

COVID-19 EMERGENCY FOOD RESPONSE

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FOOD POLICY DIRECTOR
FOOD POLICY & PLANNING

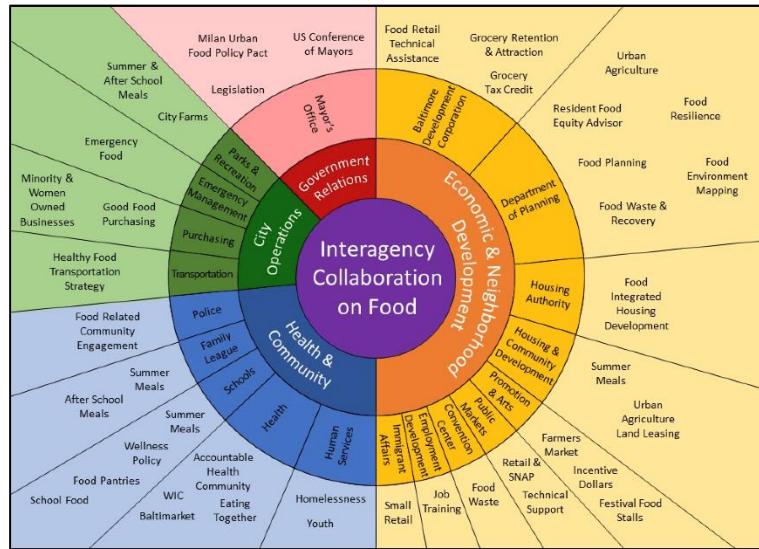
Prince Georges County Food Security Task Force

February 12, 2021



FOOD POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISON

Oversee the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI), a three-tiered approach to building and equitable and resilient urban food system



Inter-agency collaboration

- 19 agencies addressing food systems

Food Policy Action Coalition (Food PAC)

- 60 diverse stakeholders and growing
- Collaboration, idea sharing and collective action and advocacy

Resident Food Equity Advisors

- 15 residents, 6 meetings, Compensated for their time





A CITY COMMITTED TO BUILDING AN EQUITABLE AND RESILIENT URBAN FOOD SYSTEM



Sustainability Plan 2019

Food System Guiding Principles

1. Use policy to create a more equitable food system
2. Increase resilience at household, community, and food system levels
3. Strengthen and amplify the local food economy
4. Create agriculture land-use policies that encourage urban farms and local food production



Food Systems & Urban Agriculture - The Sustainability Plan



HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY



Resident-driven processes



Corner and convenience stores



Supermarkets



Public Markets



Food distribution and small businesses



Federal nutrition assistance



Urban agriculture



Transportation gaps

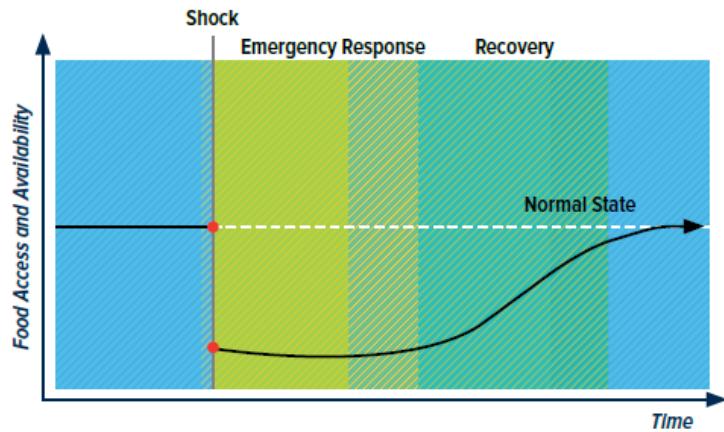




COVID-19 EMERGENCY FOOD RESPONSE PLANNING

FOOD RESILIENCE PLANNING

Figure 1: Resilience Timeline



Baltimore Food System Resilience Advisory Report

August 2017



Staffing Structure:

- Food Policy Director
- Food Resilience Planner
- Food Access Planner
- Food Systems Planner

Reports and Plans:

- Created Plan for Food Access During Incidents and Disasters for the City of Baltimore
- Baltimore Food System Resilience Advisory Report with Johns Hopkins

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Emergency food working group

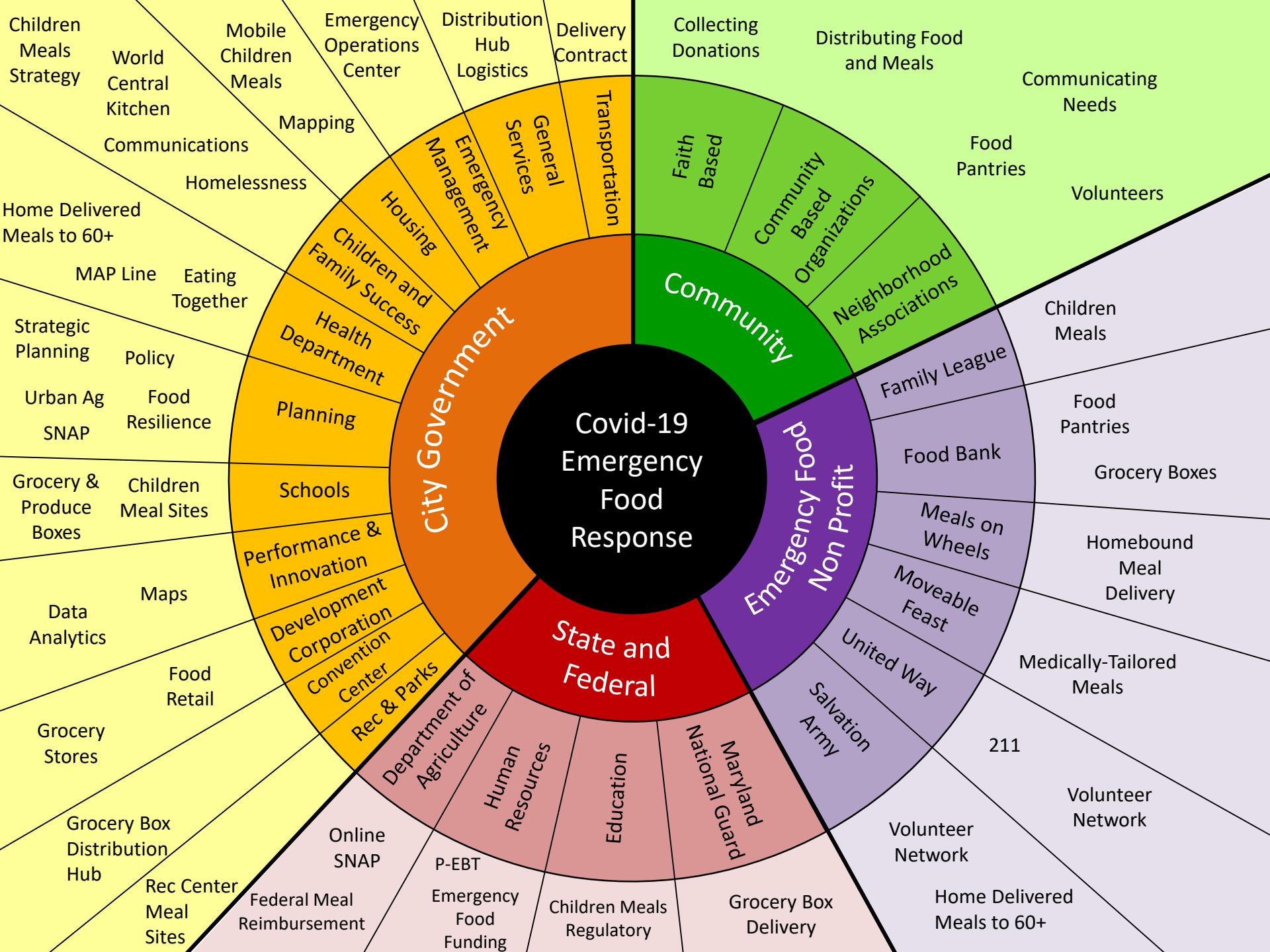


STANDING UP A COVID-19 FOOD RESPONSE

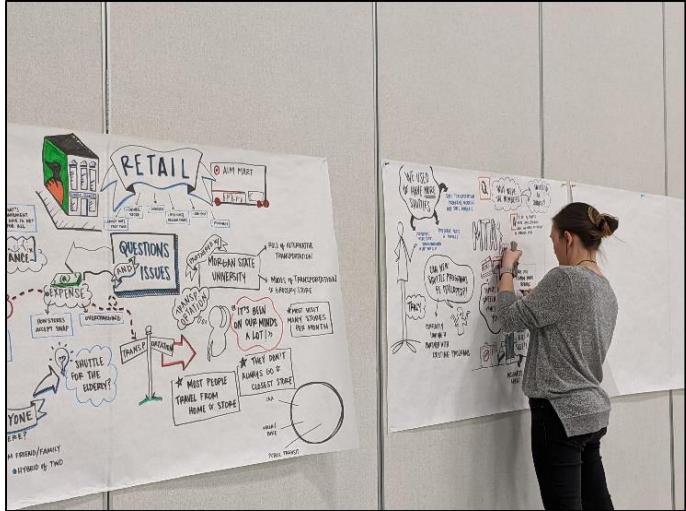
Role of Food Policy & Planning

- Lead strategic planning
- Conduct mapping & Data Analysis
- Coordinate with Emergency Operation Center and state and federal agencies
- **Planning Assumptions**
 - Adapt plan from congregate feeding to pandemic response
 - Procurement contracts in place
- **Planning Process**
 - Daily calls with Emergency Food Response Team
 - City agencies & schools
 - Non-profit food providers





FOOD STRATEGY, POLICY, AND PLANNING



COVID-19 Food System Strategy Development

- Compile best practices
- Community informed
- Data driven

Community Food Security

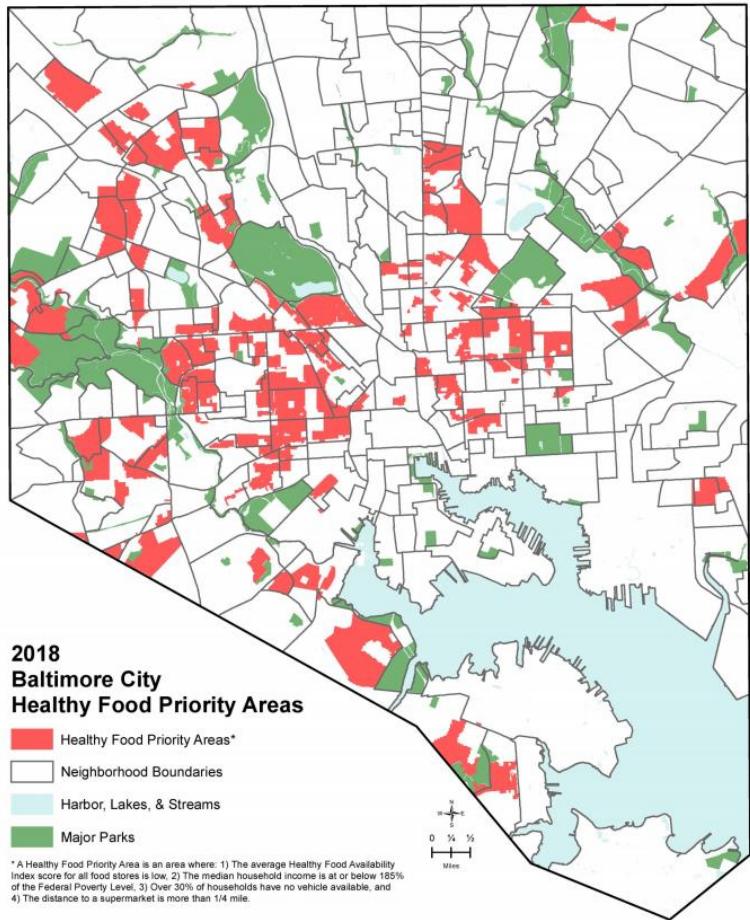
- Resident Food Equity Advisors
- Food Policy Action Coalition
- Healthy Food Priority Area Funds
- Community Planners
- Funding and Resources for Community Partners

Food Environment Mapping

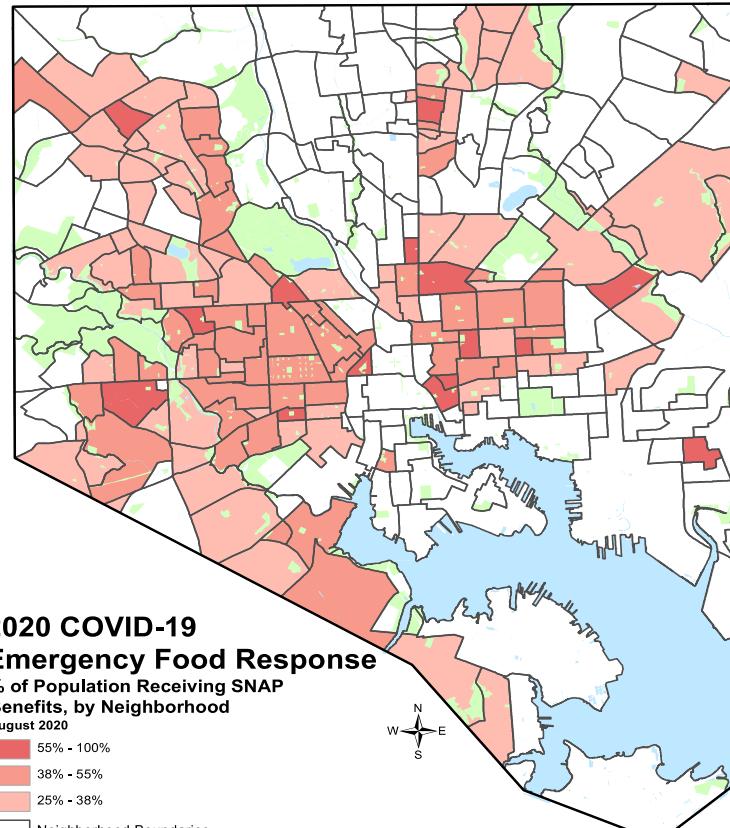
- Adapt mapping strategies to COVID-19



FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAPPING

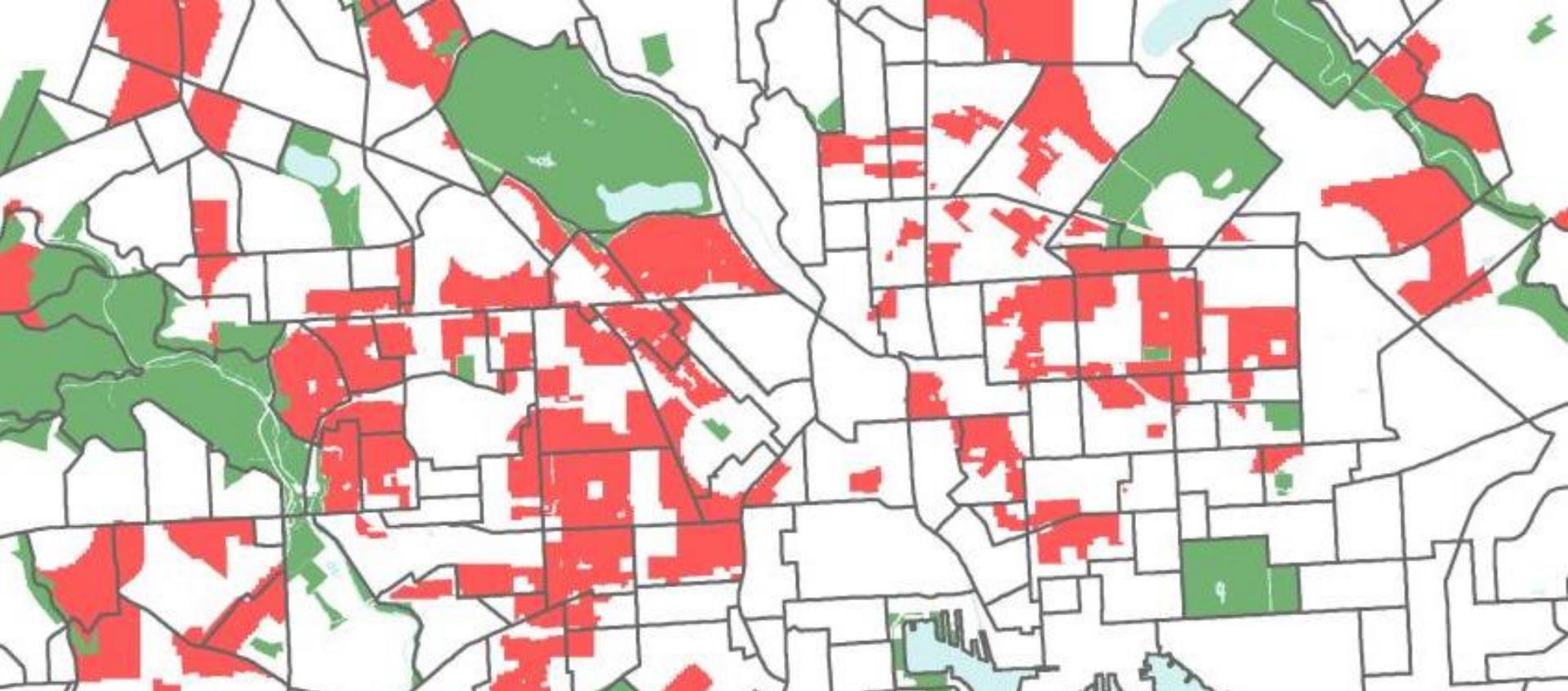


Impact: 146,000 residents in Priority Areas
Strategy: [8-point Healthy Food Environment Strategy](#)
Resource: [City & Council Food Environment Briefs](#)



Impact: 188,000 residents on SNAP
Strategy: [COVID-19 Emergency Food Response](#)
Resource: [COVID-19 Food Environment Brief](#)

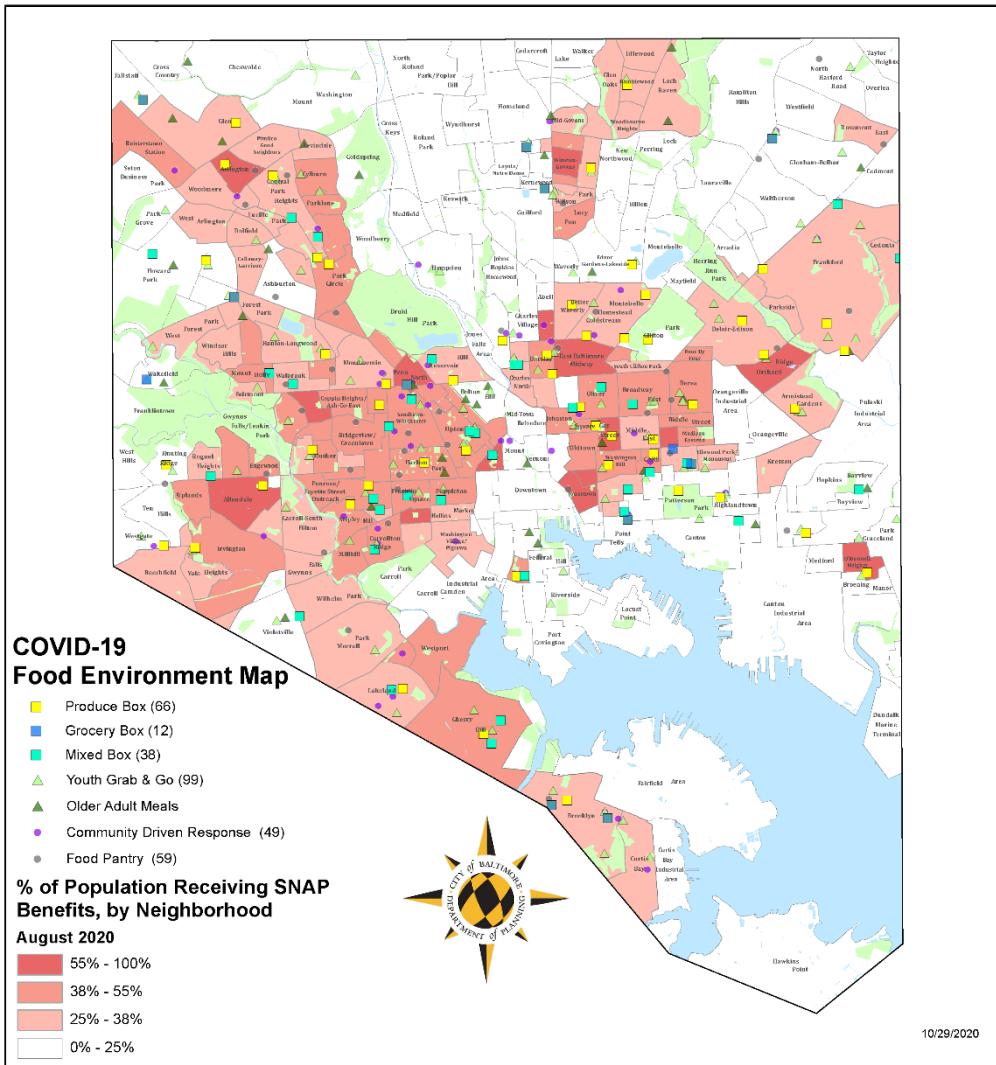




COVID-19 EMERGENCY FOOD RESPONSE

MAPPING, DATA & RESOURCES

COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAPPING



SNAP

~188,000 (August)

Food Distribution

- 66 Produce Boxes
- 12 Grocery Boxes
- 38 Mixed Food Boxes

Meal Distribution

- 33 Older Adult Meals
- 99 Youth Grab and Go

Nonprofit Response

- 49 Community Driven Response
- 59 Food Pantries



COVID 19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT DISTRICT 12

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT BRIEF December 2020



OVERVIEW

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Baltimore developed a comprehensive Emergency Food Strategy involving city agencies and critical nonprofit, business, and community partners. This food security response is based on four key pillars: (1) distribute food boxes, (2) distribute meals, (3) protect and maximize federal nutrition benefits, and (4) build food system resilience through urban agriculture.

The Food Policy and Planning Division of the Department of Planning oversees the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI). These briefs provide overviews of the food environment per city council district during the COVID-19 pandemic, and summarize food policy priorities moving into pandemic recovery and long-term resilience.

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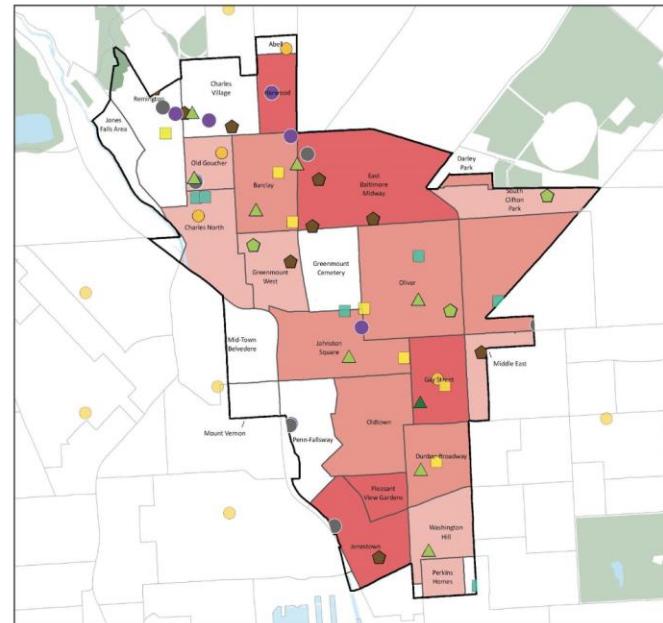
FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT: Holly Freishtat, Food Policy Director, holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov

WEBSITE: <https://planning.baltimorecity.gov/baltimore-food-policy-initiative>

FOOD RESOURCES: <https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/food-distribution-sites>

2020 COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 12



2020 COVID-19 Food Environment Map - District 12

% of Population Receiving SNAP Benefits, by Neighborhood



Neighborhood Boundaries

Harbor, Lakes & Streams

Major Parks

Food Distribution

- Produce Box (7)
- Grocery (0)
- Mixed Box (5)
- Youth Grab & Go (8)
- Older Adult Meals (1)
- Food Pantry (8)
- Community Driven Response (7)

Food Retail

- Supermarkets (4)
- Farmers Markets (1)
- Public Markets (0)

Urban Agriculture

- Community Garden (9)
- Urban Farms (3)



0 ½ Miles

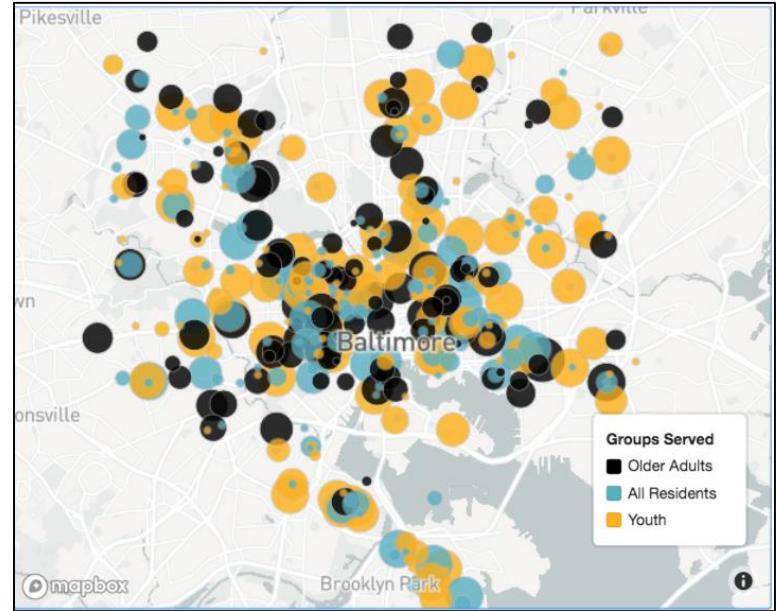
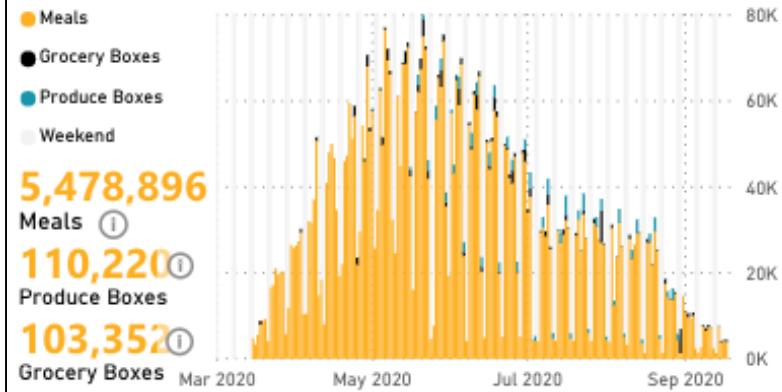


COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION DATA

Food Distribution

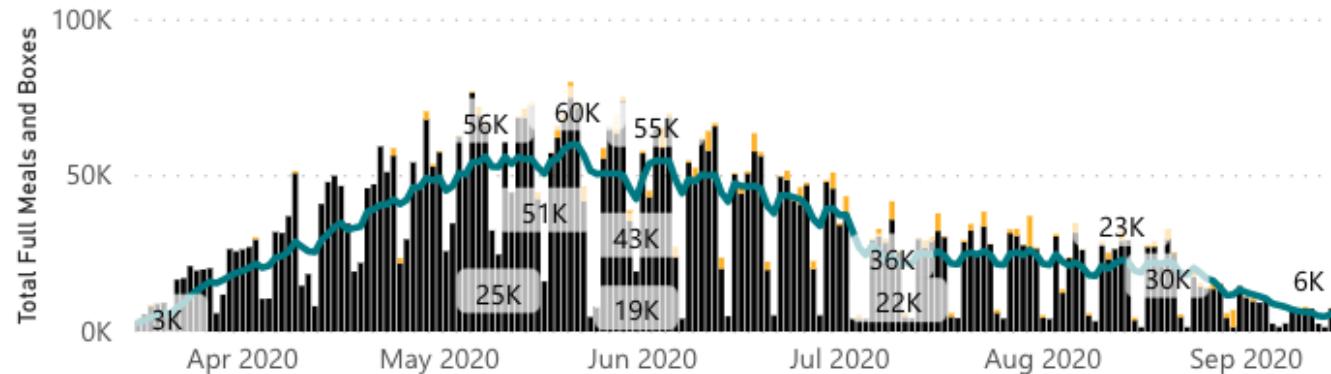
Updated
09/17/20

The city's emergency food strategy includes distributing food, increasing federal nutrition benefits, supporting community partners, and building up local food system resilience. Meals, produce and grocery boxes are distributed at schools, recreation centers, public housing communities, community organizations, mobile routes, and through home delivery. Counts for recent dates may be incomplete due to the reporting process. See coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/food-distribution-sites for more information.



Total Meals and Boxes by Day

● Total Full Meals ● Boxes ● Total Meals Rolling 7-Day Average



COVID-19 FOOD ACCESS RESOURCES

Impacted by COVID-19? Need food assistance?



Baltimore City is delivering grocery boxes this winter in partnership with



Who Qualifies?*

- ✓ Currently have no food at home or will run out before you can buy more
- ✓ Can't afford paid meal or grocery delivery
- ✓ Are experiencing financial, social or medical hardships due to COVID-19
- ✓ Have someone at home who is able to prepare food

What should qualifying households expect?

Will receive a grocery box with enough non-perishable food for 1-2 weeks depending on household size

Will receive a box within 3-4 days of ordering

*If you don't qualify for home delivery, you can still get food assistance. Visit:

coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/food-distribution-sites

To see if you qualify

Adults 60 and older: call **(410) 396-2273**

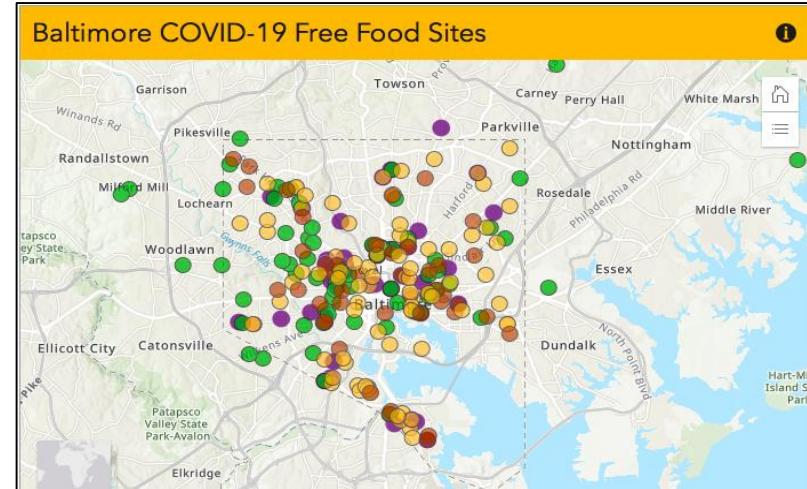
Residents 59 & younger: call **2-1-1**



For more information about COVID-19 visit:
coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov

COVID-19 Food Resources

- [Baltimore City COVID-19 Food Resources](#)



Food Policy & Planning Briefs

- [COVID-19 Food Environment Brief - Nov 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 Council District Food Environment Briefs](#)

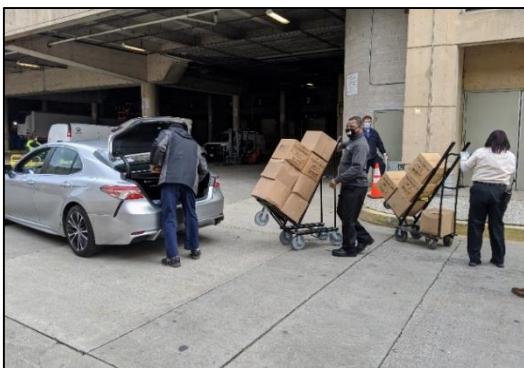




COVID-19 EMERGENCY FOOD RESPONSE

IMPLEMENTATION & IMPACT

FOOD BOXES & MEALS



Food Box Distribution:

11.8 Million pounds, totaling over 477,000 food boxes, 100 community, schools & rec centers locations

- 1. Produce Boxes:** 57 sites, 20 lb. of produce from Coastal Sunbelt Produce & Common Market
- 2. Mixed Food Boxes:** 36 sites, 22 lb. of produce, dairy & meat, Saval Foodservice
- 3. Home Delivered Grocery Boxes:** 30 lb. shelf stable food boxes, screened for food insecurity by 211 & MAP, partners → Convention Center, Amazon, VOAD, Housing & Community Development (HCD), Maryland Food Bank

Youth & Older Adult Meals:

Over 7.78 million meals, federally reimbursed, existing programs that have been expanded with waivers



COVID-19 RELIEF THROUGH SNAP

SNAP

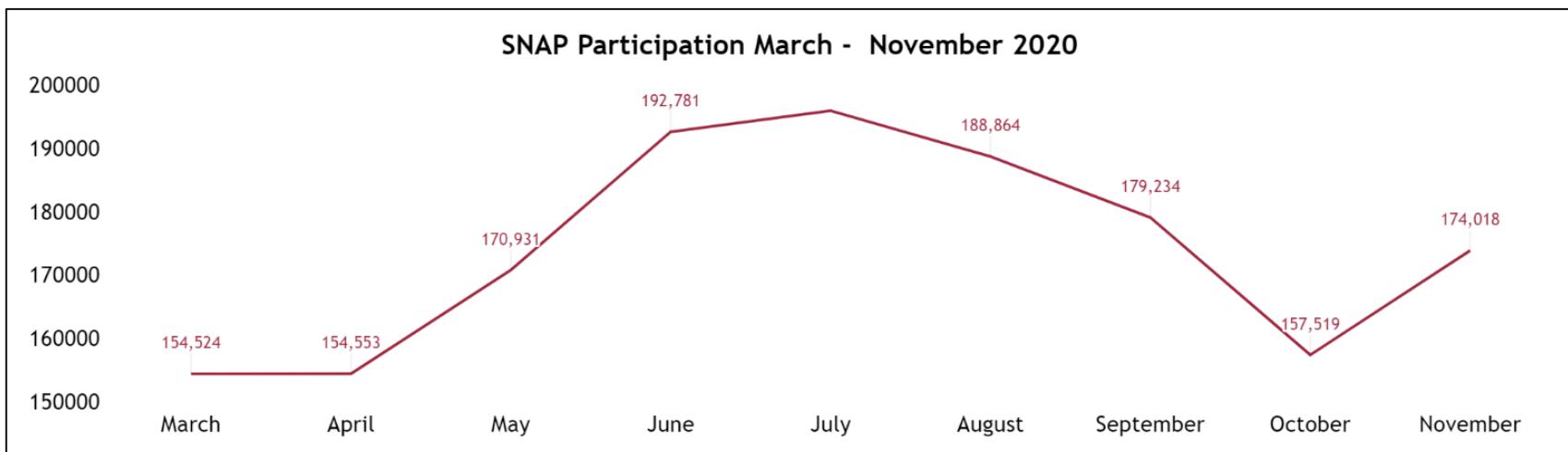
- Excludes unemployment compensation from being counted as income for the purposes of calculating SNAP benefits & eligibility
- Increases SNAP's monthly benefits for 6-months
- Suspends work requirements for SNAP-eligible college students

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)

- \$5.86 provided to all Baltimore City Public School students per school day

Online SNAP

- Expedited implementation on May 28th with ShopRite, Amazon, and Walmart



URBAN AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL FOOD

Urban Farms & Community Gardens

- Growing food as a form of resilience and response
- Encouraging local purchasing to keep farms growing
- COVID Resilience Fund for Black-led Farms



Farmers Markets & Community Supported Agriculture

- Essential business
- Nutrition incentives
- Support buying from local growers



Funding

- \$82k Healthy Food Priority Area Funds
- Linking funders with urban ag organizations
- Length of response proves need to invest in longer-term food solutions



COVID 19 VACCINE READINESS

Priority Group 1C

Definition: Front-line essential workers hold critical jobs essential to the functioning of society and have potential occupational exposure to individuals with COVID-19.

List includes Food and Agricultural workers

- Restaurant workers
- Food Pantries
- Farmers Markets
- Farms
- Grocery/Convenience store workers

COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

PHASE 1. 2. 3.

We are in Phase 1C

*As of Jan. 25th 2021. Phases subject to change due to CDC, MDH, or FDA updated guidance

PHASE 1A.	PHASE 2.	PHASE 3.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare workers • Residents and staff of nursing facilities • First responders, public safety, corrections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults 16-64 at increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness due to comorbidities • Essential workers in critical utilities transportation, food service, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General population, including healthy adults age 16-64
PHASE 1B.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults 75 years and older • People experiencing homelessness • Shelter staff and residents • High-risk, incarcerated individuals • Individuals in group home settings • Education sector (K-12 Teachers and support staff in schools) • Child care workers • Continuity of government 		
PHASE 1C.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Marylanders over 65. • All other public safety (not in Phase 1A) • All other healthcare (not in Phase 1A), including, but not limited to Lab Services, Public Health, Vaccine Manufacturing, other healthcare professions) • Food and Agriculture Production • Critical Manufacturing • U.S. Postal Service • Public Mass Transit • Grocery Stores • Veterinarians and Support Staff • Clergy and other essential support for houses of worship 		

It's Baltimore versus COVID.
Let's win this together.



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

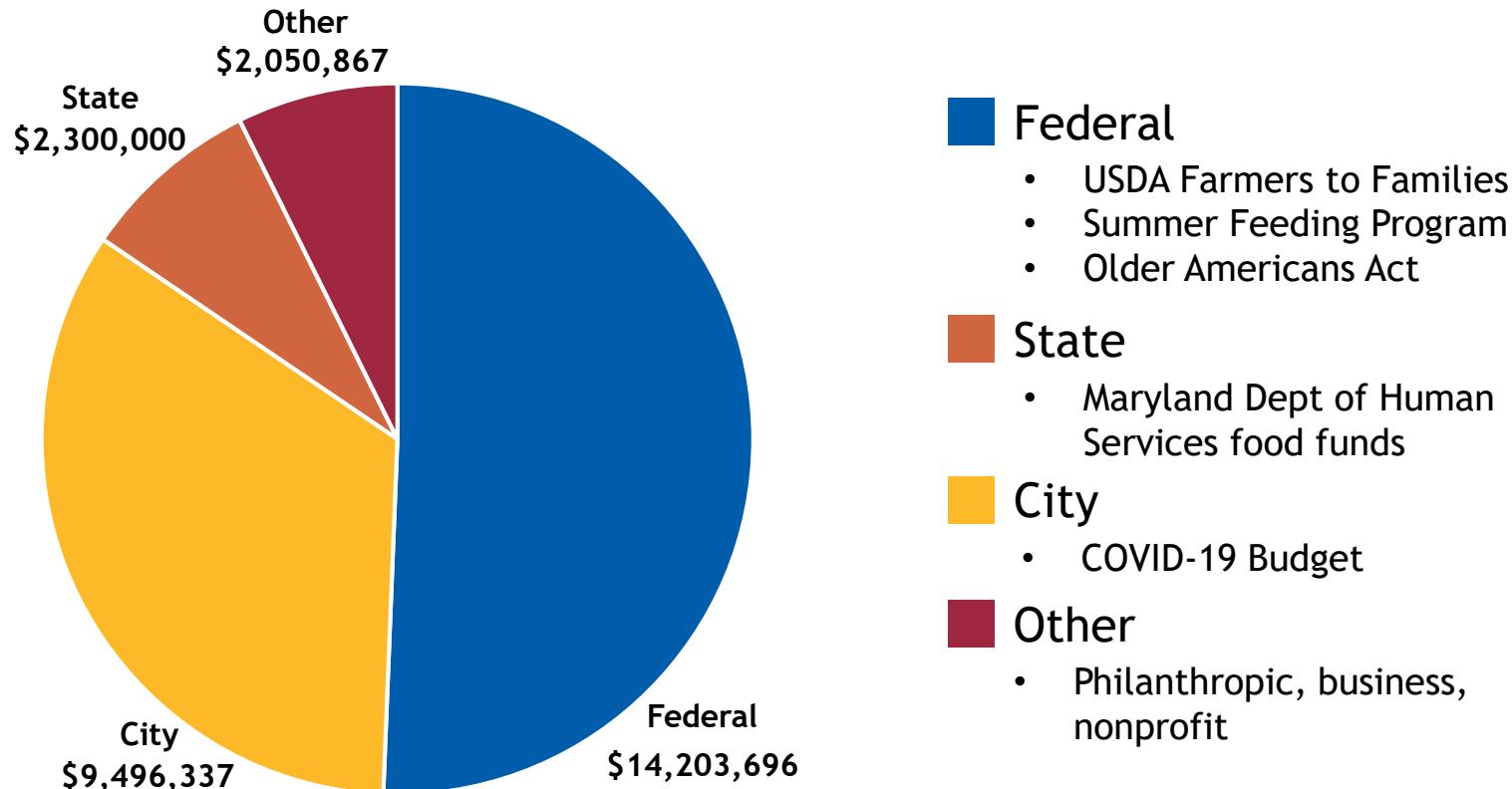
BALTIMORE
CITY HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

To learn more, visit coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/covax

[Coronavirus 2019 Disease\(COVID-19\) \(baltimorecity.gov\)](https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov)

FUNDS LEVERAGED: MARCH - AUGUST 2020

Baltimore City has leveraged a total of \$28.1 million.





COVID 19 EMERGENCY FOOD RESPONSE

CONCLUSION & LOOKING FORWARD

FOOD POLICY AGENDA



Address Food Insecurity

- Covid-19 emergency food response
- Address SNAP policy barriers
- Youth led food insecurity strategy

Innovations

- Rideshare
- Nutrition Incentives
- Food As Medicine- Produce Rx
- Food Resilience Plan Update



Prioritize Resident-led priorities

- Urban Agriculture- Equity Framework
- Resident Equity Advisors & Food PAC

Strengthen and amplify local economy

- Small Food Retail & Food Coops
- Avenue Market
- Good Food Procurement

PC: United Way of Central Maryland



REFLECTIONS



- Gaps evident in the system after the pandemic
- Current and shifting of priorities
- Long term and short term strategies to improve the food system
- Given many pressing needs due to COVID, how have the recommendations and your work been impacted?



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Email: holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website:

<https://planning.baltimorecity.gov/baltimore-food-policy-initiative>