

# 2023 Legislative Agenda

The Maryland Food Bank is Maryland's statewide Food Assistance Organization, providing food resources through our network of 320 community partners and approximately 1,200 distribution sites in 21 Counties and Baltimore City. Our mission is to feed people, strengthen communities, and end hunger for more Marylanders.

We know that Marylanders and their families are struggling with the affordability of household necessities, including food. Almost one-third of Maryland families are unable to afford their basic household expenses while up to 1 in 3 Marylanders are at risk of food insecurity.

## ► **Make permanent the state Child Tax Credit and expanded Earned Income Tax Credit.**

The Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit are important anti-poverty tools that directly and meaningfully increase financial stability and consequent food security. Conversely, letting these tax credits shrink or expire could exacerbate family and [child food insecurity](#).

## ► **Ensure that all Maryland children can eat a healthy breakfast and lunch at school.**

Providing no-cost meals in schools guarantees all children have access to healthy and nutritious foods. One in five Maryland children are not eating enough because their families cannot afford food. Ensuring that children can eat at least two healthy meals a day will directly and immediately decrease child food insufficiency.

## ► **Support the Food Assistance safety net.**

Approximately 74% of [Marylanders feel strongly](#) that the State should invest more dollars to address hunger. As recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic continues and the financial burdens of rising costs for basic household necessities persists, demand for food assistance remains high. MFB's ability to meet these extraordinary and historic needs depends on continued close partnership with and financial support from the State of Maryland.

## ► **Additionally, the Maryland Food Bank is supportive of:**

- Modernizing public benefits, including food assistance benefits such as SNAP.
- Strengthening food system infrastructure, including supporting farmers and creating local food processing operations throughout the state.
- Addressing the root causes of hunger, including reliable transportation, safe and affordable housing, affordable child care, and access to fresh and nutritious food and produce.