



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.*



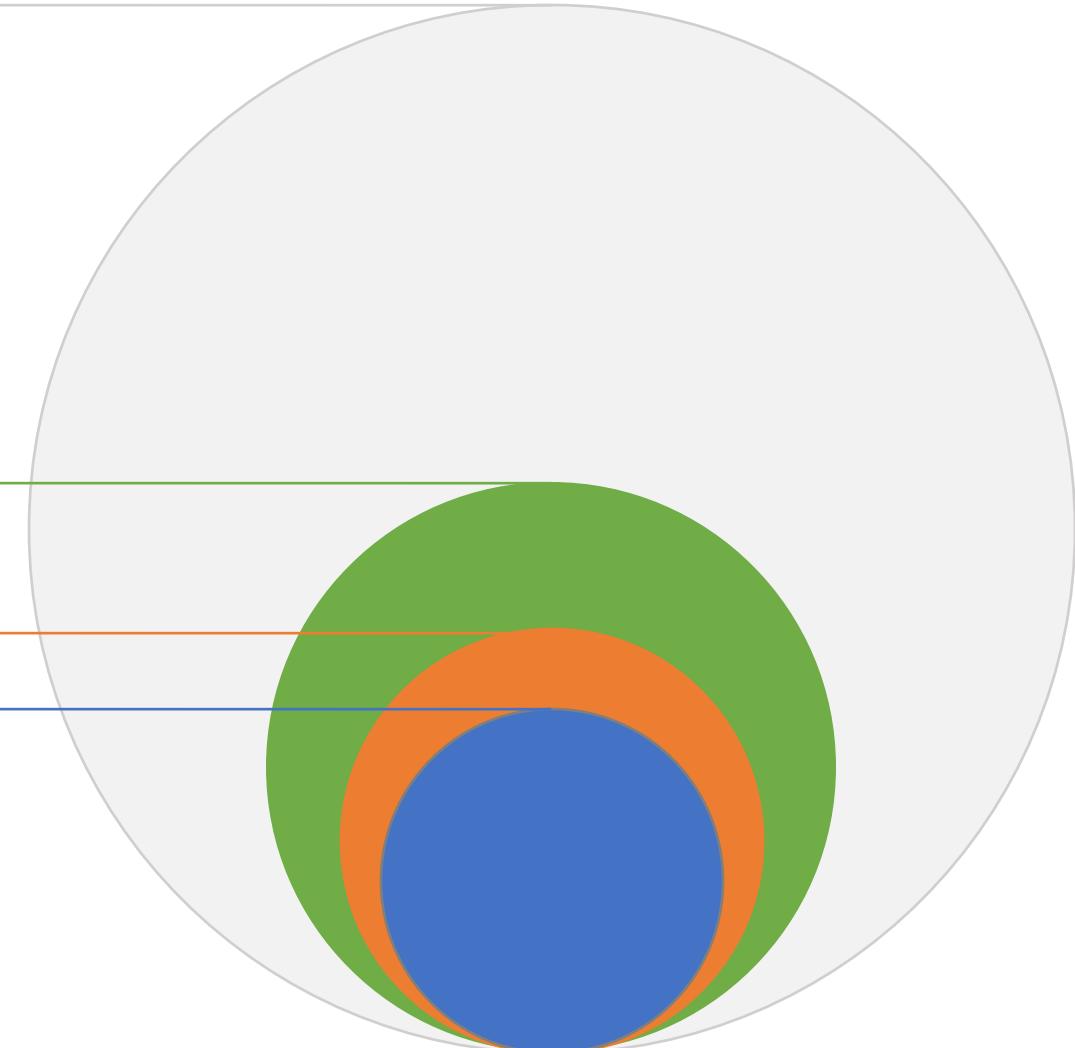
Residents at Risk of Food Insecurity

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**)



OBBA 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.

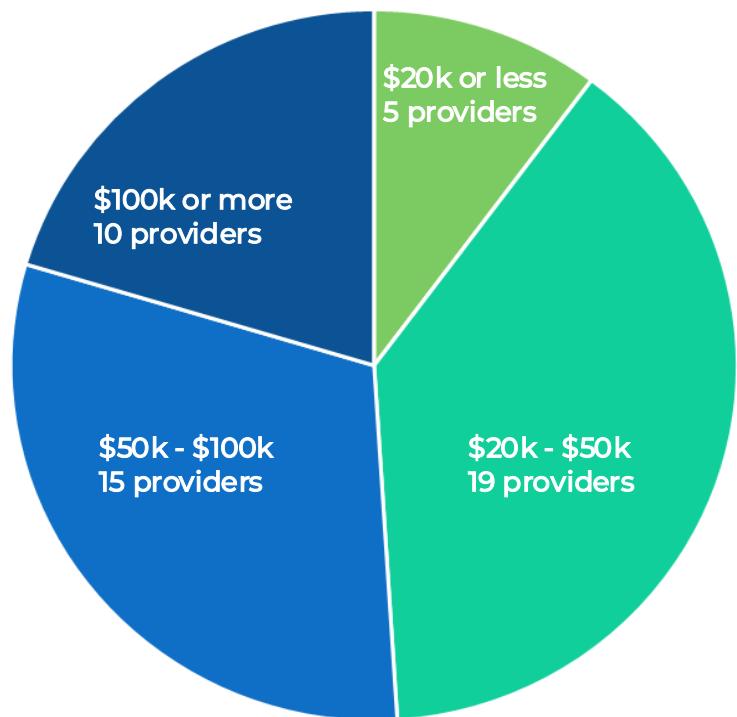
FY26 Operating Budget Overview

- **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

Retail Access Insights



Program Year 1

550

Montgomery
County Families

1,105

Montgomery
County Children

74% re-applied to program

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



Launched Mar 2025
\$304,000 awarded to **six SNAP CBOs**
Focused on CBO collaboration and referrals to other nutrition benefit programs.

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 Kosher Pantry Choice Market



Chirandu Farm



MCPS DFNS Tour

Referral Resources

Food Distribution Events

Month

Table

Day

SEPTMBER 2025

Subscribe My Events

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

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 with the subject line, "Calendar".

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

Search by name

Search near address or zip code

SEARCH

Show Filters

Showing 1 - 99 of 99

Sort by: Distance

So What Else

4924 Wyacanda Road, North Bethesda, 20852

2025737787

<https://www.sowhatelse.org>

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

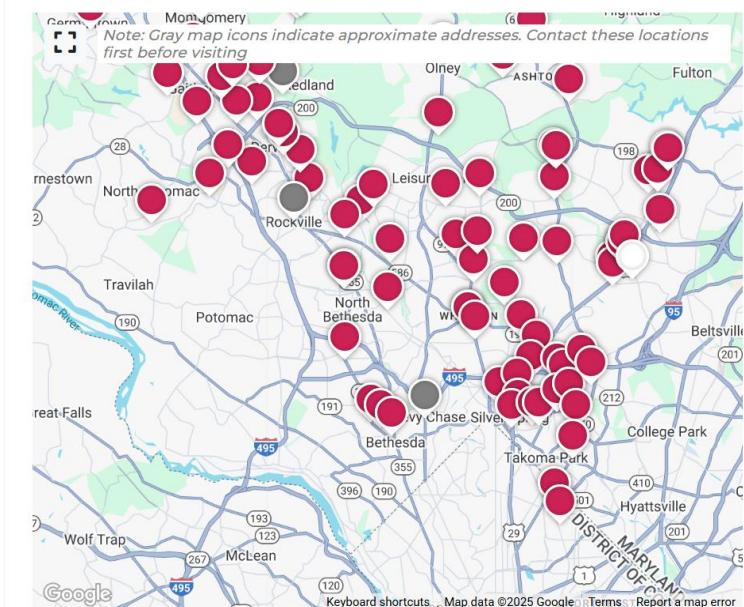
Monday 8:30am-3pm, Tuesday-Thursday 8:30-4:30pm, Friday 8:30-3pm, Saturday 7am-1pm

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 

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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



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**

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



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

