



# NourishMD Grant Program

The **NourishMD Grant Program** is a targeted investment designed to expand access to healthy and fresh foods in Maryland communities experiencing food insecurity by providing direct grants to eligible retailers.

## Available Funding

**Grant Size:** \$25,000 – \$150,000

**Total Funding Available:** Up to **\$2 million**

## Eligible Applicants

For-profit or nonprofit food retailers that:

- Serve a community with a [Maryland Community Business Compass \(MCBC\)](#) Fresh Food Gap Score of 60% or higher
- Operate at least 5 days per week, year round (farmer's markets/on-farm markets exempt)
- Currently or plan to offer fresh, frozen, or minimally processed healthy foods
- Dedicate at least 20% of inventory or food-sales space to healthy food items
- Meet SNAP eligibility or plan to adopt SNAP functionality

Eligible retailers include, but are not limited to, grocery stores, corner stores, co-ops, farm stands, farmers' markets, delivery retailers, and small food-focused stores.

## Eligible Use of Funds

Funds can be used to directly support improved healthy food access, including:

- Equipment purchases (refrigeration, shelving, etc.)
- Buildout and facility upgrades
- Capital costs for inventory expansion
- Working capital tied to expansion/construction
- Infrastructure and technology for SNAP/EBT

## Program Timeline

- **January 20:** Application Portal Opens @ 12:00 p.m. EST
- **February 20:** Application Portal Closes @ 5:00 p.m. EST
- **February–March:** Application Review Period
- **April:** Funding Recommendations Finalized
- **May:** Award Notifications
- **June:** Board of Public Works (BPW) Approval & Disbursements

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## Other Funding Sources

**Partnership with Maryland Market Money (MMM) Program** provides a dollar-for-dollar match for purchases made using federal nutrition benefits at participating Maryland farmers markets, farm stands, and other on-farm retailers while providing technical assistance, training, marketing, and additional services to stakeholders. Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply to both programs and will receive priority for awards.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture and NourishMD have partnered to **co-award** funds to farmers markets and on-farm stands that offer fresh food in areas with low access.

**Maryland Department of Health's Healthy Corner Store Program** provides grants to establish relationships between local health departments and small scale retail stores in Maryland recognized rural districts, recognize those establishments that are stocking healthy products, and recommend areas for improvement for retailers to meet the criteria of a Healthy Maryland Corner Store.

**The Neighborhood BusinessWorks Program** offered by DHCD can further provide loans of up to \$5 million.

## Program Fees

- No application fee
- \$250 processing fee sourced from award amount

## How to Apply

Submit a complete application through the DHCD application portal.

**Questions?** Please visit our website at [dhcd.maryland.gov/business](https://dhcd.maryland.gov/business) or contact us via email at [nourishmd@maryland.gov](mailto:nourishmd@maryland.gov)

