

# BALTIMORE FOOD POLICY INITIATIVE (BFPI): ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

## INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

Understanding that food does not fit solely into one government agency, the City of Baltimore takes an interagency approach to increasing access to healthy, affordable food. BFPI is a formal collaboration between the Department of Planning, Office of Sustainability, Health Department, and Baltimore Development Corporation, drawing on the expertise of each. Many other agencies contribute to and support this work.

*Establish Baltimore as a leader in sustainable local food systems.*

Baltimore Sustainability Plan  
Greening Goal #2

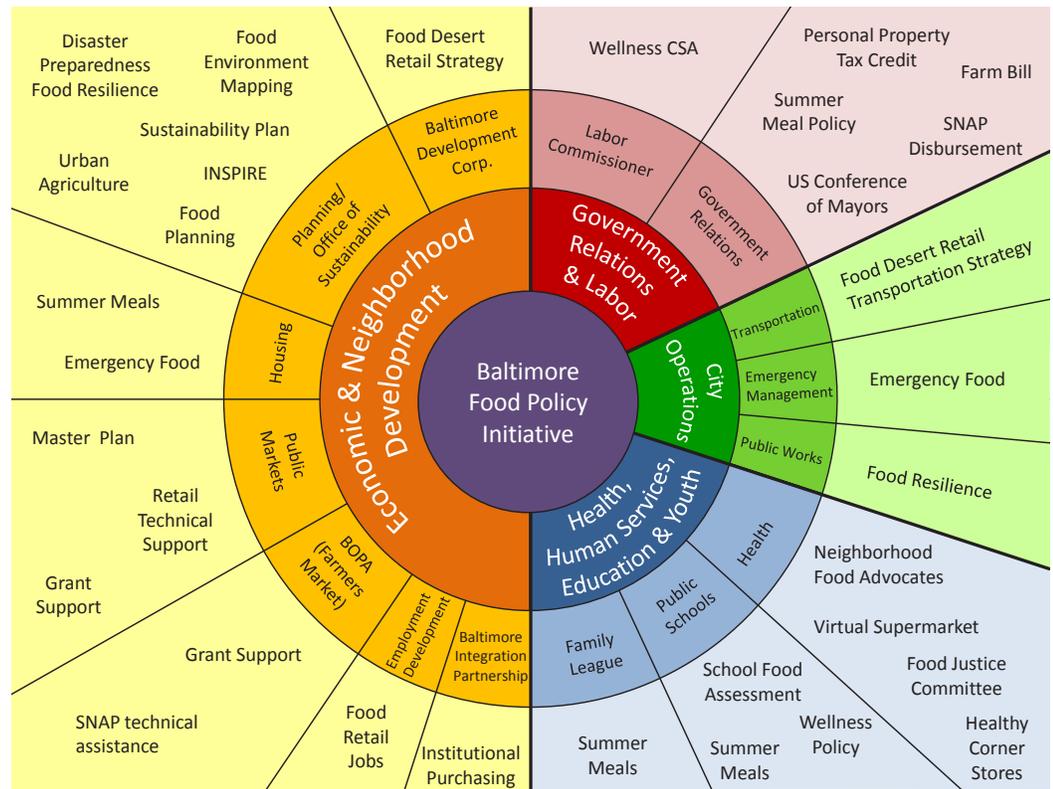


Figure 1. Visualization of food integration across government agencies.

BFPI translates how food supports new and existing plans, programs, and policies throughout city government. By facilitating collaboration around food, BFPI aims to improve the well-being of all city residents.

## BUILDING A FOOD POLICY FRAMEWORK

Food must be addressed from social, economic, health, and environmental perspectives.

**Planning and Policy:** The Food Policy Director sits in the Department of Planning and directs the strategic planning and policy agenda related to food for the City, along with Food Access Planners.

- Food Desert Retail Strategy
- State and Federal Nutrition and Agricultural Policy
- Food System Maps and Plans

**Economic Development:** The Baltimore Development Corporation's Food Retail Economic Development Officer implements the Food Desert Retail Strategy to support existing food stores and stimulate retail development in food deserts.

- Attraction and retention
- Supermarket Tax Credit in Food Desert Incentive Areas
- Financing Opportunities

**Community-Based Programming:** Baltimarket is a suite of community-based food access and food justice programs through the Health Department with the mission to

improve health and wellness by using food access and food justice as strategies for community transformation.

- Healthy Stores
- Virtual Supermarket
- Neighborhood Food Advocates

**Environmental Benefit:** The Office of Sustainability implements Homegrown Baltimore, an initiative to increase the production, distribution, sales, and consumption of locally grown food within the city.

- Land Leasing
- Urban Farm Tax Credit
- Food Resilience Plan



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE  
MAYOR

THOMAS J. STOSUR  
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING





## FOOD PAC GOALS

### GOAL 1

Food PAC members identify and inform the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI) of food policy barriers in order to collectively address the policy issues from an organizational, city, state, or federal level.

### GOAL 2

BFPI informs Food PAC members on city, state, and federal policy implications that impact the food environment of Baltimore City.

### GOAL 3

Food PAC members collaborate to increase knowledge and to break down silos in order to be more effective in addressing food access and local food systems.

*Baltimore Food Policy Initiative and Food PAC collaborate to increase access to healthy, affordable food in Baltimore City food deserts by addressing health, economic, and environmental disparities.*

## ABOUT FOOD PAC

Established in 2010, Food PAC members work actively to improve food access and the food system. Food PAC has grown from 18 to over 60 members, representing nonprofits, universities, farms, businesses, hospitals, and residents. Facilitated by

the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative, Food PAC provides opportunities for collaboration and idea sharing around food-related organizations in Baltimore. Members are invested in issues ranging from food policy, food justice, childhood hunger, food access,

nutrition, obesity, food retail, and research in food systems. Meetings are held six times a year and allow members to share updates, learn from presentations, and converse in breakout sessions so they are better equipped for their food systems work.

## FOOD PAC FUNCTIONS

Food PAC members work in all areas of the food system to address food access issues throughout Baltimore.

