



Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) Fact Sheet

Mission:

- To feed our neighbors in need by providing dignified access to nutritious supplemental groceries.
- By providing free groceries to families in need, their limited financial resources can be devoted to obligations such as housing, utilities, medication, and other basic needs.

Need:

- Serving less than 300 families per week in 1988, AFAC now serves over **2,400 families every week**.
 - All families are required to have a referral to be eligible for our services. Referrals can come from an Arlington County government agency and approved local churches, schools, or social services agencies.
- According to a recent study conducted by Virginia Tech, more than 31,500 Arlingtonians describe themselves as food insecure (having limited or uncertain access to food, reduced food intake, and disrupted eating patterns). Over 12,000 of these individuals are currently being served by AFAC.
 - 35% of individuals are children
 - 13% of individuals are seniors
- In FY19, 3 million pounds of food was distributed to families in need.
 - Over 1.3 million pounds of food was donated, mainly through local grocery stores, food drives held by the community, and the Plot Against Hunger (AFAC's urban agriculture program).
- AFAC has 17 grocery distribution centers, including affordable housing communities and senior living facilities.
- 22 schools were reached through AFAC's Backpack Buddies program for children at risk of not having access to meals over the weekend.
- AFAC also supplies food to many partnering agencies to support their meal and snack programs.

Choice Model:

- Instead of pre-packaging our groceries, families select food from our shelves so that they can take home food that they know their families will enjoy.
- This choice model has proven to reduce food waste and save expenses, permitting AFAC to serve our community to our capacity, while providing many healthy options.
- AFAC's weekly menu includes fresh produce, chicken, fish, milk, eggs, rice, beans, cereal or oatmeal, canned goods, and bread.

Budget:

- AFAC has an annual budget of over \$7.3 million for FY20.
 - Cash budget: \$3.3 million
 - Donated food value: \$2.5 million
 - Volunteer time value: \$1.5 million (over 50,000 hours served in FY19)
- **AFAC receives no federal or state funding.** Arlington County provides only 7% of what it takes to operate AFAC. The remaining 93% comes from private donations—cash and food donated from individuals, foundations, faith congregations, local businesses, and peer organizations.
- AFAC's overhead rate in FY19 was 13.7%.
- 40% of food we provide is donated to us through partnerships with local grocery chains, gleaning networks, farmers' markets, and corporate and community food drives.
- To ensure that we provide nutritionally balanced food, AFAC purchases 60% of its food at a discounted cost from both large national distributors and reputable, local, civic-minded suppliers.
- AFAC's FY20 food purchase budget is \$950,000.

For more information, visit us on the web at www.afac.org

**Arlington Food Assistance Center
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