

MEMORANDUM

April 15, 2016

TO: County Council

FROM: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney *AMihill*

SUBJECT: **Introduction:** Bill 19-16, Health and Sanitation – Strategic Plan to End Food Insecurity

Bill 19-16, Health and Sanitation – Strategic Plan to End Food Insecurity, sponsored by Lead Sponsor Council Vice President Berliner and Co-Sponsor Councilmember Leventhal, is scheduled to be introduced on April 19, 2016. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for June 14 at 1:30 p.m.

Bill 19-16 would require the Chief Innovation Officer to propose and update a Strategic Plan to End Food Insecurity in Montgomery County. In developing the Strategic Plan, the CIO would be required to consult with many organizations inside and outside of County government. The Strategic Plan would include relevant demographic and geographic information on poverty and food insecurity and would also include a 5-year Plan that strives to reduce food insecurity by at least 10% each year. A memorandum from the Lead Sponsor begins on ©5.

This packet contains:	<u>Circle #</u>
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Bill No. 19 -16
Concerning: Health and Sanitation -
Strategic Plan to End Food Insecurity
Revised: 4/15/2016 Draft No. 4
Introduced: April 19, 2016
Expires: October 19, 2017
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: _____
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Vice President Berliner
Co-Sponsor: Councilmembers Leventhal and Rice

AN ACT to:

- (1) require the Chief Innovation Officer to propose and update a Strategic Plan to End Food Insecurity in Montgomery County;
- (2) generally amend County laws related to Health and Sanitation.

By adding

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 24, Health and Sanitation
Section 24-8B

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

1 **Sec. 1. Section 24-8B is added as follows:**

2 **24-8B. Strategic Plan to End Food Insecurity in Montgomery County.**

3 (a) The Chief Innovation Officer must develop a Strategic Plan to End
 4 Food Insecurity in Montgomery County by December 1, 2016. The
 5 Strategic Plan must at least include:

6 (1) demographic and geographic information on poverty in
 7 Montgomery County;

8 (2) demographic and geographic information on participation in
 9 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);

10 (3) demographic and geographic information on participation in
 11 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) food supplement program;

12 (4) participation in free and reduced meals by school;

13 (5) participation in other school based food programs;

14 (6) demographic estimates regarding food insecurity;

15 (7) information on the relationship between access to transportation
 16 and access to food;

17 (8) information on how food literacy impacts food insecurity; and

18 (9) A 5-year Plan, with recommended actions, that strives to reduce
 19 food insecurity by at least 10% each year. The Plan must include:

20 (A) recommendations to reduce food insecurity for seniors and
 21 children in the first year of the Plan; and

22 (B) cost estimates to implement the Plan.

23 (b) In developing the Strategic Plan, the Chief Innovation Officer must
 24 consult with:

25 (1) the County Department of Health and Human Services;

26 (2) the County Department of Transportation;

27 (3) the County Office of Agriculture;

- 28 (4) the Regional Service Center Directors;
- 29 (5) Montgomery County Public Schools;
- 30 (6) the County Planning Department;
- 31 (7) The Office of Community Partnerships;
- 32 (8) The Montgomery County Food Council
- 33 (9) Manna Food Center;
- 34 (10) The Capital Area Food Bank;
- 35 (11) organizations that are geographically located throughout that
- 36 County that provide emergency or sustained food assistance; and
- 37 (12) organizations that are geographically located throughout the
- 38 County whose mission is to reduce and eliminate poverty in the
- 39 County.

40 (c) By December 1 each year, the Chief Innovation Officer must submit a
 41 report to the County Executive and County Council. The annual report
 42 must:

- 43 (1) update the information required in Section 24-8B(a);
- 44 (2) include activities, accomplishments, plans, and objectives to
 45 implement the Strategic Plan;
- 46 (3) include cost estimates for the following fiscal year necessary to
 47 implement the Strategic Plan.

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LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Bill 19-16

Health and Sanitation – Strategic Plan to End Food Insecurity

DESCRIPTION: Bill 19-16 would require the Chief Innovation Officer to propose and update a Strategic Plan to End Food Insecurity in Montgomery County.

PROBLEM: The County has an array of programming to address food insecurity, administered by various government departments and nonprofit organizations, but there is no strategic plan for our county to follow as we seek to address and ultimately eliminate food insecurity in the County.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: To develop a strategic plan to reduce and eliminate food insecurity in the County.

COORDINATION: Chief Innovative Officer

FISCAL IMPACT: To be requested

ECONOMIC IMPACT: To be requested

EVALUATION: To be researched.

EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE: To be researched.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney, 240-777-7815

APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES: N/A

PENALTIES: N/A



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 1

CHAIRMAN
TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

April 14, 2016

TO: Council President Nancy Floreen
Council Colleagues

FROM: Council Vice President Roger Berliner
Councilmember George Leventhal
Councilmember Craig Rice

RE: Legislation to Create A Strategic Plan to Address Food Insecurity

Colleagues, we are writing to ask you to join us in co-sponsoring legislation that we plan on introducing next week. The goal of the bill is straight forward and one that we are confident all of us have a strong interest in achieving. Currently, 77,780 individuals in our county are food insecure, meaning that at any given point in time, they do not know where their next meal will come from. In a county as wealthy as ours, that is simply unacceptable.

Several months ago, in preparation for our FY17 operating budget deliberations, Council Vice President Berliner asked our Office of Management and Budget to put together an inventory showing all of the programs that receive government funding to address food insecurity in the county. The results of that inventory are attached.

What the inventory makes abundantly clear is that while our county has an array of programming to address food insecurity, administered by various government departments and nonprofit organizations, what we are lacking – to the detriment of those 77,780 individuals – is a strategic plan for our county to follow as we seek to address and ultimately eliminate food insecurity in our county.

Our County needs a plan, a plan we own. We believe that plan should, at a minimum, strive to reduce food insecurity by at least 10% a year. We will need data. And we will need our community partners to work together. That is why we are introducing this legislation, which would mandate the creation of a strategic plan for addressing food insecurity.

The plan will be developed by the Montgomery County Food Council and other key community stakeholders. As you are probably aware, the Food Council has already devoted significant time and resources to studying food insecurity in the county. Their participation, as well as the input from other public and private organizations listed in the bill, will ensure that the plan has the level of depth and analysis we need as policymakers to address the complexities surrounding food insecurity.

To make this plan a reality, we will be requesting as part of our FY17 operating budget deliberations that the Council appropriate \$75,000 to the Chief Innovation Officer to develop the plan. Food has become a significant aspect of the Chief Innovation Officer's responsibility, including spearheading the study on food hubs, working on kitchen incubators, and serving as co-chair of the Food Council itself.

We would be grateful for your co-sponsorship on this legislation, which we believe is long overdue and would greatly assist in consolidating the existing efforts in our county to address the critical issue of food insecurity. Thank you for your consideration.

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OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Jennifer A. Hughes
Director

MEMORANDUM

January 21, 2016

TO: Roger Berliner, Vice President, County Council

FROM: Jennifer A. Hughes, Director, Office of Management and Budget

SUBJECT: Request for Inventory of Hunger Relief Programs and Initiatives in Montgomery County

In response to your request for an inventory of hunger relief programs and initiatives in Montgomery County, I have attached a list of programs and initiatives supported by our County through department budgets, the Executive and Council Grants process, County contracts with community organizations, Federal and State funded programs that serve County residents, and programs administered by Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) that seek to reduce hunger. The Office of Management and Budget has identified 13 programs in FY16 within the Department of Health and Human Services with a hunger component totaling \$6.2 million in County, State and Federal support. In FY16, Executive and Council grants provided \$645,330 in general funds supporting 23 grants to 15 non-profit organizations to address hunger. MCPS reports FY15 Federal reimbursement supporting the Free and Reduced Priced Meals Program totaling \$30.5 million, and FY15 State funding for the Maryland Meals for Achievement Program totaling \$165,850.

In addition, under separate cover, please find correspondence from the Montgomery County Food Council detailing their efforts to identify funding trends and areas of interest for private funders in the region.

I hope you find this information useful. We look forward to working with the Health and Human Services Committee and the County Council during FY17 budget discussions to ensure that our scarce taxpayer resources continue to be used as efficiently and effectively as possible to fight hunger in our community.

JAH:rs

cc: Tim L. Firestine, Chief Administrative Officer
Council President Nancy Floreen
Councilmember George Leventhal
Councilmember Craig Rice
Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Larry Bowers, Interim Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools
Daniel Hoffman, Co-Chair, Montgomery County Food Council

Office of the Director

101 Monroe Street, 14th Floor • Rockville, Maryland 20850 • 240-777-2800
www.montgomerycountymd.gov

DHHS Programs Addressing Hunger						
Program/Contract Name	Service Area	Contract?	FY16	Funding Source	Food Budget	Comments
Bethesda Cares	SNH	Yes	\$169,263	HHS General Funding	\$37,664	
IW Wilkins Ave. Women's Assessment Center	SNH	Yes	\$732,418	HHS General & State ETHS Funding	\$0	Do not charge us for food.
MCCH Men's Emergency Contract	SNH	Yes	\$864,421	HHS, DHCA, & State ETHS Funding	\$40,000	
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Helping Hands	SNH	Yes	\$280,947	HHS, State ETHS and Homeless Women Grants	\$13,000	
NCCF Greentree Shelter	SNH	Yes	\$825,913	HHS General & State ETHS Funding	\$60,920	
Shepherd's Table	SNH	Yes	\$134,722	HHS General & State ETHS Funding	\$0	Does not cover food. Staffing only.
Stepping Stones Shelter	SNH	Yes	\$265,138	HHS General & State ETHS Funding	\$0	No breakdown for Food
Capitol Area Food Bank	CYF	Yes	\$97,920	county dollars	\$0	
Maryland Farmers Market Association	CYF	Yes	\$26,092	county dollars	\$0	
SNAP	CYF	No		Federal funding	\$0	
Senior Nutrition Program	ADS	Most service delivered by contract	\$778,341	general funds	\$0	
Senior Nutrition Program	ADS	Most service delivered by contract	\$1,844,405	Federal Older Americans Act Title III, State Grant, and Federal Dept. of Agriculture Nutrition Services Incentive Program[NSIP]	\$0	
Food Recovery Program/ Manna Food Center, Inc	PHS	Yes	\$160,000	HHS General Funding	\$0	The contract provides a food coordinator for the County's Food Recovery Program
Total			\$8,179,580			

FY16 Council Approved Food Grants			
Organization	Description	Total	Grant Type
Bethesda Help	Provides for the Emergency Food Program	\$2,000	CE Grant
Community Ministries of Rockville	Provides emergency assistance for eviction prevention, utilities, prescriptions, and referrals for dental/vision services and clothing/food	\$23,000	CC Grant
Crossroads Community Food Network Inc.	Provides for a farmers market nutrition incentive program and complementary healthy eating education program	\$60,920	CC Grant
EduCare Support Services, Inc	To deliver monthly allotment of perishable and non-perishable food to senior citizens and individuals with disabilities (Housebound Clients).	\$40,000	CE Grant
First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Gaithersburg, Inc.	Provides for the SHARE food program for low-income families	\$6,410	CE Grant
Gaithersburg HELP, Inc.	Provide the basic needs of food, diapers, and formula for low-income residents in Gaithersburg/Montgomery Village.	\$25,000	CE Grant
Gaithersburg HELP, Inc.	Provides for food, diapers, and formula for low-income residents in Gaithersburg/Montgomery Village	\$5,000	CC Grant
growingSOUL Inc.	Provides for support to local farmers to introduce fresh locally grown produce into the food safety net system	\$9,750	CC Grant
growingSOUL, Inc.	Provides money to local farmers and introduces fresh locally grown produce into the food safety net system	\$20,000	CE Grant
Kids In Need Distributors, Inc.	Provides support to purchase food to be distributed to children	\$30,000	CC Grant
Manna Food Center, Inc.	Provides for bringing locally grown produce to County residents experiencing hunger and to recover produce from local farmers markets	\$20,000	CE Grant
Manna Food Center, Inc.	Provides for the Smart Sacks program for elementary school students	\$32,500	CE Grant

Manna Food Center, Inc.	Provides healthy foods for weekend meals to at least 2,440 elementary school students experiencing hunger and food insecurity	\$17,500	CC Grant
Manna Food Center, Inc.	Provides support to bring fresh produce to people experiencing hunger and rescue produce from farmers markets that may otherwise be composted or discarded	\$15,000	CC Grant
Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network	Montgomery County Gleaning Network, provides emergency food relief by harvesting fresh fruits and vegetables and distributing to needy County residents.	\$20,000	CE Grant
MONTGOMERY COUNTY MUSLIM FOUNDATION, Inc	Our Program assists all who need help in the Montgomery County irrespective of race, religion, ethnic back ground or nationality.	\$90,000	CE Grant
Nourish Now Foundation, Inc.	Provides for operating support for the food recovery program	\$10,000	CE Grant
Nourish Now Foundation, Inc.	Provides for operating support for food recovery program	\$10,000	CC Grant
St. Camillus Catholic Church	This funding request is to purchase nutritionally adequate, culturally appropriate food to be distributed to needy families.	\$17,000	CE Grant
The Community Foundation for Montgomery County, an affiliate of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region	Contract salary for Coordinator to support and expand the Food Council activities in fostering a healthy and sustainable food system.	\$25,000	CE Grant
The Community Foundation for Montgomery County, an affiliate of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region	Provides for a Fiscal Impact Study on creating a Food Hub	\$25,000	CC Grant
Women Who Care Ministries	Provides for the childrens' weekend backpack program and Montgomery Village Food Center	\$130,000	CE Grant
Women Who Care Ministries	Provides for operating support for food programs	\$11,250	CC Grant
	Total	\$645,330	

**FY 15 MCPS Division of Food and
Nutrition Services Revenue**

Month	Free	Reduced	MMFA (state)
Breakfast	5,833,147	932,202	0
Breakfast Severe Need	1,079,331	212,661	0
MMFA (state)	-	0	165,850
Lunch	17,300,922	2,794,851	-
After School Snacks	174,105	23	0
After School Suppers	967,798	0	0
Summer	1,207,269	0	0
Total	26,562, 572	3,939,738	165,850



January 4, 2016

Ms. Rachel Silberman
Montgomery County Office of Management and Budget
101 Monroe Street, 14th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Ms. Silberman,

Thank you for your response to County Councilmember Roger Berliner's November 2015 letter requesting the county government's assistance in creating a comprehensive list of Montgomery County hunger relief programs and initiatives. The Montgomery County Food Council echoes the Councilmember's assertion that this assessment is essential in order to develop a better understanding of current efforts, identify existing gaps and overlaps, and maximize the impact of the funding invested in food system work. A list of the initiatives receiving direct county funding would be an incomplete picture of the breadth and depth of food system work conducted in our County, and so the Food Council will assist as much as possible within the given timeframe to identify funding trends and areas of interest for private funders in the region. In the near term it would be difficult to provide detailed data on specific private funding and programs, but this is something we can look into in the future. For the time being we hope to provide some private sector context to the data you are gathering on County funding.

One of the greatest challenges of a decentralized funding system for hunger and other food system programs is the difficulty in creating a single strategic vision for the County. It is also very labor intensive to provide a complete picture of existing initiatives. As an independent non-profit with the mission of connecting the wide range of stakeholders in the entire Montgomery County food system, the Food Council maintains a unique position in the County. The Food Council has the most comprehensive understanding of the full food cycle in Montgomery County from table crop farmers to craft food producers, to restaurants and retail, and most importantly, to resident food consumers. The Food Council has over 100 Council and Working Group members, volunteers representing private foundations, non-profits, State and Federal government, and local businesses. These partners can help us gather information that may not be captured in County government records. In addition, we feel it is important to consider food system work as a whole, including not only hunger relief efforts but also agricultural programs and services, as well as economic and workforce development initiatives.

In 2016, the Food Council will undertake the significant task of creating a Food Charter for Montgomery County, conducting a thorough assessment of the current state of food system work and establishing a long-term strategy for addressing existing issues and gaps in effort. However, below are some resources and information that should be of value in your immediate effort.

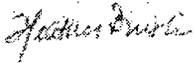
- We are aware of over 90 organizations providing emergency food services in our area, many of which are small, community-based organizations that likely do not receive County funding.
- Some examples of recent food system projects receiving funding from non-government sources:
 - Our Food Access Working Group received a project support grant in 2015 from Kaiser Permanente to conduct a Community Food Access assessment and Healthy Food Availability Index study.
 - The Community Food Rescue project received private funding to customize the online platform for their food recovery system to better meet the specific needs of Montgomery County.
 - Compass, a Washington, D.C.- based organization that provides pro bono business consulting to non-profits, donated \$130,000 in-kind hours to help combat the hunger problem in Montgomery County.
- The Abell Foundation, Town Creek Foundation, Mead Family Foundation, TD Charitable Foundation, and Wolpoff Family Foundation, among others, all contribute over \$25,000 annually to food system efforts in Montgomery County.
- The largest food security organization in Montgomery County, Manna Food Center, receives its funding from a diversity of sources, with the majority coming from individuals and workplace campaigns (51%), private foundations (13%), and corporate donors (5%). Smaller organizations likely receive funding from fewer sources, however.
- The Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (JHCLF) works with students, educators, researchers, policymakers, advocacy organizations, and communities to build a healthier, more equitable, and resilient food system. JHCLF is actively connected to the Food Council, supporting our Food Access Working Group efforts and the development of our policy campaign. Their mapping project provides valuable Montgomery County-specific information including farms, processors, distributors, retail outlets, and purchasing institutions: <http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livable-future/index.html>
- Washington Regional Food Funders was established to develop a deeper understanding of how philanthropic investments in healthy, affordable food are made in the Greater Washington Region. <https://www.washingtongrantmakers.org/food-systems>
- The Wallace Center is part of the Enterprise and Agriculture Group of Winrock International and supports communities in developing a modern food system that is healthier for people, the environment, and the economy. A representative of this organization will join our Food Economy Working Group's efforts to explore the feasibility of a food hub in Montgomery County. <http://www.wallacecenter.org/>
- The Farming at the Metro's Edge Report summarizes the perspectives of a variety of Montgomery County stakeholders on the current state of local agriculture and the obstacles and opportunities that exist for sustainable agricultural productivity: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agservices/resources/files/famefinalreport.pdf>

We will continue to research this topic and share information as it comes available. Montgomery County is uniquely positioned to be a regional and national leader in alleviating hunger and creating a truly sustainable local food system. By reducing redundancies and maximizing collaboration across funding

sources, we can move forward with a more efficient, strategic plan to address these environmental, nutritional, social, and economic issues affecting our residents. If the Food Council can assist you further in any way, please let us know. We would welcome a conversation around creating a more comprehensive, strategic vision for food system funding in the County. Our belief is that the current mechanisms are too fragmented, making requests, such as Councilmember Berliner's request, difficult to respond to without great effort.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to this shared goal. We look forward to continuing to work together in 2016.

Best Regards,



Heather Bruskin, Food Council Manager