

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Brandon M. Scott announces \$11 million investment to combat food insecurity across Baltimore City

The COVID-19 public health emergency disproportionately affected access to nutritious food for children and families and exposed the fragility and inequity of food security and the food supply chain. Feeding America estimates that food insecurity has risen from 18% to 21.7% in Baltimore City as a direct result of COVID-19, and the child food insecurity rate is estimated at 33%.**

Food insecure populations are more vulnerable to COVID-19, and safe food distribution is a "health-promoting strategy to mitigate community transmission of COVID-19."*** This ARPA investment will improve nutritional security with a focus on Black Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities that are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 as a result of systemic health and social inequities.

Funding will support various programs for residents aimed at:

- building and improving the BIPOC local food production supply chain;
- expanding nutrition incentives at farmer's markets;
- continuing COVID-19 emergency produce box distribution;
- increasing online Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation to address the inequitable access to home-delivered groceries; and
- implementing a Produce Prescription program at MedStar Harbor Hospital.

** Source: [Strategy to Improve Nutritional Security and Minimize Hunger City of Baltimore COVID-19 Emergency Food Response](#)

Budget Snapshot:

Support for BIPOC farms	\$1,500,000
Farmer's Market Incentives	\$450,000
Produce Box Distribution	\$4,586,400
Online SNAP	\$3,663,600
Medically Tailored Meals	\$450,000
Administration	\$420,000
Total Budget	\$11,070,000

SUMMARY:

- Mayor Brandon M. Scott allocated \$11 million to combat food insecurity.
- This allocation will be disbursed across 4 fiscal years and conclude in FY 25.

For more information about the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs and for updates on ARPA Funding, please visit arp.baltimorecity.gov

