



# Federal Policy Impacts on Local Food Security

**DHHS Climate Action Team Lunch & Learn  
December 11, 2025**

# Montgomery County

## Office of Food Systems Resilience



***Our Mission:*** To develop and implement interagency budgetary, regulatory, and operational strategies to build a more equitable, efficient, resilient, and sustainable food system in Montgomery County.

***Resilience:*** The capability of individuals, communities, and the County to withstand and rapidly recover from food system disruptions, stresses, and changes.

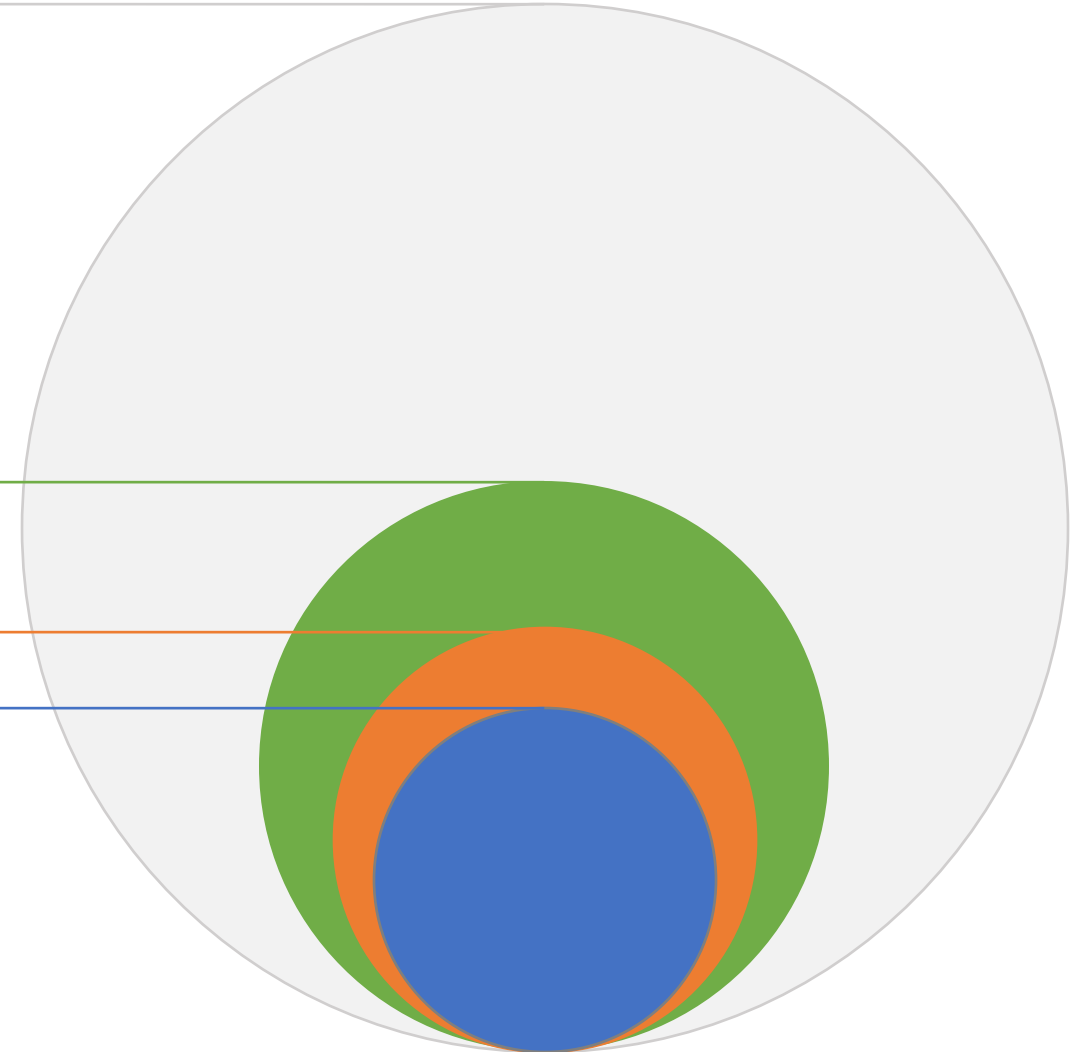
# Residents at Risk of Food Insecurity

1.05 million people in Montgomery County

**323k** people live below the **Self Sufficiency Standard**

169k people (**1 in 6** indiv.) live in households with incomes below 185% of the FPL (**FARMs Threshold**)

116k people (**1 in 10** indiv.) live in households with incomes below 130% the FPL (**SNAP Threshold**)



# OBBBA Impacts

## **SNAP Benefits & Administration**

- Benefit amount reduction
- Expanded Work Requirements
- Eligibility changes
- Cost shifts to states

## **SNAP-Ed Eliminated**

- 46 MCPS & Community Schools, Judy Centers, Head Start Classes
- 4 FT educators & 2 PT Program assistants

## **On the Horizon**

- Direct certification impacts
- Economic impacts to retailers and farmers markets
- Nonprofit Community Benefit Navigators funding gaps

# 2025 Landscape

## Federal Government Shutdown

- SNAP October Benefits disbursed; November benefits delayed
- WIC continued with limited funds as available
- School Meal access continued, reimbursements were delayed

## Resident Household Income Changes

- Furloughed workers
- Deferred resignation payments end
- Reduction in Force and Federal Contractors' lost wages
- Ripple effects across sectors

## Other Factors

- Food costs: Up ~30% since February 2020; 3.2% since 2024
- Donations and other funding sources decreasing
- Maryland Benefits One Application Platform launched July 2025

# Food Assistance Pulse Survey

In October, the OFSR distributed a survey to food assistance providers to gain **on-the-ground insights into the County's food security landscape**.

## Increased in the last 2 months

- **93%** of FAPs have experienced **increase demand** for food assistance.
- **73%** of FAPs report **higher operating costs** since August 2025.
- Demand is **up among all food distributions** (ex. Food boxes, home deliveries, prepared meals)
- More participants are **picking up food on behalf of others**.
- Nearly 80% report **more new families and federal workers** seeking assistance.

## Same in the last 2 months

- Funding is **slightly dipping, but remains stable** from philanthropic, State, and program revenue sources.
- FAPs continue to manage **ongoing data collection** and reporting requirements.
- **23%** report **no change in operating costs** over the past two months.

# PRIORITIES



- **POLICY:** Serve as an internal subject matter expert and advocate for County food system legislative, regulatory, zoning, planning, and programmatic efforts.
- **INVESTMENT:** Guide County food system spending, procurement, funding, and resource management.
- **COLLABORATION:** Engage the critical insights and expertise of residents, community, business, agencies, and nonprofit partners.
- **DATA:** Collect, analyze, and communicate relevant food system data to inform strategy and decision making, and measure progress and impact with intention.

# BUILDING A MORE RESILIENT LOCAL FOOD ASSISTANCE NETWORK



## DIVERSIFY FOOD SUPPLY

Procure food through a wide range of suppliers and strategies ensures greater stability during supply chain disruptions. Advance purchasing and collective buying also buffers food supplies from impacts.



## LEVERAGE PUBLIC & PRIVATE FUNDS

Collaboration with philanthropic, private sector, and municipal, state and federal government partners unlocks financial resources to complement County funds.



## ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

Community insight and expertise directly involve lived experience in program design, impact evaluation, and decision-making.



## STRENGTHEN EXISTING RESOURCES

Amplify service delivery investments with access to shared resources such as technology, staffing, and volunteer expertise, in-kind resources and infrastructure.



## CENTER FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Dignity and choice are critical to ensure that residents are the decisionmakers in what food they eat, and where, when, and how they access it.



## ALIGN INVESTMENTS

Simultaneously addressing immediate food security needs and long-term resilience goals stabilizes the local food system for future disruptions.



## CENTER DATA & PERFORMANCE GOALS

Use evidence-driven insights to close service gaps and continuously improve outcomes for County residents.

A coordinated, interconnected distribution network builds capacity in the community and nonprofit sector with sufficient operating support and technical assistance.



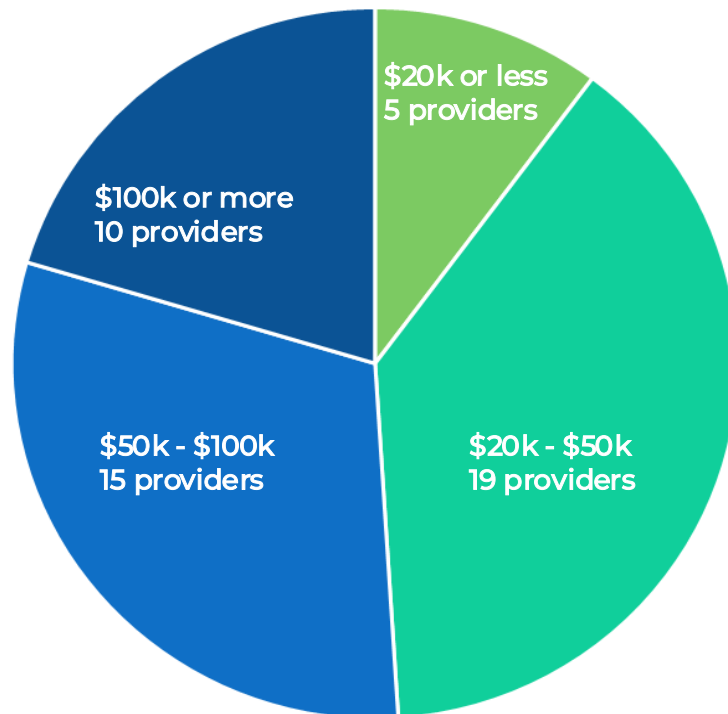
# FY26 Operating Budget Overview

- **Contracts \$3.8M, *includes*:**
  - Maryland Market Money \$199k
  - Farm to Food Bank \$590k
  - CAFB Core Funding \$750k
  - Manna Food Center Food for Families \$350k
- **Grants \$7.4M**
  - School-Based Food Assistance \$2.3M
  - Resident & Community Gardening \$200k
  - Food as Medicine \$750k
  - Nutrition Benefits Outreach & Enrollment \$300k
  - Community Food Security \$3.7M
  - Food Recovery Network Coordination \$170k
- **Programs \$1.8M**
  - Retail Food Access \$1.6M
  - Resilient Food System Infrastructure \$200k

# Community Food Assistance Providers

The CFA grant funds **49 food assistance providers**. Partners serve every zip code in the County. CFA awards consist of **four funding levels**. All 49 CFA grantees provide **multiple forms of food distribution** based on operations and local community need.

## CFA Funding Levels



## CFA Distribution Methods

**Choice Pantry:** Clients choose their own food, promoting dignity and reducing waste

**38 providers**

**Family Market:** Grocery-style setup where families freely select food and essentials

**19**

**Pre-Packaged Box/Bag:** Standardized food packages pre-assembled for quick pickup or delivery

**13**

**Prepared Meal:** Ready-to-eat meals served or delivered, requiring no cooking

**7**

0 10 20 30 40

# Retail Access Insights



## Program Year 1

**550**

Montgomery  
County Families

*74% re-applied to program*

**1,105**

Montgomery  
County Children

## Program Year 2

*Actively Enrolling*

**479**

Montgomery  
County Families

**1,006**

Montgomery  
County Children

## Program Impact

**7%**

Increase in  
employment  
after program  
enrollment

**15%**

Grocery delivery use is  
up 15%, as walking, rides,  
and bus use dropped

## Fresh Fruits & Vegetables

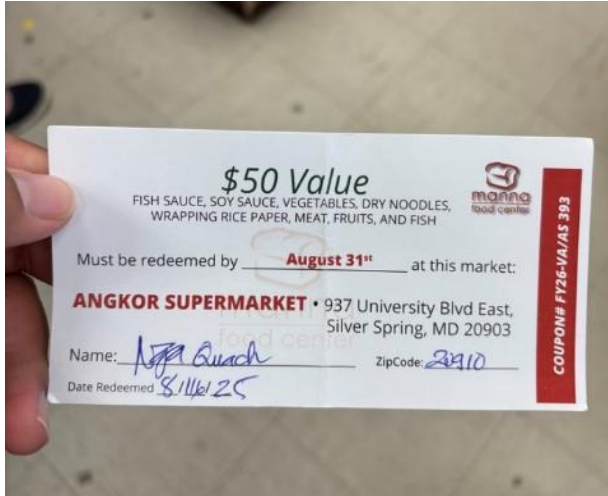
Top-2 food  
purchase choices  
by participants

**99%**

felt program helped them  
access more of the foods  
they wanted or needed

*Overall decrease in severe food  
hardship*

# Expanding Retail Access Strategies



## Voucher Program

### *Manna Food Center*

Community partners provide grocery vouchers to eligible clients, redeemable at locally owned, culturally relevant grocery stores offering specialized products. Vietnamese American Services provides transportation to the market for shoppers.



## Food as Medicine Market

### *Adventist HealthCare*

Families are screened for food insecurity and referred for program enrollment to receive nutrition education and food assistance. Produce from Montgomery County's One Acre Farm plus shelf-stable foods and frozen protein are selected from a market outside the clinic.



## Mobile Market

### *Community FarmShare*

Products from local farmers are aggregated and made available for shoppers outside health clinics and local schools. Program participants receive Market Bucks to shop for products and affordable produce is available for purchase by the public.

# Nutrition Benefits Outreach Grant Program

- **Expands nutrition benefits outreach** through Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) reaching **families not served by school programs**.
- Benefits used at grocery stores, farmers markets, and SNAP-eligible retailers.
- State SNAP CBOs leverage **dollar-for-dollar Federal Matching Funds**.

**Launched Jan 2024**

**Grant Period: Mar 2024 – Mar 2025**

**FY25  
Award**

**Launched Mar 2025**  
**\$304,000** awarded to **six SNAP CBOs**

Focused on CBO collaboration and referrals to other nutrition benefit programs.

**FY24  
Impact**

**4,546 families engaged** through SNAP outreach  
**770 SNAP applications** submitted on behalf of County families





# Invest in Local Farms & Food Production

## Resident & Community Gardening Grants

\$200,000 to 7 organizations

- 1,524+ residents engaged
- 5,000 pounds of food produced, 2,157 pounds of food donated
- Expansion of ~20,000 square feet in County land used for food production



## Manna Farm to Food Bank & Community Farm Share

- 35 Partners & 10 schools
- 26+ Farms
- 8 Markets
- 43,586 Lbs. unsold products from markets
- 31,579 Lbs. purchases from farmers



# Farmers Market Investments

## Crossroads Community Food Network

- 41+ Community events
- 26+ partner organizations tabling
- Average 1000 shoppers per market day
- 5,197 Lbs. Donated
- Bi-weekly home deliveries to 50 seniors
- Outreach to 1,000 residents
- Last fall met 1M in Fresh Checks matching dollars since 2007 inception



## Maryland Market Money

- 9 Markets and access points redeemed \$161,664 in MMM
- 991 WIC FMNP transactions, matching funds: \$31,895
- 424 Senior FMNP transactions, matching funds: \$9,101
- 326 WIC transactions, matching funds: \$7,868
- 14,888 SNAP transactions, matching funds: \$90,490
- 1,938 + unduplicated clients served





# Strengthening Our Food Security Network

- Funding & Technical Assistance
- Montgomery County Food Council: Community Calls, Peer Learning Circles, Quarterly Trainings, Vendor Showcases
- FAP Census & Pulse Surveys
- Partnership and Network Building: Listening Sessions & Community Lunches
- Site visits



*Upcounty HUB*



*Capitol Koshier Pantry Choice Market*



*Chirandu Farm*






*MCPS DFNS Tour*



# Referral Resources

## Food Distribution Events

Month	Table	Day				
<div><div> <b>SEPTEMBER 2025</b></div><div> <a href="#">Subscribe</a>  <a href="#">My Events</a></div></div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 12:30 p.m. <a href="#">City of Light Helpline Hands Food Pantry</a>	1 <a href="#">Labor Day</a> 5 p.m. <a href="#">Gaithersburg HELP Pantry PickUp</a> (By appointment only M-F)	2 8 a.m. <a href="#">Free Food to MoCo residents in need</a> 8:30 a.m. <a href="#">Living Faith Lutheran Food Pantry</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Hope Center (Gaithersburg Hub) Choice Pantry</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 2 p.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> +2 more events	3 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 12 p.m. <a href="#">St. Mark's Produce and Food Distribution</a> 2 p.m. <a href="#">Salvation Army Center (GERM)</a> 5 p.m. <a href="#">Gaithersburg HELP Pantry PickUp</a> (By appointment only M-F)	4 8 a.m. <a href="#">Free Food to MoCo residents in need</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Hope Center (Gaithersburg Hub) Choice Pantry</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 11 a.m. <a href="#">Mobile Food Distribution</a> +5 more events	5 9 a.m. <a href="#">AfriThrive Food distribution</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Nourishing Bethesda Choice Market</a> (By Appointment) 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 1 p.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 4 p.m. <a href="#">Friday Food Distribution</a> +1 more event	6 9 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 9:45 a.m. <a href="#">Hope Center (Gaithersburg Hub) Choice Pantry</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Free Food Distribution</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Saturday Food Distribution</a>
7 12:30 p.m. <a href="#">City of Light Helpline Hands Food Pantry</a> 2 p.m. <a href="#">Silver Spring Arts &amp; Crafts End Of Summer Celebration @ Veterans Plaza</a>	8 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 5 p.m. <a href="#">Gaithersburg HELP Pantry PickUp</a> (By appointment only M-F)	9 8 a.m. <a href="#">CANCELLED - Free Food to MoCo residents in need</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Hope Center (Gaithersburg Hub) Choice Pantry</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 1 p.m. <a href="#">Nourish Now's Offsite Food Distribution</a> +5 more events	10 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 1:30 p.m. <a href="#">Nourish Now's Offsite Food Distribution</a> 2 p.m. <a href="#">Salvation Army Center (GERM)</a> 5 p.m. <a href="#">East County Kingdom Cares Hub Food Distribution</a> +1 more event	11 8 a.m. <a href="#">CANCELLED - Free Food to MoCo residents in need</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Hope Center (Gaithersburg Hub) Choice Pantry</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 1:30 p.m. <a href="#">Nourish Now's Offsite Food Distribution</a> +5 more events	12 9 a.m. <a href="#">AfriThrive Food distribution</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Nourishing Bethesda Choice Market</a> (By Appointment) 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 1 p.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 4 p.m. <a href="#">Friday Food Distribution</a> +1 more event	13 9 a.m. <a href="#">Arleeta's Food Pantry</a> 9 a.m. <a href="#">East County Kingdom Cares Hub Food Distribution</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Saturday Food Distribution</a>
14 12:30 p.m. <a href="#">City of Light Helpline Hands Food Pantry</a> 1 p.m. <a href="#">Nourish Now's Offsite Food Distribution</a>	15 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 5 p.m. <a href="#">Gaithersburg HELP Pantry PickUp</a> (By appointment only M-F)	16 8 a.m. <a href="#">Free Food to MoCo residents in need</a> 8:30 a.m. <a href="#">Living Faith Lutheran Food Pantry</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Hope Center (Gaithersburg Hub) Choice Pantry</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> +5 more events	17 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 12 p.m. <a href="#">GRAB AND GO FREE FOOD GIVEAWAY</a> 1:30 p.m. <a href="#">Nourish Now's Offsite Food Distribution</a> 2 p.m. <a href="#">Salvation Army Center (GERM)</a> 3 p.m. <a href="#">Manna Choice Market at the Grove (USG)</a> +3 more events	18 8 a.m. <a href="#">Free Food to MoCo residents in need</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Hope Center (Gaithersburg Hub) Choice Pantry</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 1:30 p.m. <a href="#">Nourish Now's Offsite Food Distribution</a> 2 p.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> +4 more events	19 10 a.m. <a href="#">Nourishing Bethesda Choice Market</a> (By Appointment) 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 12 p.m. <a href="#">Food Ministry</a> 1 p.m. <a href="#">Hope Center (Gaithersburg Hub) Choice Pantry</a> 1 p.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> +3 more events	20 6:30 a.m. <a href="#">Tommy's Pantry</a> 9 a.m. <a href="#">East County Kingdom Cares Hub Food Distribution</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Colesville Presbyterian Church (CPC)</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Food Pantry at Share Street United Methodist Church</a> +4 more events
21 12:30 p.m. <a href="#">City of Light Helpline Hands Food Pantry</a>	22 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 11 a.m. <a href="#">USG Mobile Market</a>	23 8 a.m. <a href="#">Free Food to MoCo residents in need</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Hope Center (Gaithersburg Hub) Choice Pantry</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 1 p.m. <a href="#">Nourish Now's Offsite Food Distribution</a> 2 p.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> +2 more events	24 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 1:30 p.m. <a href="#">Nourish Now's Offsite Food Distribution</a> 2 p.m. <a href="#">Salvation Army Center (GERM)</a> 6 p.m. <a href="#">East County Kingdom Cares Hub Food Distribution</a> +3 more events	25 8 a.m. <a href="#">Free Food to MoCo residents in need</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Hope Center (Gaithersburg Hub) Choice Pantry</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 1:30 p.m. <a href="#">Nourish Now's Offsite Food Distribution</a> 2 p.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> +3 more events	26 10 a.m. <a href="#">Nourishing Bethesda Choice Market</a> (By Appointment) 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 1 p.m. <a href="#">Hope Center (Gaithersburg Hub) Choice Pantry</a> 1 p.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> +1 more event	27 8 a.m. <a href="#">Rainbow Community Development Center - Free Grab and Go to MoCo residents in need</a> 9 a.m. <a href="#">Arleeta's Food Pantry</a> 9 a.m. <a href="#">East County Kingdom Cares Hub Food Distribution</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Food Distribution</a> +1 more event
28 12:30 p.m. <a href="#">City of Light Helpline Hands Food Pantry</a>	29 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a>	30 8 a.m. <a href="#">Free Food to MoCo residents in need</a> 8:30 a.m. <a href="#">Living Faith Lutheran Food Pantry</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Hope Center (Gaithersburg Hub) Choice Pantry</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> +4 more events	1 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 1:30 p.m. <a href="#">Nourish Now's Offsite Food Distribution</a> 2 p.m. <a href="#">Salvation Army Center (GERM)</a>	2 8 a.m. <a href="#">Free Food to MoCo residents in need</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Hope Center (Gaithersburg Hub) Choice Pantry</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 1:30 p.m. <a href="#">Nourish Now's Offsite Food Distribution</a> 2 p.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> +2 more events	3 10 a.m. <a href="#">Nourishing Bethesda Choice Market</a> (By Appointment) 10 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 1 p.m. <a href="#">Hope Center (Gaithersburg Hub) Choice Pantry</a> 1 p.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> +1 more event	4 9 a.m. <a href="#">Manna Market</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Free Food Distribution</a> 10 a.m. <a href="#">Saturday Food Distribution</a>

Events calendar powered by Trumba

Food Assistance Providers: [Submit your food giveaway event here.](#)

To help us provide timely information, please submit details of your food distribution events at least 7 days in advance. Please note that submissions will be approved within one business day of receipt. If you have any questions or need assistance with a submission, please email [ofsr@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ofsr@montgomerycountymd.gov) with the subject line, "Calendar".

[Click here to view the MCPS Meal Distribution Sites](#)

SEARCH

Show Filters

Showing 1 - 99 of 99

Sort by: Distance

### So What Else

4924 Wyaconda Road, North Bethesda, 20852

2025737787

<https://www.sowhatelse.org>

[mjoe@sowhatelse.org](mailto:mjoe@sowhatelse.org)

Type: Choice Pantry, Pre-Packed Pantry Items

Accessibility: Appointment Required, Documentation Required

Languages: Cantonese, Chinese, Mandarin, Spanish

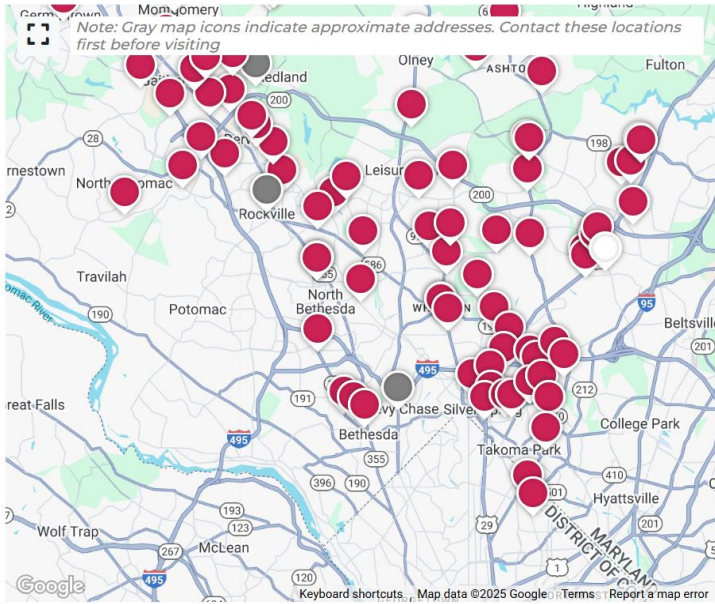
Features: Delivery, Special Diet Accommodations, Fresh Produce, Other Services Offered

Monday 8:30am-3pm, Tuesday-Thursday 8:30-4:30pm, Friday 8:30-3pm, Saturday 7am-1pm

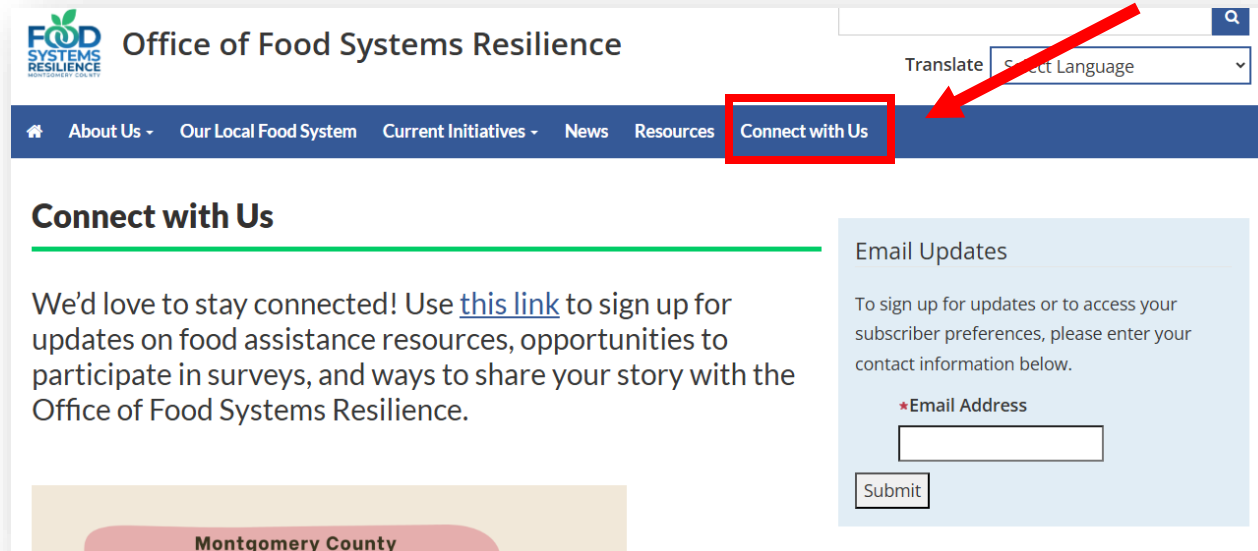
Food pantry appointment: Please use this link to make a food appointment.  
<https://sowhatelse.org/food-pick-up-appointments/>  
Other Resources: Diapers, baby wipes, baby formula, clothes, and household items

We can deliver food to people with disabilities.

We serve all zip codes.



# Connect with Us!



Office of Food Systems Resilience

Translate

[About Us](#) [Our Local Food System](#) [Current Initiatives](#) [News](#) [Resources](#) **[Connect with Us](#)**

## Connect with Us

We'd love to stay connected! Use [this link](#) to sign up for updates on food assistance resources, opportunities to participate in surveys, and ways to share your story with the Office of Food Systems Resilience.

Montgomery County

### Email Updates

To sign up for updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below.

\*Email Address



***By signing up for the OFSR Resident Feedback Loop, individuals can receive updates on:***

Food Assistance  
Resources

Learn which food  
assistance  
resources are  
available in the  
county

Newsletters

Sign up for OFSR  
newsletter and  
local food news

Surveys

Provide periodic  
feedback on the  
County's food  
system

Opportunities to  
Share

Tell your story  
about how food  
resources have  
impacted your life

# Connecting Across County Agencies



Photo source: DHHS 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, July 2025

**Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP)** collaboration with **Departments of Corrections & Rehabilitation and Environmental Protection**

**MC Groceries Program** partnerships with **DHHS' Navigation** and **CASCBS Teams** to provide food retail access to Montgomery County residents

**Strategic Coordination** meetings with the **Offices of Community Partnerships, Agriculture, Grants Management, Racial Equity & Social Justice, DEP, DHHS, Libraries, DGS, Business Center, and MCPS**

**MCG Expertise:** OFSR grants engaged 25 reviewers from 11 agencies in FY25



Visit from Congresswoman McClain Delaney, October 2025



# Regional, State, and National Collaboration

## *Internal*

- Climate Ambassadors & Leadership
- CORE Equity Lead
- OEMHS EOC
- Healthy Montgomery
- Equitable Community Engagement

## *External*

- MD Food System Resiliency Council
- MWCOG FARM Committee
- Emergency Assistance Coalition
- Metro DC Food Policy Directors
- DMV Food Council Collaborative
- DC Cold Storage Working Group
- Maryland State School Health Council





