



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Wednesday, December 7, 2022

**CONTACT:** Joanna Warner, [JWarner@mdfoodbank.org](mailto:JWarner@mdfoodbank.org)  
O: 443-297-5167

Patrick Severe, [patrick@maroonpr.com](mailto:patrick@maroonpr.com)  
C: 667-678-0424

## **\*\*Maryland Food Bank Hunger Brief\*\***

### **MFB's Statewide Network of Community Partners Report Long Lines, More Food Being Distributed to Supplement Household Budgets**

**BALTIMORE** – Maryland Food Bank (MFB) community partners all across the state have been increasingly experiencing higher demand for food over the last several months, as inflation continues to make things difficult for Maryland families.

“Food pantry lines have been longer, shelves have been emptying more quickly, and people from all walks of life are seeking relief from the rising costs of food,” said Carmen Del Guercio, MFB’s CEO and president. “With average households now spending \$445 more per month to purchase the same goods and services they purchased last year, it’s no wonder Marylanders are feeling the pinch right now, especially with the added stress of the holidays around the corner.”

According to one school pantry coordinator in the Essex community of Baltimore County, the growing number of people seeking food assistance is substantial. “As the months go on, our line gets longer and longer. Yesterday, we went past our building corner and down the street,” explained Shannon Ament, the community school facilitator at Sandalwood Elementary School. “Even with imposing limits on items and having a ton of volunteers to help manage that, we are running out of food in 20 minutes.”

Below are just a few of the latest data points MFB has been tracking related to the impact of inflation on neighbors in need, based on the food bank’s analysis of Nov. 29 U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey data:

- **Difficulty Paying Usual Household Expenses:** The percentage of Marylanders who are finding it difficult to pay for usual household expenses **rose from 25% in Dec. 2021 to 37% in November 2022**, meaning more than 1 in 3 Maryland households report difficulties paying for usual expenses.
- **Food Insufficiency:** In November 2022, **more than 1 in 3 Maryland families** with incomes below \$35,000 had experienced food insufficiency (37%). For families earning incomes between \$50,000 and \$70,000, food insufficiency increased from 18% in October 2022 to 28% (November 2022).
- **Food Affordability:** **Almost 1 in 3 Maryland families** (30%) said their children were sometimes or often not eating enough because food was not affordable in November 2022.
- **Food Price Impact:** 91% of Maryland adults reported levels of stress due to the increase of prices during the last 2 months.

Beyond rising costs and inflation, the return of eligibility requirements for free and reduced price in-school meals in some jurisdictions as well as the retraction of pandemic benefits is placing even more financial pressure on families.

MFB’s food assistance network is made up of nearly 1,200 community-based organizations committed to ensuring all Marylanders have a meal they can look forward to this holiday season. For neighbors seeking assistance, a list of community partners is available on the food bank’s [Find Food](#) webpage, where addresses, hours, and contact information can be found simply by entering your zip code.

**About the Maryland Food Bank**

*The Maryland Food Bank is a nonprofit hunger-relief organization dedicated to feeding people, strengthening communities, and ending hunger for more Marylanders by partnering with local organizations from the western mountains to the Eastern Shore. The food bank's statewide network of food assistance brings enough resources together to provide more than 111,000 meals every day (over 40 million meals annually) to hungry children, seniors, veterans, and hard-working families, meeting the immediate needs of hungry Marylanders while simultaneously working to create pathways out of hunger. To learn more about the Maryland Food Bank, visit [www.mdfoodbank.org](http://www.mdfoodbank.org).*

###

A Member of **FEEDING  
AMERICA**