

# Sweetened Beverage Tax Programs and Services – Monthly Report

## Prepared by Department Staff for the Community Advisory Board

January 2023

Note: Departments are piloting this new monthly report for the CAB. The purpose is to provide key updates to the CAB about SBT implementation. We will continue to adjust the template to best meet the interests and information needs of the CAB.

### SBT Staff Liaisons

City Budget Office (CBO)	Greg Shiring
Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL)	Tiffany Lee
Department of Neighborhoods (DON)	Lisa Chen
Human Services Department (HSD)	Seán Walsh
Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE)	Bridget Igoe, Robyn Kumar
Seattle Parks & Recreation (SPR)	Ariana Grlj

### CAB reminders

#### Upcoming:

- CM Mosqueda's office invited the CAB to present to the Finance and Housing Committee on Feb 1. The CAB Executive Committee is planning to present and will discuss with the CAB key messages it wants to convey at this meeting. Bridget will provide staffing support.

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### Section 1: Opportunities for CAB Involvement (recent and upcoming)

Recent: None.

#### Upcoming:

- HSD released its [2023 Notice of Funding Availability](#). Q1 investments supported by SBT revenue include Farm to Preschool Program Coordination & Food Procurement, Food Systems, and Culturally Nourishing Food for Older Adults. **There are still opportunities for CAB members to**

**participate as proposal reviewers for these investment areas.** See Bridget's 11/21/2022 email for details or contact Seán Walsh at HSD: [sean.walsh2@seattle.gov](mailto:sean.walsh2@seattle.gov)

- DON will release the Food Equity Fund General Grant on Jan. 25, 2023. There will be opportunities for CAB members to participate as community reviewers. Additional information will be shared once public. For more information, please reach out to Lisa Chen at DON: [lisa.chen3@seattle.gov](mailto:lisa.chen3@seattle.gov)

## Section 2: Media & Communications (recent and upcoming)

### Recent:

- King County Department of Natural Resources & Parks has developed a [press release](#) and [video](#) about the new South Seattle Community Food Hub Project (currently supported by federal and county funding). The South Seattle Community Food Hub will provide shared space for hunger relief organizations to store, pack, and distribute fresh food to their communities, and infrastructure for local, sustainable farmers. See also Jan. 17 [Seattle Times article](#).
- [Fresh Bucks announced Local Yokels as a new retailer](#). See more in Fresh Bucks updates below.
- Healthy Food in Schools in the news!
  - Jan. 13 [KIRO interview with SPS Chef- Emme Collins](#)
  - Dec. 5 Mayor Harrell, SPS Superintendent Jones, and other City and SPS officials celebrated the importance of fresh, nutritious, culturally diverse, local food at Denny International Middle School. Great photos and video [here](#).

### Upcoming:

- CAB Co-Chairs are aware that Jim Krieger, Executive Director of Healthy Food America, Clinical Professor at University of Washington School of Public Health, and former CAB Co-Chair submitted an op-ed to the Seattle Times commemorating the fifth-year anniversary of the SBT and calling it a policy success. Publication date TBD but expected soon.

## Section 3: Budget Updates

- None.

## Section 4: Early Learning Program Updates

### [Child Care Assistance Program](#), DEEL

- As of November 2022, the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) has supported 796 children with at least one month of childcare subsidy, year to date. This is the highest number of children supported over the past 5 years.

### [Health and Developmental Supports](#), DEEL

- No updates.

### Home Visiting/ParentChild+, DEEL

- No updates.

Family Child Care Support, DEEL

- No updates.

Birth-to-Three Coaching and Training, DEEL

- Coaches are working to coordinate resources and expertise from Herring Center, Child Find, and Public Health – Seattle & King County to meet providers' requests for support with children with disabilities.

[Prenatal-to-Three Grant Program](#), DEEL

- No updates.

## Section 5: Food Program Updates

[Food Equity Fund](#), DON

- The Food Equity Fund General Grant will open from January 25, 2023, to March 15, 2023. Available grant sizes range from \$5,000-100,000 with projects expected to be completed within 24 months of contracting. We revised the application to focus on proposals that are led by Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth, and elders. Eligible applicants must contribute to an equitable and sustainable local food system.
- Additional information, including office hours, virtual information sessions, and translated outreach materials will be shared with the CAB by Jan. 25, 2023.

[Farm to Preschool](#), HSD

- Farm to Table officially rebranded as Farm to Preschool. The program supports approximately [50 preschool sites](#) across Seattle in partnership with the [City of Seattle Department of Early Learning and Education \(DEEL\)](#). At least 90% of participating Seattle Preschool Program schools are serving BIPOC children from low to very low-income households. The program includes nutrition education and take-home family food bags, with an emphasis on fresh, culturally relevant food and support for local farmers.
- An RFQ for Farm to Preschool Coordination and Food Procurement launches Jan. 30. See rater opportunity above in Section 1.

[Healthy Food in Schools](#), OSE

- The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) is kicking off 2023 by adding three new schools, for a total of 19 schools participating. FFVP continues to expand student access to a variety of fresh and local produce. OSE's Food Systems Design Fellow has been busy evaluating FFVP through surveys and interviews with students, kitchen staff, and school administrators.
- After nine months of collaboration and visioning, the School Meals and Food Education Working Group (SMFEWG) has developed three action priorities to improve school meals and nutrition education. The group includes representatives from City and SPS departments and community stakeholders. The final report will be available in March/April 2023.
- A subgroup from the SMFEWG applied to the USDA's Farm to School program to support some aspects of the three action priorities. Collaborators include OSE, SPS Culinary Services, SPS

Native Education Program, Nurturing Roots, and Tilth Alliance. Awards will be announced in spring.

#### [Fresh Bucks](#), OSE

- Fresh Bucks welcomed its first online grocery delivery partner, Local Yokels, a women- and minority-owned business that aims to build a sustainable food economy of small, local, women-, minority-, LGBTQ+ owned food retailers and farmers. Fresh Bucks customers have shared their enthusiasm for a grocery delivery option; including a customer who couldn't leave the house due to illness and another who is dependent on senior residence transportation. Learn more about this partnership in this recently published [blogpost](#).

#### Summer Meals, SPR

- No updates.

#### Food Banks, HSD

- Beginning in January, food banks will use new quantity and quality data metrics to track impact and customer satisfaction. The metrics came out of a year-long co-design process with food banks and the University of Washington.

#### Meal Programs, HSD

- HSD meal partner OSL (Operation Sack Lunch) secured a new 12,000sf site for increased dry, frozen, and cold storage, set to open in April or May. (This site is distinct from the South Seattle Community Food Hub project listed in Section 2 above.) OSL leads the Meals Partnership Coalition of area community meal programs and provides its own drop-in meal service daily.
- An RFP for Culturally Nourishing Foods for Older Adults launches March 1. See rater opportunity above in Section 1.

#### Food System Supports, HSD

- An RFQ for Food Systems launches February 28. The RFQ includes support for bulk procurement and transportation of food to food banks and meal programs, as well as support for the Meals Partnership Coalition and Seattle Food Committee. See rater opportunity above in Section 1.

#### Food Policy (includes [Food Action Plan](#)), OSE

- The City's Food Action Plan Interdepartmental Team has developed a revised draft of the updated Plan that addresses feedback from 2022 community engagement and public comment. The Plan is now undergoing a formal review process with City officials. We anticipate the Plan will be released by Q2 2023.

## Section 6: SBT Evaluation Updates

[Click here](#) for latest SBT Evaluation Reports posted on the CAB webpage.

- The SBT Evaluation team is finalizing its 24-month report from the Child Cohort Study. As a reminder, this study surveyed lower-income children and parents living in Seattle and the South King County area (where the Comparison area includes Renton, Federal Way, Kent, Auburn, and other South King County cities) to measure their change in beverage consumption. Prior reports

examined change from pre-tax to 6-month and 12-month post-tax periods. The primary objective of the 24-month report is to explore whether consumption of sugary beverages that would be subject to the Seattle SBT changed from before 24 months after the tax, among children and parents living in Seattle, compared to children and parents living in the Comparison area where the same beverages were not subject to the SBT. The study also explored whether there were different child and parental changes in consumption of non-taxed beverages (and among these water) by location, and parents' awareness, attitudes, and experiences with the SBT.

- After March 31, 2023, the SBT Evaluation team can present to the CAB findings from all its most recent work to assess impacts of the SBT 24 months after implementation. The recent studies were designed to address these research questions:
  - 24 months after implementation, was Seattle's SBT associated with changes in: store prices, norms, small food store business revenues, and consumption of sugary beverages?
  - Was the SBT associated with changes in obesity and overweight status in a patient population of adults, as well as in a patient population of children?
  - Was the SBT associated with changes in consumption of sugar beverages and weight status among students in grades 8, 10, and 12 in Seattle public schools compared to those attending public schools elsewhere in King County?

## Section 7: Attachments

- None.