



“This initiative allows us to distribute food in areas that don’t have physical pantry spaces. Communities that were previously underserved are now able to access thousands of pounds of food in a single afternoon through this program.”

Tim Regan, Vice President of Programs and Network Relations

The Pantry on the Go (POTG) Program allows the Maryland Food Bank to distribute large amounts of food directly to people in need. Each Pantry on the Go site — or mobile pantry — acts as a substitute or supplement for stationary food pantries in rural, urban, and suburban areas that have little access to other forms of hunger relief.

How does it work?

Strategically targeting communities with a high rate of food insecurity, POTG sends a truck with thousands of pounds of food to a designated drop-off point for immediate distribution in every county we serve.

POTG works in tandem with our Farm to Food Bank Program to provide more than 6,000 pounds of produce and/or non-perishable foods, feeding about 100-200 families at each event; a large POTG site can serve up to 1,000 families in a single day.

The goal of each POTG event is to provide immediate relief to communities that are struggling with food insecurity, have little access to fresh produce, or don’t have access to a food pantry.

POTG host sites can include:

- Our emergency network partner
- Faith-based organizations
- Schools
- Community centers
- Retirement homes
- Other nonprofits
- Other central locations in low-income communities

Total Meals Consumed

FY 2017	6.8 million
FY 2016	7.2 million
FY 2015	8.6 million
FY 2014	5.5 million

Total Pantry on the Go Events

FY 2017	1,050
FY 2016	1,439
FY 2015	1,722
FY 2014	1,137



Our Pantry on the Go Program is a critical part of the Maryland Food Bank's operations for a number of reasons.

- **Moving fresh produce:** This program allows the Maryland Food Bank to quickly move large quantities of fresh produce, ensuring that our clients receive produce while it's fresh and that we minimize food waste.
- **Assisting local agencies:** A single cost-effective delivery reduces the burden on local agencies that may struggle to transport and store sufficient larger quantities of food to meet the need in their community.
- **Bridging the gap:** By bringing the food to our clients, we remove transportation barriers for those in suburban and rural communities. We are also able to deliver produce to urban communities that often lack access to fresh fruits and vegetables due to limited availability or high costs.

With continuing food insecurity and demand for food assistance, POTG gives the Maryland Food Bank another way to feed families and individuals in hard-to-reach or high-need areas.

For more information, contact:

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