



FY 2024

BUDGET REQUEST



A healthier, more equitable DC is possible

Founded in 2009, DC Greens uses the power of partnerships to advance food equity, education, and access in the nation's capital.

We're working toward a DC in which food education is on the menu in every classroom, where doctors write prescriptions for fresh fruits and vegetables, and where your ZIP code doesn't determine your life expectancy. Today, over 65,000 DC residents struggle with food insecurity, one in six children face hunger, and food insecurity among our seniors is the highest in the nation.

We have the opportunity in the FY 2024 to tackle health, hunger, and food insecurity head-on by making strategic investments in:

- **Produce Rx:** \$500,000
- **The Well at Oxon Run:** \$500,000
- **Give SNAP a Raise:** \$51.19 million
- **No Senior Hungry:** \$1.59 million
- **Good Food Purchasing Program:** \$677,000

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Budget Recommendations

Produce Rx

Using a food-as-medicine approach, Produce Rx (PRx) aims to increase food access and decrease health disparities for DC's most vulnerable residents. This innovative program allows medical professionals to prescribe fresh fruit and vegetables to Medicaid patients experiencing diet-related chronic illnesses. Patients can then fill their prescriptions at in-store pharmacies and receive coupons to spend on fresh produce each week. For the past eight years, DC Greens has administered DC's PRx program for adults. In 2023, the program will expand its served population to reach 1,319 adults and 898 children. PRx is currently offered through three DC Managed Care Organizations at 17 clinic locations across DC.

DC Greens recommends expanding annual funding for the Produce Prescription Program for Medicaid and Other Public Insurance Programs Grant from \$500,000 in FY 2024 to one million by FY 2027. Under DC's current Medicaid arrangement, enhanced funding is required to support the continued growth of PRx and expanded DHCF outreach. Produce prescriptions benefit patients by helping to prevent diet-related illnesses and reducing healthcare costs; they also benefit DC's economy by reinvesting PRx funds locally. In 2022, PRx participants reinvested over half of the total program budget – \$265,700 – back into the local economy through prescribed purchases of fruit and vegetables.

Program/Policy	FY 2024 Recommendation, by Agency	Total
Produce Rx	DHCF: \$500,000	FY 2024: \$500,000 FY 2025: \$500,000 FY 2026: \$750,000 FY 2027: \$1,000,000

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Budget Recommendations

The Well at Oxon Run

After three years of inclusive community planning, The Well at Oxon Run opened its gates in 2022 and embarked upon its first growing season that summer. The Well is a lightning rod attracting health and prosperity to Ward 8. This farm, which is operated on DPR-owned land, is the first and only of its kind in DC - a safe and inclusive space that centers BIPOC wellness, culture, and voice. The Well is a lifeline in a community lacking appropriate access to full-service grocery stores, safe outdoor spaces, and with the lowest life expectancy rates in the District. The Well's food access, health, and cultural programming fills a vital need in Ward 8 and for community members across the District. Demand for these services is high and expected to continue rising in the coming years.

DC Greens recommends expanding annual funding to DPR to support Ward 8's community farm from \$500,000 in FY 2024 to one million by FY 2026. Enhanced funding is critical to our ability to keep the farm in good repair, grow programming (including food access and healthcare initiatives), and support both staff and community needs.

Program/Policy	FY 2024 Recommendation, by Agency	Total
The Well at Oxon Run	DPR: \$500,000	FY 2024: \$500,000 FY 2025: \$750,000 FY 2026: \$1,000,000 FY 2027: \$1,000,000

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Budget Recommendations

Give SNAP a Raise

Nearly 140,000 DC households rely on SNAP benefits to feed themselves and their families. For most, however, monthly SNAP benefits cover just two weeks of food. Give SNAP a Raise leverages local funds to plus-up SNAP benefits, providing an extra 10% of the federal maximum monthly allotment based on household size (DC participants currently receive an average benefit of just \$4.50/day). Increases to SNAP benefits have been shown to improve the overall health and educational performance of recipients, as well as to stimulate significant new economic activity.

Full implementation of this bill will cost \$51.2 million in year one and a total of \$213.2 million over a four-year financial plan. A majority of the funds will support benefit increases, with one-time funding of \$300,000 needed in year one for required IT systems changes. Because legislation is already available and this bill addresses an urgent need, DC Greens recommends funding be provided *before* FY 2024 through an FY 2023 supplemental budget appropriation, if funds allow.

Program/Policy	FY 2024 Recommendation, by Agency	Total
Give SNAP a Raise (Bill 24-0600)	DHS: \$51,190,000	FY 2024: \$51,190,000 FY 2025: \$52,417,000 FY 2026: \$53,989,000 FY 2027: \$55,609,000

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Budget Recommendations

No Senior Hungry

Seniors in DC currently suffer from the highest rates of food insecurity in the nation. Food insecurity is acutely dangerous for seniors because they are more likely to suffer from chronic health conditions requiring nutrition interventions for disease management and prevention. No Senior Hungry would address senior food insecurity by improving engagement and education, improving District communications and agency coordination, increasing senior SNAP participation, and adding home-delivered meals and medical nutrition therapy to covered services under the Medical waiver for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities.

The funding needs below include *local* costs only; the remainder of the bill is funded federally. The bill will cost \$1.58 million in year one and a total of \$26.1 million over a four-year financial plan. Four agencies are directly impacted fiscally by this bill: DACL, DHS, OSSE. Because legislation is already available and this bill addresses an urgent need, DC Greens recommends funding begin *before* FY 2024 through an FY 2023 supplemental budget appropriation, if funds allow.

Program/Policy	FY 2024 Recommendation, by Agency	Total
No Senior Hungry (Bill 24-419)	DACL: \$732,000 DHS: \$850,000 OSSE: \$15,000	FY 2024: \$1,597,000 FY 2025: \$8,163,000 FY 2026: \$8,022,000 FY 2027: \$8,307,000

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Budget Recommendations

Good Food Purchasing Program

The Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) is a values-based procurement program guided by five community-backed food standards, including: local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare, and nutrition. DCPS completed a baseline assessment of its purchasing for school year 2018/19 as part of its adoption of the GFPP (as required by the Healthy Students Amendment Act), however, progress and subsequent assessments have stalled. DC Greens recommends the dedication of funds to support resumed implementation of the GFPP in DCPS, as well as additional funds to expand GFPP to all institutions that operate meal programs in the District.

GFPP implementation and expansion will require \$677,000 in year one, and DC Greens recommends the same (or greater) funds be provided on an annual basis going forward. Funds will support: 1 FTE at DCPS to oversee procurement and GFPP implementation (\$110K); annual assessments to track and measure DCPS' progress over time (\$17K); completion of annual progress assessments at the five other District agencies that purchase meals (\$100K); establishment of an Office of Food Procurement to oversee all food contracts managed by OCP and District-wide adoption of the GFPP (\$250K); and establishment of a special purpose fund at DSLBD to accelerate implementation of the GFPP (\$200K).

Program/Policy	FY 2024 Recommendation, by Agency	Total
GFPP implementation and expansion	DCPS: \$127,000 OCP: \$350,000 DSLBD: \$200,000	FY 2024: \$677,000 FY 2025: \$677,000 FY 2026: \$677,000 FY 2027: \$677,000

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