

FRESH FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE

FY 2023

Department of Housing & Community Development

November 2024



WES MOORE
Governor
ARUNA MILLER
Lt. Governor
JACOB R. DAY
Secretary
JULIA GLANZ
Deputy Secretary

November 14, 2024

The Honorable Guy Guzzone Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
121 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Report Required by the Housing and Community Development Article § 6-308.4(a) (MSAR # 10149)

Dear Senators and Delegates:

This report is intended to satisfy the requirements of the Department of Housing and Community Development to detail certain food desert activity under the Neighborhood BusinessWorks program (NBW) for the 2023 reporting year, pursuant to Chapter 228 of the 2014 Laws of Maryland. The food desert designation was created in 2014 to allow NBW to finance food projects in Priority Funding Areas, to help ensure easy access to healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables. To receive a food desert designation under this program, a local government must submit an application for inclusion. To date, there have been no such applications from any political subdivision of the state of Maryland. As there are no designated food deserts, there are no designated food desert projects to report upon.



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
7800 HARKINS RD • LANHAM, MD 20706 • DHCD.MARYLAND.GOV
301-429-7400 • 1-800-756-0119 • TTY/RELAY 711 or 1-800-735-2258



The Department will continue to make financing available through NBW to businesses located within Priority Funding Areas that provide fresh food retail in underserved communities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. Michael Haloskey, the Department's Director of Business Lending at (301) 429-7523

Sincerely,



Jake Day
Secretary



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