



HOW CAN YOU HELP THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY RIGHT NOW?

1. Support restaurants through carryout and delivery
2. Support your local food pantry and food banks

Due to the suspension of dine-in service for all restaurants and bars in Maryland, tens of thousands of employees have been laid off or have had their hours drastically reduced. No one fundraising effort can possibly do enough to help so many people – yet we cannot stand by and do nothing.

The Restaurant Association of Maryland is encouraging Marylanders to support their local food pantry under the umbrellas of the Maryland Food Bank and Capital Area Food Bank. There are over 400 local food pantry sites across Maryland that are ready to help anyone in need. Food Banks are the second responders and social safety net for so many people during a crisis, and they are there to ensure families have the food it needs.

Food Insecurity is nothing to be ashamed of. A loss of employment, reduction of working hours and just not having the resources to get by for a few weeks can happen to anyone at any time. Every local food pantry treats people with respect and with sensitivity to your privacy. Encourage those who need help to visit their local food pantry.

In your time of need, let the Food Banks serve you.

Find Food

Employees can find their closest food pantry in Maryland by searching here:
<https://mdfoodbank.org/find-food/>

Employees in Montgomery and Prince George's County should search here:
<https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/find-food-assistance/>

Ways to Give & Volunteer

The Restaurant Association of Maryland (RAM) is encouraging those who want to help restaurant employees to volunteer or donate to their local food pantry, Maryland Food Bank or Capital Area Food Bank. With tens of thousands of restaurant employees in need, this is the most efficient way to help. RAM has been asked to start fundraisers, Go FundMe campaigns and solicit donations for employees. While well intentioned, it will be nearly impossible for RAM to make an impact that will help tens of thousands of people across the state – yet the Food Banks have the capacity to accomplish this goal.

Maryland Food Bank: <https://mdfoodbank.org/ways-to-give/>

Capital Food Bank (Montgomery & Prince George's Counties):
<https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/how-to-help/>