

# BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL

## COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT BRIEF

December 2020



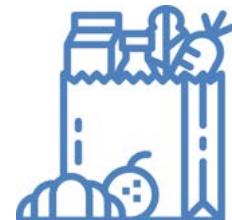
### OVERVIEW

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](mailto:holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov)

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

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

# DISTRICT 1

## 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 many 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.

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### SUMMARY OF COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN DISTRICT 1

The City of Baltimore is supplementing federal benefits with direct food resources. The City has provided 9 million pounds of food boxes and 5.7 million meals at over 400 sites and through home delivery from April –November. The current City-sponsored COVID-19 Food Distribution sites and other resources are mapped on the following page.

#### IN DISTRICT 1 FROM APRIL— NOVEMBER:



##### FOOD BOXES

- Currently 10 sites
- 45,000 food boxes
- Over 1 million pounds



##### MEALS

- Total: nearly 1 million
- Youth: 341,000
- Older Adults: 649,000



##### SNAP

- ~5,500 Participants
- 12% of residents

### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Historically, BFPI has used Healthy Food Priority Areas (formerly called food desert) to show food access needs. However, with the pandemic disrupting the economy and food system, this indicator was replaced with SNAP after applications reached a record high in the spring. SNAP data are available monthly and can be tracked over the course of the pandemic, providing more real-time insight than the Healthy Food Priority Area map.

SNAP is proven to reduce food insecurity. It is even more vital during the pandemic, providing participants autonomy as supply chain shortages may affect typical sources of food. Citywide, in August, there were 188,800 residents on SNAP, bringing \$33.4 million of federal funding into the city for participants to purchase food.

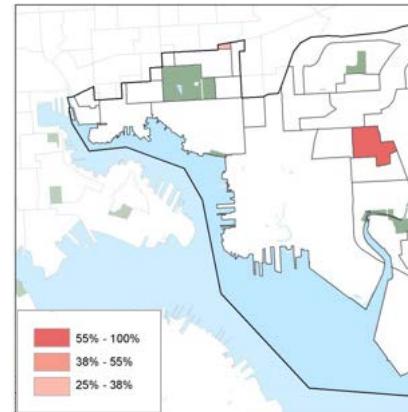
As a safety net, it is vital that Baltimore City residents enroll in, stay on, and maximize the impact of SNAP. Key pandemic considerations:

**SNAP Enrollment:** Eligible residents should apply for and stay on SNAP through recertification. However, the need and number of applications are surpassing the capacity to process them, creating a lag in time between when residents apply and are approved to receive benefits.

**Online SNAP:** SNAP payment for groceries online became available for the first time in June 2020. Participants need to be made aware of this opportunity to shop at home.

**Pandemic EBT:** This additional food benefit can be spent like SNAP and is provided to families with children enrolled in Baltimore City public schools, intended to make up for loss of access to school meals. This will amount to hundreds of dollars per child. Families should not throw away their cards, which will be reloaded every two months.

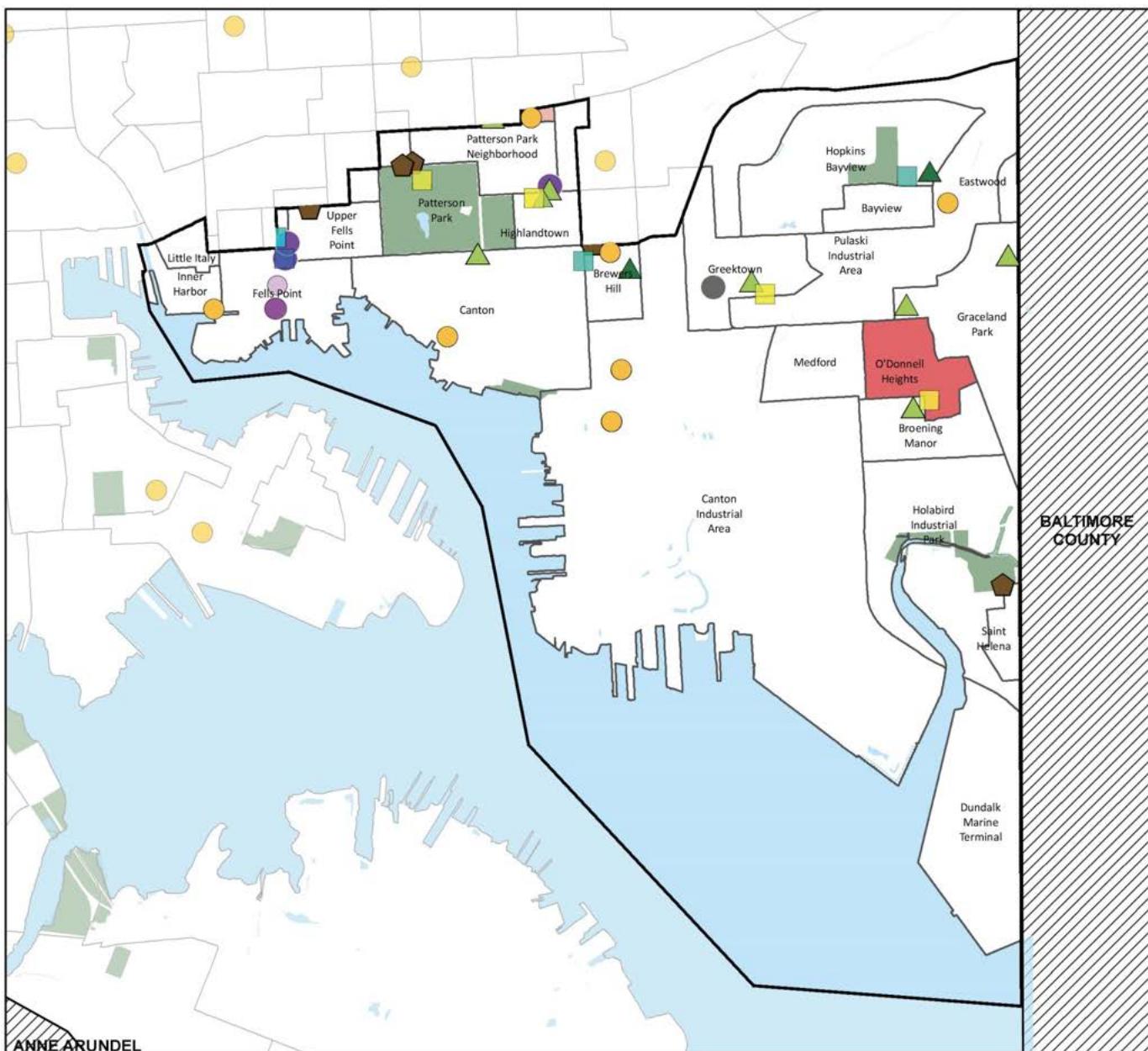
#### Population Receiving SNAP (Aug 2020)



#### DISTRICT 1 IMPACT

12% of population, approx. 5,500 people

# 2020 COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 1



## 2020 COVID-19 Food Environment Map - District 1

### % of Population Receiving SNAP Benefits, by Neighborhood

August 2020

55% - 100%
38% - 55%
25% - 38%

Neighborhood Boundaries	Baltimore County
Harbor, Lakes & Streams	
Major Parks	

### Food Distribution

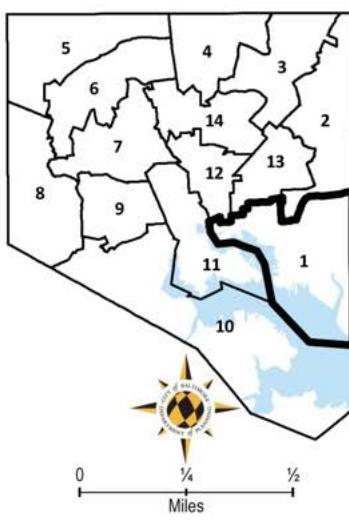
- Produce Box (6)
- Grocery (1)
- Mixed Box (3)
- Youth Grab & Go (6)
- Older Adult Meals (2)
- Food Pantry (1)
- Community Driven Response (3)

### Food Retail

- Supermarkets (7)
- Farmers Markets (1)
- Public Markets (1)

### Urban Agriculture

- Community Garden (5)
- Urban Farms (0)





## COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESPONSE IN DISTRICT 1

### Current Sites

6

#### PRODUCE BOXES

26,150 produce boxes (523,000 pounds) have been distributed by Coastal Sunbelt and Common Market from June through November 2020. Boxes average 20 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables.

1

#### GROCERY BOXES

Over 11,000 grocery boxes (335,000 pounds) have been distributed from April through November 2020. Boxes contain 30 pounds of shelf-stable food from the Maryland Food Bank. Home-delivered grocery boxes are available for older adults and residents impacted by COVID-19.

3

#### MIXED FOOD BOXES

Beginning in September, to fill the “center of the plate” needs of food insecure residents, 7,850 mixed boxes (235,500 pounds) of meat, dairy, and produce have been distributed by Saval Foodservice.

2

#### OLDER ADULT MEALS

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and partners have delivered 649,000 meals between April and November 2020 to residential facilities with multiple participants. Tens of thousands of additional meals have been delivered directly to individual homes.

6

#### YOUTH GRAB AND GO MEALS

Since March, more than 341,000 meals have been distributed in District 1. With school in session virtually, students currently can receive meals at schools, rec centers, and other community sites.

3

#### COMMUNITY DRIVEN RESPONSE

Community members and organizations saw an urgent need and responded with various food resources.

1

#### FOOD PANTRIES

The Maryland Food Bank has entered Phase 2 of its pandemic response while also working to restart standard programming and operations.

### FOOD RETAIL

7

#### SUPERMARKETS

The pandemic created supply chain issues for certain foods and products. Most supermarkets do not currently accept SNAP payment online and BFPI seeks to expand this program in 2021.

1

#### PUBLIC MARKETS

Public Markets like Broadway Market provide opportunities for small food business incubation, employment, and food access.

67

#### CORNER AND CONVENIENCE STORES

These stores are not shown on the map due to their sheer number. These stores have low availability of healthy food.

1

#### FARMERS MARKETS

The Fells Point Farmers Market operated during the pandemic. Some vendors accept SNAP and WIC benefits.

### URBAN AGRICULTURE

0

#### URBAN FARMS

Urban farms play a role in local food system resilience and have provided fresh produce during the pandemic.

5

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS

The community gardens throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.



## FOOD POLICY LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY

The Food Policy and Planning Division is led by the Food Policy Director, and staffed by a Food Access, a Food Resilience, and a Food Systems Planner. This division oversees the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI), which has three pillars - interagency collaboration, the Food Policy Action Coalition (Food PAC), and Resident Food Equity Advisors (RFEA). Together, these efforts seek to build an equitable and resilient urban food system by addressing health, economic, and environmental disparities in areas that have high food insecurity.

### FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH:

- 1. Use policy to create a more equitable food system:** By integrating food across government and engaging in equitable research, strategic planning, and policy co-creation with residents.
- 2. Increase resilience at household, community, and food system levels:** By addressing acute food insecurity, building long-term food resilience, and righting power imbalances in the food system.
- 3. Strengthen and amplify the local food economy:** By implementing “Good Food Procurement” standards, supporting local food-based businesses, and promoting food recovery.
- 4. Create agriculture land-use policies that encourage urban farms and local food production:** By identifying City-owned land suitable for farming; developing land tenure and pathways to ownership; promoting safe, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible production; and supporting growers to create financially viable urban agriculture.

## COVID-19 FOOD RESPONSE

During COVID-19, the Food Policy Director and team of Food Planners:

- Lead the strategic planning for the food security response
- Conduct mapping and data analysis
- Oversee the produce, grocery, and mixed box strategies and implementation, including logistics, funding, community outreach, and site expansion
- Coordinate with the Emergency Operations Center and state and federal agencies
- Leverage significant public and private funds for food and transportation
- Expedited Online SNAP and prevented 15,000 residents from losing SNAP
- Convene Resident Food Equity Advisors and Food PAC
- Support urban agriculture and local food system resilience

## HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY



### Resident-driven processes:

Support resident-driven processes to guide equitable food policy, programs and resources



### Food distribution and small businesses:

Implement supply chain solutions that support healthy food distribution and small businesses



### Corner and convenience stores:

Improve small grocery, corner, convenience stores



### Federal nutrition assistance:

Maximize the impact of federal nutrition assistance and meal programs



### Supermarkets:

Retain and attract supermarkets



### Urban agriculture:

Support urban agriculture, emphasizing historically disenfranchised populations and geographies



### Public Markets:

Increase the ability of the public markets to anchor the healthy food environment



### Transportation gaps:

Address transportation gaps that impact food access

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# DISTRICT 2

## COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT BRIEF

December 2020



### OVERVIEW

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### SUMMARY OF COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN DISTRICT 2

The City of Baltimore is supplementing federal benefits with direct food resources. The City has provided 9 million pounds of food boxes and 5.7 million meals at over 400 sites and through home delivery from April –November. The current City-sponsored COVID-19 Food Distribution sites and other resources are mapped on the following page.

#### IN DISTRICT 2 FROM APRIL— NOVEMBER:



##### FOOD BOXES

- Currently 4 sites
- 10,550 food boxes
- 270,700 pounds



##### MEALS

- Total: 136,700
- Youth: 116,300
- Older Adults: 20,400



##### SNAP

- ~14,000 Participants
- 28% of residents

### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Historically, BFPI has used Healthy Food Priority Areas (formerly called food desert) to show food access needs. However, with the pandemic disrupting the economy and food system, this indicator was replaced with SNAP after applications reached a record high in the spring. SNAP data are available monthly and can be tracked over the course of the pandemic, providing more real-time insight than the Healthy Food Priority Area map.

SNAP is proven to reduce food insecurity. It is even more vital during the pandemic, providing participants autonomy as supply chain shortages may affect typical sources of food. Citywide, in August, there were 188,800 residents on SNAP, bringing \$33.4 million of federal funding into the city for participants to purchase food.

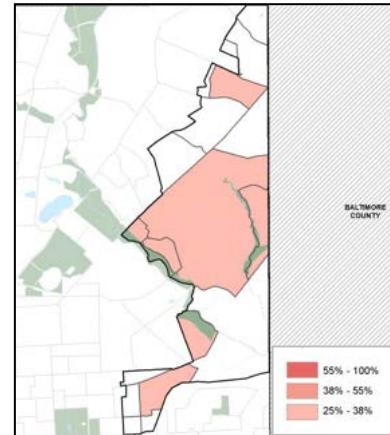
As a safety net, it is vital that Baltimore City residents enroll in, stay on, and maximize the impact of SNAP. Key pandemic considerations:

**SNAP Enrollment:** Eligible residents should apply for and stay on SNAP through recertification. However, the need and number of applications are surpassing the capacity to process them, creating a lag in time between when residents apply and are approved to receive benefits.

**Online SNAP:** SNAP payment for groceries online became available for the first time in June 2020. Participants need to be made aware of this opportunity to shop at home.

**Pandemic EBT:** This additional food benefit can be spent like SNAP and is provided to families with children enrolled in Baltimore City public schools, intended to make up for loss of access to school meals. This will amount to hundreds of dollars per child. Families should not throw away their cards, which will be reloaded every two months.

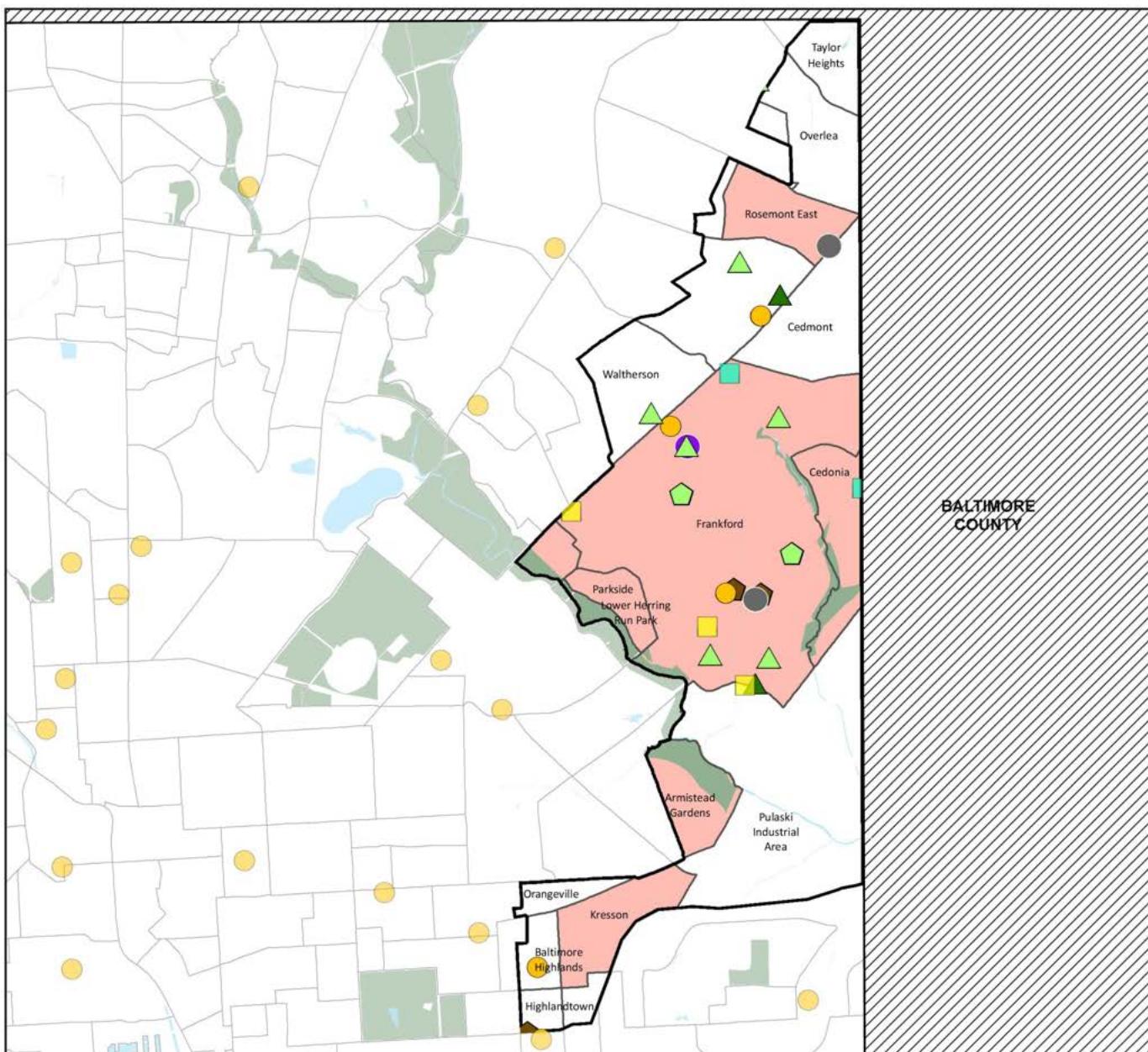
#### Population Receiving SNAP (Aug 2020)



#### DISTRICT 2 IMPACT

28% of population, approx. 14,000 people

# 2020 COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 2



## 2020 COVID-19 Food Environment Map - District 2

### % of Population Receiving SNAP Benefits, by Neighborhood

August 2020

55% - 100%
38% - 55%
25% - 38%

Neighborhood Boundaries	Baltimore County
Harbor, Lakes & Streams	
Major Parks	

### Food Distribution

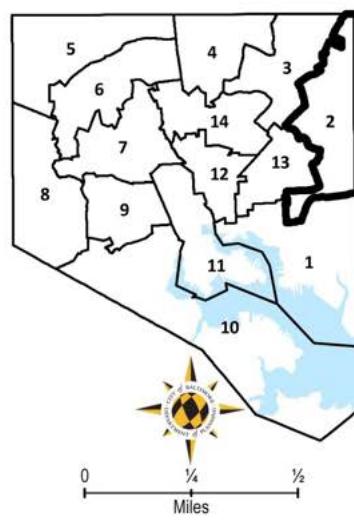
- Yellow square: Produce Box (3)
- Blue square: Grocery (0)
- Cyan square: Mixed Box (1)
- Green triangle: Youth Grab & Go (7)
- Green triangle: Older Adult Meals (2)
- Grey circle: Food Pantry (2)
- Purple circle: Community Driven Response (1)

### Food Retail

- Yellow circle: Supermarkets (4)
- Magenta circle: Farmers Markets (0)
- Pink square: Public Markets (0)

### Urban Agriculture

- Brown diamond: Community Garden (3)
- Green pentagon: Urban Farms (2)





## COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESPONSE IN DISTRICT 2

### Current Sites

3

#### PRODUCE BOXES

4,850 produce boxes (91,600 pounds) have been distributed by Coastal Sunbelt and Common Market from June through November 2020. Boxes average 20 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables.

0

#### GROCERY BOXES

Over 2,620 grocery boxes (78,600 pounds) have been distributed from April through November 2020. Boxes contain 30 pounds of shelf-stable food from the Maryland Food Bank. Home-delivered grocery boxes are available for older adults and residents impacted by COVID-19.

1

#### MIXED FOOD BOXES

Beginning in September, to fill the “center of the plate” needs of food insecure residents, 3,350 mixed boxes (over 100,000 pounds) of meat, dairy, and produce have been distributed by Saval Foodservice.

2

#### OLDER ADULT MEALS

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and partners have delivered 20,400 meals between April and November 2020 to residential facilities with multiple participants. Tens of thousands of additional meals have been delivered directly to individual homes.

6

#### YOUTH GRAB AND GO MEALS

Since March, over 116,000 have been distributed in District 2. With school in session virtually, students currently can receive meals at schools, rec centers, and other community sites.

1

#### COMMUNITY DRIVEN RESPONSE

Community members and organizations saw an urgent need and responded with various food resources.

2

#### FOOD PANTRIES

The Maryland Food Bank has entered Phase 2 of its pandemic response while also working to restart standard programming and operations.

## FOOD RETAIL

4

#### SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods, however the pandemic created some supply chain issues for certain foods and products. Most supermarkets do not currently accept SNAP payment online and BFPI seeks to expand this program in 2021.

35

#### CORNER AND CONVENIENCE STORES

These stores are not shown on the map due to their sheer number. These stores have low availability of healthy food.

0

#### PUBLIC MARKETS

Public Markets can provide opportunities for small food business incubation, employment, and food access.

## URBAN AGRICULTURE

2

#### URBAN FARMS

Urban farms play a role in local food system resilience and have provided fresh produce during the pandemic.

3

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS

The community gardens throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.



## FOOD POLICY LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY

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### FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH:

- 1. Use policy to create a more equitable food system:** By integrating food across government and engaging in equitable research, strategic planning, and policy co-creation with residents.
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## COVID-19 FOOD RESPONSE

During COVID-19, the Food Policy Director and team of Food Planners:

- Lead the strategic planning for the food security response
- Conduct mapping and data analysis
- Oversee the produce, grocery, and mixed box strategies and implementation, including logistics, funding, community outreach, and site expansion
- Coordinate with the Emergency Operations Center and state and federal agencies
- Leverage significant public and private funds for food and transportation
- Expedited Online SNAP and prevented 15,000 residents from losing SNAP
- Convene Resident Food Equity Advisors and Food PAC
- Support urban agriculture and local food system resilience

## HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY



### Resident-driven processes:

Support resident-driven processes to guide equitable food policy, programs and resources



### Food distribution and small businesses:

Implement supply chain solutions that support healthy food distribution and small businesses



### Corner and convenience stores:

Improve small grocery, corner, convenience stores



### Federal nutrition assistance:

Maximize the impact of federal nutrition assistance and meal programs



### Supermarkets:

Retain and attract supermarkets



### Urban agriculture:

Support urban agriculture, emphasizing historically disenfranchised populations and geographies



### Public Markets:

Increase the ability of the public markets to anchor the healthy food environment



### Transportation gaps:

Address transportation gaps that impact food access

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# DISTRICT 3

## COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT BRIEF

December 2020



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### SUMMARY OF COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN DISTRICT 3

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#### IN DISTRICT 3 FROM APRIL— NOVEMBER:



##### FOOD BOXES

- Currently 3 sites
- 9,500 food boxes
- 213,000 pounds



##### MEALS

- Total: 87,000
- Youth: 74,100
- Older Adults: 12,700



##### SNAP

- ~5,000 Participants
- 14% of residents

### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Historically, BFPI has used Healthy Food Priority Areas (formerly called food desert) to show food access needs. However, with the pandemic disrupting the economy and food system, this indicator was replaced with SNAP after applications reached a record high in the spring. SNAP data are available monthly and can be tracked over the course of the pandemic, providing more real-time insight than the Healthy Food Priority Area map.

SNAP is proven to reduce food insecurity. It is even more vital during the pandemic, providing participants autonomy as supply chain shortages may affect typical sources of food. Citywide, in August, there were 188,800 residents on SNAP, bringing \$33.4 million of federal funding into the city for participants to purchase food.

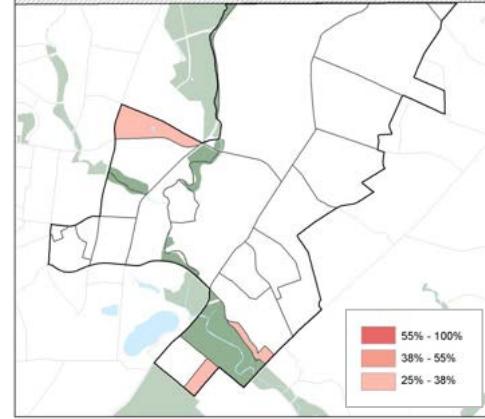
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**Online SNAP:** SNAP payment for groceries online became available for the first time in June 2020. Participants need to be made aware of this opportunity to shop at home.

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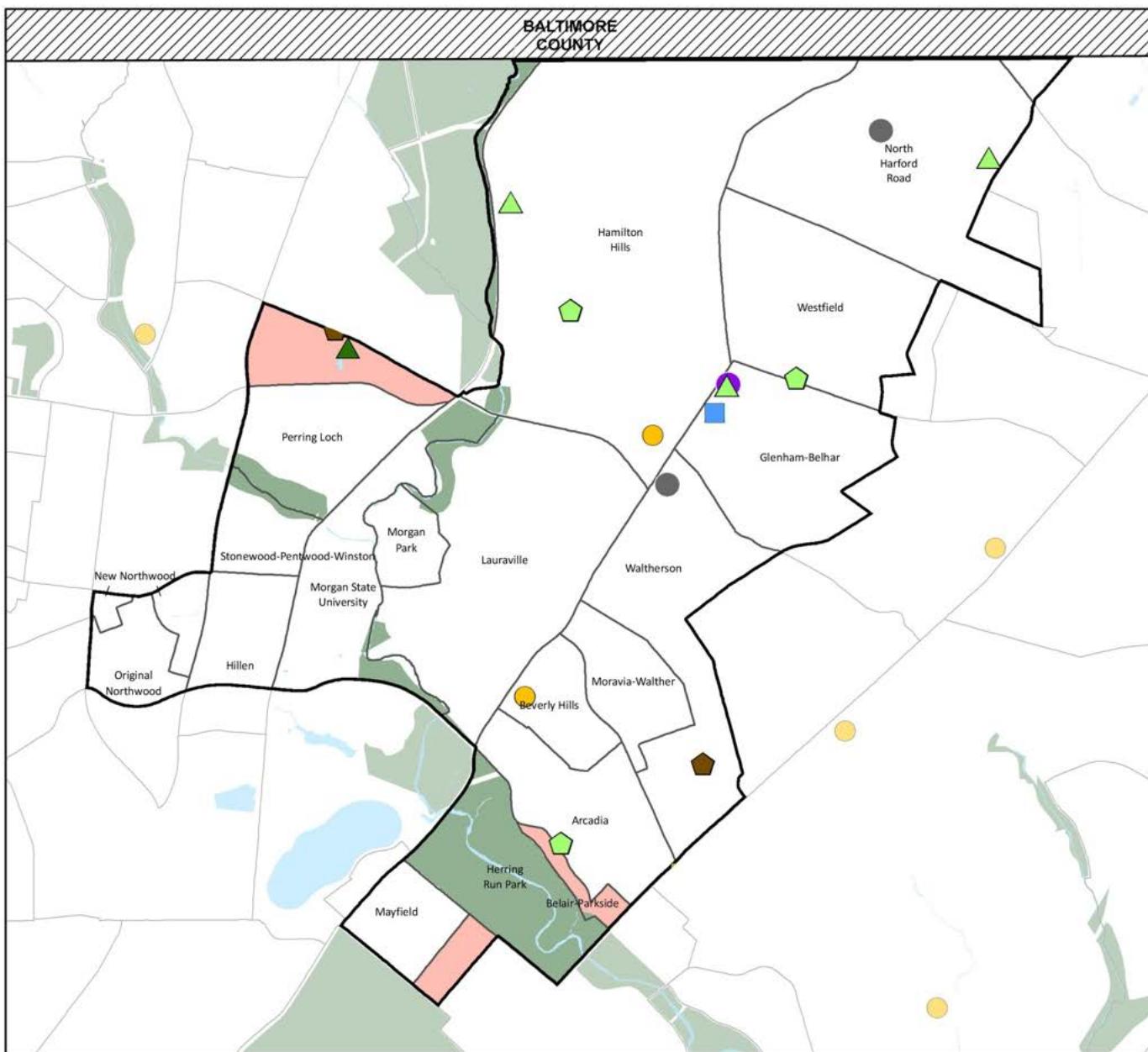
#### Population Receiving SNAP (Aug 2020)



#### DISTRICT 3 IMPACT

14% of population, approx. 5,000 people

# 2020 COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 3



## 2020 COVID-19 Food Environment Map - District 3

### % of Population Receiving SNAP Benefits, by Neighborhood

August 2020

- |            |
|------------|
| 55% - 100% |
| 38% - 55%  |
| 25% - 38%  |

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Neighborhood Boundaries | Baltimore County |
| Harbor, Lakes & Streams |                  |
| Major Parks             |                  |

### Food Distribution

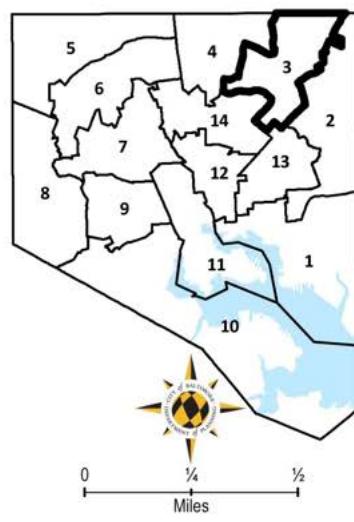
- Produce Box (2)
- Grocery (1)
- Mixed Box (0)
- Youth Grab & Go (3)
- Older Adult Meals (1)
- Food Pantry (2)
- Community Driven Response (1)

### Food Retail

- Supermarkets (2)
- Farmers Markets (0)
- Public Markets (0)

### Urban Agriculture

- Community Garden (2)
- Urban Farms (3)





## COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESPONSE IN DISTRICT 3

### Current Sites

2

#### PRODUCE BOXES

7,200 produce boxes (144,000 pounds) have been distributed by Coastal Sunbelt and Common Market from June through November 2020. Boxes average 20 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables.

1

#### GROCERY BOXES

Over 2,300 grocery boxes (nearly 70,000 pounds) have been distributed from April through November 2020. Boxes contain 30 pounds of shelf-stable food from the Maryland Food Bank. Home-delivered grocery boxes are available for older adults and residents impacted by COVID-19.

0

#### MIXED FOOD BOXES

Beginning in September, to fill the “center of the plate” needs of food insecure residents, mixed boxes of meat, dairy, and produce have been distributed by Saval Foodservice.

1

#### OLDER ADULT MEALS

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and partners have delivered over 12,700 meals between April and November 2020 to residential facilities with multiple participants. Tens of thousands of additional meals have been delivered directly to individual homes.

3

#### YOUTH GRAB AND GO MEALS

Since March, nearly 75,000 have been distributed in District 3. With school in session virtually, students currently can receive meals at schools, rec centers, and other community sites.

1

#### COMMUNITY DRIVEN RESPONSE

Community members and organizations saw an urgent need and responded with various food resources.

2

#### FOOD PANTRIES

The Maryland Food Bank has entered Phase 2 of its pandemic response while also working to restart standard programming and operations.

## FOOD RETAIL

2

#### SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods, however the pandemic created some supply chain issues for certain foods and products. Most supermarkets do not currently accept SNAP payment online and BFPI seeks to expand this program in 2021.

25

#### CORNER AND CONVENIENCE STORES

These stores are not shown on the map due to their sheer number. These stores have low availability of healthy food.

0

#### PUBLIC MARKETS

Public Markets can provide opportunities for small food business incubation, employment, and food access.

## URBAN AGRICULTURE

2

#### URBAN FARMS

Urban farms play a role in local food system resilience and have provided fresh produce during the pandemic.

3

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS

The community gardens throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.



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- Convene Resident Food Equity Advisors and Food PAC
- Support urban agriculture and local food system resilience

## HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY



### Resident-driven processes:

Support resident-driven processes to guide equitable food policy, programs and resources



### Food distribution and small businesses:

Implement supply chain solutions that support healthy food distribution and small businesses



### Corner and convenience stores:

Improve small grocery, corner, convenience stores



### Federal nutrition assistance:

Maximize the impact of federal nutrition assistance and meal programs



### Supermarkets:

Retain and attract supermarkets



### Urban agriculture:

Support urban agriculture, emphasizing historically disenfranchised populations and geographies



### Public Markets:

Increase the ability of the public markets to anchor the healthy food environment



### Transportation gaps:

Address transportation gaps that impact food access

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**CONTACT:** Holly Freishtat, Food Policy Director, [holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov)

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

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

# DISTRICT 4

## 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 many 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). This brief provides an overview of the food environment per city council district during the COVID-19 pandemic, and summarizes food policy priorities moving into pandemic recovery and long-term resilience.

### SUMMARY OF COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN DISTRICT 4

The City of Baltimore is supplementing federal benefits with direct food resources. The City has provided 9 million pounds of food boxes and 5.7 million meals at over 400 sites and through home delivery from April –November. The current City-sponsored COVID-19 Food Distribution sites and other resources are mapped on the following page.

#### IN DISTRICT 4 FROM APRIL— NOVEMBER:



##### FOOD BOXES

- Currently 6 sites
- 18,660 food boxes
- 414,300 pounds



##### MEALS

- Total: 265,500
- Youth: 186,550
- Older Adults: 78,900



##### SNAP

- ~11,000 Participants
- 25% of residents

### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Historically, BFPI has used Healthy Food Priority Areas (formerly called food desert) to show food access needs. However, with the pandemic disrupting the economy and food system, this indicator was replaced with SNAP after applications reached a record high in the spring. SNAP data are available monthly and can be tracked over the course of the pandemic, providing more real-time insight than the Healthy Food Priority Area map.

SNAP is proven to reduce food insecurity. It is even more vital during the pandemic, providing participants autonomy as supply chain shortages may affect typical sources of food. Citywide, in August, there were 188,800 residents on SNAP, bringing \$33.4 million of federal funding into the city for participants to purchase food.

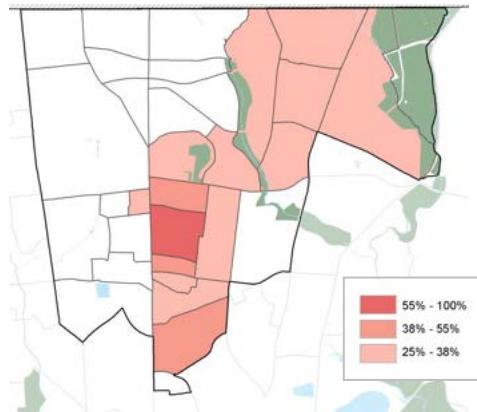
As a safety net, it is vital that Baltimore City residents enroll in, stay on, and maximize the impact of SNAP. Key pandemic considerations:

**SNAP Enrollment:** Eligible residents should apply for and stay on SNAP through recertification. However, the need and number of applications are surpassing the capacity to process them, creating a lag in time between when residents apply and are approved to receive benefits.

**Online SNAP:** SNAP payment for groceries online became available for the first time in June 2020. Participants need to be made aware of this opportunity to shop at home.

**Pandemic EBT:** This additional food benefit can be spent like SNAP and is provided to families with children enrolled in Baltimore City public schools, intended to make up for loss of access to school meals. This will amount to hundreds of dollars per child. Families should not throw away their cards, which will be reloaded every two months.

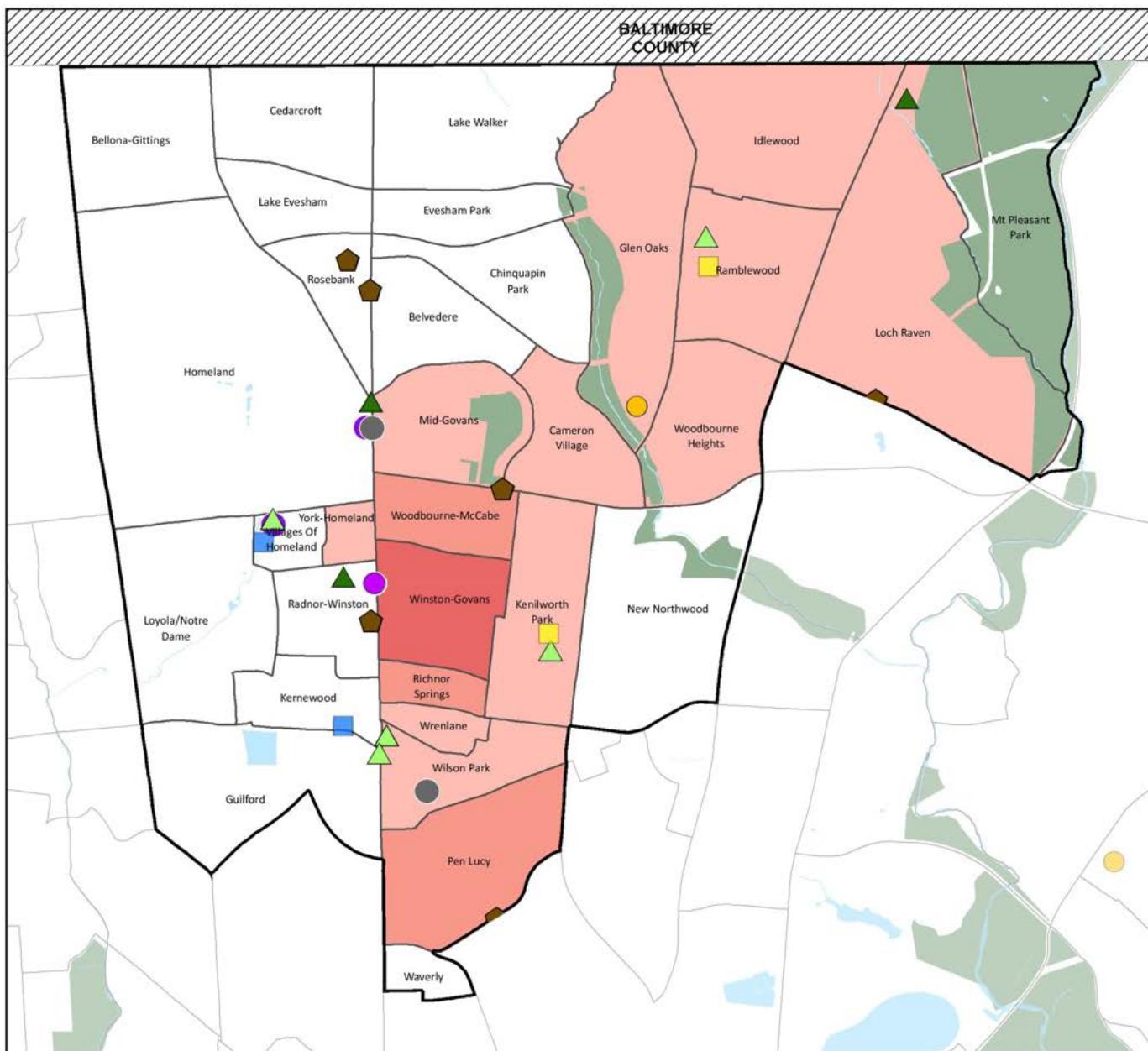
#### Population Receiving SNAP (Aug 2020)



#### DISTRICT 4 IMPACT

25% of population, approx. 11,000 people

# 2020 COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 4



## 2020 COVID-19 Food Environment Map - District 4

### % of Population Receiving SNAP Benefits, by Neighborhood

August 2020

55% - 100%
38% - 55%
25% - 38%

Neighborhood Boundaries	Baltimore County
Harbor, Lakes & Streams	
Major Parks	

### Food Distribution

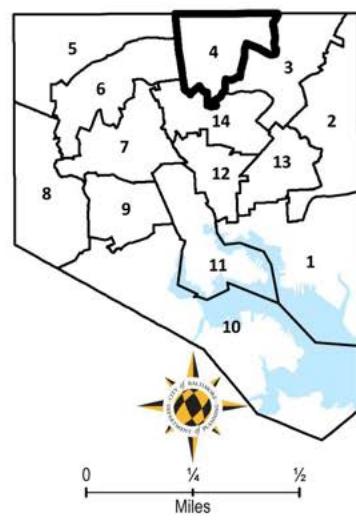
- Yellow Square: Produce Box (4)
- Blue Square: Grocery (2)
- Cyan Square: Mixed Box (0)
- Green Triangle: Youth Grab & Go (5)
- Green Triangle: Older Adult Meals (3)
- Grey Circle: Food Pantry (2)
- Purple Circle: Community Driven Response (2)

### Food Retail

- Yellow Circle: Supermarkets (1)
- Purple Circle: Farmers Markets (1)
- Pink Circle: Public Markets (0)

### Urban Agriculture

- Brown Diamond: Community Garden (6)
- Green Triangle: Urban Farms (0)





## COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESPONSE IN DISTRICT 4

### Current Sites

4

#### PRODUCE BOXES

14,550 produce boxes (291,000 pounds) have been distributed by Coastal Sunbelt and Common Market from June through November 2020. Boxes average 20 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables.

2

#### GROCERY BOXES

Over 4,110 grocery boxes (123,330 pounds) have been distributed from April through November 2020. Boxes contain 30 pounds of shelf-stable food from the Maryland Food Bank. Home-delivered grocery boxes are available for older adults and residents impacted by COVID-19.

0

#### MIXED FOOD BOXES

Beginning in September, to fill the “center of the plate” needs of food insecure residents, mixed boxes of meat, dairy, and produce have been distributed by Saval Foodservice.

3

#### OLDER ADULT MEALS

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and partners have delivered over 78,900 meals between April and November 2020 to residential facilities with multiple participants. Tens of thousands of additional meals have been delivered directly to individual homes.

5

#### YOUTH GRAB AND GO MEALS

Since March, nearly 187,000 have been distributed in District 4. With school in session virtually, students currently can receive meals at schools, rec centers, and other community sites.

2

#### COMMUNITY DRIVEN RESPONSE

Community members and organizations saw an urgent need and responded with various food resources.

2

#### FOOD PANTRIES

The Maryland Food Bank has entered Phase 2 of its pandemic response while also working to restart standard programming and operations.

## FOOD RETAIL

4

#### SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods, however the pandemic created some supply chain issues for certain foods and products. Most supermarkets do not currently accept SNAP payment online and BFPI seeks to expand this program in 2021.

22

#### CORNER AND CONVENIENCE STORES

These stores are not shown on the map due to their sheer number. These stores have low availability of healthy food.

1

#### FARMERS MARKETS

The Govanstone Farmers Market serves the district. The market accepts SNAP and some vendors accept WIC benefits.

## URBAN AGRICULTURE

0

#### URBAN FARMS

Urban farms play a role in local food system resilience and have provided fresh produce during the pandemic.

6

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS

The community gardens throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.



## FOOD POLICY LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY

The Food Policy and Planning Division is led by the Food Policy Director, and staffed by a Food Access, a Food Resilience, and a Food Systems Planner. This division oversees the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI), which has three pillars - interagency collaboration, the Food Policy Action Coalition (Food PAC), and Resident Food Equity Advisors (RFEA). Together, these efforts seek to build an equitable and resilient urban food system by addressing health, economic, and environmental disparities in areas that have high food insecurity.

### FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH:

- 1. Use policy to create a more equitable food system:** By integrating food across government and engaging in equitable research, strategic planning, and policy co-creation with residents.
- 2. Increase resilience at household, community, and food system levels:** By addressing acute food insecurity, building long-term food resilience, and righting power imbalances in the food system.
- 3. Strengthen and amplify the local food economy:** By implementing “Good Food Procurement” standards, supporting local food-based businesses, and promoting food recovery.
- 4. Create agriculture land-use policies that encourage urban farms and local food production:** By identifying City-owned land suitable for farming; developing land tenure and pathways to ownership; promoting safe, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible production; and supporting growers to create financially viable urban agriculture.

## COVID-19 FOOD RESPONSE

During COVID-19, the Food Policy Director and team of Food Planners:

- Lead the strategic planning for the food security response
- Conduct mapping and data analysis
- Oversee the produce, grocery, and mixed box strategies and implementation, including logistics, funding, community outreach, and site expansion
- Coordinate with the Emergency Operations Center and state and federal agencies
- Leverage significant public and private funds for food and transportation
- Expedited Online SNAP and prevented 15,000 residents from losing SNAP
- Convene Resident Food Equity Advisors and Food PAC
- Support urban agriculture and local food system resilience

## HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY



### Resident-driven processes:

Support resident-driven processes to guide equitable food policy, programs and resources



### Food distribution and small businesses:

Implement supply chain solutions that support healthy food distribution and small businesses



### Corner and convenience stores:

Improve small grocery, corner, convenience stores



### Federal nutrition assistance:

Maximize the impact of federal nutrition assistance and meal programs



### Supermarkets:

Retain and attract supermarkets



### Urban agriculture:

Support urban agriculture, emphasizing historically disenfranchised populations and geographies



### Public Markets:

Increase the ability of the public markets to anchor the healthy food environment



### Transportation gaps:

Address transportation gaps that impact food access

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**CONTACT:** Holly Freishtat, Food Policy Director, [holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov)

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

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

# DISTRICT 5

## 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 many 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). This brief provides an overview of the food environment per city council district during the COVID-19 pandemic, and summarizes food policy priorities moving into pandemic recovery and long-term resilience.

### SUMMARY OF COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN DISTRICT 5

The City of Baltimore is supplementing federal benefits with direct food resources. The City has provided 9 million pounds of food boxes and 5.7 million meals at over 400 sites and through home delivery from April –November. The current City-sponsored COVID-19 Food Distribution sites and other resources are mapped on the following page.

#### IN DISTRICT 5 FROM APRIL— NOVEMBER:



##### FOOD BOXES

- Currently 5 sites
- 17,400 food boxes
- 414,400 pounds



##### MEALS

- Total: 126,000
- Youth: 71,000
- Older Adults: 55,000



##### SNAP

- ~8,200 Participants
- 20% of residents

### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Historically, BFPI has used Healthy Food Priority Areas (formerly called food desert) to show food access needs. However, with the pandemic disrupting the economy and food system, this indicator was replaced with SNAP after applications reached a record high in the spring. SNAP data are available monthly and can be tracked over the course of the pandemic, providing more real-time insight than the Healthy Food Priority Area map.

SNAP is proven to reduce food insecurity. It is even more vital during the pandemic, providing participants autonomy as supply chain shortages may affect typical sources of food. Citywide, in August, there were 188,800 residents on SNAP, bringing \$33.4 million of federal funding into the city for participants to purchase food.

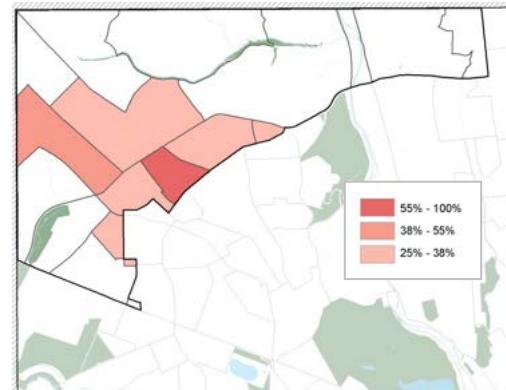
As a safety net, it is vital that Baltimore City residents enroll in, stay on, and maximize the impact of SNAP. Key pandemic considerations:

**SNAP Enrollment:** Eligible residents should apply for and stay on SNAP through recertification. However, the need and number of applications are surpassing the capacity to process them, creating a lag in time between when residents apply and are approved to receive benefits.

**Online SNAP:** SNAP payment for groceries online became available for the first time in June 2020. Participants need to be made aware of this opportunity to shop at home.

**Pandemic EBT:** This additional food benefit can be spent like SNAP and is provided to families with children enrolled in Baltimore City public schools, intended to make up for loss of access to school meals. This will amount to hundreds of dollars per child. Families should not throw away their cards, which will be reloaded every two months.

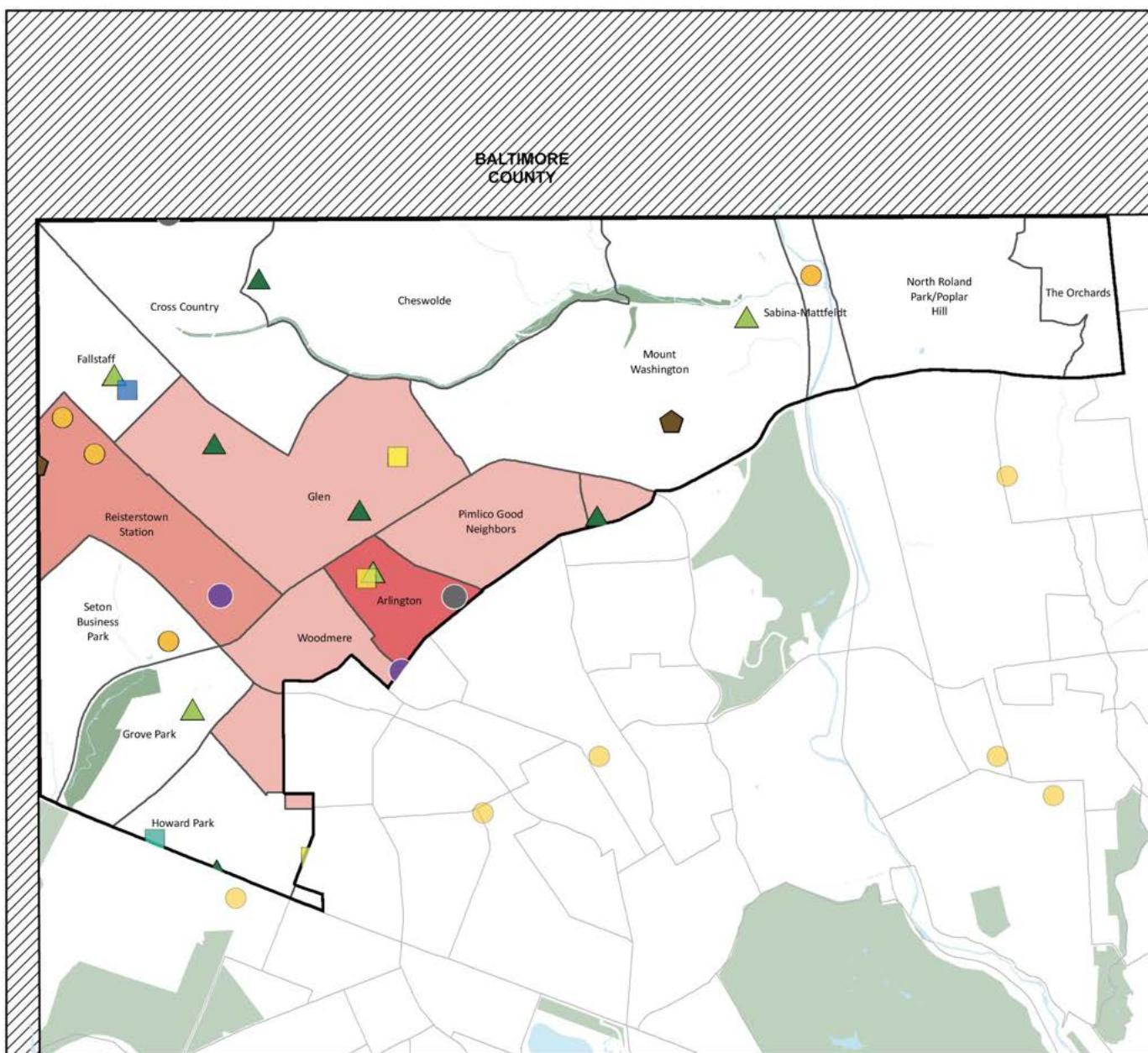
#### Population Receiving SNAP (Aug 2020)



#### DISTRICT 5 IMPACT

20% of population, approx. 8,200 people

# 2020 COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 5



## 2020 COVID-19 Food Environment Map - District 5

### % of Population Receiving SNAP Benefits, by Neighborhood

August 2020

- |            |
|------------|
| 55% - 100% |
| 38% - 55%  |
| 25% - 38%  |

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Neighborhood Boundaries | Baltimore County |
| Harbor, Lakes & Streams |                  |
| Major Parks             |                  |

### Food Distribution

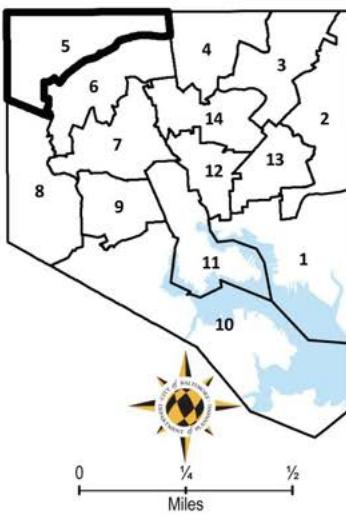
- Produce Box (3)
- Grocery (1)
- Mixed Box (1)
- Youth Grab & Go (4)
- Older Adult Meals (5)
- Food Pantry (1)
- Community Driven Response (1)

### Food Retail

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

### Urban Agriculture

- Community Garden (2)
- Urban Farms (0)





## COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESPONSE IN DISTRICT 5

### Current Sites

3

#### PRODUCE BOXES

10,700 produce boxes (215,000 pounds) have been distributed by Coastal Sunbelt and Common Market from June through November 2020. Boxes average 20 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables.

1

#### GROCERY BOXES

5,400 grocery boxes (162,000 pounds) have been distributed from April through November 2020. Boxes contain 30 pounds of shelf-stable food from the Maryland Food Bank. Home-delivered grocery boxes are available for older adults and residents impacted by COVID-19.

1

#### MIXED FOOD BOXES

Beginning in September, to fill the “center of the plate” needs of food insecure residents, 1,250 mixed boxes (37,500 pounds) of meat, dairy, and produce have been distributed by Saval Foodservice.

5

#### OLDER ADULT MEALS

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and partners have delivered 55,000 meals between April and November 2020 to residential facilities with multiple participants. Tens of thousands of additional meals have been delivered directly to individual homes.

4

#### YOUTH GRAB AND GO MEALS

Since March, over 71,000 have been distributed in District 5. With school in session virtually, students currently can receive meals at schools, rec centers, and other community sites.

1

#### COMMUNITY DRIVEN RESPONSE

Community members and organizations saw an urgent need and responded with various food resources.

1

#### FOOD PANTRIES

The Maryland Food Bank has entered Phase 2 of its pandemic response while also working to restart standard programming and operations.

## FOOD RETAIL

4

#### SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods, however the pandemic created some supply chain issues for certain foods and products. Most supermarkets do not currently accept SNAP payment online and BFPI seeks to expand this program in 2021.

24

#### CORNER AND CONVENIENCE STORES

These stores are not shown on the map due to their sheer number. These stores have low availability of healthy food.

0

#### PUBLIC MARKETS

Public Markets can provide opportunities for small food business incubation, employment, and food access.

## URBAN AGRICULTURE

0

#### URBAN FARMS

Urban farms play a role in local food system resilience and have provided fresh produce during the pandemic.

2

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS

The community gardens throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.



## FOOD POLICY LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY

The Food Policy and Planning Division is led by the Food Policy Director, and staffed by a Food Access, a Food Resilience, and a Food Systems Planner. This division oversees the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI), which has three pillars - interagency collaboration, the Food Policy Action Coalition (Food PAC), and Resident Food Equity Advisors (RFEA). Together, these efforts seek to build an equitable and resilient urban food system by addressing health, economic, and environmental disparities in areas that have high food insecurity.

### FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH:

- 1. Use policy to create a more equitable food system:** By integrating food across government and engaging in equitable research, strategic planning, and policy co-creation with residents.
- 2. Increase resilience at household, community, and food system levels:** By addressing acute food insecurity, building long-term food resilience, and righting power imbalances in the food system.
- 3. Strengthen and amplify the local food economy:** By implementing “Good Food Procurement” standards, supporting local food-based businesses, and promoting food recovery.
- 4. Create agriculture land-use policies that encourage urban farms and local food production:** By identifying City-owned land suitable for farming; developing land tenure and pathways to ownership; promoting safe, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible production; and supporting growers to create financially viable urban agriculture.

## COVID-19 FOOD RESPONSE

During COVID-19, the Food Policy Director and team of Food Planners:

- Lead the strategic planning for the food security response
- Conduct mapping and data analysis
- Oversee the produce, grocery, and mixed box strategies and implementation, including logistics, funding, community outreach, and site expansion
- Coordinate with the Emergency Operations Center and state and federal agencies
- Leverage significant public and private funds for food and transportation
- Expedited Online SNAP and prevented 15,000 residents from losing SNAP
- Convene Resident Food Equity Advisors and Food PAC
- Support urban agriculture and local food system resilience

## HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY



### Resident-driven processes:

Support resident-driven processes to guide equitable food policy, programs and resources



### Food distribution and small businesses:

Implement supply chain solutions that support healthy food distribution and small businesses



### Corner and convenience stores:

Improve small grocery, corner, convenience stores



### Federal nutrition assistance:

Maximize the impact of federal nutrition assistance and meal programs



### Supermarkets:

Retain and attract supermarkets



### Urban agriculture:

Support urban agriculture, emphasizing historically disenfranchised populations and geographies



### Public Markets:

Increase the ability of the public markets to anchor the healthy food environment



### Transportation gaps:

Address transportation gaps that impact food access

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**CONTACT:** Holly Freishtat, Food Policy Director, [holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov)

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

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

# DISTRICT 6

## 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 many 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). This brief provides an overview of the food environment per city council district during the COVID-19 pandemic, and summarizes food policy priorities moving into pandemic recovery and long-term resilience.

### SUMMARY OF COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN DISTRICT 6

The City of Baltimore is supplementing federal benefits with direct food resources. The City has provided 9 million pounds of food boxes and 5.7 million meals at over 400 sites and through home delivery from April –November. The current City-sponsored COVID-19 Food Distribution sites and other resources are mapped on the following page.

#### IN DISTRICT 6 FROM APRIL— NOVEMBER:



##### FOOD BOXES

- Currently 8 sites
- 18,500 food boxes
- 440,000 pounds



##### MEALS

- Total: 335,000
- Youth: 234,000
- Older Adults: 101,000



##### SNAP

- ~13,000 Participants
- 28% of residents

### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Historically, BFPI has used Healthy Food Priority Areas (formerly called food desert) to show food access needs. However, with the pandemic disrupting the economy and food system, this indicator was replaced with SNAP after applications reached a record high in the spring. SNAP data are available monthly and can be tracked over the course of the pandemic, providing more real-time insight than the Healthy Food Priority Area map.

SNAP is proven to reduce food insecurity. It is even more vital during the pandemic, providing participants autonomy as supply chain shortages may affect typical sources of food. Citywide, in August, there were 188,800 residents on SNAP, bringing \$33.4 million of federal funding into the city for participants to purchase food.

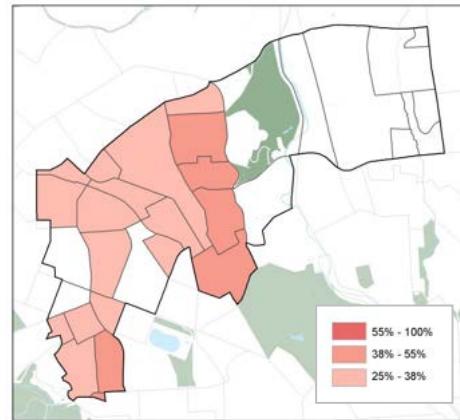
As a safety net, it is vital that Baltimore City residents enroll in, stay on, and maximize the impact of SNAP. Key pandemic considerations:

**SNAP Enrollment:** Eligible residents should apply for and stay on SNAP through recertification. However, the need and number of applications are surpassing the capacity to process them, creating a lag in time between when residents apply and are approved to receive benefits.

**Online SNAP:** SNAP payment for groceries online became available for the first time in June 2020. Participants need to be made aware of this opportunity to shop at home.

**Pandemic EBT:** This additional food benefit can be spent like SNAP and is provided to families with children enrolled in Baltimore City public schools, intended to make up for loss of access to school meals. This will amount to hundreds of dollars per child. Families should not throw away their cards, which will be reloaded every two months.

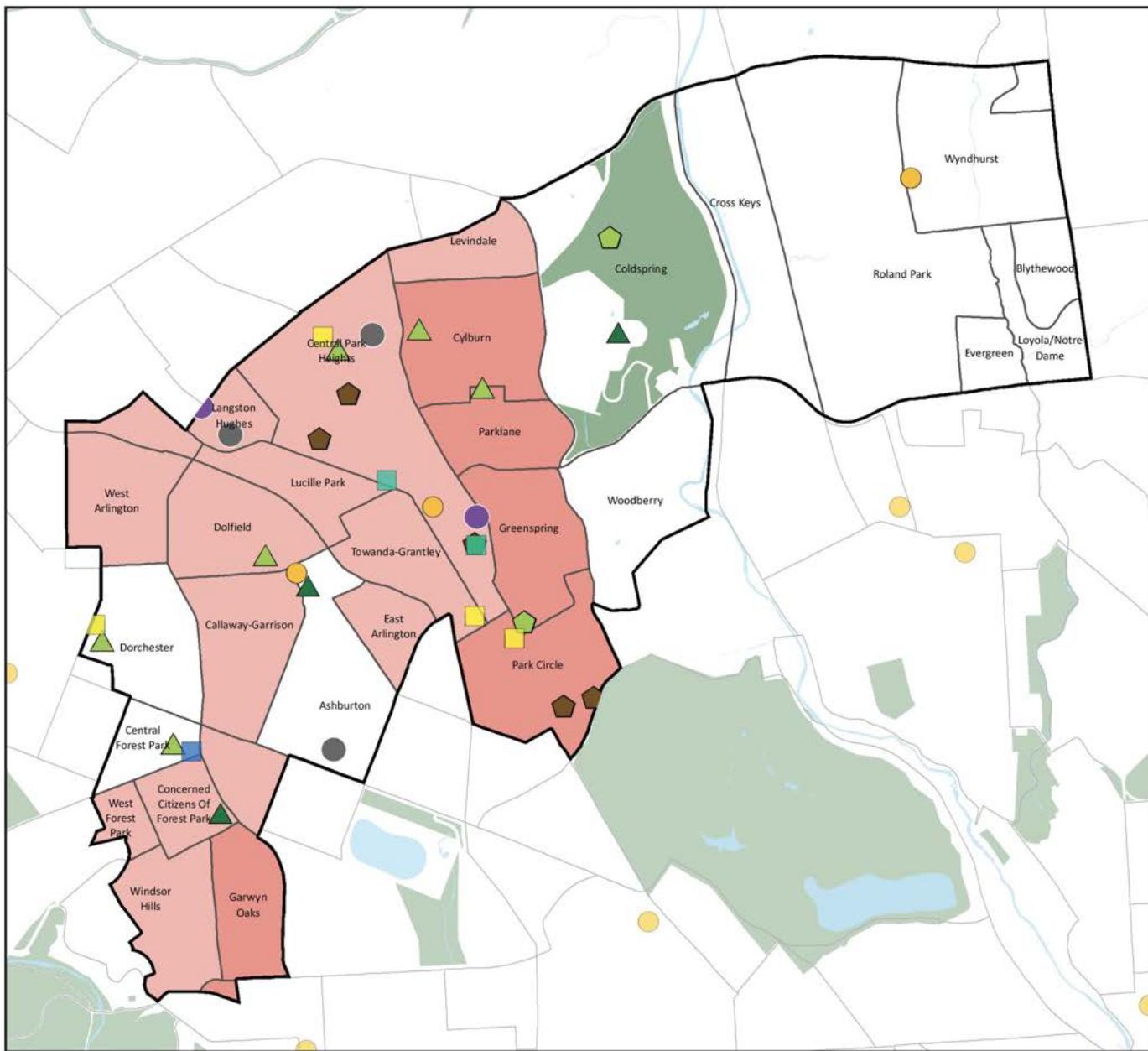
#### Population Receiving SNAP (Aug 2020)



#### DISTRICT 6 IMPACT

28% of population, approx. 13,000 people

# 2020 COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 6



## 2020 COVID-19 Food Environment Map - District 6

% of Population Receiving SNAP Benefits, by Neighborhood

August 2020

- |            |
|------------|
| 55% - 100% |
| 38% - 55%  |
| 25% - 38%  |

- |                         |
|-------------------------|
| Neighborhood Boundaries |
| Harbor, Lakes & Streams |
| Major Parks             |

### Food Distribution

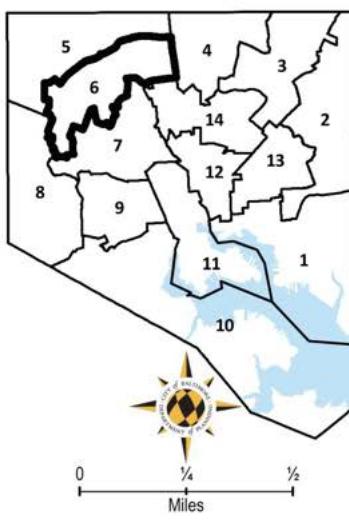
- Produce Box (5)
- Grocery (1)
- Mixed Box (2)
- Youth Grab & Go (6)
- Older Adult Meals (3)
- Food Pantry (3)
- Community Driven Response (2)

### Food Retail

- Supermarkets (3)
- Farmers Markets (0)
- Public Markets (0)

### Urban Agriculture

- Community Garden (5)
- Urban Farms (2)





## COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESPONSE IN DISTRICT 6

### Current Sites

5

#### PRODUCE BOXES

11,600 produce boxes (232,000 pounds) have been distributed by Coastal Sunbelt and Common Market from June through November 2020. Boxes average 20 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables.

1

#### GROCERY BOXES

Nearly 4,800 grocery boxes (143,500 pounds) have been distributed from April through November 2020. Boxes contain 30 pounds of shelf-stable food from the Maryland Food Bank. Home-delivered grocery boxes are available for older adults and residents impacted by COVID-19.

2

#### MIXED FOOD BOXES

Beginning in September, to fill the “center of the plate” needs of food insecure residents, 2,150 mixed boxes (64,500 pounds) of meat, dairy, and produce have been distributed by Saval Foodservice.

3

#### OLDER ADULT MEALS

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and partners have delivered 101,000 meals between April and November 2020 to residential facilities with multiple participants. Tens of thousands of additional meals have been delivered directly to individual homes.

6

#### YOUTH GRAB AND GO MEALS

Since March, over 234,000 have been distributed in District 6. With school in session virtually, students currently can receive meals at schools, rec centers, and other community sites.

2

#### COMMUNITY DRIVEN RESPONSE

Community members and organizations saw an urgent need and responded with various food resources.

3

#### FOOD PANTRIES

The Maryland Food Bank has entered Phase 2 of its pandemic response while also working to restart standard programming and operations.

## FOOD RETAIL

3

#### SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods, however the pandemic created some supply chain issues for certain foods and products. Most supermarkets do not currently accept SNAP payment online and BFPI seeks to expand this program in 2021.

45

#### CORNER AND CONVENIENCE STORES

These stores are not shown on the map due to their sheer number. These stores have low availability of healthy food.

0

#### PUBLIC MARKETS

Public Markets can provide opportunities for small food business incubation, employment, and food access.

## URBAN AGRICULTURE

2

#### URBAN FARMS

Urban farms play a role in local food system resilience and have provided fresh produce during the pandemic.

5

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS

The community gardens throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.



## FOOD POLICY LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY

The Food Policy and Planning Division is led by the Food Policy Director, and staffed by a Food Access, a Food Resilience, and a Food Systems Planner. This division oversees the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI), which has three pillars - interagency collaboration, the Food Policy Action Coalition (Food PAC), and Resident Food Equity Advisors (RFEA). Together, these efforts seek to build an equitable and resilient urban food system by addressing health, economic, and environmental disparities in areas that have high food insecurity.

### FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH:

- 1. Use policy to create a more equitable food system:** By integrating food across government and engaging in equitable research, strategic planning, and policy co-creation with residents.
- 2. Increase resilience at household, community, and food system levels:** By addressing acute food insecurity, building long-term food resilience, and righting power imbalances in the food system.
- 3. Strengthen and amplify the local food economy:** By implementing “Good Food Procurement” standards, supporting local food-based businesses, and promoting food recovery.
- 4. Create agriculture land-use policies that encourage urban farms and local food production:** By identifying City-owned land suitable for farming; developing land tenure and pathways to ownership; promoting safe, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible production; and supporting growers to create financially viable urban agriculture.

## COVID-19 FOOD RESPONSE

During COVID-19, the Food Policy Director and team of Food Planners:

- Lead the strategic planning for the food security response
- Conduct mapping and data analysis
- Oversee the produce, grocery, and mixed box strategies and implementation, including logistics, funding, community outreach, and site expansion
- Coordinate with the Emergency Operations Center and state and federal agencies
- Leverage significant public and private funds for food and transportation
- Expedited Online SNAP and prevented 15,000 residents from losing SNAP
- Convene Resident Food Equity Advisors and Food PAC
- Support urban agriculture and local food system resilience

## HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY



### Resident-driven processes:

Support resident-driven processes to guide equitable food policy, programs and resources



### Food distribution and small businesses:

Implement supply chain solutions that support healthy food distribution and small businesses



### Corner and convenience stores:

Improve small grocery, corner, convenience stores



### Federal nutrition assistance:

Maximize the impact of federal nutrition assistance and meal programs



### Supermarkets:

Retain and attract supermarkets



### Urban agriculture:

Support urban agriculture, emphasizing historically disenfranchised populations and geographies



### Public Markets:

Increase the ability of the public markets to anchor the healthy food environment



### Transportation gaps:

Address transportation gaps that impact food access

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**CONTACT:** Holly Freishtat, Food Policy Director, [holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov)

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

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

# DISTRICT 7

## 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 many 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). This brief provides an overview of the food environment per city council district during the COVID-19 pandemic, and summarizes food policy priorities moving into pandemic recovery and long-term resilience.

### SUMMARY OF COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN DISTRICT 7

The City of Baltimore is supplementing federal benefits with direct food resources. The City has provided 9 million pounds of food boxes and 5.7 million meals at over 400 sites and through home delivery from April –November. The current City-sponsored COVID-19 Food Distribution sites and other resources are mapped on the following page.

#### IN DISTRICT 7 FROM APRIL— NOVEMBER:



##### FOOD BOXES

- Currently 10 sites
- 21,900 food boxes
- 575,000 pounds



##### MEALS

- Total: 563,000
- Youth: 497,000
- Older Adults: 65,300



##### SNAP

- ~18,000 Participants
- 34.5% of residents

### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Historically, BFPI has used Healthy Food Priority Areas (formerly called food desert) to show food access needs. However, with the pandemic disrupting the economy and food system, this indicator was replaced with SNAP after applications reached a record high in the spring. SNAP data are available monthly and can be tracked over the course of the pandemic, providing more real-time insight than the Healthy Food Priority Area map.

SNAP is proven to reduce food insecurity. It is even more vital during the pandemic, providing participants autonomy as supply chain shortages may affect typical sources of food. Citywide, in August, there were 188,800 residents on SNAP, bringing \$33.4 million of federal funding into the city for participants to purchase food.

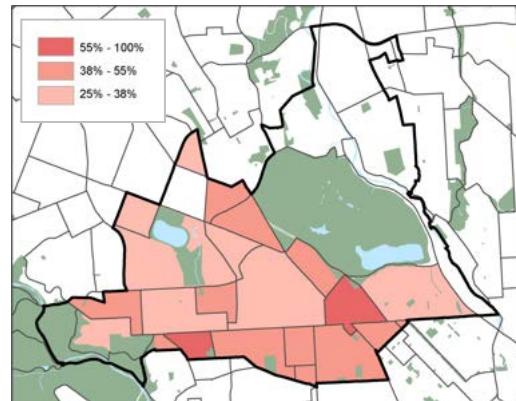
As a safety net, it is vital that Baltimore City residents enroll in, stay on, and maximize the impact of SNAP. Key pandemic considerations:

**SNAP Enrollment:** Eligible residents should apply for and stay on SNAP through recertification. However, the need and number of applications are surpassing the capacity to process them, creating a lag in time between when residents apply and are approved to receive benefits.

**Online SNAP:** SNAP payment for groceries online became available for the first time in June 2020. Participants need to be made aware of this opportunity to shop at home.

**Pandemic EBT:** This additional food benefit can be spent like SNAP and is provided to families with children enrolled in Baltimore City public schools, intended to make up for loss of access to school meals. This will amount to hundreds of dollars per child. Families should not throw away their cards, which will be reloaded every two months.

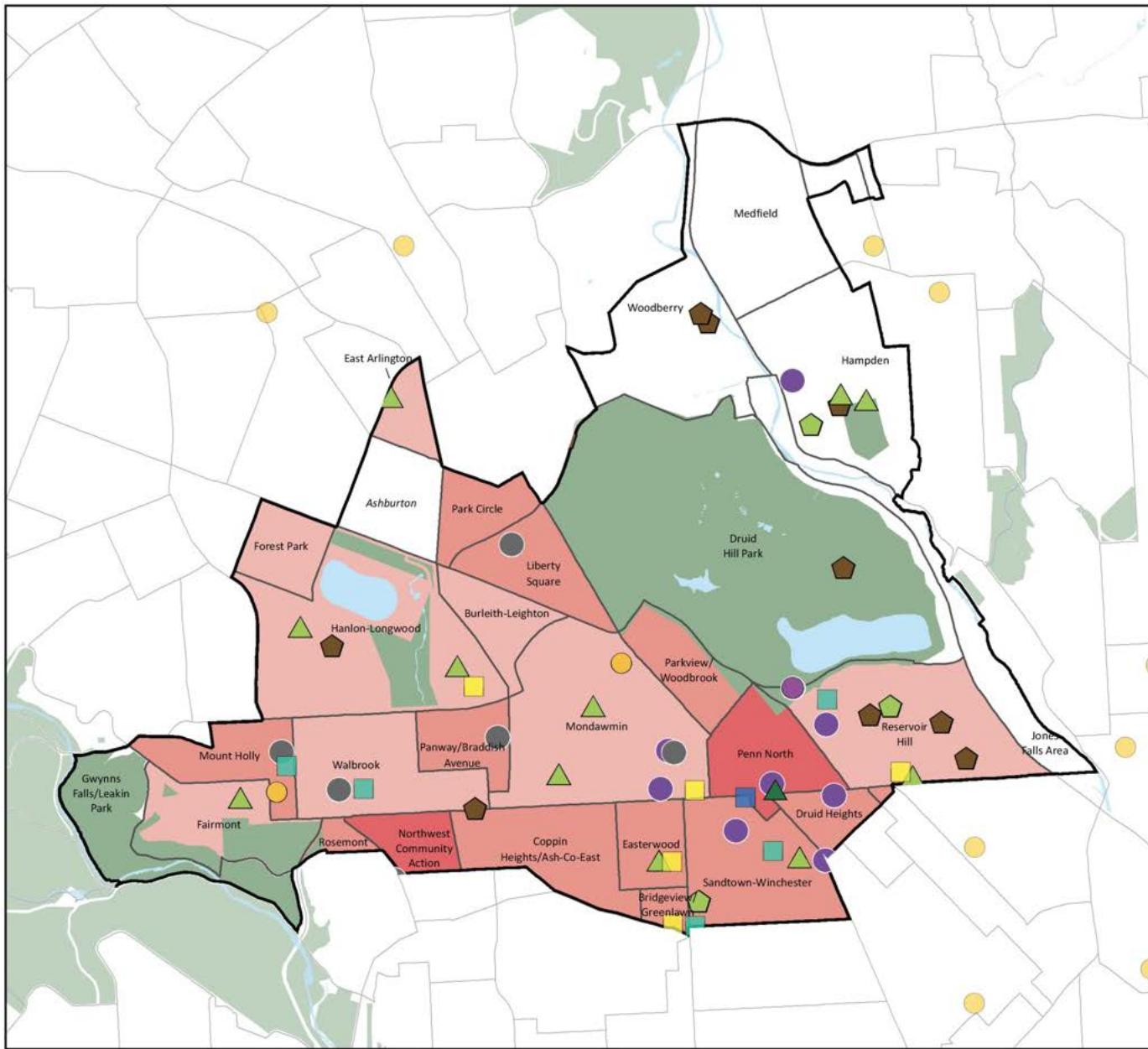
#### Population Receiving SNAP (Aug 2020)



#### DISTRICT 7 IMPACT

34.5% of population, approx. 18,000 people

# 2020 COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 7



## 2020 COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 7

### % of Population Receiving SNAP Benefits, by Neighborhood

August 2020

55% - 100%
38% - 55%
25% - 38%

- Neighborhood Boundaries
- Harbor, Lakes & Streams
- Major Parks

### Food Distribution

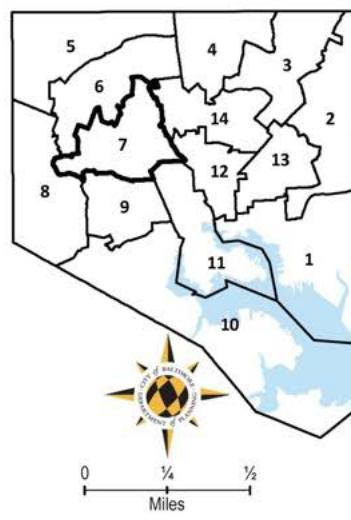
- Produce Box (5)
- Grocery (1)
- Mixed Box (4)
- ▲ Youth Grab & Go (11)
- ▲ Older Adult Meals (1)
- Food Pantry (6)
- Community Driven Response (8)

### Food Retail

- Supermarkets (2)
- Public Markets (0)
- Farmers Markets (1)

### Urban Agriculture

- Community Garden (10)
- Urban Farms (3)





## COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESPONSE IN DISTRICT 7

### Current Sites

5

#### PRODUCE BOXES

8,110 produce boxes (162,200 pounds) have been distributed by Coastal Sunbelt and Common Market from June through November 2020. Boxes average 20 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables.

1

#### GROCERY BOXES

Over 9,700 grocery boxes (291,000 pounds) have been distributed from April through November 2020. Boxes contain 30 pounds of shelf-stable food from the Maryland Food Bank. Home-delivered grocery boxes are available for older adults and residents impacted by COVID-19.

4

#### MIXED FOOD BOXES

Beginning in September, to fill the “center of the plate” needs of food insecure residents, 4,025 mixed boxes (120,750 pounds) of meat, dairy, and produce have been distributed by Saval Foodservice.

1

#### OLDER ADULT MEALS

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and partners have delivered over 65,000 meals between April and November 2020 to residential facilities with multiple participants. Tens of thousands of additional meals have been delivered directly to individual homes.

11

#### YOUTH GRAB AND GO MEALS

Since March, nearly half a million meals have been distributed in District 7. With school in session virtually, students currently can receive meals at schools, rec centers, and other community sites.

8

#### COMMUNITY DRIVEN RESPONSE

Community members and organizations saw an urgent need and responded with various food resources.

5

#### FOOD PANTRIES

The Maryland Food Bank has entered Phase 2 of its pandemic response while also working to restart standard programming and operations.

### FOOD RETAIL

2

#### SUPERMARKETS

The pandemic created some supply chain issues for certain foods and products. Most supermarkets do not currently accept SNAP payment online and BFPI seeks to expand this program in 2021.

1

#### FARMERS MARKETS

The Druid Hill Farmers Market serves the district. The market accepts SNAP and some vendors accept WIC benefits.

62

#### CORNER AND CONVENIENCE STORES

These stores are not shown on the map due to their sheer number. These stores have low availability of healthy food.

0

#### PUBLIC MARKETS

Right outside the district, Avenue Market is being redeveloped to increase healthy food and Black food entrepreneurship.

### URBAN AGRICULTURE

3

#### URBAN FARMS

There are 3 urban farms, all of which have farmstands to sell produce onsite.

10

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS

The community gardens throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.



## FOOD POLICY LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY

The Food Policy and Planning Division is led by the Food Policy Director, and staffed by a Food Access, a Food Resilience, and a Food Systems Planner. This division oversees the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI), which has three pillars - interagency collaboration, the Food Policy Action Coalition (Food PAC), and Resident Food Equity Advisors (RFEA). Together, these efforts seek to build an equitable and resilient urban food system by addressing health, economic, and environmental disparities in areas that have high food insecurity.

### FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH:

- 1. Use policy to create a more equitable food system:** By integrating food across government and engaging in equitable research, strategic planning, and policy co-creation with residents.
- 2. Increase resilience at household, community, and food system levels:** By addressing acute food insecurity, building long-term food resilience, and righting power imbalances in the food system.
- 3. Strengthen and amplify the local food economy:** By implementing “Good Food Procurement” standards, supporting local food-based businesses, and promoting food recovery.
- 4. Create agriculture land-use policies that encourage urban farms and local food production:** By identifying City-owned land suitable for farming; developing land tenure and pathways to ownership; promoting safe, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible production; and supporting growers to create financially viable urban agriculture.

## COVID-19 FOOD RESPONSE

During COVID-19, the Food Policy Director and team of Food Planners:

- Lead the strategic planning for the food security response
- Conduct mapping and data analysis
- Oversee the produce, grocery, and mixed box strategies and implementation, including logistics, funding, community outreach, and site expansion
- Coordinate with the Emergency Operations Center and state and federal agencies
- Leverage significant public and private funds for food and transportation
- Expedited Online SNAP and prevented 15,000 residents from losing SNAP
- Convene Resident Food Equity Advisors and Food PAC
- Support urban agriculture and local food system resilience

## HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY



### Resident-driven processes:

Support resident-driven processes to guide equitable food policy, programs and resources



### Food distribution and small businesses:

Implement supply chain solutions that support healthy food distribution and small businesses



### Corner and convenience stores:

Improve small grocery, corner, convenience stores



### Federal nutrition assistance:

Maximize the impact of federal nutrition assistance and meal programs



### Supermarkets:

Retain and attract supermarkets



### Urban agriculture:

Support urban agriculture, emphasizing historically disenfranchised populations and geographies



### Public Markets:

Increase the ability of the public markets to anchor the healthy food environment



### Transportation gaps:

Address transportation gaps that impact food access

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**CONTACT:** Holly Freishtat, Food Policy Director, [holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov)

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# DISTRICT 8

## 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 many 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). This brief provides an overview of the food environment per city council district during the COVID-19 pandemic, and summarizes food policy priorities moving into pandemic recovery and long-term resilience.

### SUMMARY OF COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN DISTRICT 8

The City of Baltimore is supplementing federal benefits with direct food resources. The City has provided 9 million pounds of food boxes and 5.7 million meals at over 400 sites and through home delivery from April –November. The current City-sponsored COVID-19 Food Distribution sites and other resources are mapped on the following page.

#### IN DISTRICT 8 FROM APRIL— NOVEMBER:



##### FOOD BOXES

- Currently 6 sites
- 15,000 food boxes
- 385,000 pounds



##### MEALS

- Total: 255,000
- Youth: 187,400
- Older Adults: 68,000



##### SNAP

- ~13,000 Participants
- 28% of residents

### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Historically, BFPI has used Healthy Food Priority Areas (formerly called food desert) to show food access needs. However, with the pandemic disrupting the economy and food system, this indicator was replaced with SNAP after applications reached a record high in the spring. SNAP data are available monthly and can be tracked over the course of the pandemic, providing more real-time insight than the Healthy Food Priority Area map.

SNAP is proven to reduce food insecurity. It is even more vital during the pandemic, providing participants autonomy as supply chain shortages may affect typical sources of food. Citywide, in August, there were 188,800 residents on SNAP, bringing \$33.4 million of federal funding into the city for participants to purchase food.

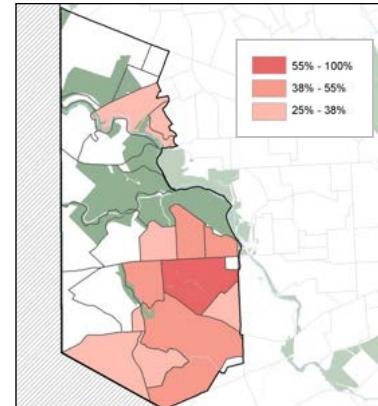
As a safety net, it is vital that Baltimore City residents enroll in, stay on, and maximize the impact of SNAP. Key pandemic considerations:

**SNAP Enrollment:** Eligible residents should apply for and stay on SNAP through recertification. However, the need and number of applications are surpassing the capacity to process them, creating a lag in time between when residents apply and are approved to receive benefits.

**Online SNAP:** SNAP payment for groceries online became available for the first time in June 2020. Participants need to be made aware of this opportunity to shop at home.

**Pandemic EBT:** This additional food benefit can be spent like SNAP and is provided to families with children enrolled in Baltimore City public schools, intended to make up for loss of access to school meals. This will amount to hundreds of dollars per child. Families should not throw away their cards, which will be reloaded every two months.

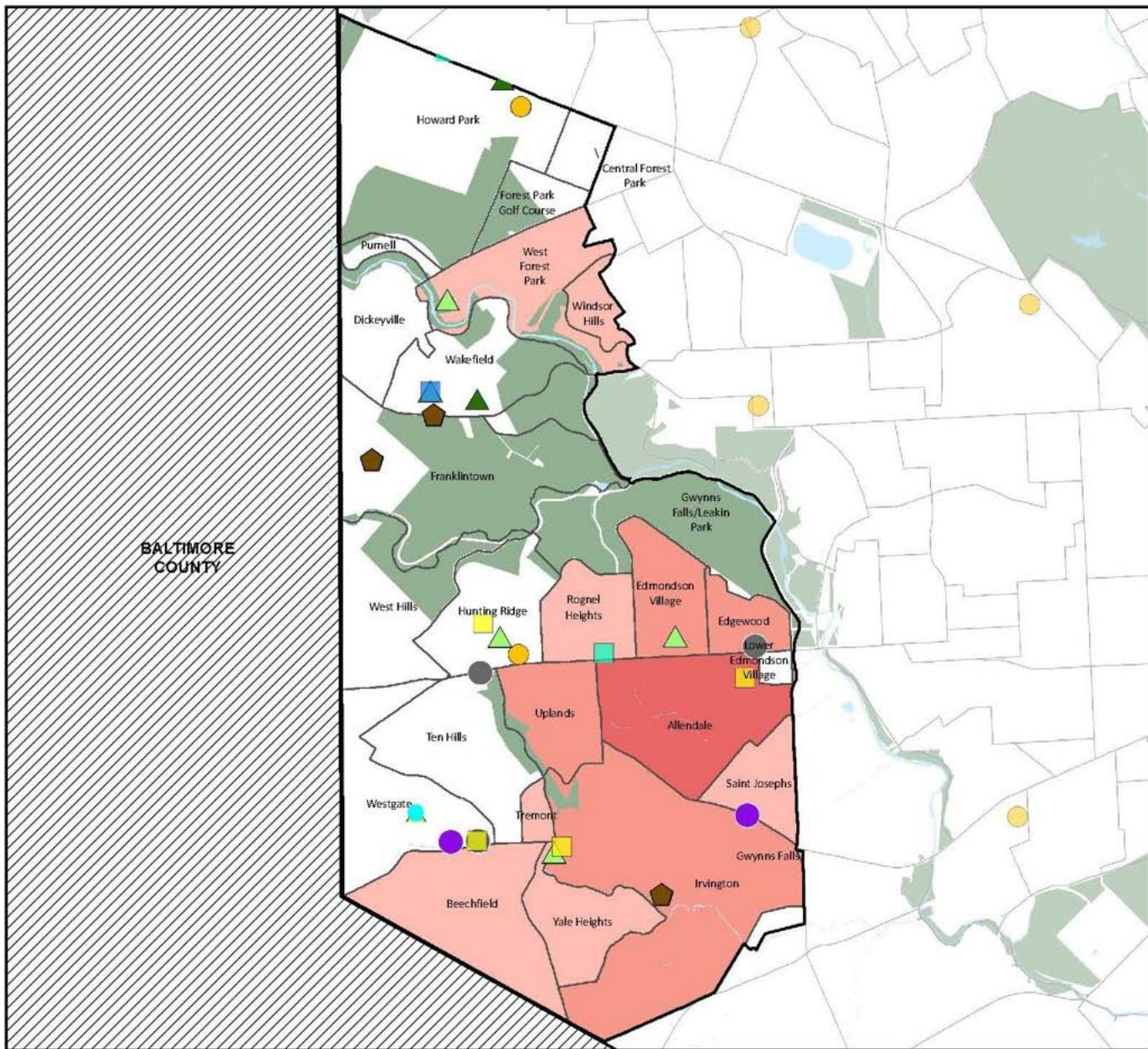
#### Population Receiving SNAP (Aug 2020)



#### DISTRICT 8 IMPACT

28% of population, approx. 13,000 people

# 2020 COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 8



## 2020 COVID-19 Food Environment Map - District 8

### % of Population Receiving SNAP Benefits, by Neighborhood

August 2020

- |            |
|------------|
| 55% - 100% |
| 38% - 55%  |
| 25% - 38%  |

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Neighborhood Boundaries | Baltimore County |
| Harbor, Lakes & Streams |                  |
| Major Parks             |                  |

### Food Distribution

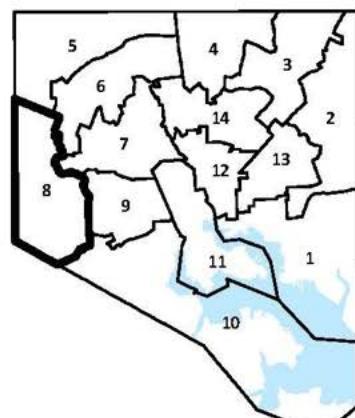
- Produce Box (4)
- Grocery (1)
- Mixed Box (1)
- Youth Grab & Go (5)
- Older Adult Meals (1)
- Food Pantry (3)
- Community Driven Response (2)

### Food Retail

- Supermarkets (2)
- Farmers Markets (0)
- Public Markets (0)

### Urban Agriculture

- Community Garden (3)
- Urban Farms (0)



0  $\frac{1}{4}$  Miles



## COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESPONSE IN DISTRICT 8

### Current Sites

4

#### PRODUCE BOXES

6,450 produce boxes (129,000 pounds) have been distributed by Coastal Sunbelt and Common Market from June through November 2020. Boxes average 20 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables.

1

#### GROCERY BOXES

6,670 grocery boxes (200,100 pounds) have been distributed from April through November 2020. Boxes contain 30 pounds of shelf-stable food from the Maryland Food Bank. Home-delivered grocery boxes are available for older adults and residents impacted by COVID-19.

1

#### MIXED FOOD BOXES

Beginning in September, to fill the “center of the plate” needs of food insecure residents, 1,850 mixed boxes (55,500 pounds) of meat, dairy, and produce have been distributed by Saval Foodservice.

1

#### OLDER ADULT MEALS

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and partners have delivered over 68,000 meals between April and November 2020 to residential facilities with multiple participants. Tens of thousands of additional meals have been delivered directly to individual homes.

5

#### YOUTH GRAB AND GO MEALS

Since March, nearly 188,000 have been distributed in District 8. With school in session virtually, students currently can receive meals at schools, rec centers, and other community sites.

2

#### COMMUNITY DRIVEN RESPONSE

Community members and organizations saw an urgent need and responded with various food resources.

3

#### FOOD PANTRIES

The Maryland Food Bank has entered Phase 2 of its pandemic response while also working to restart standard programming and operations.

## FOOD RETAIL

2

#### SUPERMARKETS

Shoprite in District 8 is the only supermarket in Baltimore City limits that can accept SNAP payment online for grocery delivery. More awareness around Online SNAP needs to be generated so people can shop from home. Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods, however the pandemic created some supply chain issues for certain foods and products.

21

#### CORNER AND CONVENIENCE STORES

These stores are not shown on the map due to their sheer number. These stores have low availability of healthy food.

0

#### PUBLIC MARKETS

Public Markets can provide opportunities for small food business incubation, employment, and food access.

## URBAN AGRICULTURE

0

#### URBAN FARMS

Urban farms play a role in local food system resilience and have provided fresh produce during the pandemic.

3

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS

The community gardens throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.



## FOOD POLICY LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY

The Food Policy and Planning Division is led by the Food Policy Director, and staffed by a Food Access, a Food Resilience, and a Food Systems Planner. This division oversees the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI), which has three pillars - interagency collaboration, the Food Policy Action Coalition (Food PAC), and Resident Food Equity Advisors (RFEA). Together, these efforts seek to build an equitable and resilient urban food system by addressing health, economic, and environmental disparities in areas that have high food insecurity.

### FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH:

- 1. Use policy to create a more equitable food system:** By integrating food across government and engaging in equitable research, strategic planning, and policy co-creation with residents.
- 2. Increase resilience at household, community, and food system levels:** By addressing acute food insecurity, building long-term food resilience, and righting power imbalances in the food system.
- 3. Strengthen and amplify the local food economy:** By implementing “Good Food Procurement” standards, supporting local food-based businesses, and promoting food recovery.
- 4. Create agriculture land-use policies that encourage urban farms and local food production:** By identifying City-owned land suitable for farming; developing land tenure and pathways to ownership; promoting safe, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible production; and supporting growers to create financially viable urban agriculture.

## COVID-19 FOOD RESPONSE

During COVID-19, the Food Policy Director and team of Food Planners:

- Lead the strategic planning for the food security response
- Conduct mapping and data analysis
- Oversee the produce, grocery, and mixed box strategies and implementation, including logistics, funding, community outreach, and site expansion
- Coordinate with the Emergency Operations Center and state and federal agencies
- Leverage significant public and private funds for food and transportation
- Expedited Online SNAP and prevented 15,000 residents from losing SNAP
- Convene Resident Food Equity Advisors and Food PAC
- Support urban agriculture and local food system resilience

## HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY



### Resident-driven processes:

Support resident-driven processes to guide equitable food policy, programs and resources



### Food distribution and small businesses:

Implement supply chain solutions that support healthy food distribution and small businesses



### Corner and convenience stores:

Improve small grocery, corner, convenience stores



### Federal nutrition assistance:

Maximize the impact of federal nutrition assistance and meal programs



### Supermarkets:

Retain and attract supermarkets



### Urban agriculture:

Support urban agriculture, emphasizing historically disenfranchised populations and geographies



### Public Markets:

Increase the ability of the public markets to anchor the healthy food environment



### Transportation gaps:

Address transportation gaps that impact food access

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**CONTACT:** Holly Freishtat, Food Policy Director, [holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov)

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

# DISTRICT 9

## 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 many 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). This brief provides an overview of the food environment per city council district during the COVID-19 pandemic, and summarizes food policy priorities moving into pandemic recovery and long-term resilience.

### SUMMARY OF COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN DISTRICT 9

The City of Baltimore is supplementing federal benefits with direct food resources. The City has provided 9 million pounds of food boxes and 5.7 million meals at over 400 sites and through home delivery from April –November. The current City-sponsored COVID-19 Food Distribution sites and other resources are mapped on the following page.

#### IN DISTRICT 9 FROM APRIL— NOVEMBER:



##### FOOD BOXES

- Currently 12 sites
- 40,700 food boxes
- Over 1 million pounds



##### MEALS

- Total: 800,000
- Youth: 563,000
- Older Adults: 238,000



##### SNAP

- ~18,000 Participants
- 42% of residents

### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Historically, BFPI has used Healthy Food Priority Areas (formerly called food desert) to show food access needs. However, with the pandemic disrupting the economy and food system, this indicator was replaced with SNAP after applications reached a record high in the spring. SNAP data are available monthly and can be tracked over the course of the pandemic, providing more real-time insight than the Healthy Food Priority Area map.

SNAP is proven to reduce food insecurity. It is even more vital during the pandemic, providing participants autonomy as supply chain shortages may affect typical sources of food. Citywide, in August, there were 188,800 residents on SNAP, bringing \$33.4 million of federal funding into the city for participants to purchase food.

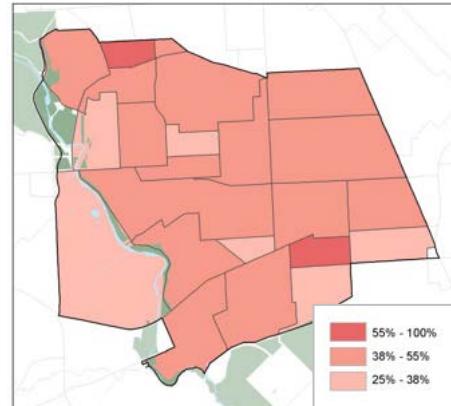
As a safety net, it is vital that Baltimore City residents enroll in, stay on, and maximize the impact of SNAP. Key pandemic considerations:

**SNAP Enrollment:** Eligible residents should apply for and stay on SNAP through recertification. However, the need and number of applications are surpassing the capacity to process them, creating a lag in time between when residents apply and are approved to receive benefits.

**Online SNAP:** SNAP payment for groceries online became available for the first time in June 2020. Participants need to be made aware of this opportunity to shop at home.

**Pandemic EBT:** This additional food benefit can be spent like SNAP and is provided to families with children enrolled in Baltimore City public schools, intended to make up for loss of access to school meals. This will amount to hundreds of dollars per child. Families should not throw away their cards, which will be reloaded every two months.

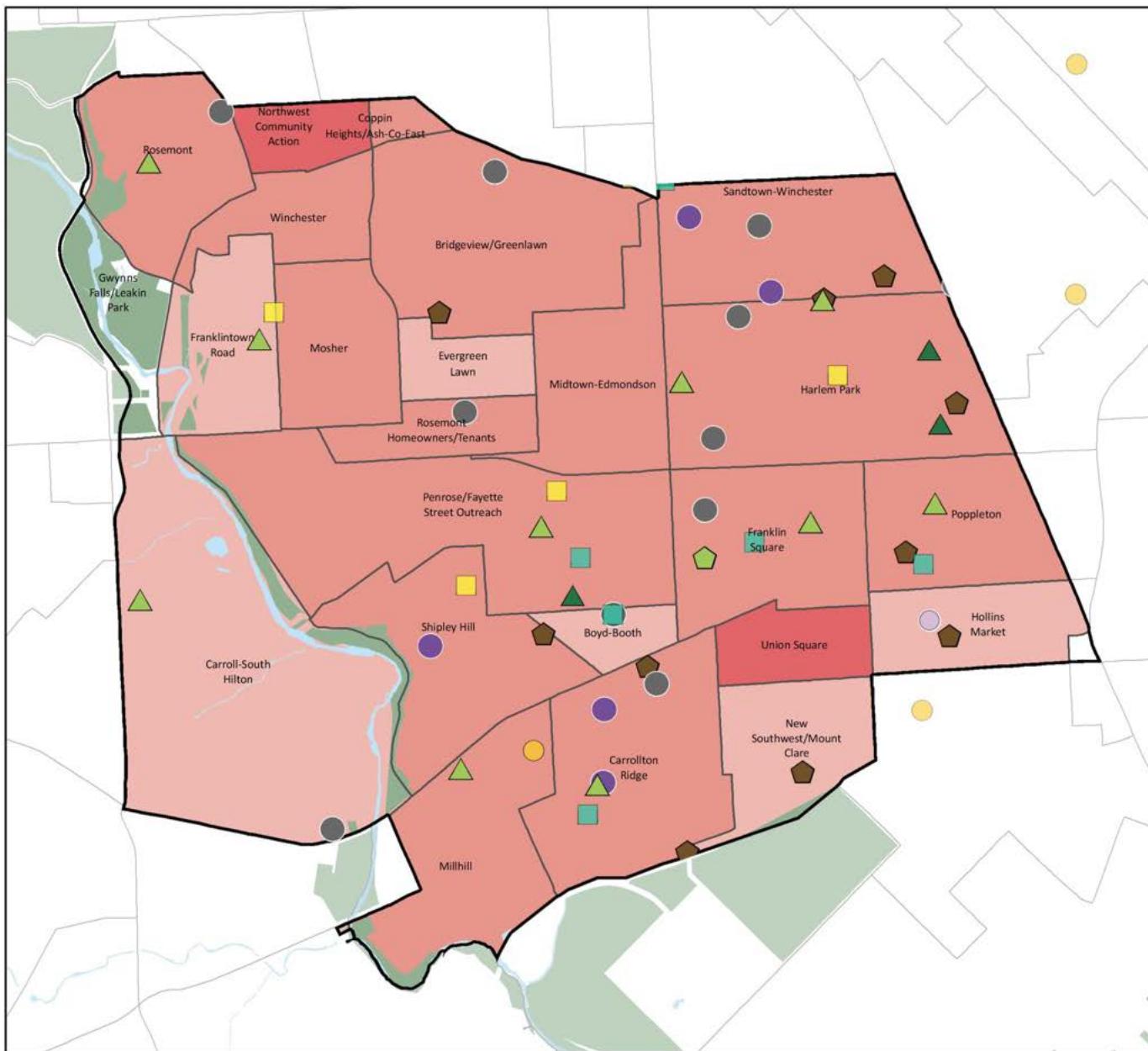
#### Population Receiving SNAP (Aug 2020)



#### DISTRICT 9 IMPACT

42% of population, approx. 18,000 people

# 2020 COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 9



## 2020 COVID-19 Food Environment Map - District 9

% of Population Receiving SNAP Benefits, by Neighborhood

August 2020

- |            |
|------------|
| 55% - 100% |
| 38% - 55%  |
| 25% - 38%  |

- |                         |
|-------------------------|
| Neighborhood Boundaries |
| Harbor, Lakes & Streams |
| Major Parks             |

### Food Distribution

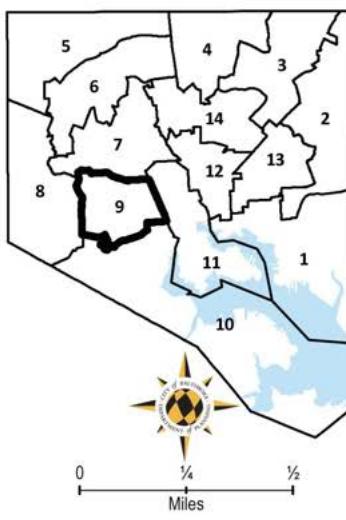
- Produce Box (6)
- Grocery (0)
- Mixed Box (6)
- Youth Grab & Go (10)
- Older Adult Meals (3)
- Food Pantry (10)
- Community Driven Response (5)

### Food Retail

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

### Urban Agriculture

- Community Garden (10)
- Urban Farms (1)





## COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESPONSE IN DISTRICT 9

### Current Sites

6

#### PRODUCE BOXES

More than 22,000 produce boxes (440,000 pounds) have been distributed by Coastal Sunbelt and Common Market from June through November 2020. Boxes average 20 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables.

0

#### GROCERY BOXES

Over 10,000 grocery boxes (312,000 pounds) have been distributed from April through November 2020. Boxes contain 30 pounds of shelf-stable food from the Maryland Food Bank. Home-delivered grocery boxes are available for older adults and residents impacted by COVID-19.

6

#### MIXED FOOD BOXES

Beginning in September, to fill the “center of the plate” needs of food insecure residents, 7,875 mixed boxes (236,000 pounds) of meat, dairy, and produce have been distributed by Saval Foodservice.

3

#### OLDER ADULT MEALS

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and partners have delivered nearly 238,000 meals between April and November 2020 to residential facilities with multiple participants. Tens of thousands of additional meals have been delivered directly to individual homes.

10

#### YOUTH GRAB AND GO MEALS

Since March, more than half a million meals have been distributed in District 9. With school in session virtually, students currently can receive meals at schools, rec centers, and other community sites.

5

#### COMMUNITY DRIVEN RESPONSE

Community members and organizations saw an urgent need and responded with various food resources.

10

#### FOOD PANTRIES

The Maryland Food Bank has entered Phase 2 of its pandemic response while also working to restart standard programming and operations.

## FOOD RETAIL

1

#### SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods, however the pandemic created some supply chain issues for certain foods and products. Most supermarkets do not currently accept SNAP payment online and BFPI seeks to expand this program in 2021.

22

#### CORNER AND CONVENIENCE STORES

These stores are not shown on the map due to their sheer number. These stores have low availability of healthy food.

1

#### PUBLIC MARKETS

Public markets like Hollins Market provide opportunities for small food business incubation, employment, and food access.

## URBAN AGRICULTURE

1

#### URBAN FARMS

Urban farms play a role in local food system resilience and have provided fresh produce during the pandemic.

10

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS

The community gardens throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.



## FOOD POLICY LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY

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### FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH:

- 1. Use policy to create a more equitable food system:** By integrating food across government and engaging in equitable research, strategic planning, and policy co-creation with residents.
- 2. Increase resilience at household, community, and food system levels:** By addressing acute food insecurity, building long-term food resilience, and righting power imbalances in the food system.
- 3. Strengthen and amplify the local food economy:** By implementing “Good Food Procurement” standards, supporting local food-based businesses, and promoting food recovery.
- 4. Create agriculture land-use policies that encourage urban farms and local food production:** By identifying City-owned land suitable for farming; developing land tenure and pathways to ownership; promoting safe, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible production; and supporting growers to create financially viable urban agriculture.

## COVID-19 FOOD RESPONSE

During COVID-19, the Food Policy Director and team of Food Planners:

- Lead the strategic planning for the food security response
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- Oversee the produce, grocery, and mixed box strategies and implementation, including logistics, funding, community outreach, and site expansion
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- Leverage significant public and private funds for food and transportation
- Expedited Online SNAP and prevented 15,000 residents from losing SNAP
- Convene Resident Food Equity Advisors and Food PAC
- Support urban agriculture and local food system resilience

## HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY



### Resident-driven processes:

Support resident-driven processes to guide equitable food policy, programs and resources



### Food distribution and small businesses:

Implement supply chain solutions that support healthy food distribution and small businesses



### Corner and convenience stores:

Improve small grocery, corner, convenience stores



### Federal nutrition assistance:

Maximize the impact of federal nutrition assistance and meal programs



### Supermarkets:

Retain and attract supermarkets



### Urban agriculture:

Support urban agriculture, emphasizing historically disenfranchised populations and geographies



### Public Markets:

Increase the ability of the public markets to anchor the healthy food environment



### Transportation gaps:

Address transportation gaps that impact food access

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**CONTACT:** Holly Freishtat, Food Policy Director, [holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov)

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

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

# DISTRICT 10

## 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 many 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). This brief provides an overview of the food environment per city council district during the COVID-19 pandemic, and summarizes food policy priorities moving into pandemic recovery and long-term resilience.

### SUMMARY OF COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN DISTRICT 10

The City of Baltimore is supplementing federal benefits with direct food resources. The City has provided 9 million pounds of food boxes and 5.7 million meals at over 400 sites and through home delivery from April –November. The current City-sponsored COVID-19 Food Distribution sites and other resources are mapped on the following page.

#### IN DISTRICT 10 FROM APRIL— NOVEMBER:



##### FOOD BOXES

- Currently 11 sites
- 43,000 food boxes
- Over 1 million pounds



##### MEALS

- Total: 631,000
- Youth: 553,500
- Older Adults: 77,800



##### SNAP

- ~16,000 Participants
- 35% of residents

### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Historically, BFPI has used Healthy Food Priority Areas (formerly called food desert) to show food access needs. However, with the pandemic disrupting the economy and food system, this indicator was replaced with SNAP after applications reached a record high in the spring. SNAP data are available monthly and can be tracked over the course of the pandemic, providing more real-time insight than the Healthy Food Priority Area map.

SNAP is proven to reduce food insecurity. It is even more vital during the pandemic, providing participants autonomy as supply chain shortages may affect typical sources of food. Citywide, in August, there were 188,800 residents on SNAP, bringing \$33.4 million of federal funding into the city for participants to purchase food.

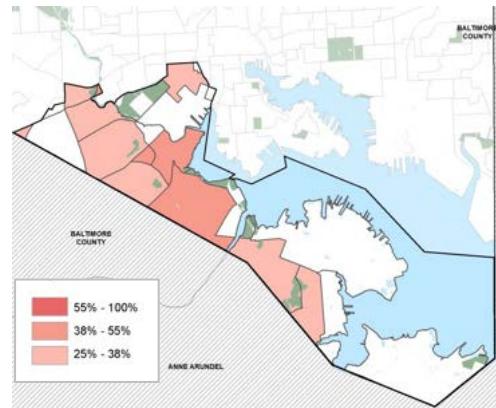
As a safety net, it is vital that Baltimore City residents enroll in, stay on, and maximize the impact of SNAP. Key pandemic considerations:

**SNAP Enrollment:** Eligible residents should apply for and stay on SNAP through recertification. However, the need and number of applications are surpassing the capacity to process them, creating a lag in time between when residents apply and are approved to receive benefits.

**Online SNAP:** SNAP payment for groceries online became available for the first time in June 2020. Participants need to be made aware of this opportunity to shop at home.

**Pandemic EBT:** This additional food benefit can be spent like SNAP and is provided to families with children enrolled in Baltimore City public schools, intended to make up for loss of access to school meals. This will amount to hundreds of dollars per child. Families should not throw away their cards, which will be reloaded every two months.

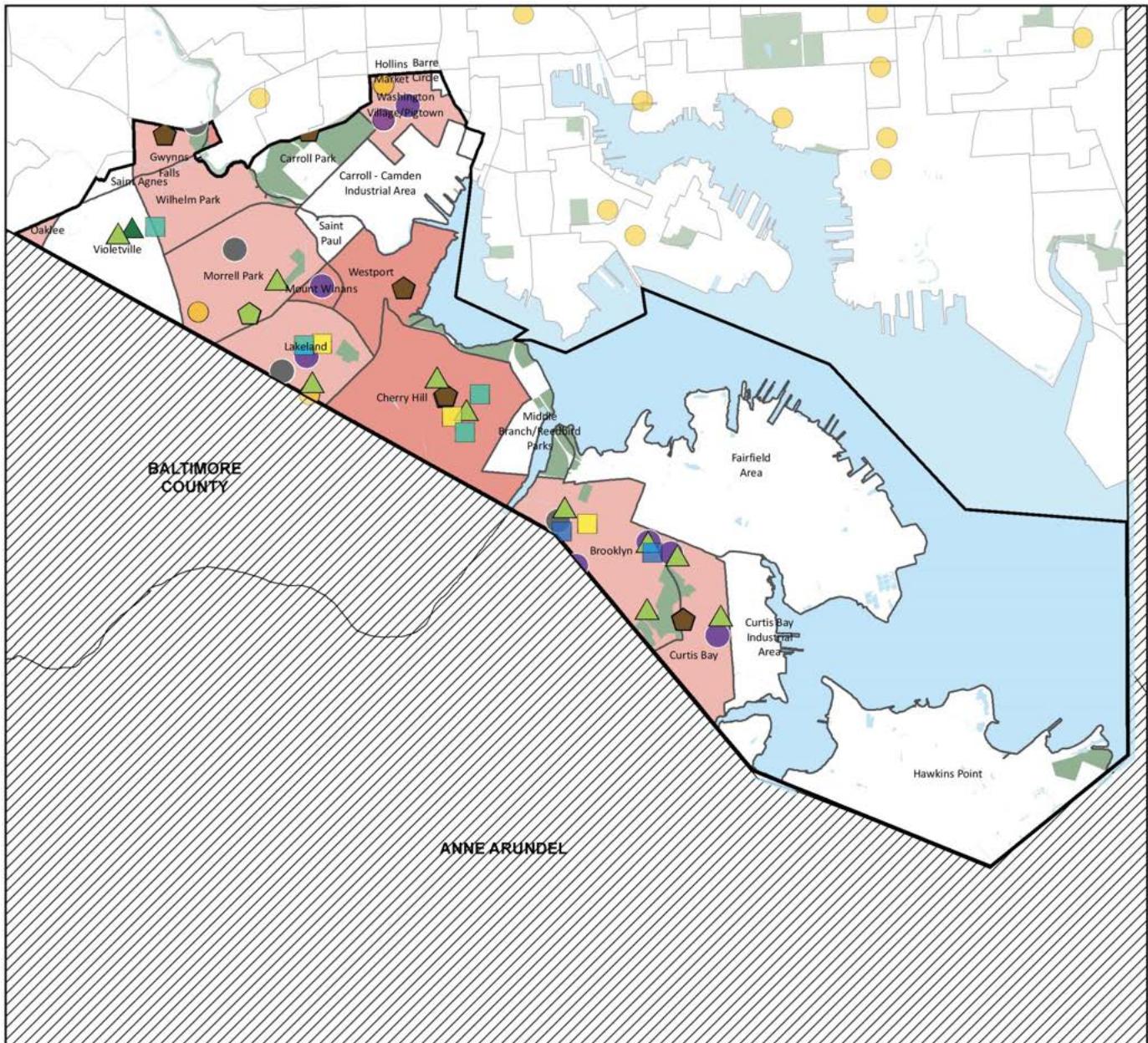
#### Population Receiving SNAP (Aug 2020)



#### DISTRICT 10 IMPACT

35% of population, approx. 16,000 people

**2020 COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 10**



## **2020 COVID-19 Food Environment Map - District 10**

### % of Population Receiving SNAP Benefits, by Neighborhood

August 2020

55% - 100%

38% FEF%

58% - 55%

23% 38%

Part 2 (5)

**■ Produce Box (S)**

 Grocery (2)

## Mixed Box (4)

 Youth Grab & Go (10)

## Older Adult Mea

- Food Pantry (3)
- Community Driven Response (8)

For more information about the study, please contact Dr. Michael J. Koenig at (314) 747-2146 or via e-mail at [koenig@dfci.harvard.edu](mailto:koenig@dfci.harvard.edu).

### Neighborhood Boundary

Harbor, Lakes & Streams

Maine Banks

## Food Retail

## Food Retail

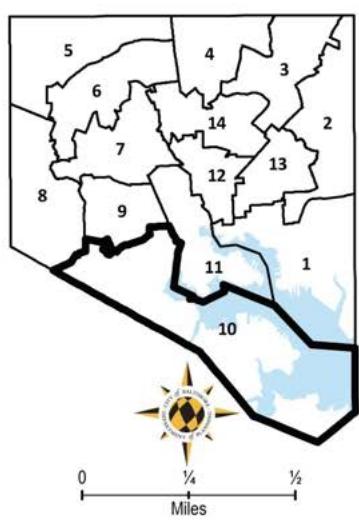
## Supermarkets (3)

## Farmers Markets (1)

## Urban Agriculture

## Urban Agriculture

 Community Garden





## COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESPONSE IN DISTRICT 10

### Current Sites

5

#### PRODUCE BOXES

27,000 produce boxes (over half a million pounds) have been distributed by Coastal Sunbelt and Common Market from June through November 2020. Boxes average 20 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables.

2

#### GROCERY BOXES

Over 10,000 grocery boxes (312,000 pounds) have been distributed from April through November 2020. Boxes contain 30 pounds of shelf-stable food from the Maryland Food Bank. Home-delivered grocery boxes are available for older adults and residents impacted by COVID-19.

4

#### MIXED FOOD BOXES

Beginning in September, to fill the “center of the plate” needs of food insecure residents, 5,650 mixed boxes (170,000 pounds) of meat, dairy, and produce have been distributed by Saval Foodservice.

1

#### OLDER ADULT MEALS

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and partners have delivered nearly 78,000 meals between April and November 2020 to residential facilities with multiple participants. Tens of thousands of additional meals have been delivered directly to individual homes.

10

#### YOUTH GRAB AND GO MEALS

Since March, more than 367,000 have been distributed in District 10. With school in session virtually, students currently can receive meals at schools, rec centers, and other community sites.

8

#### COMMUNITY DRIVEN RESPONSE

Community members and organizations saw an urgent need and responded with various food resources.

3

#### FOOD PANTRIES

The Maryland Food Bank has entered Phase 2 of its pandemic response while also working to restart standard programming and operations.

## FOOD RETAIL

3

#### SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods, however the pandemic created some supply chain issues for certain foods and products. Most supermarkets do not currently accept SNAP payment online and BFPI seeks to expand this program in 2021.

64

#### CORNER AND CONVENIENCE STORES

These stores are not shown on the map due to their sheer number. These stores have low availability of healthy food.

1

#### FARMERS MARKETS

The B&O Farmers Market serves the district. The market accepts SNAP and some vendors accept WIC benefits.

## URBAN AGRICULTURE

3

#### URBAN FARMS

Urban farms play a role in local food system resilience and have provided fresh produce during the pandemic.

8

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS

The community gardens throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.



## FOOD POLICY LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY

The Food Policy and Planning Division is led by the Food Policy Director, and staffed by a Food Access, a Food Resilience, and a Food Systems Planner. This division oversees the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI), which has three pillars - interagency collaboration, the Food Policy Action Coalition (Food PAC), and Resident Food Equity Advisors (RFEA). Together, these efforts seek to build an equitable and resilient urban food system by addressing health, economic, and environmental disparities in areas that have high food insecurity.

### FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH:

- 1. Use policy to create a more equitable food system:** By integrating food across government and engaging in equitable research, strategic planning, and policy co-creation with residents.
- 2. Increase resilience at household, community, and food system levels:** By addressing acute food insecurity, building long-term food resilience, and righting power imbalances in the food system.
- 3. Strengthen and amplify the local food economy:** By implementing “Good Food Procurement” standards, supporting local food-based businesses, and promoting food recovery.
- 4. Create agriculture land-use policies that encourage urban farms and local food production:** By identifying City-owned land suitable for farming; developing land tenure and pathways to ownership; promoting safe, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible production; and supporting growers to create financially viable urban agriculture.

## COVID-19 FOOD RESPONSE

During COVID-19, the Food Policy Director and team of Food Planners:

- Lead the strategic planning for the food security response
- Conduct mapping and data analysis
- Oversee the produce, grocery, and mixed box strategies and implementation, including logistics, funding, community outreach, and site expansion
- Coordinate with the Emergency Operations Center and state and federal agencies
- Leverage significant public and private funds for food and transportation
- Expedited Online SNAP and prevented 15,000 residents from losing SNAP
- Convene Resident Food Equity Advisors and Food PAC
- Support urban agriculture and local food system resilience

## HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY



### Resident-driven processes:

Support resident-driven processes to guide equitable food policy, programs and resources



### Food distribution and small businesses:

Implement supply chain solutions that support healthy food distribution and small businesses



### Corner and convenience stores:

Improve small grocery, corner, convenience stores



### Federal nutrition assistance:

Maximize the impact of federal nutrition assistance and meal programs



### Supermarkets:

Retain and attract supermarkets



### Urban agriculture:

Support urban agriculture, emphasizing historically disenfranchised populations and geographies



### Public Markets:

Increase the ability of the public markets to anchor the healthy food environment



### Transportation gaps:

Address transportation gaps that impact food access

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**CONTACT:** Holly Freishtat, Food Policy Director, [holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov)

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

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

# DISTRICT 11

## 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 many 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). This brief provides an overview of the food environment per city council district during the COVID-19 pandemic, and summarizes food policy priorities moving into pandemic recovery and long-term resilience.

### SUMMARY OF COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN DISTRICT 11

The City of Baltimore is supplementing federal benefits with direct food resources. The City has provided 9 million pounds of food boxes and 5.7 million meals at over 400 sites and through home delivery from April –November. The current City-sponsored COVID-19 Food Distribution sites and other resources are mapped on the following page.

#### IN DISTRICT 11 FROM APRIL— NOVEMBER:



##### FOOD BOXES

- Currently 7 sites
- 30,000 food boxes
- 829,000 pounds



##### MEALS

- Total: 570,000
- Youth: 367,000
- Older Adults: 203,000



##### SNAP

- ~8,200 Participants
- 17% of residents

### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Historically, BFPI has used Healthy Food Priority Areas (formerly called food desert) to show food access needs. However, with the pandemic disrupting the economy and food system, this indicator was replaced with SNAP after applications reached a record high in the spring. SNAP data are available monthly and can be tracked over the course of the pandemic, providing more real-time insight than the Healthy Food Priority Area map.

SNAP is proven to reduce food insecurity. It is even more vital during the pandemic, providing participants autonomy as supply chain shortages may affect typical sources of food. Citywide, in August, there were 188,800 residents on SNAP, bringing \$33.4 million of federal funding into the city for participants to purchase food.

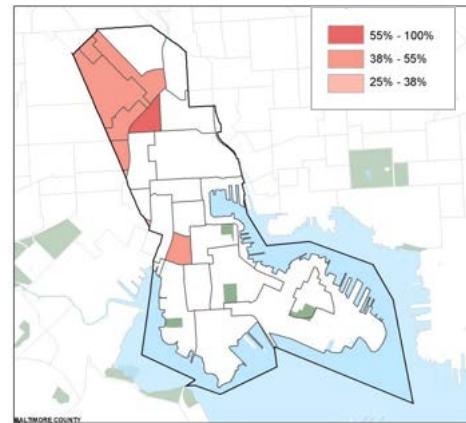
As a safety net, it is vital that Baltimore City residents enroll in, stay on, and maximize the impact of SNAP. Key pandemic considerations:

**SNAP Enrollment:** Eligible residents should apply for and stay on SNAP through recertification. However, the need and number of applications are surpassing the capacity to process them, creating a lag in time between when residents apply and are approved to receive benefits.

**Online SNAP:** SNAP payment for groceries online became available for the first time in June 2020. Participants need to be made aware of this opportunity to shop at home.

**Pandemic EBT:** This additional food benefit can be spent like SNAP and is provided to families with children enrolled in Baltimore City public schools, intended to make up for loss of access to school meals. This will amount to hundreds of dollars per child. Families should not throw away their cards, which will be reloaded every two months.

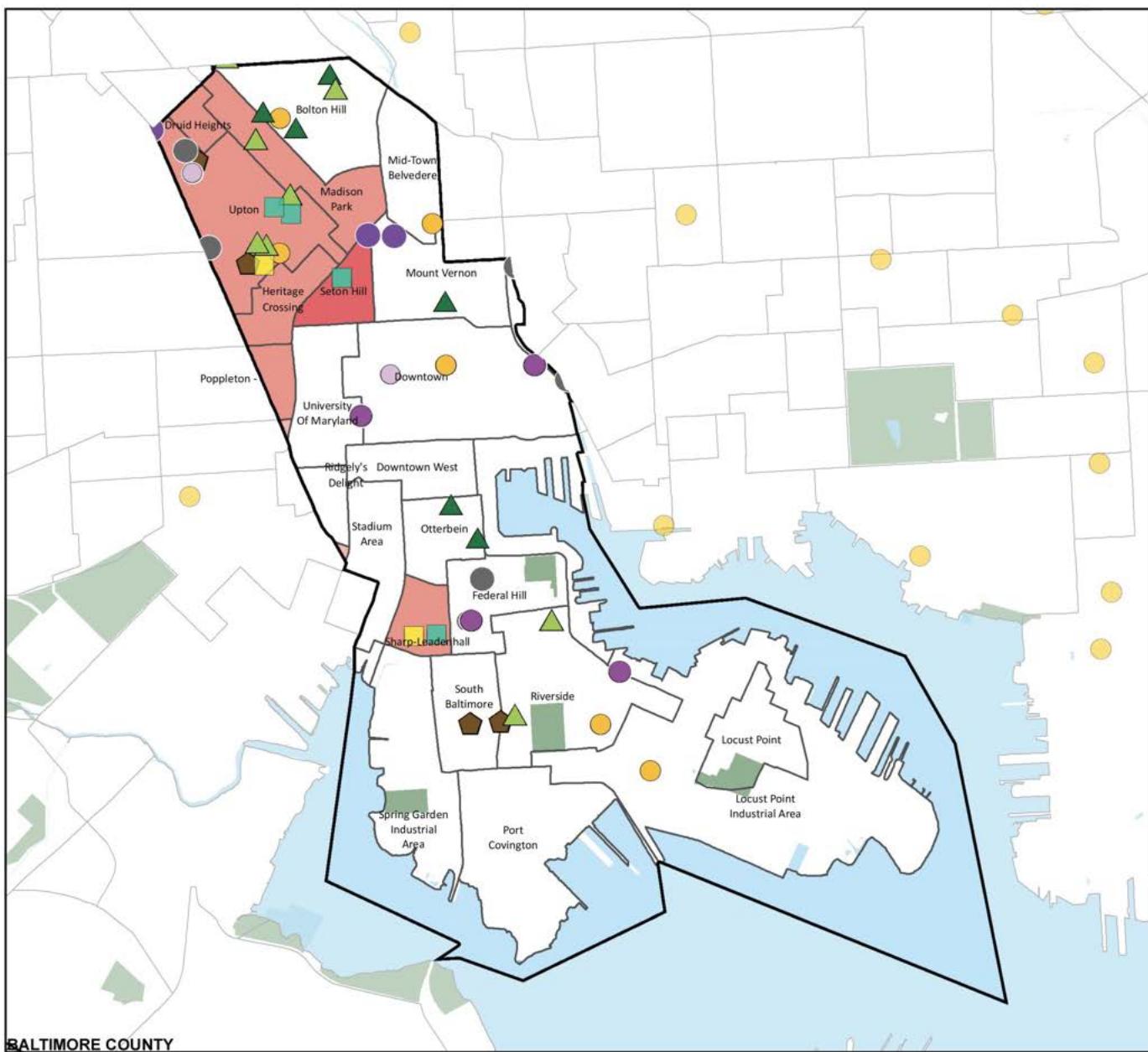
#### Population Receiving SNAP (Aug 2020)



#### DISTRICT 11 IMPACT

17% of population, approx. 8,200 people

# 2020 COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 11



## 2020 COVID-19 Food Environment Map - District 11

### % of Population Receiving SNAP Benefits, by Neighborhood

August 2020

- 55% - 100%
- 38% - 55%
- 25% - 38%

- Neighborhood Boundaries
- Harbor, Lakes & Streams
- Major Parks

### Food Distribution

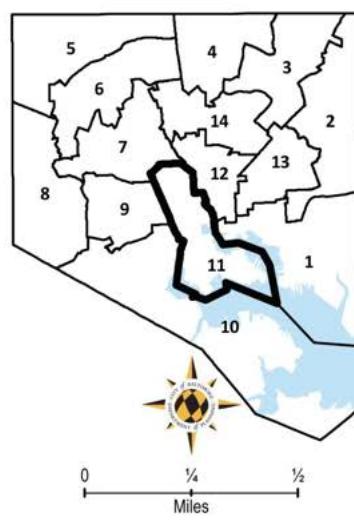
- Produce Box (2)
- Grocery (0)
- Mixed Box (5)
- Youth Grab & Go (7)
- Older Adult Meals (7)
- Food Pantry (4)
- Community Driven Response (2)

### Food Retail

- Supermarkets (6)
- Farmers Markets (4)
- Public Markets (3)

### Urban Agriculture

- Community Garden (4)
- Urban Farms (0)





## COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESPONSE IN DISTRICT 11

### Current Sites

2

#### PRODUCE BOXES

Nearly 7,000 produce boxes (138,000 pounds) have been distributed by Coastal Sunbelt and Common Market from June through November 2020. Boxes average 20 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables.

0

#### GROCERY BOXES

Nearly 19,000 grocery boxes (over half a million pounds) have been distributed from April through November 2020. Boxes contain 30 pounds of shelf-stable food from the Maryland Food Bank. Home-delivered grocery boxes are available for older adults and residents impacted by COVID-19.

5

#### MIXED FOOD BOXES

Beginning in September, to fill the “center of the plate” needs of food insecure residents, 4,300 mixed boxes (130,000 pounds) of meat, dairy, and produce have been distributed by Saval Foodservice.

7

#### OLDER ADULT MEALS

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and partners have delivered more than 200,000 meals between April and November 2020 to residential facilities with multiple participants. Tens of thousands of additional meals have been delivered directly to individual homes.

7

#### YOUTH GRAB AND GO MEALS

Since March, more than 367,000 meals have been distributed in District 11. With school in session virtually, students currently can receive meals at schools, rec centers, and other community sites.

2

#### COMMUNITY DRIVEN RESPONSE

Community members and organizations saw an urgent need and responded with various food resources.

4

#### FOOD PANTRIES

The Maryland Food Bank has entered Phase 2 of its pandemic response while also working to restart standard programming and operations.

### FOOD RETAIL

6

#### SUPERMARKETS

The pandemic created supply chain issues for certain foods and products. Most supermarkets do not currently accept SNAP payment online and BFPI seeks to expand this program in 2021.

3

#### PUBLIC MARKETS

District 11 has the most public markets of any council district. Lexington Market and Avenue Market are being redeveloped to increase healthy food and Black food entrepreneurship.

76

#### CORNER AND CONVENIENCE STORES

These stores are not shown on the map due to their sheer number. These stores have low availability of healthy food.

4

#### FARMERS MARKETS

The district has four markets that have been operating during the pandemic. Half of them accept SNAP benefits.

### URBAN AGRICULTURE

0

#### URBAN FARMS

Urban farms play a role in local food system resilience and have provided fresh produce during the pandemic.

4

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS

The community gardens throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.



## FOOD POLICY LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY

The Food Policy and Planning Division is led by the Food Policy Director, and staffed by a Food Access, a Food Resilience, and a Food Systems Planner. This division oversees the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI), which has three pillars - interagency collaboration, the Food Policy Action Coalition (Food PAC), and Resident Food Equity Advisors (RFEA). Together, these efforts seek to build an equitable and resilient urban food system by addressing health, economic, and environmental disparities in areas that have high food insecurity.

### FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH:

- 1. Use policy to create a more equitable food system:** By integrating food across government and engaging in equitable research, strategic planning, and policy co-creation with residents.
- 2. Increase resilience at household, community, and food system levels:** By addressing acute food insecurity, building long-term food resilience, and righting power imbalances in the food system.
- 3. Strengthen and amplify the local food economy:** By implementing “Good Food Procurement” standards, supporting local food-based businesses, and promoting food recovery.
- 4. Create agriculture land-use policies that encourage urban farms and local food production:** By identifying City-owned land suitable for farming; developing land tenure and pathways to ownership; promoting safe, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible production; and supporting growers to create financially viable urban agriculture.

## COVID-19 FOOD RESPONSE

During COVID-19, the Food Policy Director and team of Food Planners:

- Lead the strategic planning for the food security response
- Conduct mapping and data analysis
- Oversee the produce, grocery, and mixed box strategies and implementation, including logistics, funding, community outreach, and site expansion
- Coordinate with the Emergency Operations Center and state and federal agencies
- Leverage significant public and private funds for food and transportation
- Expedited Online SNAP and prevented 15,000 residents from losing SNAP
- Convene Resident Food Equity Advisors and Food PAC
- Support urban agriculture and local food system resilience

## HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY



### Resident-driven processes:

Support resident-driven processes to guide equitable food policy, programs and resources



### Food distribution and small businesses:

Implement supply chain solutions that support healthy food distribution and small businesses



### Corner and convenience stores:

Improve small grocery, corner, convenience stores



### Federal nutrition assistance:

Maximize the impact of federal nutrition assistance and meal programs



### Supermarkets:

Retain and attract supermarkets



### Urban agriculture:

Support urban agriculture, emphasizing historically disenfranchised populations and geographies



### Public Markets:

Increase the ability of the public markets to anchor the healthy food environment



### Transportation gaps:

Address transportation gaps that impact food access

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**CONTACT:** Holly Freishtat, Food Policy Director, [holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov)

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

# DISTRICT 12

## 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 many 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). This brief provides an overview of the food environment per city council district during the COVID-19 pandemic, and summarizes food policy priorities moving into pandemic recovery and long-term resilience.

### SUMMARY OF COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN DISTRICT 12

The City of Baltimore is supplementing federal benefits with direct food resources. The City has provided 9 million pounds of food boxes and 5.7 million meals at over 400 sites and through home delivery from April –November. The current City-sponsored COVID-19 Food Distribution sites and other resources are mapped on the following page.

#### IN DISTRICT 12 FROM APRIL— NOVEMBER:



##### FOOD BOXES

- Currently 12 sites
- 43,800 food boxes
- 1.09 million pounds



##### MEALS

- Total: 736,000
- Youth: 566,000
- Older Adults: 170,000



##### SNAP

- ~15,000 Participants
- 48% of residents

### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Historically, BFPI has used Healthy Food Priority Areas (formerly called food desert) to show food access needs. However, with the pandemic disrupting the economy and food system, this indicator was replaced with SNAP after applications reached a record high in the spring. SNAP data are available monthly and can be tracked over the course of the pandemic, providing more real-time insight than the Healthy Food Priority Area map.

SNAP is proven to reduce food insecurity. It is even more vital during the pandemic, providing participants autonomy as supply chain shortages may affect typical sources of food. Citywide, in August, there were 188,800 residents on SNAP, bringing \$33.4 million of federal funding into the city for participants to purchase food.

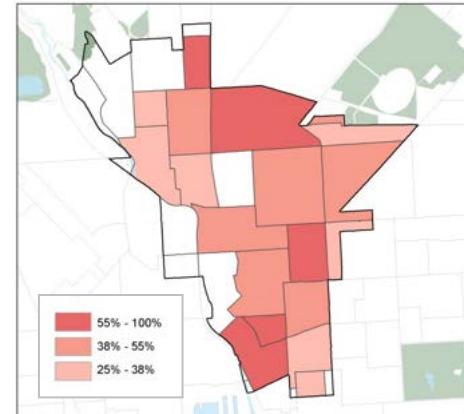
As a safety net, it is vital that Baltimore City residents enroll in, stay on, and maximize the impact of SNAP. Key pandemic considerations:

**SNAP Enrollment:** Eligible residents should apply for and stay on SNAP through recertification. However, the need and number of applications are surpassing the capacity to process them, creating a lag in time between when residents apply and are approved to receive benefits.

**Online SNAP:** SNAP payment for groceries online became available for the first time in June 2020. Participants need to be made aware of this opportunity to shop at home.

**Pandemic EBT:** This additional food benefit can be spent like SNAP and is provided to families with children enrolled in Baltimore City public schools, intended to make up for loss of access to school meals. This will amount to hundreds of dollars per child. Families should not throw away their cards, which will be reloaded every two months.

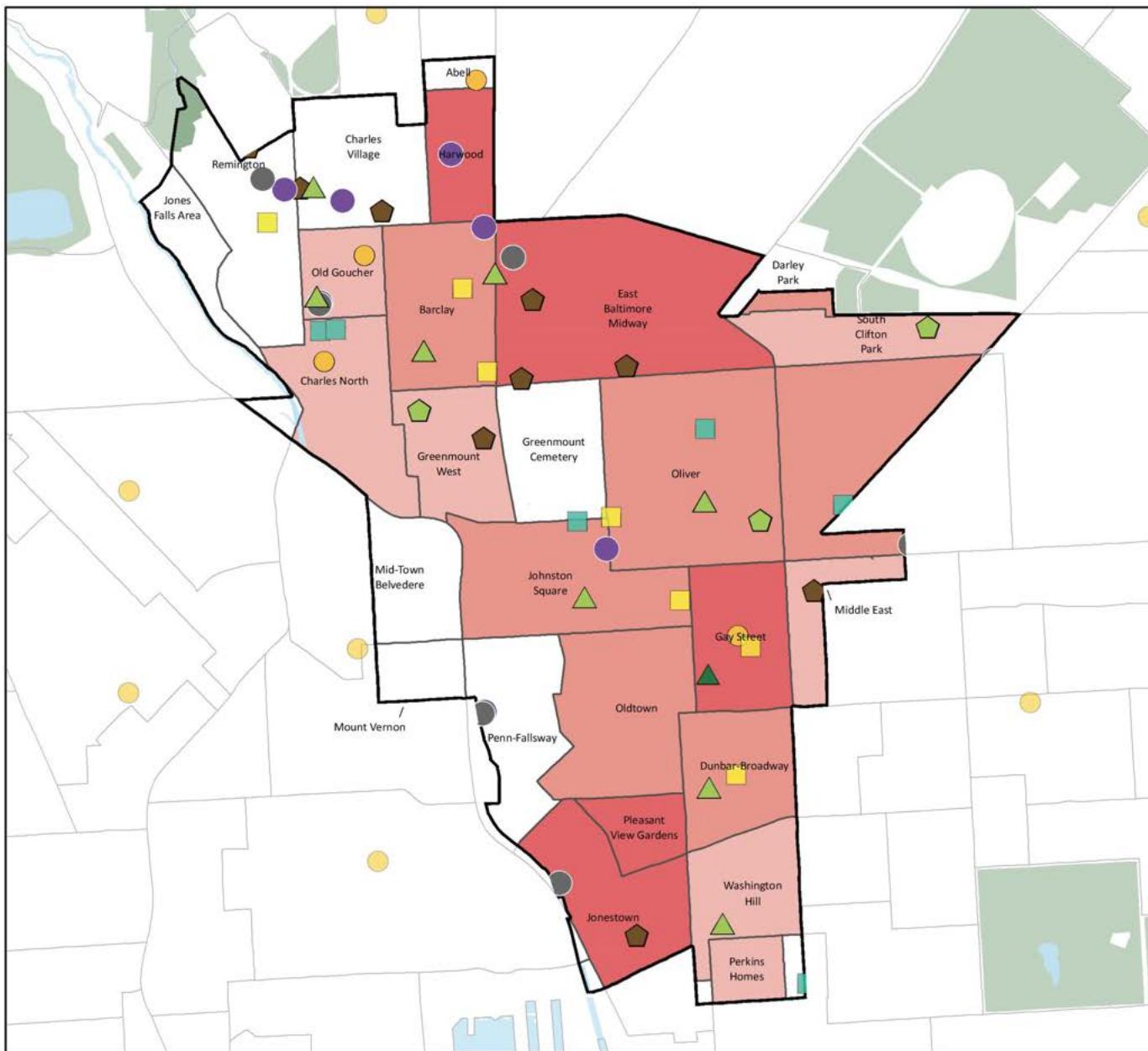
#### Population Receiving SNAP (Aug 2020)



#### DISTRICT 12 IMPACT

48% of population, approx. 15,000 people

# 2020 COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 12



## 2020 COVID-19 Food Environment Map - District 12

% of Population Receiving SNAP Benefits, by Neighborhood

August 2020

- |            |
|------------|
| 55% - 100% |
| 38% - 55%  |
| 25% - 38%  |

- Neighborhood Boundaries
- Harbor, Lakes & Streams
- Major Parks

### Food Distribution

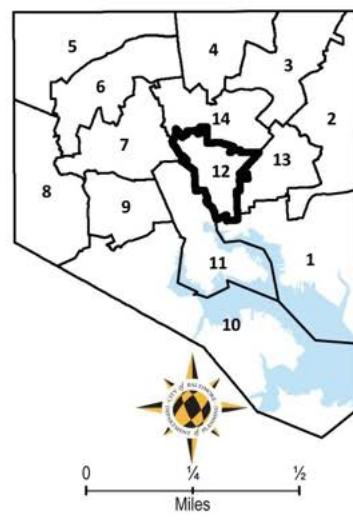
- Produce Box (7)
- Grocery (0)
- Mixed Box (5)
- Youth Grab & Go (8)
- Older Adult Meals (1)
- Food Pantry (8)
- Community Driven Response (7)

### Food Retail

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

### Urban Agriculture

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





## COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESPONSE IN DISTRICT 12

### Current Sites

7

#### PRODUCE BOXES

22,500 produce boxes (450,000 pounds) have been distributed by Coastal Sunbelt and Common Market from June through November 2020. Boxes average 20 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables.

0

#### GROCERY BOXES

More than 10,000 grocery boxes (304,000 pounds) have been distributed from April through November 2020. Boxes contain 30 pounds of shelf-stable food from the Maryland Food Bank. Home-delivered grocery boxes are available for older adults and residents impacted by COVID-19.

5

#### MIXED FOOD BOXES

Beginning in September, to fill the “center of the plate” needs of food insecure residents, 11,150 mixed boxes (334,500 pounds) of meat, dairy, and produce have been distributed by Saval Foodservice.

1

#### OLDER ADULT MEALS

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and partners have delivered nearly 170,000 meals between April and November 2020 to residential facilities with multiple participants. Tens of thousands of additional meals have been delivered directly to individual homes.

8

#### YOUTH GRAB AND GO MEALS

Since March, more than 566,000 meals have been distributed in District 12. With school in session virtually, students currently can receive meals at schools, rec centers, and other community sites.

7

#### COMMUNITY DRIVEN RESPONSE

Community members and organizations saw an urgent need and responded with various food resources.

8

#### FOOD PANTRIES

The Maryland Food Bank has entered Phase 2 of its pandemic response while also working to restart standard programming and operations.

## FOOD RETAIL

4

#### SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods, however the pandemic created some supply chain issues for certain foods and products. Most supermarkets do not currently accept SNAP payment online and BFPI seeks to expand this program in 2021.

73

#### CORNER AND CONVENIENCE STORES

These stores are not shown on the map due to their sheer number. These stores have low availability of healthy food.

0

#### PUBLIC MARKETS

Public markets provide opportunities for small food business incubation, employment, and food access.

## URBAN AGRICULTURE

3

#### URBAN FARMS

Urban farms play a role in local food system resilience and have provided fresh produce during the pandemic.

9

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS

The community gardens throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.



## FOOD POLICY LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY

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### FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH:

- 1. Use policy to create a more equitable food system:** By integrating food across government and engaging in equitable research, strategic planning, and policy co-creation with residents.
- 2. Increase resilience at household, community, and food system levels:** By addressing acute food insecurity, building long-term food resilience, and righting power imbalances in the food system.
- 3. Strengthen and amplify the local food economy:** By implementing “Good Food Procurement” standards, supporting local food-based businesses, and promoting food recovery.
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- Support urban agriculture and local food system resilience

## HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY



### Resident-driven processes:

Support resident-driven processes to guide equitable food policy, programs and resources



### Food distribution and small businesses:

Implement supply chain solutions that support healthy food distribution and small businesses



### Corner and convenience stores:

Improve small grocery, corner, convenience stores



### Federal nutrition assistance:

Maximize the impact of federal nutrition assistance and meal programs



### Supermarkets:

Retain and attract supermarkets



### Urban agriculture:

Support urban agriculture, emphasizing historically disenfranchised populations and geographies



### Public Markets:

Increase the ability of the public markets to anchor the healthy food environment



### Transportation gaps:

Address transportation gaps that impact food access

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**CONTACT:** Holly Freishtat, Food Policy Director, [holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov)

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

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

# DISTRICT 13

## 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 many 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.

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### SUMMARY OF COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN DISTRICT 13

The City of Baltimore is supplementing federal benefits with direct food resources. The City has provided 9 million pounds of food boxes and 5.7 million meals at over 400 sites and through home delivery from April –November. The current City-sponsored COVID-19 Food Distribution sites and other resources are mapped on the following page.

#### IN DISTRICT 13 FROM APRIL— NOVEMBER:



##### FOOD BOXES

- Currently 13 sites
- 58,000 food boxes
- 1.53 million pounds



##### MEALS

- Total: 485,000
- Youth: 454,000
- Older Adults: 31,000



##### SNAP

- ~18,000 Participants
- 40% of residents

### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Historically, BFPI has used Healthy Food Priority Areas (formerly called food desert) to show food access needs. However, with the pandemic disrupting the economy and food system, this indicator was replaced with SNAP after applications reached a record high in the spring. SNAP data are available monthly and can be tracked over the course of the pandemic, providing more real-time insight than the Healthy Food Priority Area map.

SNAP is proven to reduce food insecurity. It is even more vital during the pandemic, providing participants autonomy as supply chain shortages may affect typical sources of food. Citywide, in August, there were 188,800 residents on SNAP, bringing \$33.4 million of federal funding into the city for participants to purchase food.

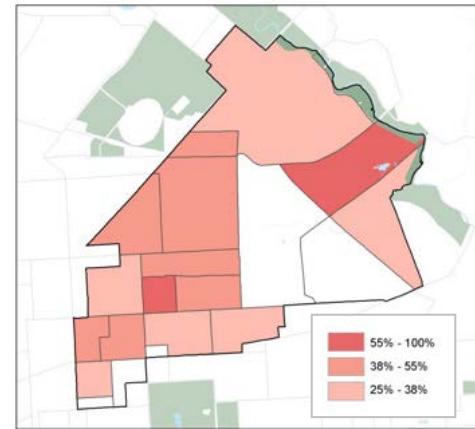
As a safety net, it is vital that Baltimore City residents enroll in, stay on, and maximize the impact of SNAP. Key pandemic considerations:

**SNAP Enrollment:** Eligible residents should apply for and stay on SNAP through recertification. However, the need and number of applications are surpassing the capacity to process them, creating a lag in time between when residents apply and are approved to receive benefits.

**Online SNAP:** SNAP payment for groceries online became available for the first time in June 2020. Participants need to be made aware of this opportunity to shop at home.

**Pandemic EBT:** This additional food benefit can be spent like SNAP and is provided to families with children enrolled in Baltimore City public schools, intended to make up for loss of access to school meals. This will amount to hundreds of dollars per child. Families should not throw away their cards, which will be reloaded every two months.

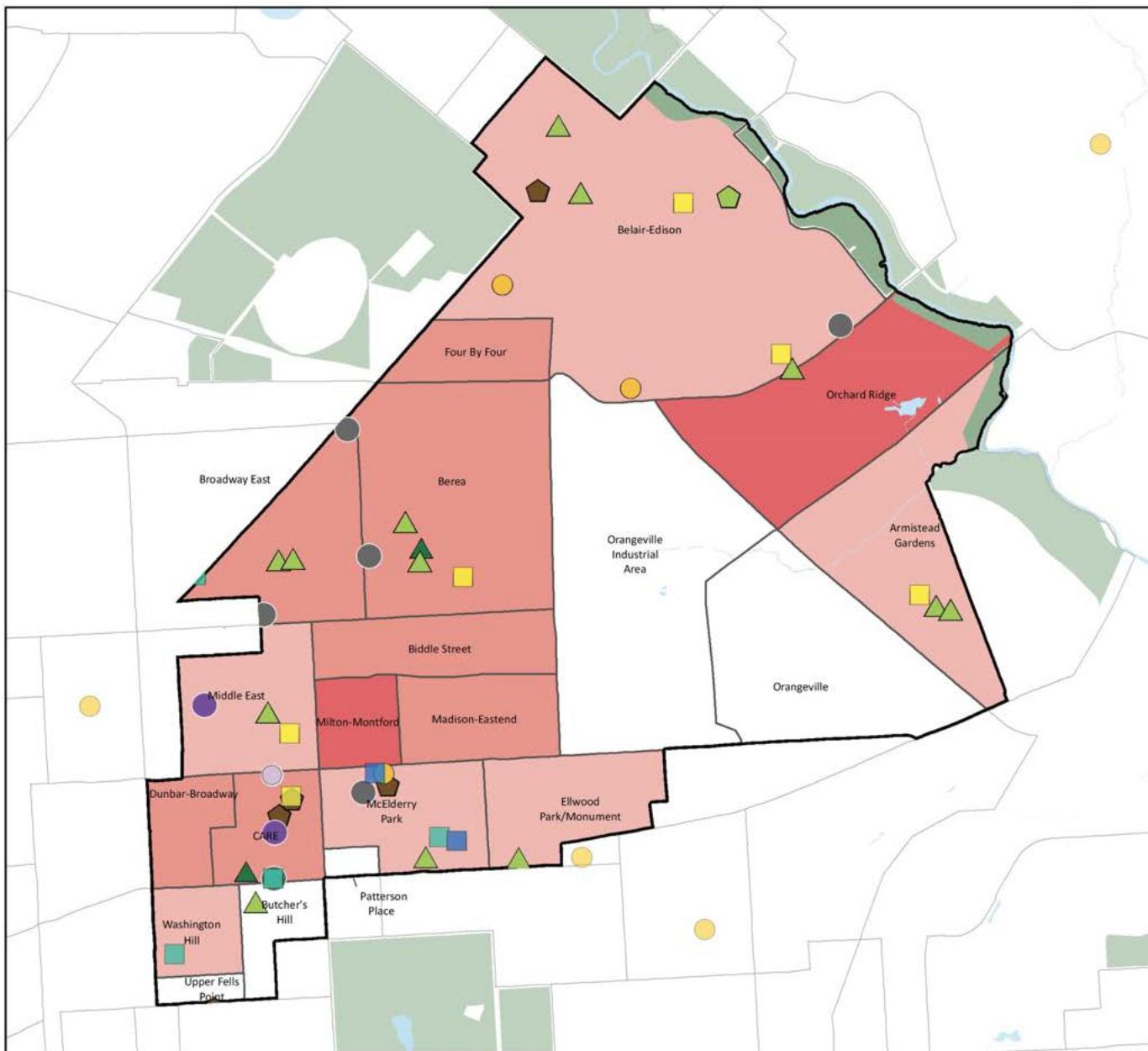
#### Population Receiving SNAP (Aug 2020)



#### DISTRICT 13 IMPACT

40% of population, approx. 18,000 people

# 2020 COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 13



## 2020 COVID-19 Food Environment Map - District 13

### % of Population Receiving SNAP Benefits, by Neighborhood

August 2020

- 55% - 100%
- 38% - 55%
- 25% - 38%

- Neighborhood Boundaries
- Harbor, Lakes & Streams
- Major Parks

### Food Distribution

- Produce Box (8)
- Grocery (2)
- Mixed Box (3)
- Youth Grab & Go (13)
- Older Adult Meals (2)
- Food Pantry (7)
- Community Driven Response (2)

### Food Retail

- Supermarkets (3)
- Farmers Markets (0)
- Public Markets (1)

### Urban Agriculture

- Community Garden (7)
- Urban Farms (1)





## COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESPONSE IN DISTRICT 13

### Current Sites

8

#### PRODUCE BOXES

21,000 produce boxes (418,000 pounds) have been distributed by Coastal Sunbelt and Common Market from June through November 2020. Boxes average 20 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables.

2

#### GROCERY BOXES

Nearly 17,000 grocery boxes (almost half a million pounds) have been distributed from April through November 2020. Boxes contain 30 pounds of shelf-stable food from the Maryland Food Bank. Home-delivered grocery boxes are available for older adults and residents impacted by COVID-19.

3

#### MIXED FOOD BOXES

Beginning in September, to fill the “center of the plate” needs of food insecure residents, 20,500 mixed boxes (614,000 pounds) of meat, dairy, and produce have been distributed by Saval Foodservice.

2

#### OLDER ADULT MEALS

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and partners have delivered nearly 30,700 meals between April and November 2020 to residential facilities with multiple participants. Tens of thousands of additional meals have been delivered directly to individual homes.

13

#### YOUTH GRAB AND GO MEALS

Since March, more than 454,500 meals have been distributed in District 13. With school in session virtually, students currently can receive meals at schools, rec centers, and other community sites.

2

#### COMMUNITY DRIVEN RESPONSE

Community members and organizations saw an urgent need and responded with various food resources.

7

#### FOOD PANTRIES

The Maryland Food Bank has entered Phase 2 of its pandemic response while also working to restart standard programming and operations.

## FOOD RETAIL

3

#### SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods, however the pandemic created some supply chain issues for certain foods and products. Most supermarkets do not currently accept SNAP payment online and BFPI seeks to expand this program in 2021.

69

#### CORNER AND CONVENIENCE STORES

These stores are not shown on the map due to their sheer number. These stores have low availability of healthy food.

1

#### PUBLIC MARKETS

Public markets like Northeast Market provide opportunities for small food business incubation, employment, and food access.

## URBAN AGRICULTURE

1

#### URBAN FARMS

Urban farms play a role in local food system resilience and have provided fresh produce during the pandemic.

7

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS

The community gardens throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.



## FOOD POLICY LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY

The Food Policy and Planning Division is led by the Food Policy Director, and staffed by a Food Access, a Food Resilience, and a Food Systems Planner. This division oversees the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative (BFPI), which has three pillars - interagency collaboration, the Food Policy Action Coalition (Food PAC), and Resident Food Equity Advisors (RFEA). Together, these efforts seek to build an equitable and resilient urban food system by addressing health, economic, and environmental disparities in areas that have high food insecurity.

### FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH:

- 1. Use policy to create a more equitable food system:** By integrating food across government and engaging in equitable research, strategic planning, and policy co-creation with residents.
- 2. Increase resilience at household, community, and food system levels:** By addressing acute food insecurity, building long-term food resilience, and righting power imbalances in the food system.
- 3. Strengthen and amplify the local food economy:** By implementing “Good Food Procurement” standards, supporting local food-based businesses, and promoting food recovery.
- 4. Create agriculture land-use policies that encourage urban farms and local food production:** By identifying City-owned land suitable for farming; developing land tenure and pathways to ownership; promoting safe, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible production; and supporting growers to create financially viable urban agriculture.

## COVID-19 FOOD RESPONSE

During COVID-19, the Food Policy Director and team of Food Planners:

- Lead the strategic planning for the food security response
- Conduct mapping and data analysis
- Oversee the produce, grocery, and mixed box strategies and implementation, including logistics, funding, community outreach, and site expansion
- Coordinate with the Emergency Operations Center and state and federal agencies
- Leverage significant public and private funds for food and transportation
- Expedited Online SNAP and prevented 15,000 residents from losing SNAP
- Convene Resident Food Equity Advisors and Food PAC
- Support urban agriculture and local food system resilience

## HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY



### Resident-driven processes:

Support resident-driven processes to guide equitable food policy, programs and resources



### Food distribution and small businesses:

Implement supply chain solutions that support healthy food distribution and small businesses



### Corner and convenience stores:

Improve small grocery, corner, convenience stores



### Federal nutrition assistance:

Maximize the impact of federal nutrition assistance and meal programs



### Supermarkets:

Retain and attract supermarkets



### Urban agriculture:

Support urban agriculture, emphasizing historically disenfranchised populations and geographies



### Public Markets:

Increase the ability of the public markets to anchor the healthy food environment



### Transportation gaps:

Address transportation gaps that impact food access

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**CONTACT:** Holly Freishtat, Food Policy Director, [holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:holly.freishtat@baltimorecity.gov)

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

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

# DISTRICT 14

## 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 many 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). This brief provides an overview of the food environment per city council district during the COVID-19 pandemic, and summarizes food policy priorities moving into pandemic recovery and long-term resilience.

### SUMMARY OF COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN DISTRICT 14

The City of Baltimore is supplementing federal benefits with direct food resources. The City has provided 9 million pounds of food boxes and 5.7 million meals at over 400 sites and through home delivery from April –November. The current City-sponsored COVID-19 Food Distribution sites and other resources are mapped on the following page.

#### IN DISTRICT 14 FROM APRIL— NOVEMBER:



##### FOOD BOXES

- Currently 6 sites
- 13,300 food boxes
- 290,000 pounds



##### MEALS

- Total: 203,500
- Youth: 188,700
- Older Adults: 14,700



##### SNAP

- ~7,000 Participants
- 18% of residents

### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Historically, BFPI has used Healthy Food Priority Areas (formerly called food desert) to show food access needs. However, with the pandemic disrupting the economy and food system, this indicator was replaced with SNAP after applications reached a record high in the spring. SNAP data are available monthly and can be tracked over the course of the pandemic, providing more real-time insight than the Healthy Food Priority Area map.

SNAP is proven to reduce food insecurity. It is even more vital during the pandemic, providing participants autonomy as supply chain shortages may affect typical sources of food. Citywide, in August, there were 188,800 residents on SNAP, bringing \$33.4 million of federal funding into the city for participants to purchase food.

As a safety net, it is vital that Baltimore City residents enroll in, stay on, and maximize the impact of SNAP. Key pandemic considerations:

**SNAP Enrollment:** Eligible residents should apply for and stay on SNAP through recertification. However, the need and number of applications are surpassing the capacity to process them, creating a lag in time between when residents apply and are approved to receive benefits.

**Online SNAP:** SNAP payment for groceries online became available for the first time in June 2020. Participants need to be made aware of this opportunity to shop at home.

**Pandemic EBT:** This additional food benefit can be spent like SNAP and is provided to families with children enrolled in Baltimore City public schools, intended to make up for loss of access to school meals. This will amount to hundreds of dollars per child. Families should not throw away their cards, which will be reloaded every two months.

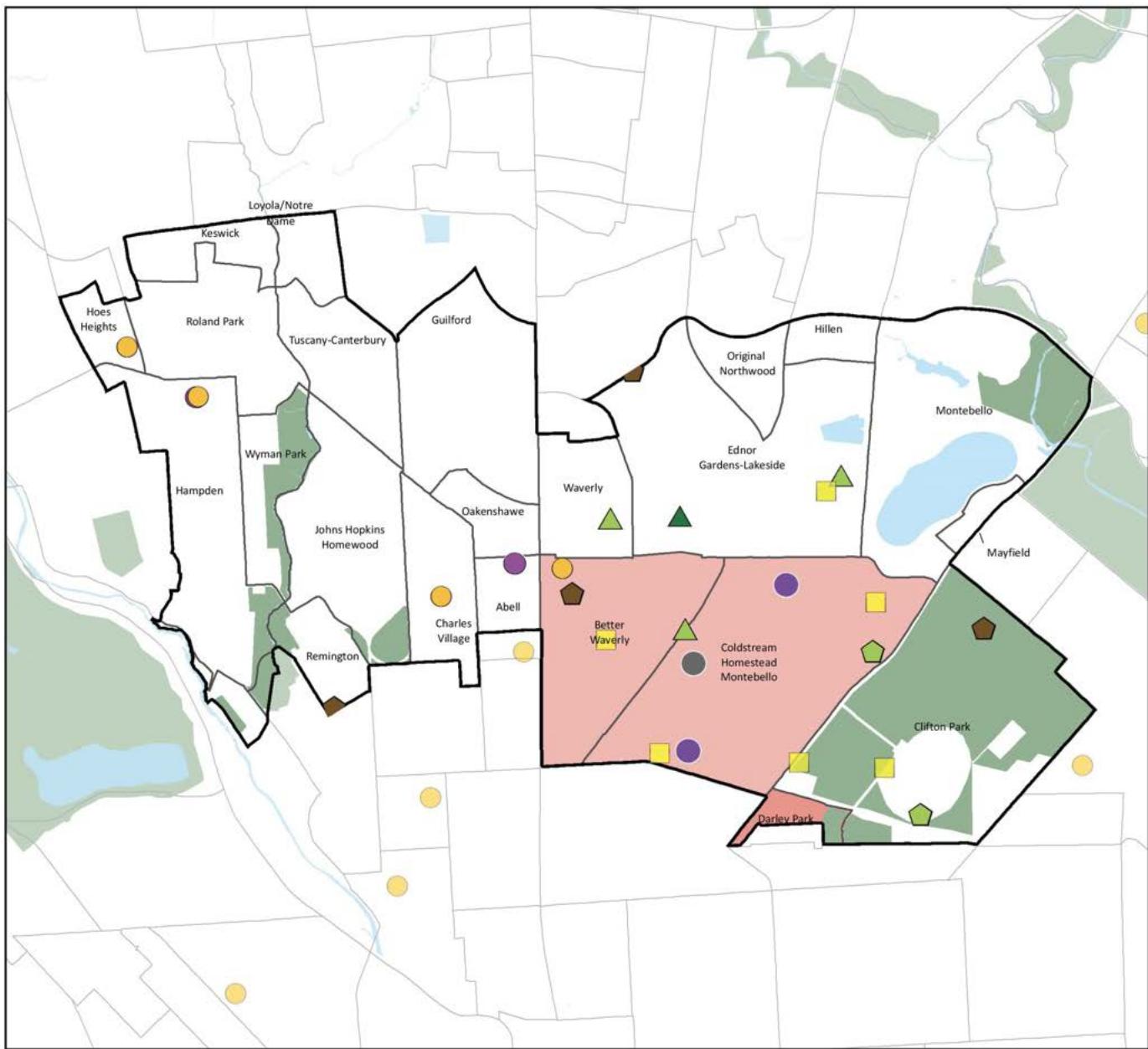
#### Population Receiving SNAP (Aug 2020)



#### DISTRICT 14 IMPACT

18% of population, approx. 7,000 people

# 2020 COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAP - DISTRICT 14



## 2020 COVID-19 Food Environment Map - District 14

### % of Population Receiving SNAP Benefits, by Neighborhood

August 2020

55% - 100%
38% - 55%
25% - 38%

- Neighborhood Boundaries
- Harbor, Lakes & Streams
- Major Parks

### Food Distribution

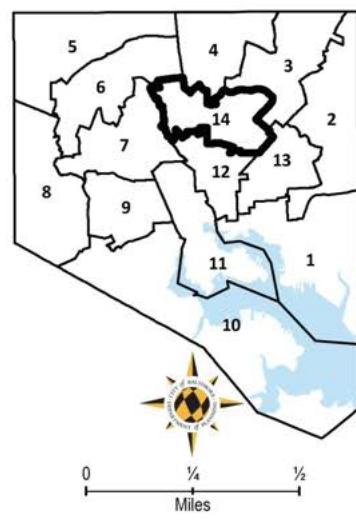
- Produce Box (6)
- Grocery (0)
- Mixed Box (0)
- ▲ Youth Grab & Go (3)
- ▲ Older Adult Meals (1)
- Food Pantry (1)
- Community Driven Response (3)

### Food Retail

- Supermarkets (4)
- Farmers Markets (2)
- Public Markets (0)

### Urban Agriculture

- Community Garden (4)
- Urban Farms (2)





## COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTION RESPONSE IN DISTRICT 14

### Current Sites

6

#### PRODUCE BOXES

Nearly 11,000 produce boxes (218,400 pounds) have been distributed by Coastal Sunbelt and Common Market from June through November 2020. Boxes average 20 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables.

0

#### GROCERY BOXES

2,370 grocery boxes (711,000 pounds) have been distributed from April through November 2020. Boxes contain 30 pounds of shelf-stable food from the Maryland Food Bank. Home-delivered grocery boxes are available for older adults and residents impacted by COVID-19.

0

#### MIXED FOOD BOXES

Beginning in September, to fill the “center of the plate” needs of food insecure residents, mixed boxes of meat, dairy, and produce have been distributed by Saval Foodservice.

1

#### OLDER ADULT MEALS

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and partners have delivered nearly 15,000 meals between April and November 2020 to residential facilities with multiple participants. Tens of thousands of additional meals have been delivered directly to individual homes.

3

#### YOUTH GRAB AND GO MEALS

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3

#### COMMUNITY DRIVEN RESPONSE

Community members and organizations saw an urgent need and responded with various food resources.

1

#### FOOD PANTRIES

The Maryland Food Bank has entered Phase 2 of its pandemic response while also working to restart standard programming and operations.

## FOOD RETAIL

4

#### SUPERMARKETS

Overall, supermarkets provide the widest variety of healthy staple foods, however the pandemic created some supply chain issues for certain foods and products. Most supermarkets do not currently accept SNAP payment online and BFPI seeks to expand this program in 2021.

35

#### CORNER AND CONVENIENCE STORES

These stores are not shown on the map due to their sheer number. These stores have low availability of healthy food.

2

#### FARMERS MARKETS

Two farmers markets serve the district. The Waverly Market accepts SNAP and some vendors accept WIC benefits.

## URBAN AGRICULTURE

2

#### URBAN FARMS

Urban farms play a role in local food system resilience and have provided fresh produce during the pandemic.

4

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS

The community gardens throughout the district may provide opportunities for household-level food access.



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### Corner and convenience stores:

Improve small grocery, corner, convenience stores



### Federal nutrition assistance:

Maximize the impact of federal nutrition assistance and meal programs



### Supermarkets:

Retain and attract supermarkets



### Urban agriculture:

Support urban agriculture, emphasizing historically disenfranchised populations and geographies



### Public Markets:

Increase the ability of the public markets to anchor the healthy food environment



### Transportation gaps:

Address transportation gaps that impact food access

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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