



Community Health Equity Convening Series: Washington, D.C.

SUMMARY

JUNE 27, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C.



Children's Health Fund
in collaboration with
Children's National Hospital
With support from
Sanofi US

Summary

Overview

Children's Health Fund and our partners at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C. hosted a community health equity convening on June 27th, 2022. Local stakeholders joined us for a day of collaboration and problem solving, resulting in a tangible solution to address an issue impacting the health and well-being of the D.C. community. Participants identified food insecurity and the communication of available resources as primary challenges facing residents of Southeast D.C.

To address these issues, participants conceptualized a community and grocery store partnership to facilitate local events aimed at increasing access and education surrounding nutrition, food systems, and self-sustainable methods of food production and preparation. Through this proposed initiative, grocery stores would partner with housing organizations, plant nurseries, schools, healthcare institutions, and local government agencies to build the skills needed to combat food insecurity. These proposed events would be considerate of native foods and culturally appropriate recipes.

Participants identified key stakeholders and developed an evaluation plan and list of potential challenges. This initiative will equip residents with the knowledge and skills necessary to fill existing gaps in food access.

Emerging Themes

The convening's discussion led to the emergence of three key themes:

- Existing resources for food insecurity are siloed and greater interorganizational collaboration is needed
- Cultural considerations regarding food and nutrition are key
- Initiatives and programming to combat food insecurity require adequate marketing and communication materials to make residents aware of existing resources

Summary

Convening Activities

Resource Round-up

- DC Central Kitchen at THEARC
 - Needs branding and marketing materials to make residents aware of program offerings
- New and pop-up cultural and vegan food offerings
- Washington Commanders/Nationals or other athletic teams support community events and initiatives linked to food insecurity
- Black Farmers Groups
 - Black-owned urban farms
- Mt. Vernon partnerships showcasing history
 - other farms: Arcadia farm; CASA farms
- Corporate-community partnerships: Amazon
- Churches and faith organizations
- Community centers: YMCA

Initiative Brainstorm

- School initiatives: school-based education about food and nutrition
 - community gardens
- Goals:
 - build life skills
 - expand knowledge base
- Centralized database of resources
- Study on environmental factors present in different Wards of D.C.
 - Anacostia River Project: toxicity of River
 - Comparative study between school districts
- Mayor's Office collaboration: annual festival with resource tables
- Grocery store partnerships:
 - support for community events
- Financial literacy: Food for Change by Houston Food Bank
- Key consideration: culturally and economically appropriate food programming