

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2025 Legislative Session**

Bill No. CB-067-2025

Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Blegay

Introduced by \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Introduction \_\_\_\_\_

**BILL**

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Prince George's County Food as Medicine Health Program Act of 2025

3 For the purpose of establishing the Prince George's County Food as Medicine Health Program  
 4 within the County Department of Health; providing for grant awards and partnerships to  
 5 implement medically supportive food and nutrition interventions to improve health outcomes,  
 6 reduce chronic disease, and address food insecurity; providing for the use of funds; providing for  
 7 reporting requirements; providing for a technical assistance program; providing for guidance and  
 8 recommendations; providing for implementation and funding; and generally relating to food as a  
 9 component of healthcare delivery in Prince George's County.

10 BY adding:

11 SUBTITLE 12. HEALTH.

12 Sections 12-224, 12-225, 12-226, 12-227, 12-228,

13 12-229, 12-230, 12-231, and 12-232,

14 The Prince George's County Code

15 (2023 Edition; 2024 Supplement).

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,  
 17 Maryland, that Sections 12-224, 12-225, 12-226, 12-227, 12-228, 12-229, 12-230, 12-231, and  
 18 12-232 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same are hereby added:

**SUBTITLE 12. HEALTH.**

**DIVISION 14. FOOD AS MEDICINE HEALTH PROGRAM.**

**Sec. 12-224. Short Title.**

This Act shall be known and may be cited as the “Prince George’s County Food as Medicine Health Program Act of 2025.”

**Sec. 12-225. Establishment of Program.**

(a) The Prince George’s County Department of Health shall establish and administer a Food as Medicine Health Program (“Program”) to plan, implement, expand, and evaluate medically supportive food and nutrition interventions to improve public health outcomes.

(b) The Program shall prioritize serving residents experiencing food or nutrition insecurity and those diagnosed with or at risk for diet-related chronic conditions, such as hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, or obesity.

**Sec. 12-226. Partnerships.**

(a) The Department may contract or partner with:

(1) public and nonprofit healthcare providers, including community health clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs); and

(2) nonprofit groups, such as food banks, food pantries and meal delivery organizations; and

(3) local farms, food hubs, and agricultural cooperatives; and

(4) socially disadvantaged, minority-owned, or community-based food producers; and

(5) academic and research institutions for data collection and evaluation.

(b) The Department shall encourage use of locally or regionally sourced foods grown using organic, regenerative, or culturally appropriate sustainable practices.

**Sec. 12-227. Eligible Interventions.**

The Program may support the following interventions, as prescribed by healthcare professionals:

(1) medically tailored meals aligned with evidence-based dietary guidelines; and

(2) produce prescriptions redeemable at farmers markets, grocery stores, or food hubs;

and

(3) nutrition and health coaching, culinary education, or group medical visits; and

(4) food delivery or pick-up services tailored to health needs; and

(5) range of foods that are often included in FIM programs, such as healthy shelf stable goods, fresh and frozen proteins, in addition to fresh produce.

**Sec. 12-228. Use of Funds.**

Program funds may be used to:

- (1) develop and expand eligible interventions; and
- (2) provide grants or reimbursements to community-based organizations and healthcare providers; and
- (3) build infrastructure for food distribution and delivery; and
- (4) support administrative functions, including staffing, reporting, and evaluation.

**Sec. 12-229. Reporting Requirements.**

(a) Within three years of the initial implementation, the Department shall issue a public report evaluating:

- (1) program impacts on health outcomes and healthcare utilization, including emergency room visits, hospital admissions, and medication adherence; and
- (2) changes in participant food security and dietary behaviors; and
- (3) community economic development, especially related to local food producers; and
- (4) recommendations for future improvements and funding needs.

(b) Data shall be disaggregated by geography, race/ethnicity, age, and income, where feasible.

**Sec. 12-230. Technical Assistance Program.**

(a) The Department shall coordinate technical assistance for local food producers and distributors seeking to participate in the Program.

(b) Priority shall be given to small, minority-owned, and socially disadvantaged producers implementing regenerative, organic, or culturally appropriate agricultural methods.

**Sec. 12-231. Guidance and Recommendations.**

The Department shall issue annual guidance regarding:

- (1) eligible participant criteria and referral pathways; and
- (2) nutrition intervention standards and dosage; and
- (3) provider and vendor eligibility; and
- (4) integration with existing Medicaid Managed Care Organizations and other County health initiatives.

**Sec. 12-232. Implementation and Funding.**

(a) The County shall seek federal, state, and philanthropic funding to support implementation and evaluation of the Program.

(b) The County Executive may include funds for the Program in the annual budget.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection, or section.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Edward P. Burroughs III  
Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna J. Brown  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Aisha N. Braveboy  
Acting County Executive