



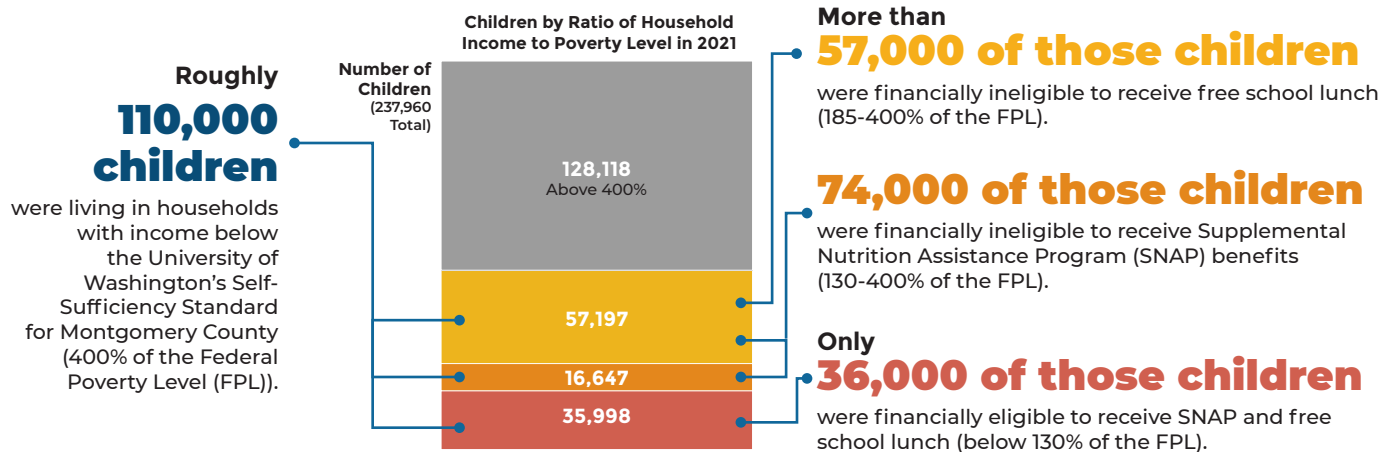
# MONTGOMERY COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN TO End Childhood Hunger

2023

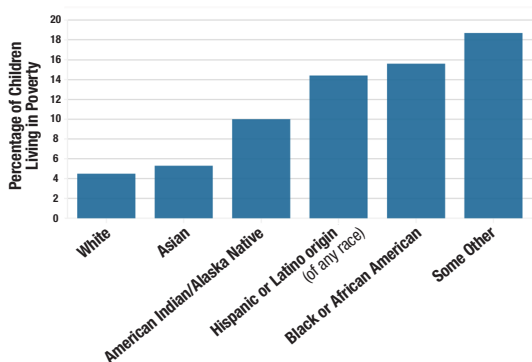
The Montgomery County Strategic Plan to End Childhood Hunger harnessed the expertise of local residents and organizations to identify food access barriers and strategies that will reduce food insecurity across all childhood age groups. **Its fourteen recommendations are organized into three groups based on how they address childhood food insecurity: with direct financial benefits to purchase food; with food provided at school, pre-school, or daycare; and, with novel approaches.**

## How Many Children in Montgomery County are Food Insecure?\*

Feeding America estimates at least **33,840** of the **237,960** children (approximately 14%) in Montgomery County are **food insecure**, and due to the County's high cost of living, more than an additional 76,000 children live in households without sufficient income to meet their basic needs but earning too much to qualify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and/or free school lunch. In 2021:

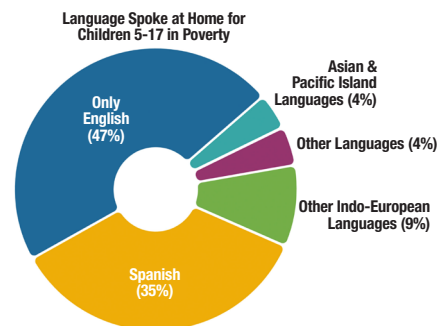


## Considering Race\*



While **4.5% of white children** in Montgomery County are estimated to live in households with incomes below the Federal Poverty Level, that same measure for **Latino and Black children is over 14%.**

## Considering Language\*



Roughly half of children living in households below the Federal Poverty Level speak languages other than English at home, with **35% living in Spanish speaking households.**

\* See the complete Strategic Plan to End Childhood Hunger for source information



# CHILDHOOD FOOD INSECURITY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

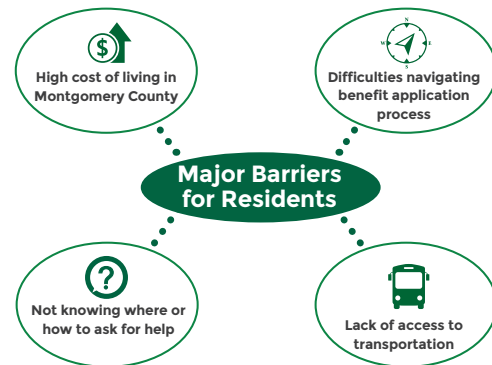
## Engagement

The Montgomery County Food Council engaged residents and local subject matter experts to develop a collection of proposed strategies to end childhood hunger in Montgomery County.



## Major Barriers for Residents

Four major barriers emerged from both residents and subject matter experts during the engagement process. The recommendations in this plan were formulated to address these specific concerns.



## Strategies to End Childhood Hunger

The fourteen recommendations are organized into three groups based on how they address childhood food insecurity:

- With direct financial benefits to purchase food;
- With food provided at school, pre-school, or daycare; and
- With novel approaches.

As the strategies in this plan vary significantly in scale, complexity, and impact, each group is further organized into two general categories - **“Big Ideas”** and **“Quicker Changes”**.



### Big Ideas:

- Promise large systemic change.
- Time and resource intensive.
- Reach thousands of families.
- Impact extends beyond just food needs.



### Quicker Changes:

- Promise rapid assistance.
- Help address immediate needs.
- Build on existing programs.
- Less time and resource intensive.

### Direct Financial Benefits

- Expansion of SNAP Enrollment Programs
- Address Benefit Inadequacy, Especially During the Summer
- Provide Direct Benefits to SNAP Ineligible Households

### School & Childcare Adjacent Food Assistance

- Expansion of Free School Meals
- Expansion of Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Community School Distributions and Pantries
- Expand Early Head Start, Head Start, and Pre-K
- Expansion of Weekend Bags

### Novel Approaches & New Pathways

- Direct-to-Household Food Assistance
- Improved Data-driven Decision Making
- Food is Medicine
- Gardening Grant Program
- Caretaker Nutritional Training
- Financial Literacy Training and Education



Scan QR Code to see entire plan.