

MFARM Info Session Questions

Is there a quick link for the Certified Local Farm and Fish (CLFF) directory?

https://onestop.md.gov/list_views/614dfe15b1189b02738fc2f5

Does the MD grown produce bought by the grant have to go back to Maryland food insecure residents or can it go to residents in the greater DC area? Maryland residents

What if you are all 3 providers (food pantry, non profit, emergency food provider)? That's fine!

Is this a reimbursement grant or upfront payment? 80% upfront once the grant agreement is signed, 20% dispersed based on final program and financial report

If we have an agreement with a local farm that is not on the CLFF directory should we still indicate that information and get a letter of support from them in order to show our capacity?

If the local farm is not in the CLFF directory, send them the [link](#) and tell them they need to sign up. We will not approve grant apps if the farm is not in the CLFF directory. Farmers need to have a [nutrient management plan](#) to be in the CLFF directory.

Do we have to spend 20% on non-food or can we spend more on food? You can spend more on food!

Does the partnership with a farm need to be a paid partnership or could they have donated directly to us previously? They can have donated previously, but funding will allow the organization to pay for the product. The farmer can also apply for [a tax credit](#) for donated products.

Is there a guess as to what portion of grants will go to previous grantee partners versus new grantees? It depends on who submits a grant application.

Can you explain the difference between an emergency food provider and non profit? An "emergency food provider" typically receives funding through the Maryland Emergency Food Program (MEFP); they can also be a nonprofit.

Can religious institutions apply? Yes, faith-based organizations or bona fide religious organizations defined by the Secretary of State (SoS). If the organization is "Exempt" from the SoS's filing requirements, please upload a letter on the organization's letterhead stating why the organization is exempt from filing with the SoS.

How do we know if we are registered with the Secretary of State as a public charity?

You can search the organization's status on the [SoS's Charities - Public Registry](#).

Does our nonprofit organization need to have a nutrition management plan? Farmers need to have a nutrient management plan. If you are a nonprofit farmer, you still need to have a nutrient management plan. If you're a food bank, then no, you don't need to have a nutrient management plan.

Since the funding runs to Nov 2026, is there likely not to be MFARM in 2026? Hopefully we'll know by the end of FY25.

Food donation reporting -

https://mda.maryland.gov/maryland_products/Pages/Maryland-Food-Donation-Pilot-Program.aspx

What are reporting requirements? Please see the example of the [sample report](#) on the OneStop public profile.

How can orgs further away from the water get access to seafood or watermen? There are 4-5 seafood providers in the CLFF directory that solely focus on the blue catfish. You would either need to pick up the product from them or they might be able to deliver. You can request transportation costs if you are going to pick up product.