

March 1, 2021

The Honorable Bill Ferguson  
State House, H-107  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones  
H-101 State House  
State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

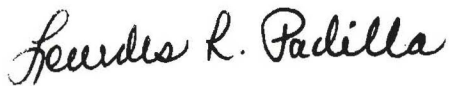
**RE: Annual Report on the Activities of the Statewide Nutrition Assistance Equipment Program**  
*Completed pursuant to Human Services Article §6-406*

Dear President Ferguson and Speaker Jones:

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is required to submit a report to the Maryland General Assembly, as well as the Department of Legislative Services on Activities of the Statewide Nutrition Assistance Equipment Program completed pursuant to Human Services Article §6-406. In accordance with this reporting requirement, DHS is pleased to provide you with the enclosed report.

If you should require additional information please contact the Office of Government Affairs at 410-767-8966.

Sincerely,



Lourdes R. Padilla  
Secretary



**REPORT ON THE STATEWIDE NUTRITION ASSISTANCE EQUIPMENT PROGRAM**

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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

*Completed pursuant to Chapter 3 (Senate Bill 6), Acts of 2007*

March 1, 2021

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## REPORT REQUIREMENT

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This report is hereby submitted in response to the following reporting requirement found under Chapter 3 (Senate Bill 6), Acts of 2007 and Human Services Article § 6-406:

*“The Department of Human Services shall annually report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly, on the activities of the Nutrition Assistance Program, including:*

- 1) financial reports;*
- 2) distribution of funds;*
- 3) community participation; and*
- 4) overall effectiveness of the Program in fulfilling its stated purpose.”*

*Source: Senate Bill 6 (2007), page 165*

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## INTRODUCTION

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The Statewide Nutrition Assistance Equipment Program (SNAEP) is established by Maryland law under Human Services Article §§ 6-401 through 6-406. The stated legislative purpose of the program is to provide funding to distribution organizations to enable the distribution organizations and emergency food organizations to obtain necessary equipment. *Distribution organizations* are nonprofit entities that distribute food or equipment to emergency food organizations; *emergency food organizations* are nonprofit entities that provide emergency food services and include soup kitchens and food pantries. Grant funding is provided for capital food preparation, storage or distribution equipment that is critical to the operation of running a food pantry, soup kitchen, food bank, shelter or other facility that provides food or meals to those in need.

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## FY 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

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In Fiscal Year 2020, the Maryland Legislature appropriated \$282,530 in State general funds for SNAEP. The program guidelines and application were posted online and e-mail notifications were provided to previous award recipients. Grant funds were awarded to 52 soup kitchens, food pantries, food banks and shelters in 19 jurisdictions throughout the state.

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## DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

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The table below details the distribution of SNAEP funds by organization and jurisdiction.

**Table 1- Distribution SNAEP of Funds**

<b>SNAEP FY 20 Funding</b>		
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
<b>ALLEGANY</b>	Western Md Food Bank, Inc.	\$388.06
	<b>Allegany County Total</b>	<b>\$388.06</b>

<b>ANNE ARUNDEL</b>	Anne Arundel Co Food Bank, Inc.	\$8,928.25
	<b>Anne Arundel County Total</b>	<b>\$8,928.25</b>
<b>BALTIMORE CITY</b>	Edgemere Church of God Food Pantry	\$1,014.41
	Fishes & Loaves Pantry, Inc.	\$1,276.83
	Friendship Outreach Center, Inc.	\$1,194.30
	GEDCO Cares	\$638.44
	Greater Life Ministries	\$1,371.08
	House of Ruth Maryland, Inc	\$3,321.05
	Manna House, Inc.	\$7,347.47
	Maryland Food Bank, Inc (Baltimore City)	\$9,000.00
	Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland, Inc.	\$15,000.00
	Moveable Feast Inc.	\$39,248.00
	Mt. Zion Food Pantry	\$3,750.00
	New Life Food Pantry	\$10,179.19
	Project PLASE, Inc.	\$10,707.23
	St Paul Lutheran Church	\$450.00
	St John Lutheran Church	\$1,450.00
	The Baltimore Station	\$7,633.91
	40 West Assistance and Referral Center	\$1,021.33
<b>Baltimore City Total</b>	<b>\$114,603.24</b>	
<b>CALVERT</b>	Chesapeake Cares Food Pantry	\$13,997.75
	End Hunger Calvert County	\$26,991.30
	<b>Calvert County Total</b>	<b>\$40,989.05</b>
<b>CAROLINE</b>	Denton Church of Free Seventh Day Adventist	\$3,748.00
	Living Waters Assembly	\$7,789.42
	<b>Caroline County Total</b>	<b>\$11,537.42</b>
<b>CARROLL</b>	Ebenezer United Methodist Church	\$365.57
	<b>Carroll County Total</b>	<b>\$365.57</b>
<b>CECIL</b>	Chesapeake City Ecumenical Association	\$1,092.64
	Deep Root, Inc.	\$2,710.45
	<b>Cecil County Total</b>	<b>\$3,803.09</b>

<b>FREDERICK</b>	City of Frederick for Neighborhood Progress	\$5,000.00
	Well House 608 East Patrick Street	\$10,056.50
	Well House 336 North Market Street	\$761.50
	<b>Frederick County Total</b>	<b>\$15,818.00</b>
<b>GARRETT</b>	MOW Garrett County Community Action Committee, Meals On Wheels	\$6,910.84
	<b>Garrett County Total</b>	<b>\$6,910.84</b>
<b>HARFORD</b>	Harford Community Action Agency	\$12,174.00
	St John's Episcopal Church	\$10,000.00
	Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church	\$5,000.00
	<b>Harford County Total</b>	<b>\$22,174.00</b>
<b>HOWARD</b>	Howard Co. Food Bank Action Council of Howard Co.	\$11,812.36
	<b>Howard County Total</b>	<b>\$11,812.36</b>
<b>MONTGOMERY</b>	Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington	\$4,472.00
	<b>Montgomery County Total</b>	<b>\$4,472.00</b>
<b>PRINCE GEORGE'S</b>	Christian Life Center	\$5,000.00
	Galilee Community Development Corporation	\$1,025.00
	Project Bright Future Mentoring Program	\$1,000.00
	SHABACH Ministries, Inc.	\$4,349.79
	United Communities Against Poverty, Inc.	\$4,990.26
	<b>Prince George's County Total</b>	<b>\$16,365.05</b>
<b>SOMERSET</b>	Christian Strongholds Community Church	\$800.00
	<b>Somerset County Total</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>
<b>WASHINGTON</b>	Interfaith Service Coalition of Hancock Md, Inc	\$1,269.00
	Wells House, Inc. 124 E. Baltimore Street	\$4,934.00
	<b>Washington County Total</b>	<b>\$6,203.00</b>
<b>WICOMICO</b>	Maryland Food Bank, Inc. (Eastern Shore Branch)	\$8,907.50

	Union Methodist Church	\$1,000.00
	Wesley Temple Hunger Action Food Pantry	\$1,148.46
	<b>Wicomico County Total</b>	<b>\$11,055.96</b>
<b>WORCESTER</b>	Diakonia, Inc.	\$2,543.42
	Samaritan Ministries, Inc.	\$1,590.09
	Snow Hill Ecumenical Food Pantry	\$938.64
	<b>Worcester County Total</b>	<b>\$5,072.15</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$281,298.04</b>

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### COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

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The Department of Human Services (DHS) provided SNAEP funding to organizations that host feeding programs. All funded entities offered services to individuals and families in need regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or age and were able to accommodate those with a disability or Limited English Proficiency. DHS leverages its partners including other state agencies such as the Department on Aging, the Maryland Department of Labor, the Maryland Department of Health, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach vendors to disseminate information about the availability of SNAEP funds. DHS also posts SNAEP applications and related instructions on its website every year between March and May. Additional notifications of grant availability through social media are shared as well.

The variance in number of organizations applying for and/or receiving SNAEP funding is reflective of the program regulations requiring that applicants raise funds to match state funding, which has historically limited the ability of smaller and less resourced providers to access SNAEP. It is also reflective of the allowable purchases under this program, which typically constitute the purchase of freezers, refrigerators, ovens, large scale appliances and cookware and improvements to increase handicap accessibility, such as ramps.

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### OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM IN FULFILLING ITS STATED PURPOSE

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Statewide Nutrition Assistance Equipment Program funds enabled receiving organizations to purchase new equipment such as freezers, refrigerators, appliances, cookware, food carts, tableware, grocery bags and boxes in order to increase their capacity to serve those in need. In some cases, applicants requested funding to replace defective equipment. This funding also enabled recipients to improve accessibility to underserved populations by building much-needed safety equipment such as ramps and handrails.

In Fiscal Year 2020, SNAEP funds paid for equipment such as: freezers, refrigerators, ovens, tables and chairs, shelving units, storage bins, hand trucks, pallet jacks and frames and commercial appliances such as soup pots, mixers, food slicers, food processors, steam pans, bench scales and hot food buffet servers. For grocery distribution, programs purchased storage bins, grocery totes and paper bags, cases of paper containers, cups, sealable plastic bags, freezer bags and insulated

food carriers. As needed, programs were also able to purchase aluminum walk ramps to provide direct access to the food pantry or soup kitchen for individuals with disabilities.

SNAEP funds supplemented other food distribution grants and expanded ongoing efforts to provide food and supportive services for people in need. All organizations receiving these funds provide additional resources, including information on Earned Income Tax Credit and SNAP benefits.

DHS conducts monitoring visits as part of its program oversight process. Monitoring visits were conducted with SNAEP grantees. During these visits, the Program Coordinator reviews recipients' organizational structure, mission, and receipts verifying equipment purchases and capacity to effectively achieve its stated mission. These visits also enable DHS to provide technical assistance to SNAEP recipients as needed.

The Statewide Nutrition Assistance Equipment Program is an effective resource for non-profit organizations elevating some of the operational costs associated with serving Maryland's vulnerable citizens facing food insecurity. Due to limitations associated with budget allocations for the program, the task of scoring applications is significantly important. During SFY2020, DHS received requests totaling more than \$447,000.