

INVITATION JOIN THE PARTNERSHIP FOR A



HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD FUTURE

WHO?

Western Maryland Food Council (WMFC) is a collaboration among farmers and food producers, health and nutrition experts, extension educators, business people, economic development professionals, local government staff, food assistance agencies, and others from Garrett, Allegany and Washington Counties.



The Partnership strives to improve the food system in strategic ways with measurable goals. By 2030, we hope to:



- 1. Increase the portion of our food supply that is locally grown from 1% to 10%**

This will redirect \$122 million, most of which now leaves the area during purchase of imported food, to support local agriculture and the local food economy



- 2. Decrease food insecurity from 13% to 5%**

This will involve collaboration on food assistance as well as developing pathways out of food insecurity and poverty



- 3. Decrease the rate of diabetes from 10% to 5%**

This will also have positive impacts on obesity, heart disease and other chronic diseases

See our action proposals and work in progress at www.wmdfoodcouncil.com/partnership

WHAT?

Parts of the food system are interdependent and must grow, develop, and improve together.

Multi-sector coordination prevents duplication of efforts and working at cross purposes and increases efficiency and effectiveness.

Food system challenges are often “vicious cycles” where reinforcing loops keep people trapped in poverty, poor health, food insecurity, and low agricultural economic opportunity.

The Partnership has capacity for coordinated solutions that form “virtuous cycles” with self-reinforcing power to replace vicious cycles and traps.

WHY?



OUR MISSION: To bring together diverse stakeholders to integrate aspects of the food system to sustain and enhance the environmental, economic, social, and nutritional health of Western Maryland

The WMFC proposes to co-lead the Partnership on a one-year launch process toward a ten-year mission. We propose that the Partnership will:

HOW?

- Cultivate a shared vision for the food future we desire
- Set common goals and refine the initial three target goals (above) as needed
- Identify how each partner will contribute to the coordinated efforts
- Have frequent communications and bimonthly meetings to collaborate
- Agree on evaluation measures, conduct an evaluation, and make needed adjustments
- Succeed together in transforming our food system for the better

We seek a group of partners and sponsors to collectively contribute \$25,000 to support a half-time staff person in the first year. We also welcome in-kind contributions and support through time, energy, ideas, and information sharing.

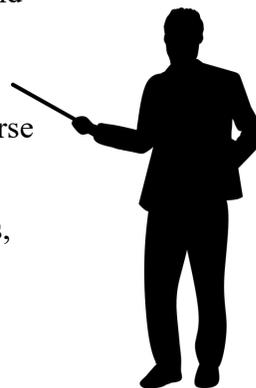
See more participation opportunities on our website.



Members of the Partnership for a Healthy and Sustainable Food Future benefit in many ways:

1. Partnership with local and regional leaders who can be allies for your food-related priorities
2. Gain valuable information and resources on food policy councils and interdisciplinary, multi-sector, and systems-level collaborative methods
3. Decision-making power and creative leadership in charting the course for the Partnership and Western Maryland's food future
4. Collaboration to better prepare the food system for natural disasters, emergencies, loss of industry, and economic disruptions
5. Funding partners will be recognized in all web, print and media communications

BENEFITS



WHEN?

Please contact us now to get involved! If you would like to learn more, we can meet at your location, present more information, learn about your food system priorities and expertise, and discuss building the Partnership.

We plan meetings with potential partners throughout June and July, 2019. Contact Dan Fiscus or Willie Lantz at the addresses below.

For more information available online, please visit www.wmdfoodcouncil.com

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