

2024 Legislative Agenda

The Maryland Food Bank is Maryland's statewide Food Assistance Organization, providing food resources through our network of 363 partners and approximately 1,100 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. More than one-third of Maryland families are unable to afford their basic household expenses and 1 in 3 Marylanders are at risk of food insecurity.

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

Providing meals in schools guarantees that all children can access healthy and nutritious foods. More than 1 in 3 [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 pandemic-era programs end and the financial burdens of rising costs for household necessities persist, demand for food assistance remains high. MFB's ability to meet these extraordinary and lasting 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, and ensuring that adequate resources are available and accessible.
- Addressing the root causes of hunger, including financial stability and economic mobility, reliable transportation, affordable and stable housing, adequate and comprehensive health care, accessible child care, and access to community resources providing nutritious food and fresh produce.