

Fighting Hunger in Maryland: From the Ground Up

The Right to Food: Harnessing a Human Rights Framework in Local and State Advocacy Efforts

Information on the American Bar Association's resolution on the human right to food and guidance on implementing the human rights framework to enhance local and statewide policy advocacy efforts.

Federal and State Perspectives on Anti-Hunger Policy

In this session, leading state and federal policy experts will provide an overview of key federal and state anti-hunger policies. Panelists will share their experiences working at the state and federal levels and offer insight into current and upcoming legislative priorities.

Giving Voice to Data: Effective Strategies for Results-Driven Messaging

In this session, participants will learn how strong public-private partnerships promote data-driven advocacy. Attendees will discover the path data travels, from government agencies that store and collect the data, to advocacy organizations that help translate the data into meaningful messages. Together, the panelists will discuss how to use data to establish goals, assess progress, and communicate important messages to elected officials, policy makers, and the public.

Connecting to Hard-To-Reach Communities: Targeted Approaches for Serving Vulnerable Populations

Many of our state's most vulnerable populations –seniors, those with limited English proficiency and rural residents face unique challenges in accessing the food and nutrition supports they need. In this session, panelists will articulate targeted approaches to connecting traditionally hard-to-reach communities to these vital resources through innovative program models and partnerships.

Community Food Rescue: How to Waste Less and Feed More

Participants will learn how Montgomery County is using a systems-based approach to recover food that would otherwise be wasted and redirect it to hunger relief agencies. Community Food Rescue (CFR) is a unique model that brings together government agencies, non-profit organizations, local faith-based institutions, farms, supermarkets, universities, restaurants and other food service organizations around a common goal. The panel will educate participants on how CFR began, where it is now, where it's headed and how it is supporting the fight to end hunger in Maryland. This model, though still in process, may serve as an example for other communities that do not have a coordinated approach to food recovery and food waste reduction.

Maryland's Food Deserts Initiative: Innovative Financing and Partnerships

Building on the recommendations of the Maryland Fresh Food Retail Task Force, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development is launching expanded small business financing tools and new partnerships to improve access to fresh food in Maryland. Participants will learn about business financing tools to support new and expanded retail in food deserts, Baltimore's planned food hub and the experience and challenges of fresh food retail from a business owner's perspective.

Child Nutrition Program Policy and Advocacy Strategies

Learn about strategies and policy updates for increasing access and participation in child nutrition programs. Topics will include school breakfast, Child Nutrition Reauthorization, and best practices for effective implementation of universal free school meals in high-poverty schools through the Community Eligibility Provision.

Innovative Food Delivery Programs in Our Communities

Panelists will hold a brief discussion regarding the transportation barriers that exist statewide in accessing healthy food. Panelists will offer four distinct programmatic examples that are working to reduce the transportation obstacles food insecure families encounter in obtaining regular, nutritious meals year-round.

Funding Anti-Hunger Work

Participants will gain an understanding of funders' perspectives on anti-hunger and food access programs. Additionally, the panelists will give examples of successful evaluation efforts of existing or newly developed programs.