

Sweetened Beverage Tax Programs and Services – Monthly Report April 2024

Prepared by Department Staff for the SBT Community Advisory Board

SBT Staff Liaisons

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

CAB reminders

Key reminders related to CAB’s 2024 workplan and meetings.

None.

Table of Contents

Section 1:	Upcoming Opportunities for CAB Involvement
Section 2:	SBT Media & Communications
Section 3:	Budget Updates
Section 4:	Early Learning Program Updates
Section 5:	Food Access Program Updates
Section 7:	Attachments

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

Upcoming opportunities for CAB involvement, such as RFP review panels, community events, site visits, etc. **Note to staff:** *Briefly describe the event and include key details like dates, times, CAB time commitment, and staff contact. Also include recent events that included CAB member participation.*

Recent:

Upcoming:

Section 2: Media & Communications (recent and upcoming)

Recent and upcoming media and reports related to SBT and programs/services supported by SBT revenue. **Note to staff:** include City press releases, news articles, and other media. Please include hyperlinks.

- [Seattle City Council contemplates \\$241M budget cut amid escalating spending concerns \(komonews.com\)](https://www.komonews.com)

Section 3: Budget Updates

Recent and upcoming SBT budget forecasts and updates on the City budget process.

- 4/9 - the Office of Economic and Revenue Forecasts & City Budget Office released its latest economic and revenue forecast ([click here](#) for details). The overall revenue forecast for the SBT Fund is positive – no SBT spending reductions are foreseeable in the near term. The City Budget Office will attend the CAB’s April meeting to present this information.
- 4/17 – the City Council [2024 Select Budget Committee](#) has started meeting. At its first meeting, it was briefed on the city’s budget situation and options available to City officials to balance the budget, including a review of spending restrictions on locally restricted funds like SBT. See this [presentation](#) for details.

Section 4: Early Learning Program Updates and Lookaheads

Notes to staff: (1) Use this section to share **key updates or upcoming work** on the horizon for your program/services. (2) Program categories match what last annual report. (3) Include hyperlinks to more information, when relevant. (4) If there are no major updates to report, enter “No major updates”.

[Child Care Assistance Program, DEEL](#)

- Due to budget constraints, CCAP has been implementing a waitlist since last Fall. Currently, the waitlist has 321 families and 506 children. DEEL re-evaluates quarterly to determine when there will be enough resource to add more families to the program from the waitlist.

[Health and Developmental Supports, DEEL](#)

- Nothing new to report

[Home Visiting/ParentChild+, DEEL](#)

- Nothing new to report

[Birth-to-Three Coaching and Training, DEEL](#)

- Training has been eliminated in 2024 and Coaching has been scaled back. We’re currently coaching in 18 classrooms at 6 sites.

Prenatal-to-Three Grant Program, DEEL

- The 2024 RFP is now open and accepting applications until May 9, 2024. More details can be found on DEEL’s website: <https://www.seattle.gov/education/providers/funding-opportunities/2024-prenatal-to-three-community-grants>

Section 5: Food Program Updates and Lookaheads

Notes to staff: (1) Use this section to share **key updates or upcoming work** on the horizon for your program/services. (2) Program categories match what last annual report. (3) Include hyperlinks to more information, when relevant. (4) If there are no major updates to report, enter “No major updates”.

Food Equity Fund, DON

- The Food Equity Fund’s signature grant closed on March 19th. We received 81 eligible applications, totaling \$7.6M in requests for \$2M in available funding. A community review panel made up of leaders in health equity, racial justice and food systems work will make funding recommendations to the Department Director. Final decisions will be released by late-June.
- [The Starter Fund](#) launched April 1st, this is a low barrier rolling basis grant for small grassroots organizations (with annual budgets less than \$500k) who work to advance an equitable and sustainable food system. Grant awards are up to \$25k and applications are accepted through October 1st or until funding runs out.

Farm to Preschool, HSD

- Farm to Preschool will be highlighted in HSD’s forthcoming 2023 annual report.
- A Farm to Preschool evaluation was recently completed. A summary of learnings and recommendations will be shared soon.

Healthy Food in Schools, OSE

- The **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program** is continuing to provide 5,400 servings of fresh fruits and vegetables three days per week at 33 participating schools. In January, participating schools received more educational and marketing signage developed by the Vida Agency to help promote the program to students and school staff.
- The **School Meals & Food Education Working Group** is working this spring to disseminate their report with recommended actions to continue improving school meals, expand access to



Kitchen Manager with new FFVP promotional sign and nutrition education books at Olympic Hills Elementary

universal school meals, and increase students' access to food systems, nutrition, and garden education in Seattle Schools.

[Fresh Bucks](#), OSE

- The **2023 Impact Report** will be released in the next month. The report highlights the 12,000 customers served by Fresh Bucks at 41 retail partners and spotlights retail and enrollment partner and customer stories. Two retailers, Fruteria Sandoval and Lee's Produce, are highlighted as immigrant-owned small businesses that provide culturally relevant food access in South Seattle.

Summer Meals, SPR

- Nothing new to report

Food Pantries/Food Banks ([Seattle Food Committee](#)), HSD

- HSD is set to release a summary of over 3,300 survey results from guests of Seattle food pantries funded by SBT. We will share the summary with the CAB in May.
- Seattle Public Utilities is sponsoring a grant to provide grocery rescue to local food pantries.
- HSD's partners for grocery access continue to report growing demand for food, high food costs, decreases in food donations, and flat funding.

Meal Programs ([Meals Partnership Coalition](#); [Meals for Older Adults](#)), HSD

- Meal programs are preparing to launch a guest survey comparable to the survey piloted by food pantries last year.
- HSD's partners for meal programs continue to report growing demand for food, high food costs, decreases in food donations, and flat funding.



South Park Senior Citizens Meal Program

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

- **Food Action Plan** – we are getting closer to identifying a timeline to release the updated Plan, hopefully by the summer.
- **Values-Based Food Purchasing (VBFP)** – VBFP is a key priority in the updated Food Action Plan. City staff who manage food programs have been working on a framework to help guide City spending in ways that align with core values such as equity, local economy, fair labor, environmental sustainability, and cultural relevance. In May, this work will expand to include participation of community leaders who are partnering on this project.