



# MWCOG FARM Committee

*Local Food Procurement Challenge*

**April 10, 2026**

# Community Food Access Network

## Community Food Assistance Grants

- \$3.5M across 55 organizations
- Integrated food recovery, retail access strategies

## School Based Food Assistance Grants

- \$2.3M to 11 organizations, serving 90+ MCPS sites
- Monthly MCPS and provider coordination

## Food as Medicine

- FY25: \$750k to six partnerships engaging hospital systems, SBHWCs
- Established Clinic Referral Partnerships

## CFA Distribution Methods

**Choice Pantry:** Clients choose their own food, promoting dignity and reducing waste

**38 providers**

**Family Market:** Grocery-style setup where families freely select food and essentials

**19**

**Pre-Packaged Box/Bag:** Standardized food packages pre-assembled for quick pickup or delivery

**13**

**Prepared Meal:** Ready-to-eat meals served or delivered, requiring no cooking

**7**

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# Leveraging Available Resources: Local Food Sourcing



**FY25 COMMUNITY FOOD ASSISTANCE**  
**33%** food locally sourced  
**2.77m** lbs of food



**FY25 SCHOOL-BASED FOOD ASSISTANCE**  
**23%** food locally sourced  
**234,365** pounds of food

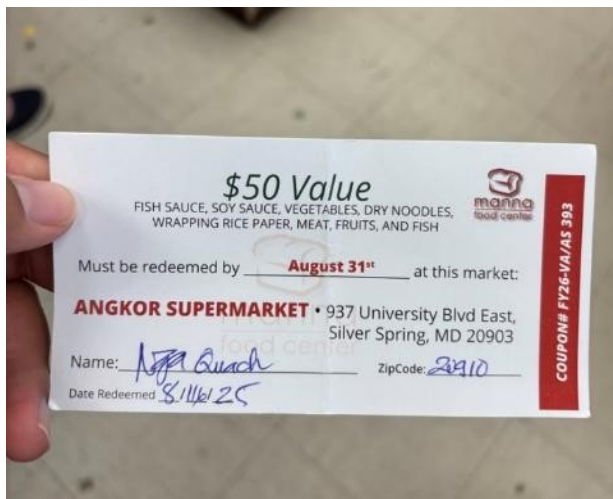


**FY25 FOOD AS MEDICINE**  
**68-100%**  
 food locally sourced  
**85,714** lbs of food



**LOCAL FOOD TOTALS**  
**41%** avg locally sourced  
 across programs  
**3.09M** lbs of food

# Expanding Retail Access



## Voucher Program

### *Manna Food Center*

Community partners provide grocery vouchers to eligible clients, redeemable at locally owned, culturally relevant grocery stores offering specialized products. Vietnamese American Services provides transportation to the market for shoppers.



## Food as Medicine Market

### *Adventist HealthCare*

Families are screened for food insecurity and referred for program enrollment to receive nutrition education and food assistance. Produce from Montgomery County's One Acre Farm plus shelf-stable foods and frozen protein are selected from a market outside the clinic.



## Mobile Market

### *Community FarmShare*

Products from local farmers are aggregated and made available for shoppers outside health clinics and local schools. Program participants receive Market Bucks to shop for products and affordable produce is available for purchase by the public.

# Local Food Aggregation Grant



**Aggregate, distribute, and market** food grown by local farmers

**Meet unmet demand in wholesale markets including county and state institutions and agencies**, such as schools, senior centers, hospitals, food banks, and correctional facilities.

**Support startup, construction, and retrofitting** of necessary facilities but also ongoing operations and reliable purchasing

- \$550k investment in Year 1, infrastructure and operational supports
- Four year performance period, County-committed food purchases



# FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

