

# Howard County Food Access Resources

## Table of Contents

<b>Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)</b> .....	<b>2</b>
About .....	2
Contact .....	2
Efforts .....	2
<b>Community Action Council (CAC)/Howard County Food Bank</b> .....	<b>2</b>
About .....	2
Contact .....	2
Efforts .....	2
<b>Food on the 15<sup>th</sup></b> .....	<b>3</b>
About .....	3
Contact .....	3
Efforts .....	3
<b>Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center</b> .....	<b>3</b>
About .....	3
Contact .....	3
Efforts .....	3
<b>Howard County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)</b> .....	<b>3</b>
About .....	3
Contacts .....	3
Efforts .....	4
<b>Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services (DCRS)</b> .....	<b>4</b>
About .....	4
Contacts .....	4
Efforts .....	4
<b>Howard County Department of Social Services (DSS)</b> .....	<b>5</b>
About .....	5
Contact .....	5
Efforts .....	5
<b>Howard County Public School System (HCPSS)</b> .....	<b>6</b>
About .....	6
Contacts .....	6
Efforts .....	6
<b>Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of Emergency Operations</b> .....	<b>7</b>
About .....	7
Contact .....	7
Efforts .....	7
<b>Maryland Food Bank</b> .....	<b>7</b>
About .....	7
Contact .....	7
Efforts .....	7
<b>Roving Radish</b> .....	<b>7</b>
About .....	7
Contact .....	8
Efforts .....	8

# Howard County Food Access Resources

## Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)

### About

- The BMC is a nonprofit organization that works collaboratively with the chief elected officials in the region to create initiatives to improve quality of life and economic vitality.
- The Board of Directors includes the executives of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford and Howard counties, the mayor of the City of Baltimore, a member of the Carroll County and Queen Anne's County boards of commissioners, a member of the Maryland State Senate, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, and a gubernatorial appointee from the private sector.

### Contact

- Megan Bluthardt, Emergency Planner, [mbluthardt@baltometro.org](mailto:mbluthardt@baltometro.org)
- Blake Fisher, Emergency Planner, [bfisher@baltometro.org](mailto:bfisher@baltometro.org)

### Efforts

- We are providing planning support as needed. We are passing local and federal directives as they come down to us. We are also helping to identify gaps and create solutions to work through those gaps in the best way for the jurisdiction.
- Continue to provide support throughout the region
- Concern: All communications are going out letting the communities know where the sites are and the options for senior feeding.

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## Community Action Council (CAC)/Howard County Food Bank

### About

- As the designated anti-poverty organization in Howard County, the Community Action Council of Howard County is the “go to” organization for our most vulnerable community members. CAC became one of the central points of service during the floods of 2016 and 2018 and we remain committed to that level of high-quality and immediate service.

### Contact

- Bita Dayhoff, President, [bdayhoff@cac-hc.org](mailto:bdayhoff@cac-hc.org)
- Paul McElderry, Director of Food Bank Service, [pmcelderry@cac-hc.org](mailto:pmcelderry@cac-hc.org)

### Efforts

- CAC has been tracking food metrics for the County and identified an increased need within the County. The challenge of food security is continuing to increase.
- CAC is trying to establish a framework for a greater emergency response in regard to food security.
- CAC is currently attempting to overcome food security issues for County residents.
- Completely changed model at Food Bank – Used to operate as a client-choice model (like a grocery store), now changed to a grab-n-go pre-bagged method so clients can check in and leave quickly to reduce contact
- Seeing a 300% increase in services, serving 100+ households per day, 30% are new clients
- Served 4,000 clients in 5 weeks, normally see 2,000 per month
- Funded the Pop-Up Pantries, reached 2,000 people through those
- Concerned about sustainability, if staff can't stay healthy there will be issues

## Howard County Food Access Resources

### Food on the 15<sup>th</sup>

#### About

- Food on the 15th is an award winning program established in 2006. We are proud to operate on \$0 overhead and have delivered over 40,000 free bags of groceries and toiletries to economically challenged older adults at Morningside Park Apartments in Jessup, Maryland, the Tiber Hudson building in Ellicott City, Maryland and Parkview Snowden, Columbia, Maryland.
- The number of residents we serve varies from month to month, but it is generally approximately 100 residents, many of whom live on just \$11k per year. Food on the 15th delivers free groceries around the middle of the month, which is the time that the resident's social security checks may have run out for the month.
- Non-profit organization which connects children who connect food at schools and deliver it to seniors

#### Contact

- Julie Rosenthal, [foodonthe15th@gmail.com](mailto:foodonthe15th@gmail.com)

#### Efforts

- Due to school closures, food is currently unable to be collected or distributed.
  - All participants were asked to sign up for Meals on Wheels.
  - Asking all community block captains to start food collections within their neighborhoods.
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### Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center

#### About

- As Howard County's 24/7 crisis intervention center and shelter for the homeless, Grassroots is committed to providing as much service to the community as possible during the public health threat posed by COVID-19. We are also using every measure necessary to ensure the safety of our residents and staff members.
- Provides 24/7 crisis counseling and shelter for individuals or families.

#### Contact

- Anna Katz, Operations Manager, [anna@grassrootscrisis.org](mailto:anna@grassrootscrisis.org)

#### Efforts

- Grassroots provides food boxes and a pantry, and occasionally gift cards for food purchases for individuals experiencing times of crisis.
  - Pantry is currently stocked.
  - Food assistance is provided to their shelter residence and they are currently experiencing no issues with this program.
- 

### Howard County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)

#### About

- The Howard County COAD exists to bring together Community Organizations (non-profits, faith-based, community, businesses, government) based in Howard County to ensure all individual volunteer efforts can be coordinated throughout response and recovery. Seen as the "glue" which helps various organizations in the County coordinate together.

#### Contacts

- Kathleen Koch, Chair, [kathleenkoch@leaderslink.org](mailto:kathleenkoch@leaderslink.org)
- Nancy McAllister, Vice Chair, [nancymcallister@yahoo.com](mailto:nancymcallister@yahoo.com)

# Howard County Food Access Resources

## Efforts

- Grocery Delivery Service
  - Project Lead: Howard County REACT - David Perry
    - [mail@howardcountyreact.org](mailto:mail@howardcountyreact.org)
  - Free grocery delivery to low-income Howard County seniors and vulnerable populations.
  - Available only from stores that offer curbside pickup of prepaid groceries or prescription drugs including Safeway, Harris Teeter, Wegmans, Roots and Giant.
  - People needing the service with access to a computer should go to [www.howardcountyreact.org/delivery](http://www.howardcountyreact.org/delivery) and follow the directions. Those without access to a computer can call 410-782-0432 and explain they need grocery delivery. Since this project is being led by REACT, they or Dave Perry will answer the phone.
- Pop Up Pantries
  - Project Lead: LeadersLink - Kathleen Koch
    - [Kathleenkoch@leaderslink.org](mailto:Kathleenkoch@leaderslink.org)
  - Pop Up Pantries have been organized by Kathleen Koch, Chair. This effort is in response to 10 of 14 food pantries closing. Held two offerings, three sites each week. Hundreds of bags have been distributed each week.
  - Volunteer drivers pick up pre-packed bags of food from the Howard County Food Bank at 9385 Gerwig Lane, Columbia, MD.
  - Drop off the food bags at one of three locations, changing weekly.
  - Oversee distribution to county seniors and low-income residents.
- Howard County Food Bank Grocery Store Food Drive
  - Project Lead: Howard County REACT - David Perry
    - [mail@howardcountyreact.org](mailto:mail@howardcountyreact.org)
  - Place three 50-gallon drums provided by the Howard County Food Bank in the three Howard County Safeway stores.
  - Check regularly w/stores to determine when the drums are full.
  - Pick up food from the drums and deliver to the Howard County Food Bank at: 9385 Gerwig Lane, Suite J, Columbia, MD 21046

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## Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services (DCRS)

### About

- DCRS has eight offices to address the needs of multiple generations, tailor services to different cultural values, and promote full inclusion for individuals with disabilities. Plus, our No Wrong Door approach makes it easier for Howard County residents to access the vital human services they need to thrive.

### Contacts

- Ben Barnwell, Manager of Community Engagement, [bbarnwell@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:bbarnwell@howardcountymd.gov)
- Cheryl Mattis, Deputy Director of DCRS, [cmattis@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cmattis@howardcountymd.gov)

### Efforts

- Three phases of food access rollout:
  - Addressing high risk residents in aging communities
    - Weekly distributions of meals for a one-week time frame (seven days of frozen meals), in a grab-no-go style served to 50 seniors on Thursdays
  - Worked with Roving Radish to increase access to subsidized meal kits, distributing at seven sites throughout the County, also serving families that have been identified as needing emergency free food

## Howard County Food Access Resources

- Established a food pantry at the Multiservice center on Mondays and Wednesdays for residents who can't get to the food pantries
- Office on Aging is working with NeighborRide to deliver meal kits to individuals who can't participate in the grab-n-go
- Primary focus of DCRS was to make sure there was no duplication of efforts, while filling gaps that have been recognized by community partners
- Consistently trying to focus forward to prepare for the surge, leading to greater coordination with various offices and departments. Once the crisis is over, services may change due to decrease of volunteers, etc.
- Care Line is available for residents to call into, bilingual staff may be available to translate if need be
- Demand for senior grab and go meals has increased.
- DCRS has applied for, and expects to receive, additional funding to support their mission.
- Food pantry opened in North Laurel. The pantry is not yet being advertised but it is by appointment only.
  - Multi-Service Center
    - 9900 Washington Blvd. Laurel MD, 20723
    - 410.313.0220
    - Pantry by appointment only
      - Hours are Monday and Wednesday from 12PM – 4PM.
  - Maryland Access Point (MAP) 410-313-1234
  - Care Line 410-313-CARE (2273)
  - No income requirement for assistance. Streamlined process in place to help individuals meet their needs.

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## Howard County Department of Social Services (DSS)

### About

- Primary role is to ensure County residents have access to needed benefits (SNAP)

### Contact

- Stephen Liggett-Creel, Director, [Stephen.liggett-creel@maryland.gov](mailto:Stephen.liggett-creel@maryland.gov)

### Efforts

- Have seen a significant increase in SNAP applications over the past weeks.
  - Some of the increase could be based on a misunderstanding of the program.
- Trying to process quickly, but generally takes 30 days to process
- Also provide in home aid service for families with additional needs
- Biggest challenge is limited access because SNAP cannot be used online, must be used in store. This can create an additional burden for those who cannot get to stores.
- Working with the Federal government on allowing online usage of SNAP benefits. Would potentially have a significant delay of 6-8 weeks in implementation once approval was received.
- Families who are 130% below poverty line, become eligible for SNAP. Traditionally, any income took away from the maximum allowed benefit. This is not the case for April-May, all families will be getting full \$194 allotment.
- Maryland is awaiting plan approval for additional benefits for families who received Free and Reduced Meals.
- Benefits are endless, no financial cap on SNAP. Focusing on remaining healthy and processing benefits in a timely manner.

## Howard County Food Access Resources

- Post-crisis concern: Accrual of services and bills that become due once executive orders are lifted, this will then impact food security because many will be in additional financial strain.
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### Howard County Public School System (HCPSS)

#### About

- HCPSS will continue to provide free Grab-N-Go meals to anyone age 18 and under and/or any HCPSS student, regardless of age, throughout state-mandated school closures, [extended through April 24](#). Children do not need to be present; parents/guardian may pick up meals for their child(ren).

#### Contacts

- Brian Ralph, [brian\\_ralph@hcpss.org](mailto:brian_ralph@hcpss.org)
- James LeMon, Executive Director of Community, Parent, and School Outreach, [james\\_lemon@hcpss.org](mailto:james_lemon@hcpss.org)

#### Efforts

- Free Meal Service
    - 14 Grab-n-go sites throughout the County to provide food to minors.
    - Open 11:30-1:30pm every weekday.
    - Participants will be given a Grab-N-Go snack, lunch and dinner for that day, as well as a Grab-N-Go breakfast for the following day. Friday distributions at school-based locations also will include meals to sustain children through the weekend. Participants are encouraged to bring a bag to carry home meals each day.
    - There is no application, enrollment, or fees to participate in this program.
    - School Based Locations
      - Bushy Park Elementary School, 14601 Carrs Mill Road, Glenwood
      - Cradlerock Elementary School/Lake Elkhorn Middle School, 6680 Cradlerock Way, Columbia
      - Deep Run Elementary School, 6925 Old Waterloo Road, Elkridge
      - Ducketts Lane Elementary School, 6501 Ducketts Lane, Elkridge
      - Hollifield Station Elementary School, 8701 Stonehouse Drive, Ellicott City
      - Howard High School, 8700 Old Annapolis Road, Ellicott City
      - Laurel Woods Elementary School, 9250 North Laurel Road, Laurel
      - Oakland Mills Middle School, 9540 Kilimanjaro Road, Columbia
      - Swansfield Elementary School, 5610 Cedar Lane, Columbia
      - Talbott Springs Elementary School, 9550 Basket Ring Road, Columbia
      - Wilde Lake Middle School, 10481 Cross Fox Lane, Columbia
    - Community Locations: (Weekend meals not provided at community locations)
      - Forest Ridge Apartments, 5890 Stevens Forest Rd, Columbia
      - Monarch Mills Apartments, 7600 Monarch Mills Way, Columbia
      - Bethel Christian Academy, Campus 1, 8455 Savage Guilford Rd., Savage
    - Served 350,000 meals as of 4/21/2020.
    - Pop Up Pantries have been very helpful to HCPSS, but some families may need additional assistance
    - Developing a system to meet the needs to be sustainable will be important
    - No foreseen needs within 90 days, assuming staffing levels don't change. Must ensure all needy areas are tailored to, not just select areas.
    - HCPSS is also providing 3x meals/day for the Robinson Nature Center childcare site.
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## Howard County Food Access Resources

### Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of Emergency Operations

#### About

- We coordinate emergency/disaster feeding at the state level.

#### Contact

- Bethany Brown, Assistant Chief, Division of Administrative Operations, [Bethany.brown@maryland.gov](mailto:Bethany.brown@maryland.gov)

#### Efforts

- We are working with the major food banks to support them, having weekly conference calls with local food banks, programs and pantries
  - Working to ensure sufficient food supply for all.
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## Maryland Food Bank

#### About

- The Maryland Food Bank supplies more than 1,200 distribution sites across the state with much-needed food for their local communities. Although many of our community partners have closed as a result of the COVID pandemic, MFB's network is still operating at a high capacity thanks to the reach of those organizations that remain open.
- More than 65% of Central Maryland and 90% of our resilient and committed partners in Eastern and Western Maryland remain open and operational we are working to support our network to stay open.

#### Contact

- Yekatit Bezooyehu, Regional Program Director, Southern MD (Howard, Anne Arundel, Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's), [ybezooyehu@mdfoodbank.org](mailto:ybezooyehu@mdfoodbank.org)

#### Efforts

- To meet the increased need, we are purchasing more food to ensure our pantries' shelves can stay stocked, we have been providing "Grab and Go" meals for students who are missing school meals. Also we are operating "Drive-Through" Pantry on the Go mobile food distributions, which especially helps seniors, while observing social distancing. We have also added distribution hubs throughout the state to efficiently get food out.
  - We will continue our ongoing efforts as listed above, continue to encourage organizations to stay open and operational and support them in getting food distributed across the state.
  - Not really a concern but rather a strategy, we are focusing efforts on our options to innovate the way we provide food and distribute.
  - MD Food Bank strategy for backup boxes will feed a family of 4 for one week. These boxes are meant to be a last resort for partners who have exhausted all other feeding options.
  - Boxes must be purchased by partners at a cost of \$40/box.
  - Prioritizing distribution of boxes based on identified criteria.
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## Roving Radish

#### About

- Serves all members of the community with food security assistance.
- Creates meal boxes for families.
  - Meal boxes are \$34 for two meals
    - Also offer subsidized meal boxes for \$18.

## Howard County Food Access Resources

### Contact

- James Zoller, [jzoller@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jzoller@howardcountymd.gov)

### Efforts

- Recently changed their policies to require meal box orders a week in advance.
- Assists with the delivery of Meals on Wheels backpacks using their refrigerated trucks.
- Supplies groceries for 3 families selected by DCRS.
- Researching a process to allow individuals to sponsor families.
- Looking to expand grocery options available.
- Local farms are not currently in production for produce. Expect excess donations from farms in mid-August.