EMERGENCY FOOD RESILIENCE PLANNING - COVID-19 RESPONSE

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June 17, 2020
Food Insecurity
- 1 in 4 residents are experiencing food insecurity due to COVID-19
- 124% increase in household food insecurity across State

SNAP
- Approx. 83,000 households in Baltimore City receive SNAP benefits
- 5% increase since first case of COVID-19 was identified in March
COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT MAPPING

BALTIMORE CITY
COVID-19 FOOD ENVIRONMENT BRIEF

DATA INFORMED RESPONSE

In May 2020, nearly 83,000 Baltimore City households received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, a 5% increase in participation compared to March 2020 when COVID-19 first reached Baltimore. Increases in SNAP participation indicate a rise in citywide food insecurity. However, they do not capture the full need among vulnerable populations, such as immigrant populations or certain older adult populations, who are unable to access federal and state resources because they did not apply or were ineligible.

Established emergency food plans and provisions were immediately activated by City agencies, schools, recreation centers, and community organizations in March. These included meal programs, such as Eating Together in Baltimore and the Summer Food Service Program. Additional targeted strategies, such as produce boxes and home delivered grocery boxes, were informed by existing data. They were built to meet the growing need to prevent hunger among vulnerable residents as the pandemic continues to widen healthy food access disparities.

PRODUCE BOXES
GROCERY BOXES
OLDER ADULT MEALS
YOUTH GRAB AND GO
COMMUNITY DRIVEN RESPONSE
FOOD BANK PANTRIES
GROCERY & PRODUCE BOXES

Grocery Box Home Delivery Map
May 8th - June 12th, 2020

Figure 4: Produce Box Distribution by Site Type, May 16th - June 11th, 2020

Baltimore City Department of Planning
COVID-19 Emergency Response  
March - June 2020  
• Meal distribution, grocery box distribution, produce box distribution, Amazon grocery box home delivery

COVID-19 Summer Strategy  
July-August 2020  
• Expand home delivery  
• Decrease grocery boxes in public sites and reallocate to home delivery  
• Continue produce boxes  
• Streamline logistics

COVID-19 Food Resiliency Strategy  
September 2020 - February 2021  
• Create flexible distribution system that adapts for fluctuating COVID-19 cases  
• Stakeholder engagement to create plan
LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE

Urban Farms & Community Gardens
- Growing food as a form of resilience and response
- Encouraging local purchasing to keep farms growing

Farmers Markets & Community Supported Agriculture
- Social Distancing Measures
- Nutrition incentives
- Support buying from local growers

Leveraging Philanthropy
- Linking funders with urban agriculture organizations
- Length of response is showing need to invest in longer-term food solutions
RESOURCES

Phone Numbers
• 59 and under: 2-1-1
• 60 and over: (Maryland Access Point) 410-396-2273
• SNAP Application Assistance (MD Hunger Solutions): 866-821-5552

Websites
• https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/food-distribution-sites
• www.bmorechildren.com/food-assistance-1
• www.charmcare.org/locations?keyword=Food
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