



# Let's Go Better: Food Access

October, 2021



City of Boston  
Food Access

## Zoom Meeting Guidance - Language Access

---

Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin interpretation is available for this meeting. Please select your preferred language option at the bottom of the screen by **clicking on the globe symbol**.

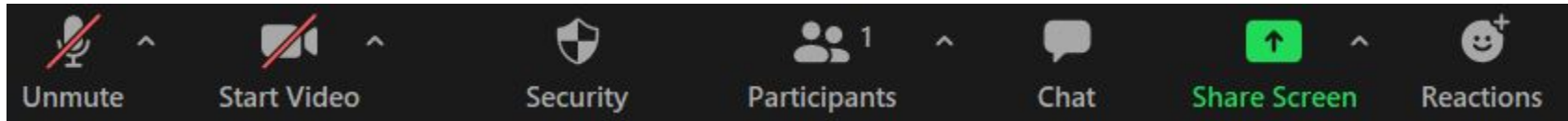
**NOTE: EVERYONE MUST SELECT A LANGUAGE**



## Zoom Meeting Guidance

---

- During the presentation, all microphones will be muted
- If you are experiencing technical issue or have a questions about something in the presentation, please let us know using the chat



- You can also let us know if you're having an issue or ask a question by “raising your hand”. Click on “**Reactions**” then “**Raise Your Hand**” in the pop-up window.

## Reminder

- Please keep your mics muted.
- We will be recording this meeting, so if you do not want your face to be recorded feel free to turn off the camera.
- If you have questions please use the chat.



# Our agenda today

---

- Background information
- Office of food access updates
- Discussion and shaping of four main recommendations
- Open comments



# Food Access Plan to Recover - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) 2021-2024

---

**The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** is an economic stimulus bill signed by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021 to speed up the United States' recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing recession.

**Our goal for today:** Discuss and further shape four actionable food access funding recommendations highlighted by the CBOs to be presented to the Mayor's Office and the Equitable Recovery Taskforce.

**Our Road map:** Mayor's Food Access Agenda 2021

**Our guiding principles:**

*Dignity, Agency, and Equity.*

**Our Philosophy:** Transparency and inclusivity

## Our timeline:

- **Sep 13th:** CBO's Meeting
- **End September:** Gather feedback from CBOs, plan agenda and outreach strategy for the community meetings in October.
- **Week October 18:** two open community meetings hosted in different languages
- **October 29:** Finalize the report with the suggestions compiled through the community meetings.



# Food Access Emergency & Recovery Investments Updates

---

## Emergency Investment: ~\$27 million

- Youth Meal Sites (City): **\$300,000**
- Adults Meal Sites (CARES Act): **\$500,000**
- Emergency Feeding program: (CARES Act): **\$5 million**
- Food Access Local Supply (CARES Act): **1.3 million**
- Boston Resiliency Fund: **\$19.88 million**
- Miscellaneous: staff capacity, outreach, support, transportation (OFA) :**\$250,00**
- Farmers Market Coupons (CARES Act): Over \$650

## American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

### Recovery Investments: **\$2.5 million**

- \$2.2 million in grant funding to 39 local, non-profit organizations through the Food Sovereignty and Community Grants programs.
  - 95% POC/Other Minority Led
  - 57% Women Led
- \$300,000 will be used for:
  - Food resources ChatBot: Connect residents with safety net and emergency programs.
  - Food Donation platform: Connect with surplus food and reduce waste
  - Citywide outreach & education campaign



## **Four recommendations we want to shape with you and would like to get feedback on**

- Community Kitchens
- Food hubs
- Food + nutrition classes
- Affordable and healthy stores





# What are we doing?

---

For each recommendation we will go through 3 steps

1. High-level explanation
2. Polling questions
3. Short open discussion (6 mins) - 1 min per person

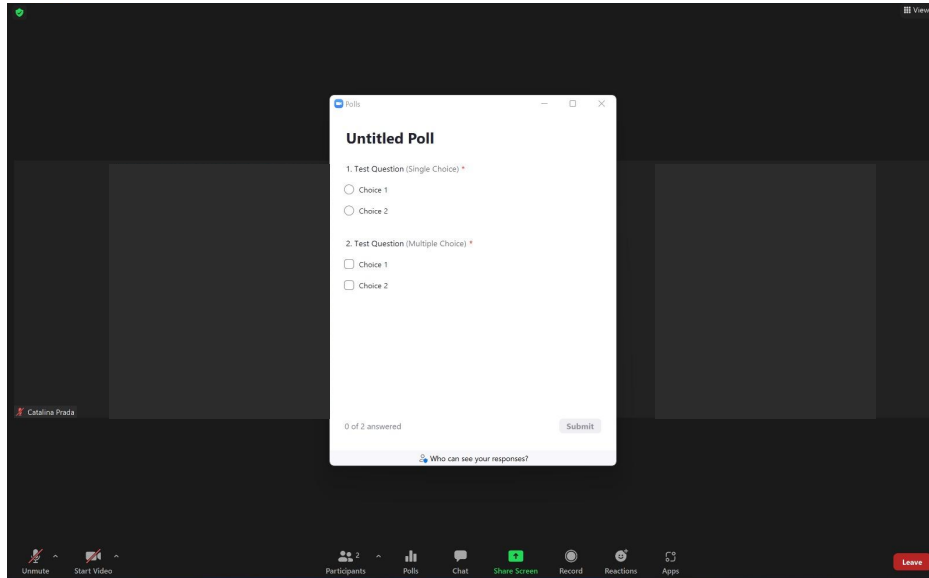


RECOMMENDATION 1:

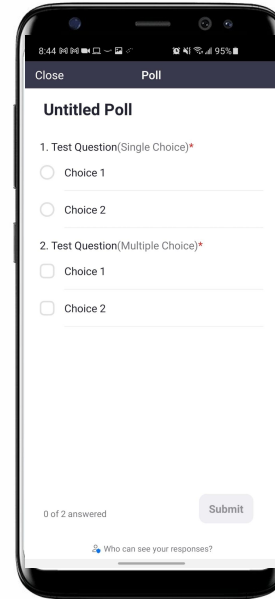
## COMMUNITY KITCHENS

Community kitchens are **places** where community members can **share cooking resources** (possibly including ingredients), **tools and physical space** to either create their own business, partner with others to create a business, or cook their own food.

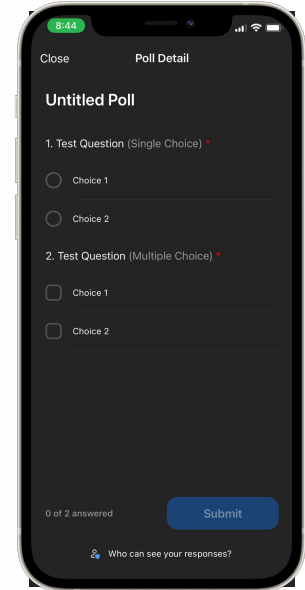
# POLL INSTRUCTIONS



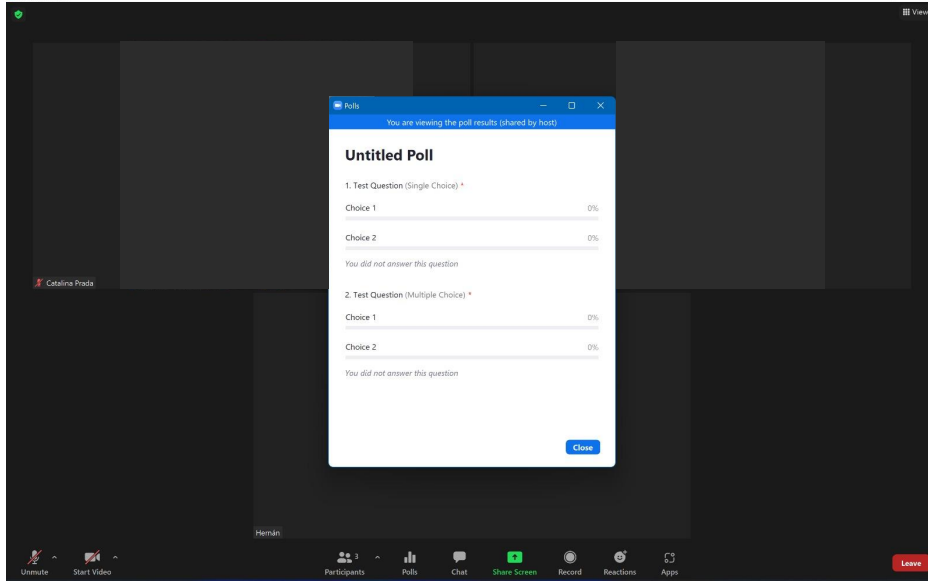
Computer



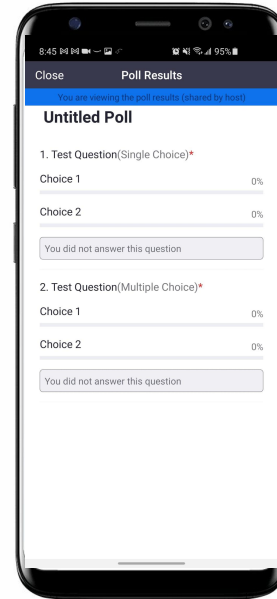
Mobile devices



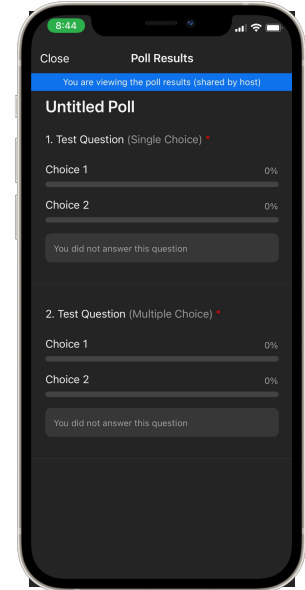
# POLL INSTRUCTIONS



Computer



Mobile devices



## **POLL QUESTIONS**

---

**Should the City of Boston invest American Rescue Plan funds to create community kitchens?**

- Yes
- No

**Where should community kitchens be located?**

- Existing underutilized kitchens
- In a location of their own
- Commissary kitchens
- Restaurants



00:12



**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Please either unmute yourself  
or raise your hand.



*Each person has  
1-minute*

RECOMMENDATION 2:

## **COMMUNITY FOOD HUBS**

Food hubs are **welcoming places** where people could grow, cook, share, and find **several food resources, ALL under one same roof**. Programming and services available are decided by the community.

# POLL QUESTIONS

---

**Should the City of Boston invest American Rescue Plan funds to create neighborhood food hubs?**

- Yes
- No

**What type of programming or services you think the neighborhood food hubs should have:**

- SNAP + WIC, and other safety net programs sign ups
- Food Pantry
- Community kitchen
- Shared cooking areas
- Community food resources liaisons
- Farmers markets
- Cooking/food access classes
- Healthy + affordable store
- Food resources outreach
- Cooking/food access classes
- Healthy + affordable store
- Food resources outreach
- Community fridges
- Farming classes
- Job fairs
- Healthcare services
- Community gardens
- Community meetings





00:12



**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Please either unmute yourself  
or raise your hand.



*Each person has  
1-minute*

RECOMMENDATION 3:

## FOOD & NUTRITION CLASSES

We've heard that Boston residents are interested in more **FREE food & nutrition classes**. We have some ideas of what these classes could be but would love to have feedback from all of you. Some ideas:

- How to cook local vegetables and fruits
- How to shop on a budget using SNAP
- How to store already prepared meals
- How to best preserve fruits and vegetables
- How to pickle or preserve produce for later use
- How to use the Healthy Incentive Program at farmers markets
- Learning about other cultures through food
- Nutrition classes

# POLL QUESTIONS

---

**Should the City of Boston invest ARP funds to host food access classes?**

- Yes
- No

**Which of the following classes would you like to see offered? Please choose all that apply.**

- How to cook local vegetables and fruits
- How to shop on a budget using SNAP
- How to store already prepared meals
- How to best preserve fruits and vegetables
- How to pickle or preserve produce for later use
- How to maximize and make use of safety net programs (HIP, SNAP, WIC)
- Learning about other cultures through food

**Where would you like to see these classes hosted? Please choose all that apply.**

- Community based organizations
- Food pantries
- Health Centers
- Boston Public Libraries
- Community centers
- Farmers Markets
- Community Gardens + Public Parks
- Neighborhood food hubs
- Community kitchens
- Corner stores, bodegas or grocery stores



00:12



**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Please either unmute yourself  
or raise your hand.



*Each person has  
1-minute*

RECOMMENDATION 4:

## **AFFORDABLE HEALTHY STORES**

Join us in thinking how they will look like

# POLL QUESTIONS

---

**Should the City of Boston invest American Rescue Plan funds to have more affordable healthy corner stores in Boston?**

- . Yes
- . No

**Which services do you think an affordable healthy store should have?**

- . Sell fresh fruits and vegetables
- . Sell only healthy products
- . Sell culturally appropriate food
- . Sell affordable local products
- . Health services check in
- . Cooking classes
- . Community events spaces

**Should we improve existing healthy stores or create new ones**

- . Improve existing healthy stores
- . Create/add new healthy stores
- . Both



00:12



**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Please either unmute yourself  
or raise your hand.



*Each person has  
1-minute*

00:12

# In **ONE** word, what are we missing?

Please keep it short as we want everyone to have a chance to speak

Write in the chat or raise your hand if you want to speak

Each person has max. 1 min



City of Boston  
Food Access



## OUR MEETING VISUAL NOTES





# THANK YOU

If have questions or would like to talk more about today's topics  
Contact us at [food@boston.gov](mailto:food@boston.gov)



Food Access

CITY of **BOSTON**