

# Montgomery County Farm to Food Bank Program FY2024 Impact Report



**The Farm to Food Bank program, funded by Montgomery County and administered by Manna Food Center, supports local agriculture by purchasing products from farmers and directing them to Food Assistance Providers (FAPs) serving communities experiencing food insecurity.**





# FY2024 Overview



**150,767 lbs of food  
purchased in FY2024**



Photo Credit: East Rivendell Farm

**68 FAPs benefitted**



**31 Farmers supported**



Photo Credit: The Farm at Our House

**4 additional farms added  
to network**



**Shared 9,058 lbs of produce  
and eggs with 10 Manna  
school-based pantries**







# Healthcare Initiative Foundation

## Emerging Needs Grants



Manna was awarded an Emerging Needs grant from the Healthcare Initiative Foundation in February 2023 to conduct contract growing with Lewis Orchards and The Farm at Our House. Between June and November 2023, they delivered over 18,000 lbs of fresh produce to 2 County service hubs.

Manna was awarded this grant for a 2nd year in January 2024, and 3 smaller farms were selected to participate. They completed their first deliveries at the end of June 2024.



## Food Systems Leadership Network

### Activation Grant

**FOOD SYSTEMS  
LEADERSHIP NETWORK**

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In January 2024, Manna was awarded a Food Systems Leadership Network Activation grant. This funding supported the facilitation of 5 visits to BIPOC owned and/or operated Montgomery County farms, focusing on culturally important crops grown locally. Various stakeholders attended the visits, including elected officials, to learn about how we can best connect this food to our most vulnerable neighbors; neighbors experiencing food insecurity and limited access to fresh, healthy produce.





# County Partnerships

In partnership with the Office of Food Systems Resilience, Manna rolled out an experimental collaborative funding initiative in May 2024.

This funding will support various on-farm costs, with the expectation that the farmer will pay back 80% of the value of the agreement in food. We are excited to see the impact of these agreements in FY2025.



Photo Credit: Sandy Spring Gardens

In April 2024, in partnership with the Office of Food Systems Resilience and the Department of Health and Human Services, Manna awarded 14 organizations with the Food Systems Infrastructure Grant. One of the objectives of this funding is a more geographically diverse distribution of cold-storage throughout Montgomery County in order to build the capacity of the local and regional food value chains to support access to locally produced foods for County residents experiencing food insecurity.

The Montgomery County Farm to Food Bank program is facilitated by Manna Food Center, in partnership with the Office of Food Systems Resilience, the Office of Agriculture, and the Montgomery County Food Council.