



City of Richmond




Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** April 2, 2026
From: Kim Somerville **File:** 08-4055-08/2025-Vol 01
 Director, Community Social Development
Re: **Community Food Action Plan Guiding Principles**

Staff Recommendation

That the guiding principles detailed in the report titled "Community Food Action Plan Guiding Principles", dated April 2, 2026 from the Director, Community Social Development, be approved.

Kim Somerville
 Director, Community Social Development
 (604-247-4671)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO: Parks Services	CONCURRENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO 

Staff Report

Origin

On December 17, 2025, City Council adopted *Building Our Future Together: Social Development Strategy (2025–2035)* to guide the City and its partners in responding to the current and future social needs of the community over the next 10 years. The Strategy outlines a number of actions aimed at reducing food insecurity in Richmond, including the development of a community food action plan.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval of the draft guiding principles that will shape the development of a draft Community Food Action Plan (2027–2032).

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022–2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

Vibrant, resilient and active communities supported by a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, build relationships and access resources.

6.4 Support vulnerable populations through collaborative and sustainable programs and services.

This report responds to Building Our Future Together: Social Development Strategy (2025–2035) Strategic Direction 1: Improve Access to Basic Needs:

1.1 Develop and implement a Community Food Action Plan to address food insecurity and foster a coordinated approach to meeting current and future community food access needs.

This report also supports the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond Strategic Direction 2: Support Residents at Risk of or Living in Poverty:

2.4 Implement initiatives to increase food security in the community or residents at risk of or living in poverty.

Analysis

Like many communities across Canada, food insecurity in Richmond has significantly increased in recent years as a result of the high cost of living, which is placing financial strain on households. As a result, more households are relying on community and government supports to meet their basic needs. This includes the various community food programs offered by community and faith-based groups and non-profit organizations in Richmond.

The purpose of the Community Food Action Plan is to strengthen the community's capacity to respond to the growing need for food assistance in Richmond. It is intended to guide the community to take collective action to address food insecurity in a coordinated manner that fosters enhanced collaboration, resource sharing and partnerships among the wide spectrum of community food program providers currently supporting the community.

The Community Food Action Plan will be guided by a project team, comprised of City staff and the Steering Committee. It will be informed by best practices, an environmental scan of current community food programs, local data and a thorough consultation process. It will also build on the overview of current community outreach services and community programs addressing food insecurity in Richmond that was presented to Council on March 9, 2026. Development of the Community Food Action Plan will be divided into four phases:

Phase One (in progress):

- Convene the Community Food Action Plan Steering Committee.
- Establish draft guiding principles.
- Present the draft guiding principles to Council for their consideration.
- Conduct background research.
- Collect and analyze a range of qualitative and quantitative data from community organizations and publicly available data on food insecurity in Richmond and the use of community food programs.
- Conduct an environmental scan.
- Develop a comprehensive community consultation plan.

Phase Two:

- Implement the community consultation plan.
- Develop and implement an additional data collection process to gather disaggregated data (i.e. population and geographical data) on community meal participation.
- Engage community food program providers to confirm and finalize the environmental scan findings.

Phase Three:

- Facilitate a full-day community food workshop with contributors to community food programs in Richmond to present and confirm findings from activities undertaken in Phase One and Two and identify opportunities and priorities for Richmond.
- Write the draft Community Food Action Plan based on the findings.
- Present the draft Community Food Action Plan to Council for consideration.

Phase Four: (Should Council approve the draft plan)

- Implement a public engagement process to gather feedback on the draft Community Food Action Plan.
- Revise and finalize the Community Food Action Plan (2027–2032) based on public feedback.
- Present the final Community Food Action Plan to Council to consider adoption.
- Develop an evaluation framework for the Community Food Action Plan.

The four phases will ensure work is carried out in a systematic fashion and will allow for input from a variety of interested parties. As outlined in the Phase One activities, a set of guiding principles will help to support this work.

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles are a set of values that are intended to guide decision-making and help inform all phases of the Community Food Action Plan's development. The proposed guiding principles are:

- **Equitable Food Access:** All community members have consistent and dependable access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food.
- **People-Centered:** Local knowledge and lived experience are central to the development and implementation of the Community Food Action Plan.
- **Inclusive and Accessible:** Engagement is inclusive, accessible and culturally responsive. Barriers to participation are removed in order to hear from a diversity of voices and equity-deserving groups. Privacy is maintained throughout the data collection and engagement processes.
- **Respect and Dignity:** Ideas and input from all contributors are valued and respected. Different perspectives are listened to with the intent to understand. Individuals with lived experience are treated with dignity, compassion and respect.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Connections and partnerships are fostered among the variety of community food program contributors to encourage collaborative problem-solving, collective action and shared outcomes that maximize efficiencies and use of community resources.
- **Strategic, Evidence-Based Responses:** The plan's actions are evidence-based, data-informed and aimed at addressing immediate needs while strengthening long-term community capacity. They align with and build upon leading municipal practices as well as City policies and strategies that respond to key drivers of food insecurity, such as poverty, homelessness, economic development and affordable housing, to address systemic barriers and offer practical, upstream solutions.

The guiding principles will guide both the City's project team and the Steering Committee when making decisions, planning engagement activities and developing actions for the draft Community Food Action Plan. Other members of the community, including individuals currently accessing community food programs and the broad cross-section of organizations that play a key role in the delivery of community food programs, will be involved in the development of the plan through the Community Food Action Plan's consultation process.

Next Steps

Should Council approve the guiding principles, the activities outlined in Phase One will be undertaken, including a period of focused consultation with community members and organizations who contribute to community food program delivery in Richmond. The consultation process will use a variety of engagement methods, including focus groups, surveys, community pop-ups, and/or other strategies to better understand the current and future food access needs of the community. Findings from the consultation process will be used to inform the development of a draft Community Food Action Plan which will be presented to Council for their consideration before seeking public input. Subsequently, the final Community Food Action Plan, including the results of the public engagement process, will be presented to Council for final adoption following public input being collected.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The guiding principles proposed in this report will set a strong foundation to help guide the City's project team and the Steering Committee in creating the draft Community Food Action Plan. The guiding principles will also support the development of draft strategic actions aimed at strengthening the capacity of the community to respond to increasing experiences of food insecurity in Richmond. Once complete, the Community Food Action Plan is intended to provide an action-oriented framework to support the community to take collective action in meeting the current and future food assistance needs of Richmond residents in a more coordinated and systematic manner.



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