

**FY 2025 Community Partnership Agreement - Notice of Funding Availability Application
Community Support/Planning Activity**

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| Local Management Board: Garrett County |
| Community Support/Planning Activity: Establishment of a Community Food Bank |
| Vendor Name (if known): Garrett County Health Department (GCHD) |
| Requested Funding Amount: \$9,975 |
| Need: <p>Discuss the Board's planning process that demonstrates the need for Community Support/planning activities. Include excerpt(s) from the Board's community plan (with citations) that identifies this Community Support/planning activity request as a critical need for the community.</p> <p>The Garrett County Local Management Board (GCLMB) allocated \$9,975 of FY2025 Supplemental Community Partnership Agreement funds to establish a Warming Shelter. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the vendor no longer has the capacity to establish the Warming Shelter as planned and an alternate vendor was not identified. The vendor of this project has identified other solutions to continue to serve Garrett County residents who are unhoused. During the November 21, 2024, GCLMB meeting, the GCLMB members voted to reallocate the funds.</p> <p>The Garrett County Health Department's (GCHD) Population Health, Innovation, and Informatics (PHII) Unit is working to establish Garrett County's first-ever community food bank. The food bank will be located in Oakland, Maryland, and will be accessible to community members year-round. The PHII Unit and other partner agencies have noted a pressing need for such a food bank in the county. Faith-based food pantries and similar projects exist, but consistent access to food is not a reality for people who are food insecure. Many of these pantries are faith-based and rely on donations and volunteers. The PHII unit digitized and added geospatial tools to increase access to these food resources. The map can be found at https://garrettcountyfood.com/map/, which helps those in need. However, services often change without notice, and a consistent contact point is difficult to establish. Individuals often seek transportation only to arrive at the food pantry and learn that there is little or no help available. By establishing a consistent community food bank, PHII aims to eliminate this scenario. Additionally, to address the transportation barrier, one of PHII's partner agencies, Garrett County Community Action Committee (GCCAC), will utilize its Meals on Wheels delivery program to help distribute additional food to remote parts of the county and to individuals without reliable transportation.</p> <p>PHII is actively working with other partners for sustainability and has established a connection with Maryland Physicians Care, which has agreed to provide funding to supply shelving, refrigerators, and freezers in a Garrett County Community Action Committee building. The dedicated space at 360 West Liberty Street in Oakland, MD, is the identified location for Garrett County's first Food Bank. Some Garrett County residents have noted that many other small food pantries offer only shelf-stable options and lack fresh foods that need to be stored in the refrigerator or freezer. The GCLMB funds will be utilized to purchase food items and get the food bank up and running. It is the goal of PHII that in future years, the food bank will grow in sustainability through partnerships and fundraising events. PHII envisions The Garret County Food Bank as an anchor organization that goes beyond handing out food to offer comprehensive approaches that address poverty, affordable housing, and health care through an individualized approach. The evidence-based model they are proposing to pilot is called More Than Food.</p> |

The community food bank project is actively undergoing the planning process, and PHII is working to have the food bank running before the conclusion of FY 2025. Some planning aspects are currently underway, and additional updates will be provided as the GCLMB receives them.

Garrett County's food insecurity continues to grow. The planning tool, mygarrettcounty.com, allows food pantries to provide data on the number of donated meals. Divine Hope, a church within the community, provides an average of around 300 meals per month. In November 2024, there were 825 turkey dinners donated. According to the [2022-24 Community Health Assessment](#), nutrition was the second highest-ranked prioritization for Garrett County residents, behind mental health. There was a 207% increase over time in individuals prioritizing nutrition over other health topics from 2019 to 2022. Additionally, 14.4% of Garrett County residents (4,107 participants per month) are enrolled in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, compared to 10.7% of Maryland residents (659,367 participants per month) according to data from the 2023 Maryland Hunger Profile.

Target Population:

1.) Identify the population on which the Community Support/planning activity will focus.
This Community Support activity will focus on the food-insecure population of Garrett County.

2.) Target number to be served:
As the Food Bank will begin operations in the second half of FY 2025 as the first of its kind in Garrett County, there are no baseline datapoints to identify a target number to be served. An initial target will be set at 200 Garrett County families.

Community Support/Planning Activity Description:

Discuss the specific activities proposed including a timeline of activities or objectives.

The food bank location has been identified as an existing structure in Oakland, Maryland. PHII and its partner agencies are actively working to establish the food bank. Physical infrastructure improvements to the building are being planned. PHII contacted a local business owner who volunteered to pay for the kitchen remodel design. Funds to provide supplies like shelving, refrigerators, and freezer units are being provided by Maryland Physicians Care. PHII has been cultivating these partnerships and bringing this vision to life during the time of this Community Support Planning Activity reallocation submission. The designer is slated to visit the site in January of 2025. Construction will begin after the design. Community Action will complete the physical infrastructure improvements. PHII will integrate the Harvest Hub pilot and utilize the Garrett County Community Food Network to stand up a multisectoral advisory workgroup. Phase one will include remote community access to Harvest Hub Meal Boxes. Partners are also seeking funding for staff the Food Bank. Plans to stock and open the food bank will be established by June 30, 2024. Data, including performance measures, will be collected on at least a quarterly basis.

Performance Measures:

Provide up to three How Much performance measures for proposed Community Support/planning activities.

GCLMB and PHII staff collaborated to establish Performance Measures, including How Well and Better Off measures.

How Much:

PM: # of Harvest Hub Meal Boxes Delivered to remote communities

PM: # of people who have been established with the More Than Food Model in the Harvest Hub Resource pilot (target goal: 10)

How Well:

PM: #/% of individuals who have reported an increase in nutritional value of community food supports available through provided resources

Better Off:

PM: #/% of people who have reported a decrease in reliance on food bank after successfully completing the "More Than Food" Harvest Hub Resource Pilot