



FY25 Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) Fact Sheet (Data from end of FY24)

About

- **Mission:** To feed our neighbors in need by providing dignified access to nutritious supplemental groceries.
- Providing weekly groceries free-of-charge allows families to dedicate limited financial resources to other obligations, such as housing, utilities, medication, and other basic needs.
- AFAC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization. Tax ID: 54-1473207. CFC #19265. UW #8354. CVC #8004.
- A referral is required to be eligible for our services. Referrals can come from approved partnering agencies, such as the Arlington County Department of Human Services, schools, or other social service organizations.
- For the first time, in 2022, AFAC was sent more referrals than report estimates to even exist in Arlington County.
- In FY 2024 AFAC served 183,558 families and since AFAC's founding, over 2 million families have been served.

Impact: Client Numbers over FY23

- 183,558 total family visits - a 31% increase over last year
- 8,834 total families referred (21,862 individuals)
- 7,996 distinct families served (19,446 individuals)
- 6,464 children served
- Average 3,464 families served per week
- Of individuals served: 55% female, 33% children, 12% senior, 54% Hispanic/Latinx, 19% Black, 9% Asian, 11% White, 1% Other
- Individuals with disabilities: 8% overall; 11% of adults & seniors combined, 3% of children

Food Distribution

- Instead of pre-packaging groceries for distribution, families select food from our shelves so that they can take home items 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 fruits and vegetables, chicken, fish, milk, eggs, rice, beans, cereal or oatmeal, canned goods, and bread.
- Over 4 million pounds of groceries are distributed to families in need per year.
- AFAC purchases 60% of the groceries we distribute, at wholesale cost, from local and national distributors. This is done to ensure groceries distributed are nutritionally balanced, consistent, and handled safely, especially when perishable. The other 40% is donated through partnerships with local grocery chains, gleaning networks, farmers markets, community food drives, schools, corporate/walk-in donations, etc.
- Groceries are distributed in 20 communities, including 18 in Arlington County, one in Falls Church for Homestretch participants, and one in the City of Alexandria for residents of The Waypoint Apartments. Within Arlington County, AFAC serves groceries at its headquarters, at 3 community centers, at 9 affordable housing communities, and at 5 senior living facilities.
- A home delivery program serves 174 households with elderly or disabled family members who do not have a local support system.
- AFAC also supplies food to many partner agencies to support their meal and snack programs.

Budget

- 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 groups, local businesses, and peer organizations.
- AFAC had an annual budget of \$10.3 million in FY24.
 - Financial budget: \$5.7 million
 - 1.5 million pounds of food was donated, valued at \$3 million
 - Volunteer time: 1,578 volunteers gave 47,422 hours in FY24, valued \$1.7 million - equivalent of 23 additional full-time staff
- AFAC's overhead rate in FY24 was 12.3%.
- In FY24, the food purchase budget of \$1.5 million was overspent by another \$1 million as a result of a 31% increase in the number of families coming to AFAC.