



Expanding Food Access: Insights from the Groceries to Go Program

About the Guest Speakers and Moderator

Guest Speakers



Erin Dowling is a Data Analyst with the Healthy Eating Unit at the New York City Department of Health. She holds an MPH in Chronic Disease Epidemiology from the Yale School of Public Health. In addition to managing the evaluation of Groceries to Go, Erin also conducts research and evaluation for the National Salt and Sugar Reduction Initiative, which aims to reduce sodium and sugar in the packaged food environment, and nutrition education programs including the unit's Stellar Farmers' Market workshops.



Nicole Anderson is Director, Nutrition Incentives and Food Access in the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention in the Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Nicole manages the agency's nutrition incentive and food access programs and is principal investigator on the agency's USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program grants. Nicole has a master's degree in nutrition and public health from Teachers College, Columbia University and is a registered dietitian nutritionist.

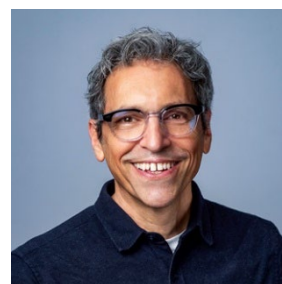


Diana Romero is Professor in the Department of Community Health and Social Sciences and director of the Maternal, Child, Reproductive and Sexual Health specialization (MCRSH) at the CUNY Graduate School of

Public Health and Health Policy in New York City. Her research interests include reproductive and sexual

health and policy; social welfare policies related to the health of poor and low-income populations; and health care access among under-served urban populations. Much of her research involves program evaluations and mixed-methods study designs. Some of her recent projects have focused on evaluation of the NYC DOHMH Groceries to Go program; health care access and health equity in NYC; a large-scale mixed-methods evaluation of a physician training for abortion advocacy and other reproductive health issues; analysis of social autopsy narratives of next-of-kin of decedents from accidental overdose; and, international Delphi studies on a range of public health issues. She teaches graduate courses in qualitative and quantitative research methods, community health, and reproductive and sexual health policy. She received her PhD and MA in Sociomedical Sciences from Columbia University, NY, and an MA in Scientific, Health and Environmental Reporting from New York University, USA.

Moderator



Nevin Cohen is the Director of the CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute and Associate Professor of Public Health at the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy. For the past 10 years, his scholarly work has involved

community-based research on urban food policy and food systems disparities, and he is an expert on the food policies and policymaking processes of New York City where for 7 years he also held staff positions in city government. He is the author of *Beyond the Kale: Urban Agriculture and Social Justice Activism in NYC* (The University of Georgia Press).



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About the forum: Since the COVID-19 pandemic, New York City's food programs have expanded to better meet the needs of those facing food access challenges. Over the past year, CUNY SPH and the CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute conducted research in partnership with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) on the Groceries to Go (G2G) program. G2G offers participants, who are at risk of food insecurity and living with chronic health conditions, monthly credits to purchase groceries online. The research included in-depth interviews and surveys to gain a deeper understanding of the participants' experiences with G2G, informing approaches to food access and nutrition to support low-income households. Our panel will provide an overview of the program, and jointly present insights from recent program assessments including the results from the collaborative study. We will conclude with a discussion about different policy approaches to expanding food access in NYC.

Additional Resources

- NYC DOHMH, "[Groceries to Go.](#)" *Eligible New Yorkers can get monthly credits to purchase groceries for delivery or pickup through an online platform.*
- NYC Health + Hospitals, "[NYC Care](#)"
- NYC DOHMH, "[National Salt and Sugar Reduction Initiative \(NSSRI\)](#)"
- NYC DOHMH, "[Eat Healthy, Be Active NYC](#)"
- CUNY SPH. "[Center for Immigrant, Refugee and Global Health \(CIRGH\)](#)"
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