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Amidst COVID-19, Nonprofit The Common Market continues to serve Baltimore communities facing food insecurity and local farms

The Common Market, a mission-oriented distributor of farm foods, will deliver more than 46,000 “Farm-Fresh” boxes to 12 Baltimore-based community organizations this year

BALTIMORE, MD – November 17, 2020 – The Common Market, a nonprofit food distributor that connects communities to a network of regional farms from New York through Maryland, is delivering more than 1,600 individualized “Farm-Fresh” boxes a week to 12 Baltimore-based organizations through the end of 2020.

“These boxes not only feed us, they allow us to see one another weekly even during a pandemic,” says Farmer Chippy of Plantation Park Heights Urban Farm, one of the Baltimore-based recipients of the produce boxes. The urban farm’s mission is to expose at-risk youth to the benefits of growing and selling their own food. They receive 280 “Farm-Fresh” boxes to distribute to families and neighbors every Thursday.

In May 2020, The Common Market was awarded a contract with the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box program. It provided funding and resources for the organization to distribute 26,160 produce boxes throughout Baltimore City from May through September 2020. When the USDA contract concluded, the City of Baltimore extended the program to leverage the established partnerships with distribution sites as a way to prevent food insecurity and ensure that residents continue to have weekly access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Baltimore City’s [newly released COVID-19 Food Environment Brief](#) shows the comprehensive emergency food response to escalating food insecurity needs during the pandemic.

“Thanks to the partnership with The Common Market, along with other wholesalers, the City of Baltimore is now supplying 95 sites with 20,000 boxes of perishable food per week, totaling over 9.2 million pounds of food over the course of the pandemic,” says Holly Freishtat, Baltimore City Food Policy Director.

The Common Market’s “Farm-Fresh” boxes contain 7-8 freshly harvested fruits and vegetables, including items like apples, potatoes, leafy greens, and mushrooms. The partnership with Baltimore has directly supported 40 Mid-Atlantic-based family farms.

“[Feeding America](#) reports that Baltimore City is one of five counties in the U.S. that falls into the top 10% for both food insecurity and meal cost, making this fresh food program essential on many fronts,” Freishtat continues. “Through The Common Market we are able to advance multiple priorities by providing free produce and supporting local and BIPOC farms.”

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About The Common Market

The Common Market is a national nonprofit with a mission to connect communities to good food from sustainable family farms. The organization builds the infrastructure to support local and regional food systems. The Common Market is particularly focused on health and wealth outcomes for the most vulnerable—low-income communities, communities of color, and children and seniors.

For more information about The Common Market, visit www.thecommonmarket.org.

To view Baltimore City’s COVID-19 Food Environment Brief, click [here](#).