



# 2025 Legislative Agenda

The Maryland Food Bank's mission is to feed people, strengthen communities, and end hunger for more Marylanders. We advocate for policies that increase food security, address the root causes of hunger, and advance economic mobility.

## ▶ Collaborate to Achieve Food Security.

- ▶ The Maryland Food Bank works with our partners statewide to collectively coordinate and implement efforts to maximize the amount of food recovered from grocery stores, wholesalers, and growers. **Adequate funding for the food recovery system** is critical to ensuring that these efforts are successful.
- ▶ Financial instability is a major driver of food insecurity. Ensuring that **public benefits like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are easily accessible and adequately funded** proportionate to the needs of Marylanders facing food insecurity eases strains on household budgets.
- ▶ Communities that lack regular access to affordable nutritious food and fresh produce are at greater risk of food insecurity and its effects. **Understanding the impacts of such food deserts** in our state is crucial to the "all hands on deck" work to eradicate them.
- ▶ Providing Maryland families with in-demand and healthy food options at convenient and familiar locations erases stigma and promotes dignity. An important foundational approach to this is **feeding children in schools**; a data-driven and immediately effective method to end child hunger.

## ▶ Support Food Banks.

- ▶ Sustain **ongoing annual state funding** for Maryland's two Feeding America-affiliated food banks, the Maryland Food Bank and the Capital Area Food Bank
- ▶ Continued state funding for the **Maryland Farm and Agricultural Resiliency Mechanism (MFARM)** program, which helps food banks purchase and transport local Maryland agricultural products and blue catfish.
- ▶ Continued support from the State for the **Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement (LFPA)**, a federally-funded partnership between local farmers, watermen, and processors that allows the Maryland Food Bank and the Capital Area Food Bank to provide Maryland-sourced produce, agricultural products, and blue catfish to food-insecure communities all across the state.
- ▶ Continued support from the State for **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)**, an important source of federally-funded food for food banks nationwide.

**ANNE WALLERSTEDT, ESQ.**  
Vice President, Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives  
awallerstedt@mdfoodbank.org  
C: 410.991.7285

**MATTHEW CAPODANNO**  
Manager, Government Relations  
mcapodanno@mdfoodbank.org  
C: 908.984.4400

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**