

UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

# CAUSES

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, URBAN SUSTAINABILITY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

*'Delivering on the Promise'*

## CAUSES Ward Advisory Council Framework



HEALTHY CITIES, HEALTHY PEOPLE

# Outline



## CAUSES Ward Advisory Council Framework

1. **An Overview of Key Aspects of Ward Advisory Council Frameworks**
  - Rationale and Purpose
  - Composition and membership
  - Structure and Operations
2. **Best practices for effective Ward Advisory Councils**
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4. **Mission of CAUSES**
5. **CAUSES Ward Advisory Council Framework**
  - Purpose Statement
  - Composition and Membership
  - Ward Councils Breakdown
  - Term of Office and Termination
6. **CAUSES Community Based Program Centers**
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# An Overview of Key Aspects: Ward Advisory Council Framework (1)

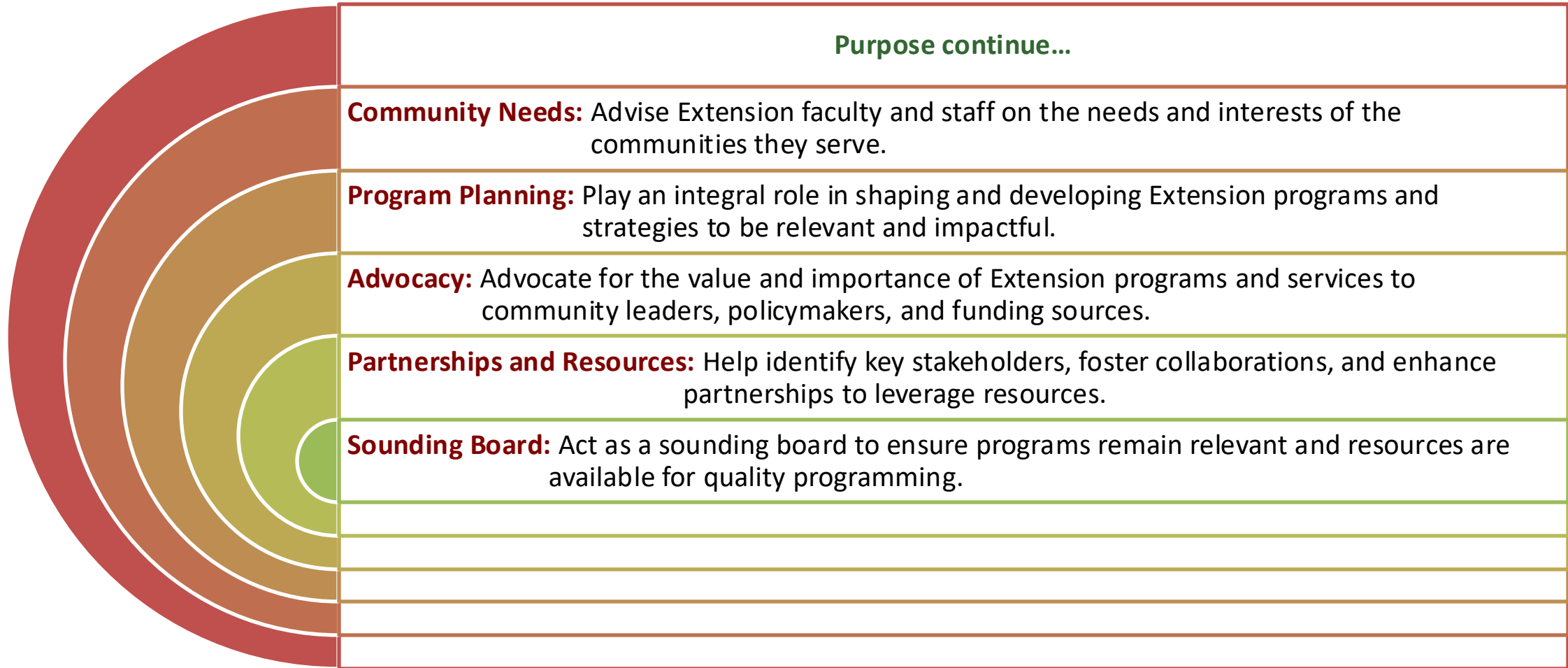
- ✓ **Ward Advisory Councils** are a critical part of the **University Extension** system, providing guidance and support to program development and implementation



## Purpose

- In essence, the Ward Advisory Council Framework is designed to create a strong **partnership** between **Extension professionals** and the **communities** they serve, leading to relevant, responsive, and impactful programs that **address community needs** and priorities.

# An Overview of Key Aspects: Ward Advisory Council Framework (2)



# An Overview of Key Aspects: Ward Advisory Council Framework (3)

## Composition and membership

- ✓ **Diversity:** Comprised of a diverse range of professionals, community leaders, and other stakeholders reflecting the community's demographics and various program areas (e.g., agriculture, 4-H youth development, nutrition and health, urban sustainability, community development).
- ✓ **Representation:** Members represent different partnerships, institutions, and geographic areas, bringing their expertise and perspectives.
- ✓ **Expertise and Skills:** Members are selected based on their ability to offer guidance, analyze information, identify challenges and opportunities, and contribute to the council's purpose.
- ✓ **Commitment:** Members should be committed and enthusiastic about Extension's mission.

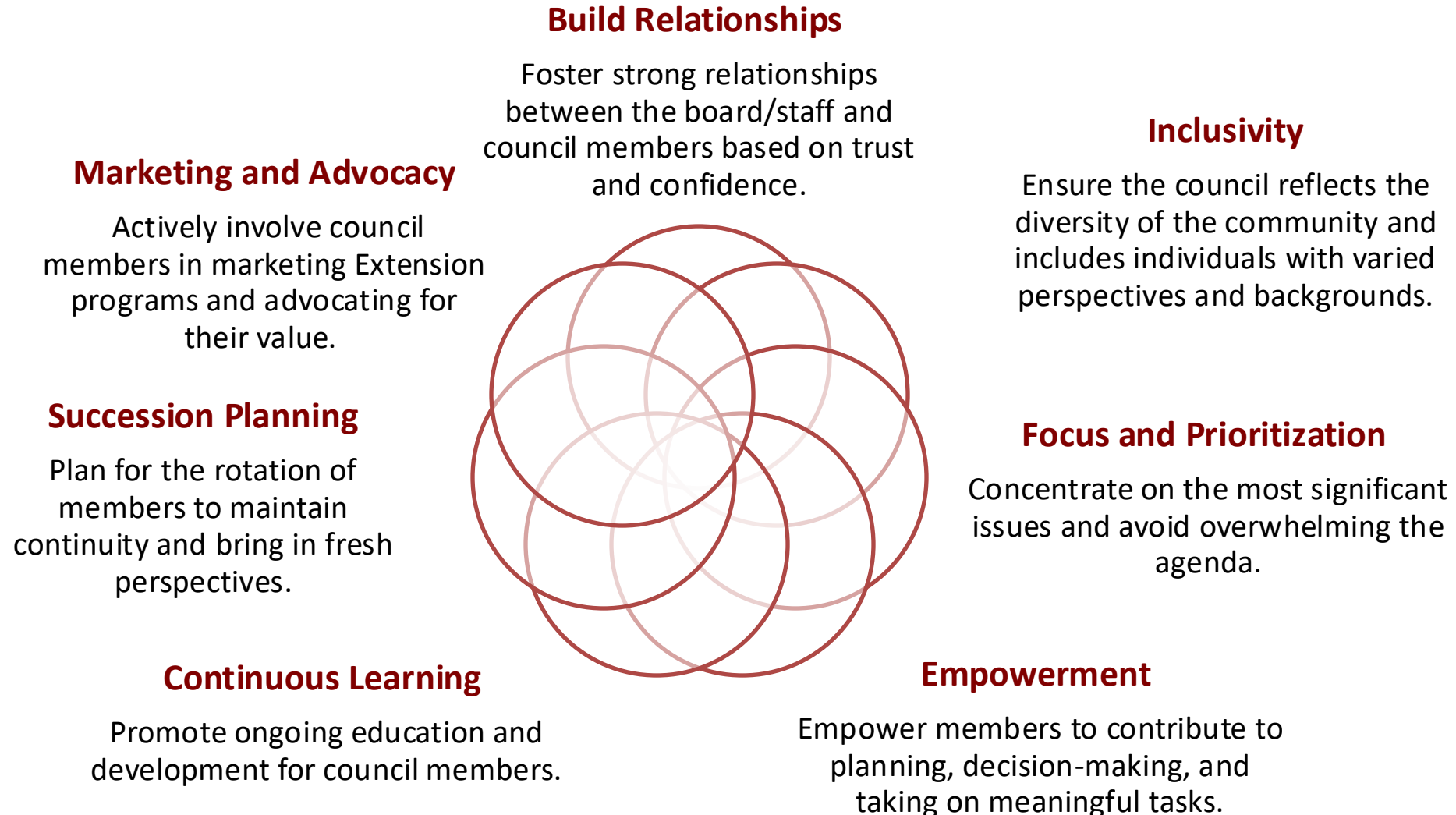


# An Overview of Key Aspects: Ward Advisory Council Framework (3)

## Structure and Operations

- 1. Overall, vs. Program-Specific:** Councils can be established at an overall ward level, providing guidance for the entire Extension Team, or be program-specific, focusing on areas like agriculture, family and consumer sciences, or 4-H youth development.
- 2. Clear Purpose and Expectations:** The purpose, objectives, roles, responsibilities, and limits of authority for the council and its members should be clearly defined.
- 3. Plan of Work:** The council, in collaboration with Extension staff, should develop a clear plan of work with measurable objectives and specific activities.
- 4. Regular Meetings:** Regular and well-planned meetings are essential to facilitate communication, discussion, and decision-making.
- 5. Active Participation:** Creating opportunities for members to share opinions, perspectives, and contribute actively is vital.
- 6. Communication:** Clear communication protocols should be established for information sharing, updates, and feedback.
- 7. Education and Training:** Staff and officers should educate and inform council members on Extension's mission, policies, and procedures.
- 8. Evaluation and Recognition:** Councils and members should be periodically evaluated, and members' contributions should be recognized and appreciated.

# Best practices for effective Ward Advisory Councils



# VISION of CAUSES Community-based Programs

We envision the nation's best community-based program, that is research-driven, community-centered, and built to adapt and lead across every stage of life. Through intergenerational empowerment, strong partnerships, and visible impact, we turn what people of all ages want and need into action across every Center.



# MISSION of CAUSES

CAUSES aspires to be the national leading college advancing **healthy cities** and **healthy people**. CAUSES will be the model of urban land-grant (community-based) **Excellence**.



# Statement of Purpose:

## CAUSES Ward Advisory Council

The **PURPOSE** of the Ward Advisory Council is to facilitate communication and collaboration with Ward-specific stakeholders to gain understanding of community needs and provide guidance on CAUSES program offerings to enhance the mission of CAUSES' evidence-driven, community-based educational programs in each Ward of the District of Columbia for all ages.

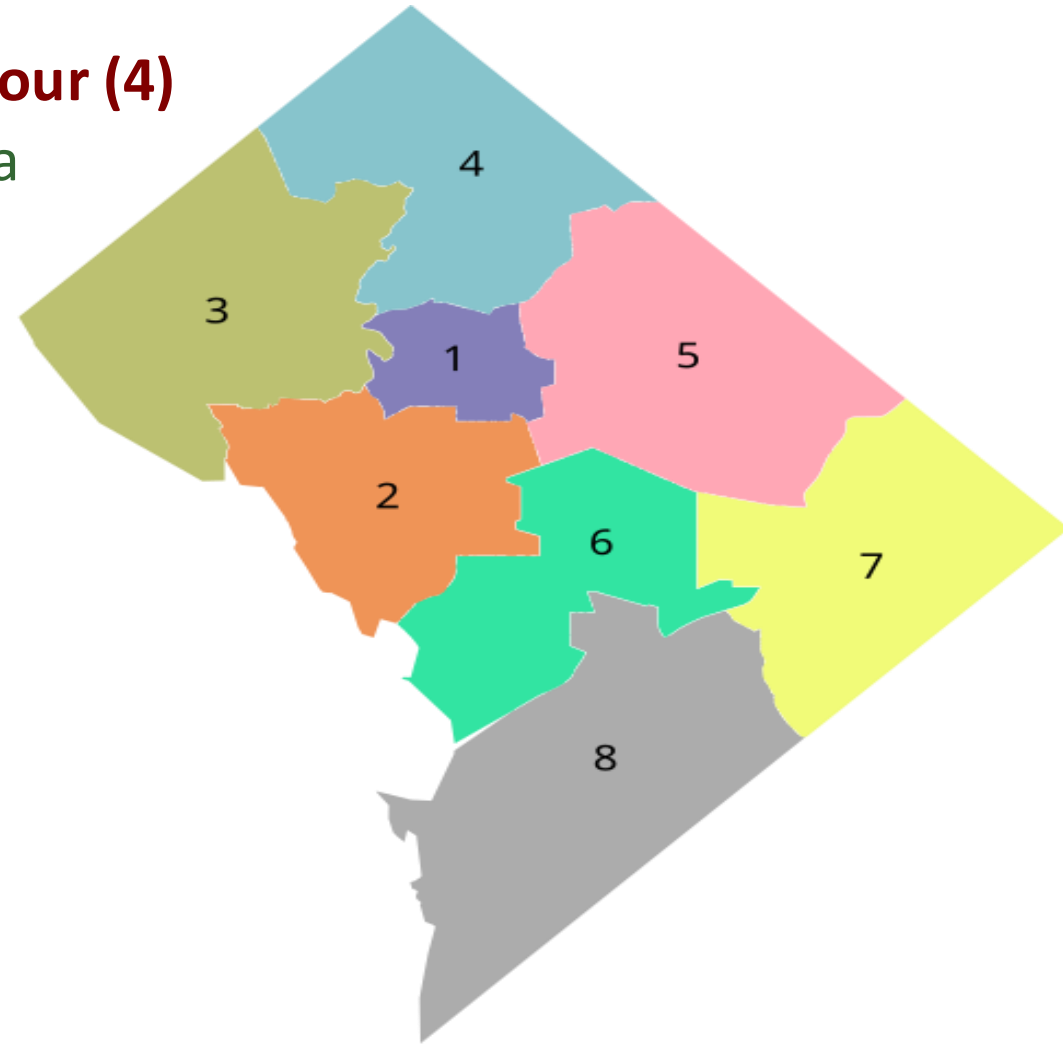
Members will receive recognition and access to CAUSES Events.



# Composition and Membership (1)

Each Council will represent **Two (2) Wards** – totaling **Four (4)** separate **Councils**. Every Council will convene around a **UDC Food Hub location**.

- ✓ **Van Ness – Wards 1 & 3**
- ✓ **Lamond-Riggs – Wards 4 & 5**
- ✓ **East Capitol – Wards 6 & 7**
- ✓ **P.R. Harris – Wards 2 & 8**



# Composition and Membership (2)

A. Within each Council, each Ward will have Six (6) members, selected by each Center Director with the approval of the Dean – totaling Fourteen (12) Ward members per Council.

- Each Council will have one food hub representative selected to serve as tie break member, making each Council have a total of **Fifteen (15) members**.

B. Membership will be reflective of program offerings and the demographics of the District of Columbia Ward.

C. To serve as a member of an Advisory Council, the member must reside within the specified Ward they are asking to represent.

# Composition and Membership (3)

## Ward Councils Breakdown

Point of Contact for:	# of members per Ward
Center for Urban Agriculture and Gardening Education	1
Center for Urban Resilience, Innovation, and Infrastructure	1
Center for Nutrition, Diet, and Health	1
Youth Development	1
ANC Member	1
Community Representative	1
Food Hub Representative – TIE BREAKER	- (one per Council)

Total per Ward	Total Per Council
6	13

**48**  
Total Ward  
Council members  
in the District

# Term of Office and Termination

## Term

- Members are expected to serve for a period of three years, with a two-term limit, while the food hub representative member shall serve at the pleasure of the Center Director of CAUSES and the Dean .
- Each member is expected to attend every meeting (Quarterly) and will be removed with two or more unexcused absences

Honorarium – \$100, per Quarterly Advisory Council meeting/per member, to ensure active engagement and participation of all members

## Termination

- Resignation from the Council must be in writing and received by the Office of the Dean.
- At the Council Chair's discretion, unexcused absence from two consecutive Council meetings may be considered as a withdrawal of membership.
- A Council member may be removed for other reasons by a three-fourths vote of the remaining Advisory Council members.

# CAUSES Community Based Program Centers

- Center for Urban Agriculture and Gardening Education (CUAGE)
  - Youth Development
- Center for Urban Resilience, Innovation and Infrastructure (CURII)
  - Water Resources Research Institute (WRII)
  - Youth Development
- Center for Nutrition, Diet and Health (CNDH)
  - Institute for Gerontology (IOG)
  - Youth Development



# Center for Urban Agriculture and Gardening Education (CUAGE)

- Soil-based agriculture
- Soil-less systems
- Master Gardener Program
- 4-H Soccer Program
- Small Farmer Program



2/20/2026



CAUSES CBP LEADERSHIP TEAM



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# Center for Urban Resilience, Innovation and Infrastructure (CURII)

- Nature-based Solutions
- Agricultural Technology and Innovation
- Entrepreneurship
- Farmers Market
- Horticultural Sciences
- Master Naturalist/Urban Forestry
- Community-based research



2/20/2026



CAUSES CBP LEADERSHIP TEAM



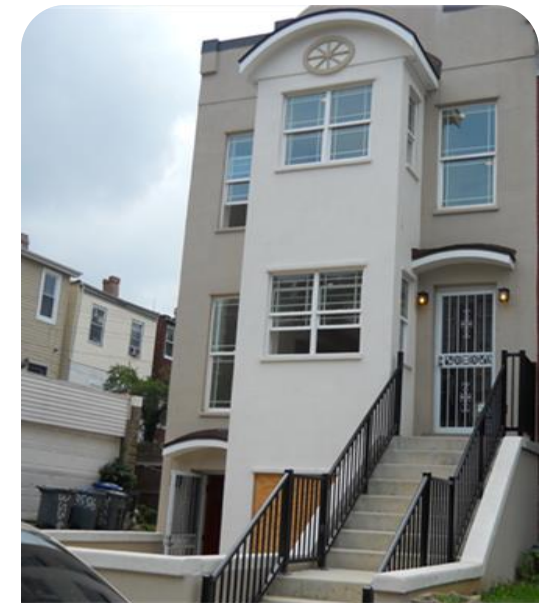
# Center for Nutrition, Diet & Health (CNDH)

- Cooking Classes for all ages
- Nutrition Education
- Food Safety and Sanitation
- Food Management and Small Business Incubation
- Public Health
- Health Prevention



# Institute of Gerontology (IOG)

- Bodywise Health and Fitness
- Senior Companion Program
- Respite Aide Program
- Senior Tuition Program



# Youth Development & 4-H

- Healthy Living Soccer Program
- Nutrition Education
- School Garden Program
- Project-Based Ag Tech
- Green Zone Environmental Program (GZEP) w/ DOEE
- Data STEAAM
- Culinary Arts
- Workforce Development Program (River Terrace)





# THANK You!

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