



SMADC is a division of the
TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL
for SOUTHERN MARYLAND



SoMD Community Fridges & Food Access 2026

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD), is pleased to host Food Access programs that strengthen Southern Maryland's food economy by supporting farmers and providing better access to fresh, local, nutritious food for residents experiencing food insecurity. These programs include the Community Fridge program, Community School program, and the Food Box Distribution program.

Currently, these programs are only funded by Charles County, therefore are exclusively run in Charles County. **Only Charles County Host Locations & Charles County Farmers may apply.**

What is a Community Fridge?

38 million people face hunger in the United States every year. On top of that, 130 billion meals are thrown away, filling landfills, and leaving families hungry. Community Fridges are one of the best ways we can combat food insecurity and prevent good food from going to waste. They're housed in public, accessible places, making surplus, perishable food freely available to members of the community. Food is provided by local businesses or members of the community and is available for collection by people who need it. Anyone can stop by and take the food that they need, no questions asked.

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A community fridge is a zero-barrier (no documentation required) free food source maintained and used by the community it serves. Fridges offer mutual support to reduce hunger and food waste, building a stronger and more resilient community.

SMADC's SoMD Community Fridge program is currently in partnership with the Lifestream Church of the Nazarene (Waldorf), Christ Church of La Plata, and Charles County Community Schools. The SoMD Community Fridges program strengthens Southern Maryland's food economy by supporting farmers and providing better access to fresh, local, nutritious food for residents experiencing food insecurity. Currently, the program is only active in Charles County since SMADC received federal funding via Charles County through the American Rescue Plan Act to purchase produce, eggs, meat, and other agricultural food products from local farms. Currently, all refrigerators also have a freezer and an attached dry goods pantry, too, so products such as frozen meat and shelf-stable foods are welcomed!



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Additionally, community refrigerators are a form of mutual aid, so the community is invited to also donate food to stock the fridges. Most fridges are available as a community resource and accessible to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The fridges located within Charles County Community Schools are accessible to school students and their families. Guidelines and instructions for food donation are posted on the public refrigerators. Local community volunteers also visit and maintain the fridge sites daily.

Food Donations

If you wish to donate food to Southern Maryland Community Fridges, you may do so at any time. We encourage local farmers to donate unsold farmers market produce or any other excess unsold but viable/edible agricultural products.

Fridge locations and more information can be found at <https://smadc.com/somdcommunityfridges/> If you have any questions on donating, please contact SMADC Food Access Staff at SoMDFridges@smadc.com.

Hosting a Community Fridge Location

The Community Fridge Organizer will handle a variety of responsibilities including:

- Setting up the fridge and pantry area
- Ensuring proper care and maintenance of the fridge
- Continuous monitoring of food safety

In addition to receiving individual food donations, many community fridges will partner with local restaurants and grocery stores to participate in food recovery efforts. Fridge organizers are also responsible for ensuring the refrigerator is kept in a sanitary condition and that the food items donated are safe to consume.

Fridges need to be in a shed, outhouse building, or in the foyer of a community building. Please ensure that it is easily accessible to all individuals. When looking at locations, please ensure electricity is available for the fridge.

If the community fridge has to be located outside, it is best to keep the refrigerator out of direct sunlight and safe from the elements and ensure the area surrounding it is free of foliage and debris. This can be done by building a large, waterproof structure around the refrigerator itself. Your fridge and/or pantry area will be at risk if it's exposed to wind, rain, or extreme weather. Make sure it's covered at the back and sides permanently. It is recommended to have a shelter with spring doors that will shut automatically after opening.

If you would like to apply to host a community fridge, please email twright@tccsmd.org



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Becoming a Community Fridge Farmer Provider:

1. **Farmers Apply here** - [Farmer Application](#). Once a farmer is accepted into the program, SMADC will send them the program contract, W9 and the ACH/ Direct Deposit form to complete and sign. For security purposes SMADC sends payment funds by electronic funds transfer.
2. **Pricing and packaging** -
 - a. Pricing - We aim to honor each farmer's desired prices for their agricultural product.
 - b. Packaging – If applicable to your product please package in single use, individual customer-sized packaging that you don't expect to be returned to you, and label with the following: all ingredients, package date, expiration date, and allergens, if applicable (dairy, eggs, fish, shellfish, wheat/gluten, soy, nuts).
- **Transportation** – Farmers will deliver directly to a SoMD Community Fridge location at a mutually agreed upon delivery time once to twice weekly as determined in the contract.
Fridge locations can be found at:
 - Christ Church La Plata – 112 Charles St. La Plata, MD.
 - Charles County Community School Family Markets (school members only)
 - Lifestream Church of the Nazarene – 5105 Leonardtown Road, Waldorf, MD 20601
3. **Get product ready for delivery**- Make sure that products are in appropriate packaging as listed and are clean and fresh. Please invoice for exactly the amount that was delivered. Photo proof of delivery will be required to be submitted with your invoice.
4. **Invoicing** - Send invoices and photos of delivered products to twright@tccsmd.org. The invoice must include: Date of delivery, Delivery Location, Quantity of item, Name of item, Cost per item, and Total.
5. **Payment**- TCCSMD will make payments within 30 days of receipt of the invoice by direct deposited to the account indicated on your completed ACH form.