

# FRESH STARTS Act of 2023

## A Bill to Transform DC Jail Food

### Overview

The Food Regulation Ensures Safety and Hospitality Specialty Training Aids Re-entry Transition and Success (“FRESH STARTS”) Act of 2023 is a direct response to longstanding concerns about the harmful and unsafe conditions of food in DC jails. The legislation aims to transform the Department of Corrections’ (DOC) food environment in order to ensure residents have access to safe, nourishing meals that heal rather than harm.

### The FRESH STARTS Act of 2023 will:

- Mandate that the foods served in DOC facilities **meet federal nutrition standards** set forth by the most recent edition of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans;
- Direct DOC to **adopt the Good Food Purchasing Policy** (GFPP), a set of food purchasing principles designed to promote local economies, advance public health, support valued workers, protect animal welfare, and foster environmental sustainability;
- **Strengthen oversight** over DOC through increased transparency and information-sharing;
- Require DOC to **pay incarcerated individuals engaged in food service a living wage** as established by DC law; and
- **Create the Healthy Food in DC Correctional Facilities Task Force** to develop long-term mechanisms for promoting a healthy and dignified food and wellness environment within DOC including how to:
  - ▶ Provide hospitality career training and employment support upon release;
  - ▶ Improve the quality of meals;
  - ▶ Transition to a self-operated food service model;
  - ▶ Include urban farms within new facility designs.

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For more information about the FRESH STARTS Act and how to get involved, visit [dontmutemyhealth.org/jailfood](https://dontmutemyhealth.org/jailfood).

