
MAY 21, 2020 – Working Draft**

Dane County Executive Parisi will be attending this meeting to give an overview of the county's pandemic response efforts as they pertain to food systems needs.

This document (modeled after the Madison Food Policy Council pandemic response framework) identifies some of the fundamental issues that will need to be addressed, and proposes some ideas for restructuring DCFC to support the county's immediate food access needs during the pandemic and build more resilient food systems for the future.

Assumptions:

- Dane County Food Council is well positioned to do this work.
- Prioritize strategies within the county's purview.
- Vet potential strategies using racial equity and social justice, sustainability and resilience tools to maximize community engagement and assess effectiveness.

Opportunities: This crisis has created many challenges in the food system, both locally and across the globe. As policies and systems align to address the most urgent areas of concern, there will be opportunities to identify programs that meet multiple needs, and ways to improve the local food system in the medium and long term.

Approaches: Identify opportunities to collaborate (especially with Madison Food Policy Council), to support community partners (e.g. Dane County growers & producers) and to maximize the effectiveness of county resources.

Scale & Timeline: Consider how to engage municipal and regional partners for both immediate and longer-term collaboration.

Current Structure of DCFC: Determine which elements could effectively address these issues and whether others could be placed "on hiatus" for now.

Current Work Groups include:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Food Access | 4. Dane County Ag |
| 2. Food Waste & Recovery | 5. Urban Ag |
| 3. Food Entrepreneurship | |

Reports to Committee have included updates from:

1. Madison Food Policy Council
2. Public Health Madison Dane County
3. Extension Dane County

Potential New Work Teams

Madison Food Policy Council is moving forward with creating these work groups; these category areas are similarly relevant for Dane County.

Food Relief:

Increasing numbers of households are food insecure. How do we meet the immediate needs and find creative ways to repurpose parts of the food system to meet these needs in the mid- and long-term?

- Map the emergency food system and any gaps
- Identify ways to increase access (pick-up, delivery, transportation, etc)
- Identify ways to divert recoverable food
- Explore ways to employ food-based businesses to meet emergency food needs
- Explore external funding opportunities
- Other goals?

Pandemic Food Access:

How does our community access healthy food in a healthy way?

- Work with Public Health and Economic Development on how food retail systems work in a pandemic situation, including:
 - Farmers' Markets
 - Grocers
 - Restaurants
 - Delivery services
- How do SNAP and WIC recipients access the food they need?
- How do we deal with disruptions in the supply chain?
- Other goals?

Food Recovery & Resilience:

What can we do now, as part of recovery, to create a stronger, more resilient food system in the long term?

- Focus on mid- to long-term solutions
- Focus on food enterprise economic recovery
- Match food entrepreneurs with institutions that have facilities
- Identify strategic infrastructural investments
- Explore external funding opportunities
- Other goals?

Agriculture and Food Sovereignty:

How do we increase food cultivation locally?

- Identify county land with potential for cultivation
- Encourage creation of backyard garden support network/program
- Support and work to expand pantry gardens
- Develop and support farm partnerships
- Facilitate harvests for donation
- Other goals?

Logistics

- Work Groups set their own meeting schedule
- Work collaboratively with MFPC
- Members and chairs may need training on the county's virtual meeting system
- Each work group will develop a 1-page purpose & scope document
- All work groups will utilize equity and sustainability tools to analyze proposals/policies
- Other?