

Blue Ridge Hunger Action Coalition

Running Meeting Notes & Action Items

May 12th, 2026

Meeting Recording:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/1W22ftBqpltkCuQcqZOwi9nDahaY0yFIF8PvyIPToGtWhAUwog5QecsuMJu1djHU.2eXq76HIPMMDjDAZ>

Passcode:

?=G*5q3M

AGENDA:

- Introductions & Organizational Updates
- SNAP & Public Benefits
- Kids Summer Meals & Family Benefits
- Community Free Fridges
- Cville Feeding 500
- Upcoming events

ACTION ITEMS:

- ☐ Updates on Cville Feeding 500
- ☐ Information sharing of any updates regarding kids & family meals/programming
- ☐ Updates from Community fridge meeting on May 31st

NOTES:

• **Introductions & Organizational Updates**

- Barbara, Bread & Roses; No new updates & all is stable
- Cecile Gorham, Market Central
 - Opening Starr Hill market this Sunday (May 17th @ 9:30am)
 - SNAP permit for Starr Hill was received (its required as a separate process for each site)
 - Shakaya Cooper, SNAP and Food Access - sales are down but its too early in the season to say for the fresh match program. Usually seeing a high usage on strawberries, tomatoes, peppers, etc.
 - State had to go to pre-covid levels of funding 37 senior level of investments, and not getting any of the senior program at all
 - If they get more funding they will try to issue more vouchers but likely they will only go to clients served by JABA

- Erica Uhlmann, BRAFB - No updates at this time
 - Emma Duane, BRAFB SNAP and Public Benefits - Internal team has restructured and work has shifted a bit with priority towards certain communities and connection to community resources. Orange county as first priority.
- Blair Smith, CDSS
 - Training supervisor and get folks set up with agency
- Theresa Booker, CDSS - Agency Trainer
- KJ Howard, Cultivate Charlottesville & Food Justice Network
 - Urban agricultural collective (UAC) shift
 - End of May - West Street Wednesdays 10-1pm
 - City of Promise Work days 1-3pm on Fridays
 - Healthy Streets Healthy People on May 30th
 - KHIP Interns coming at beginning of June and some are coming at end of June/beginning of July
 - Flyers for market days starting in June
 - Kindewood, Westhaven, and surveying in neighborhoods continuing (around meetings, market days, programming for community based event - to change the vibe since they've just been pickups since 2020)
- Paola Covarrubias, Loaves & Fishes food pantry - No updates at this time
- Naomi McDermott, Church of Our Savior Food Pantry - No updates at this time
- Shannon Meade, PVCC Panther Pantry in the Student Resource Center
 - Spring semester just ended and a couple weeks left before summer semester starts (after memorial day)
 - TJAC (Thomas Jefferson Adult Career) Students will be moving from IX to PVCC main campus - Working on setting up the pantry
- Rhonda Oliver, Feeding Greene
 - Going slow with progress on raised beds, preschool head start program is going really well and just wrapped up today with a summer pack with planting kits. Renovation for backpack program still ongoing
 - Fresh snap isn't happening at farmers market in Greene due to the increased expense
 - Kids summer break program, the schools are handling the program and there isn't allowed 2 in the same county/district - 7 days worth of food sent by mail and parents just have to sign up
 - Cooling assistance program is getting started

- Elly Haden, UVA Health Dietitian team - direct work with patients and here for updates to share with team
- Owner Sylvia Sundin, Church of Our Savior
- Kelsey Waters, PVCC Panther Pantry at the Student Resource Center
- **SNAP & Public Benefits (+ Family & Kids Programming Updates)**
 - Sunbucks - Not a lot of information from local DSS
 - Can be matched with fresh match at the farmers market (Cecile to follow up with flyers and information)
 - Program changes:
 - Used to be that if the school district offered free and reduced lunch then everyone got it but now you have to be eligible & apply
 - Old benefits were expungement on old benefits of 9 months
 -
 - Batch run start rolling out of approvals in June (unknown how they're doing that)
 - Information should be distributed to the schools but DSS can't confirm any details
 - Families will get new cards (separate from SNAP, separate from old sunbucks cards) will be \$120 again
 - If they have the form with the case # (with a P) and DSS doesn't have that number so they need the case number in order to look it up (since it'll be in any combination of family member names). Usually under the oldest kids name but sometimes there's individual cards for each child but there's no real organization to the plan
 - **Applications available online** - [Virginia SUN Bucks](#) - [Virginia Department of Social Services](#)
 - Live application online
 - 1800 # opens on June 15th - Customer care center line
 - Mail applications to the state (do not send to the local agency since the local office cannot

Update from Sarah Steely, Virginia Director of No Kid Hungry

- The [website](#) is updated and ready for promotion.
- The first issuance will go out in late June— I've heard June 22 for the first big batch. I asked VDSS if we can use that date, and here's their response. *Given that different groups of recipients will receive their SUN Bucks at different times, we would prefer that "beginning late June" or "beginning late June on a rolling basis" is used, as opposed to offering a specific date.*

- For families that do not receive the benefit automatically, there are three ways to apply:
 - [Online application](#) (huge thanks to Commissioner Storen for making this a priority!)
 - Call center (866-513-1414, opening June 15)
 - Paper application
- In past years, VDSS has issued their official SUN Bucks promotion announcement in early/mid June. I've been encouraging VDSS to start their publicity earlier this year, so we can catch families with information while kids are still in school. They issued their first social post earlier this week, which is a great start (screenshots attached).
 - VDSS plans to issue a press release as soon as it is approved by agency leadership.
 - VDSS is working with VDOE on some school-specific promotion resources. I will make sure you have those when they are complete.
 - VDSS is continuing to add translated flyers to their [Community Partner Resources](#) page as they receive them from their translation vendor. They plan to add a flyer specifically directed to parents whose children attend CEP schools once it is approved by agency leadership.

● **Energy assistance program**

- Each agency should start getting a list regarding who is pre-approved for fuel assistance and then June 15-August 15 to apply for benefits
- Cooling assistance requirements:
 - Child under the age of 6
 - Over the age of 60
 - Someone who is disabled per social security requirement
- Same application as last year but has not officially been posted since they don't want DSS to take the applications yet

● **Events**

- Friday, May 15th 9:30am-11am at Botanical on the Downtown mall
- Community Free Fridge Meeting, May 31st 2pm at Friends Meeting house
- Westhaven Community Day - August 1st, 2026
- Starr Hill Market - open May 17th & every Sunday till November 22
- KHIP - intern placements 14-22 years old and paid by the city; helps give kids and experience in the workforce over the summer

RSVP @ [THEGREENANDBLUECAFE.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://thegreenandbluecafe.eventbrite.com)

WHERE BIOPHILIA MEETS BLUE ZONES

A CLIMATE CAFÉ

**FRIDAY, MAY 15TH
@ BOTANICAL
FROM 9:30 TO 11 AM**

**Learn how access
to green spaces
improves health
outcomes**

Featuring

**Connect with
opportunities to
support local
initiatives**



**Piedmont
Environmental
Council**



BIKE / WALK
ESTD — Cville — 2015

move
**2 HEALTH
EQUITY**

**RSVP
TODAY!**



BOTANICAL FARE
421 E MAIN STREET
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902

May 15, 2026

botanical
plant-based fare



CHARLOTTESVILLE
Acting on Climate Together



Charlottesville Community Fridge Meeting



Interested in Community Free Fridges?

Join us for a community conversation around existing fridges in Charlottesville & other cities, local needs, and frequently asked questions around community fridges.

Let's connect!



HACBlueRidge@gmail.com

<https://tinyurl.com/CvilleFridges>



May 31st



2:00 PM



**Friends Meeting House
1104 Forest St,
Charlottesville, VA**

**Built a community fridge? Read about community fridges?
Donated to a community fridge? Eaten from a community
fridge? Never heard of a community fridge? Join the
meeting! We want to talk and learn together!**

Cville Feeding 500



Join us in producing and distributing nutritious, prepared meals to our neighbors.

Cville Feeding 500 works to turn local gleaned produce into hundreds of nutritious & prepared meals. These meals are cooked in partnered commercial Kitchens with skilled nutritionists that provide nutrition education and workforce development to volunteers. All meals are then shared with families through partner distributions & connections.

For more information, and to get involved,
please reach out to Hanna at the
Blue Ridge Hunger Action Coalition:
HACBLUERIDGE@GMAIL.COM



This initiative is brought to you by the Blue Ridge Hunger Action Coalition and the community partners of Bread & Roses, Food Not Bombs, Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, and the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office.

April 14th, 2026

Meeting Recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/___f6PUKySTGroD55JTUatmbMs7Q996LdADkeiz_a fN6AEwfo9hWjIB3AaGMWjXRo.3ULCvNyznmYJlgnv

Passcode: g6Jq\$&0!

AGENDA

- *Introductions & Organizational Updates*
- *Group Updates*
 - *SNAP & Public Benefits*
 - *Cville Feeding 500*
- *Next Meeting & Follow up resources*
 - *Goals between now & next meeting (Change from June to May)*
 - *Upcoming Events*

ACTION ITEMS

- ☐ Share Community fridge flyer (Linked picture here) & follow up on community meeting around community fridges & public concerns
- ☐ New meeting date & invite (May 12th @ 12pm-1pm)
- ☐ The Haven: Needs garden volunteers for 4-6 raised beds (Late April)
Contact: Kerri DeMaio, kerri@thehaven.org
- ☐ First Baptist Church on Main St: Needs raised beds, garden support, etc
Contact: Deanna McDonald, rnheartwork@gmail.com
- ☐ Society of St. Andrew: Gleaning volunteers for markets & larger gleanings
Contact: Liberty Powers, cville-glean@endhunger.org

NOTES

- **Introduction & Organizational Updates**
 - Cecile Gorham; Market Central at IX & Starr Hill Market
 - SNAP license for Starr Hill Market; Increase in requirements
 - Working with LEAP in Roanoke, and definitely feeling the increase in logistical hoops to provide fresh match benefits. The requirements ask for more information and have encrypted emails. Asks include: signed documents from the board & board chair, knowledge around vendors and their goods for sale, as well as other increased details
 - Shakaya Cooper - Snap outreach coordinator at IX & regional lead for Leap and fresh match

- SNAP and VA Fresh Match can be used to buy food-producing plants and seeds at farmers markets! Way to go with your gardens!
- Barbara Yager; Bread & Roses
 - No current updates; will be tabling at Healthy Streets in May
- Jo Olson; Client voice coordinator at IRC
 - Not seeing a huge decline in SNAP benefits. Since it's on a rolling basis, it seems to be slowly happening - it is happening though.
- Naomi McDermott; Church of Our Savior Food Pantry
 - Organization distributions: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 - Seeing a record use of the pantry
- Lisa Murray; JABA
 - No updates at the moment. Joins the meeting for information to share with JABA's aging service coordinators for front lines support
- Kimberly Barker; UVA Health Sciences Library
 - Works as a community & health services librarian that goes out to the mobile health units to Southwood & Greenstone
 - Bring info in community languages at community events (Will be at Healthy streets, festival of cultures, etc)
 - Volunteers for food justice organization & Cville Carebears
 - We launched a hygiene and food pantry in the Health Sciences Library on March 31st. Seeing need everywhere.
- Shannon Meade; PVCC Panther pantry & Student Resource Center
 - Student pantry, recently received grants in order to access more fruits and veggies for students
 - New fruit stations to grab fruit throughout the day
 - Preparing for TJH students (ie second language, GED, etc) to move to the main campus over the summer
 - Prepping the food pantry & SRC to be extra welcoming to new students
- Erica Uhlmann; Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
 - New partner partners in Gordonsville:
 - Daystar Church transitioned from mobile pantry and distributes the 2nd Wednesday of the month (located across from Gordon Barber Elementary)
 - The ChurchVA offers monthly Saturday & evening distribution times
 - New food pantries in Gordonsville:
 - <https://foodfinder.brafb.org/?distance=&q=Gordonsville>
- Kerri DeMaio; The Haven
 - Continuing with regular breakfast & lunch services

- By the end of April, looking to have 4-5 raised garden beds with planted veggies and herbs - Need volunteers
- The kitchen can use some of their food budget to grow produce for the community
- Jane Colony Mills, Paola Covarrubias, Matt Paysour; Loaves & Fishes
 - No uptick in clients; seeing a small downturn in need, but still large
 - Seeing people returning that haven't been back in a long time, could be renewal rejections from SNAP, tax returns, etc.
 - Resolution Farm in Ivy is planting food plants for Loaves and donating the produce. We recruit from our volunteers to help with planting. (Contact Matt for more info)
 - Charlottesville High School is growing plant starts for clients, and Loaves & Fishes is buying soil, mesh grow bags, etc.
 - Peter Davis is contact as CHS, and potential to send some plant starts to The Haven
- H Peterson, Meals on Wheels
 - Seeing a big increase in applications (and clients citing income)
 - Working with the BRHD to make services available to postpartum individuals on WIC (free temporary meal deliveries for 6-8 weeks)
- KJ Howard, Cultivate Charlottesville
 - Urban Agricultural Collective ([UAC](#)) has been sending out surveys to kindlewood, Westhaven, 6th St, CRHA & Redevelopment neighborhoods to see what folks want to see
 - Maintenanacing in gardens and putting potatoes, herbs, etc
 - June Market days coming soon
 - New staff: Jules Lowman & Justice Madden
 - Justice: 3rd week - Agriculture Director (justice@cultivatecharlottesville.org)
 - Doing a lot of listening & looking forward to growing more on existing infrastructure
 - Women's Initiative April 25th with sister circle partnership; growing yourself & connective thread with growing
- Rhonda Oliver, Feeding Greene
 - Never slowing down, lesser visits from individuals but still high number of new clients
 - The biggest growing population being seniors
 - Potentially families are going back to work since the biggest days are their newer hours of Wednesday afternoons and Saturdays
 - Looking to reestablish community partnerships with Virginia Cooperative Extension and other resources

- Currently an Eagle Scout is building a raised bed at the pantry
 - Renovations on building for backpack program & more space
 - No cost farm stand with Sentara is starting up again
 - Starting up a preschool program for nutrition education for preschoolers (first lesson Wednesday, April 15)
- Deanna McDonald, RN Heartwork health education consulting
 - Health education, Cultivate Charlottesville board member, & co-op steering committee member focussed on whole health
 - First Baptist Church on Main St - Health ministry is looking to raise their food access initiative through raised beds & gardening support
 - Used to be a regular soup kitchen
- Liberty Powers, Society of St Andrew
 - Farm to family gleaning & collecting the seconds from farms and Charlottesville farmers markets (City & IX)
 - Gleaning season has started & collected from the last few markets
 - Connection to free fridges & Food Not Bombs
 - Distribution & meal on Wednesdays at 6pm (IX Art Park)
 - Always looking for volunteers and church partnerships
 - Indivisible is partnering to sponsor the purchase of grocery gift cards for neighbors at high risk
 - Contact: Liberty cville-glean@endhunger.org
 - Share info around volunteers, garden projects, etc.
 - Reach out if you're interested in volunteering or connecting
- **SNAP & Public Benefits**
 - Folks came to the market with Sun bucks but they were probably from last year since they expired at the end may; usually not distributed till the end of may and used for the summer (Contact: Sarah Steely)
 - FARM MARKET FRESH 3rd year doing it at Market Central
 - It will be late for the whole state, but hopefully have benefits distributed before the end of the summer
 - VA food access coalition, VA Federation of Food Banks & sub committee of state benefits Update: SNAP is through the Farm Bill and no one sees a new farm bill happening anytime soon
 - September rolling out for Virginia snap recipients - chipped EBT
 - Up to the retailers to keep up with the chip access/use
 - Reason: VA snap benefits are being skimmed and benefits are being stolen before folks have the chance to use the cards
 - Another update: the CommonHelp online application will include WIC some time this year.
- **Cville Feeding 500**

- Goal: To turn local gleaned and donated produce into bulk meals for local food distribution networks through nutrition education and work force development classes at partnered commercial kitchens
- Needs: Educating about free fridges & Maintenance of free fridges
 - Public meeting to address concern around public health & access
- Needs: Fridges near rivanna trail, schools, CHRA sites, etc.
- **Next meeting & Follow up resources:**
 - Next meeting: May 12th, 2026 (12pm-1pm)
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - *CPR & First aid training (not certification) May 2nd 11-2pm 13+ sign up &*
 - <https://www.compressandshock.org/event-details/first-baptist-church-2>
 - Jackie Martin, GOOD Foundation, Panel on Black Health at Jefferson School of African American Heritage Center (April 14th - Doors at 5:30pm)
 - Mary Sherrill, CvilleVegEd, April 18th 11-4p at Unitarian Univ church on Rugby. CvilleVegEd (CVEgathering). Speakers/activities enlightening us about the equity of plant based nutrition on health/chronic diseases, disproportional impact marginalized communities,
 - Been hosting trainings about plant based nutrition at The Center, and membership is not required
 -  CVEg flyer QR.pdf
 - Jackie Martin, UVA Health, 3rd Annual Senior Expo at Brooks Family YMCA (May 2nd 10am-12:30pm)
 - 5th Annual Healthy Streets, Healthy People event is Saturday, May 30 this year, 11-3 pm, lower section of Washington Park
 - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScCpFnars5lZKFTkrEZYxy77AXNhsRW_C-ENx61WPRDCbjeSw/viewform
 - Jackie Martin, UVA Health, 2nd Annual Festival of Cultures at Brooks Family YMCA (June 6th 12-3:30pm)
 - BRHAC meeting (May 12th Noon-1pm)

Can Charlottesville be a Blue Zone? Event Invitation:

On Saturday, April 25th from 10am-12pm at [Commonhouse](#) on the Downtown Mall in Charlottesville, Move2Health Equity Coalition will be partnering with the [TomTom festival](#) to host a FREE community discussion around the question of, ["Can Charlottesville be a Blue Zone?"](#).

Community members, organizations, and collectives are invited to join one of four small discussion groups during the session. In which folks will network and collaborate to identify collective goals, active stakeholders, and work towards a stronger network in the Charlottesville area.

This event will be opened by Move2Health Equity Co-Chairs Jackie Martin and Gregg Winston as well as Dr. Greg Gelburd. They will introduce

our community leaders that will facilitate smaller group discussions and networking around the Blue Zone concepts within the [Power of 9](#). These discussions will be closed out by the coalition Co-Chairs at the end of the event. The momentum of this event will continue in the monthly coalition meetings in the form of presentations and continued discussions from identified stakeholders around longevity, accessibility, and purpose - among other topics benefiting the health and wellbeing of those in the Charlottesville area. The coalition and our community partners invite everyone with a vested interest in the health of our neighbors to join us on Saturday, April 25th!

December 9th, 2025

December Recording:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/gfvhOqzgZ7zkb3NoMNSEYtaI2XVj-glHkxLNcrigraHnQprBE8MCwCDmUw1PDaQ.speRh0MpAmyQxGkq>

Passcode: Dec2025!

AGENDA

- *Introductions & Organizational Updates*
 - Hanna Strauss, Move2HealthEquity; M2HEquity@gmail.com ; December 10th Blue Zones working group meeting, Jan. 7th Medicaid Assisters & Advocates Interest Meeting ; January 14th
 - Shannon Meade & Kelsey Waters, PVCC Panther Pantry, Holiday give away is tomorrow afternoon (12/10) and the snow has made it complicated so it's scaled back for students. Boxes for Break is a give away for students during the 2 weeks that PVCC is closed. Includes shelf stable food and essentials
 - Lisa Murray, JABA Community Engagement Manager, Holiday gift drive today is the last day (12/9), 200 gift bags to folks while JABA is closed, the food drive will be a focus for Nelson county
 - Elly Haden, UVA Nutrition team
 - Jane Colony Mills, Loaves & Fishes, busy with 12,000 people in November and the weather has been a challenge but L+F has stayed open for folks that need it while other folks are having to close. Will be closed Dec 24-Jan 4, 2025.

- Erica Uhlmann, BRAFB, Lots of community support in the form of donations and volunteers and food drives, pantries have reported more guests and first time pantry guests, Charlottesville airport put together a help hub for the TSA employees (including hot meals for staff)
- Cecilia Lapp Stoltzufs & Jo Olson, IRC & New Roots, Client Benefits specialist Tino update:
 - Benefit eligibility to IRC clients but not based on immigration status, December renewals are being watched closely
- Shakaya Cooper & Samantha Provencio & Cecile Gorham, Market Central, Things are looking up and seeing regular clients return and VA fresh match extra in November. Keep going together reached out to support SNAP families in the community and they donated money to families that join SNAP (ie free dozen eggs, free loaf of bread, 1lb of ground beef, a whole or half of a chicken) - keeping this program going through the 20th of December and hopefully continuing through the winter when the
 - SNAP with the VA Fresh Match coupons and continuing to meet the needs
- Nicole Pierce, UVA Food Pantry, Getting into exam season and that means a change in hours, a very busy season, double the amount of visits than in 2024,
- Emma Duane, BRAFB, SNAP outreach & will be attending a benefits briefing about Dec 1st immigration status changes. Internal planning about in person
- Bridget Moss, CRHA, Cville Area Feeds updates in the works
- Wanda Johnson & Lauren Egan, MACAA, New food pantry manager Wanda Johnson started this week, working to meet client needs with lots of turkeys to distribute. Partnered with winery's 5k on Saturday with proceeds going towards MACAA.
- H Peterson, Meals on Wheels, Huge Costco food distro on Thanksgiving to share with Meals on Wheels clients, Free Fridges, and The Haven. Closed the last few days and volunteers will let you know when they can't make it or don't feel comfortable. Earlier in November delivered shelf stable ready to eat meals for 7 days worth. Looking to get more and send
- Hisham, Bread Across Borders, About 25 families a week and so many calls can't meet the need. It's hard to deny people since there isn't enough food for the people, but the people are so happy
- Rosemary Heflin, Child Health partnerships

- Naomi McDermott, Church of our Savior, closed the last few distributions due to the snow and will be open tomorrow (12/10) and seeing huge increases in people we're serving, an increase in budget. The blessing b
- Shelly Bryant, Charlottesville City & Westhaven Clinic Pantry, clients get a bag of food that will last about a day with a choice of meat all sourced from a monthly sam's club. A bag of groceries usually include meat, pancakes, tuna or chicken, noodles, canned goods, and. All folks in the CRHA properties, or referred by Joy Johnson, only 1 pickup per month.
 - Is there a way to send groceries to folks in other CRHA locations?
There is not really a delivery option but rarely folks will deliver to older residents
- Douglas Bush, Yancey Food Pantry, Served over 100 families in the last distribution (usually is about 60 people in 2 distributions per month), one more distribution
- *Working Group Updates & Next steps*
 - SNAP & Public Benefits
 - Immigration Dec. 1 changes are still a big question & stress
 - New applicants will be rejected & recertification is happening on a manual basis now till next November
 - Cville Feeding 500
 - BamaWorks Grant & Dec. 19th Planning Meeting
 - Email Hanna (HACBlueRidge@gmail.com) to get connected
 - Child Summer Feeding
 - Cultivate Charlottesville/FJN/BRHAC Planning meeting
 - Email Hanna (HACBlueRidge@gmail.com) to get connected
 - Cville Area Feeds Site
 - Bridget & Hanna emailing w/ BRAFB
 - Holiday Food Pickups
 - Follow up with Erica U. & Dan D. @ BRAFB (especially if you meet the qualifications to handle a large holiday pickup)
 - Nutrition & Recipe Outreach
 - IRC/New Roots & VCE & L+F
- *Next Meeting & Follow up resources*
 - Goals between now & next meeting (Feb 10th, 2025)
 - SNAP Updates from Emma D. @ BRAFB
 -
 - Upcoming Events
 - Medicaid Assisters & Advocates Interest Meeting (JAN 7TH 6-7:30pm)
 - PDF final Medicaid Advocates and Assisters Flyer.pdf

Action Items:

- ☐ CvilleAreaFeeds.org; Please check out the Cville Feeds resource form update survey here: <https://forms.gle/oayYLLh2KPfXRCV28> (Thank you Bridget for updating the site!)

<https://virginiamercury.com/2025/11/04/youngkin-announces-statewide-food-drive-as-federal-government-shutdown-drags-on-snap-benefits-outstanding/?emci=1a353dd4-18bc-f011-8194-00224823ff9b&emdi=38cda033-19bc-f011-8194-00224823ff9b&ceid=15062647>

https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/3hunpnr/lp/1e8b9b30-5267-422f-a562-da3d341791e8?source_id=81a43c1e-edaa-4042-b363-affa96d47ab7&source_type=em&c=w dTXrjG3t-IMp-ob4mUDykIXCFzvsj0NZQXI-3Cmvn2YSDgekOSfqQ==

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas>

[Emergency Food & Formula Resource Guides](#)

kathryn.goodman@vdh.virginia.gov

Kathryn W. Goodman, MPH, CHES

Director of Communications & Population Health

Blue Ridge Health District | Virginia Department of Health

Mobile 434-270-4802

Pronouns: she/her

October 14th, 2025

AGENDA

- *Introductions & Organizational Updates*
- *Working Group Updates & Next steps*
 - *SNAP & Public Benefits (Gov't Shutdown)*
 - *Cville Feeding 500*
 - *Child Summer Feeding (PB&J & VHFY past grants)*
 - *Cville Area Feeds*
- *Next Meeting & Follow up resources*
 - *Goals between now & next meeting (Dec 9th, 2025)*
 - *Upcoming Events*

Action Items:

- ☑ **CvilleAreaFeeds.org;** Please check out the Cville Feeds resource form update survey here: <https://forms.gle/oayYLLh2KPfXRcV28> (Thank you Bridget for updating the site!)
- ☑ **Child Summer Feeding;** If you're interested in joining the first virtual meeting of this working group, please respond to this When2Meet: <https://www.when2meet.com/?33054386-d83qd>
- ☑ **Affordability Task Force for the Cville Food Co-op;** If you're interested or available to support the work of a local co-op grocery store (specifically through your knowledge about food, what affordability means to you and your community, and how a community owned grocery should serve low income neighbors), please email Samantha at provincios@gmail.com.

Introductions & Organizational Updates:

- ★ Rosemary Beard-Heflin (Child Health Partnerships), Erica Uhlmann (BRAFB), Noemi Mcdermit, John Mcarthy, Shannon Meade (PVCC - Student Resource Office & Panther Pantry), Jack Ogle (UVA Sustainability), Lisa Murray (JABA), Kathleen Glenn-Matthews (CRHA), Barbara Yager (Bread & Roses), Rhonda Oliver (Feeding Greene), Shelly Bryant (Westhaven Clinic), Kelsey Waters (PVCC - Student Resource Office & Panther Pantry), H. Peterson (Meals on Wheels)
- ★ **The Haven** - Kerri DeMaio - kerri@thehaven.org
 - We are doing a full overhaul to beautify and better our space. We will be shutting down from October 20th to October 31st and there will be no access to the free fridge during that time. We will also not have access to the kitchen, so we will not be able to take most donations. We will be continuing our regular services from the front of the Haven, breakfast daily from 7:30-8:30 and our Lunch services on Friday from noon to one. If anyone has ready to eat, packaged food, snack bags etc.. they are more than welcome to swing by and hand them out at those times.
- ★ **Cultivate Charlottesville** - KJ Howard - kj@cultivatecharlottesville.org
 - Annual pumpkin painting (21st 3-5pm @ 708 Page St./City of Promise)
 - Pumpkins, paint, and snacks provided
 - Garden Opportunities:
 - Wednesday (10-12:30) workday UAC team at West st garden
 - Ever Friday 10-12 at City of Promise (708 Page St.)
 - Food Justice Network, Large Group meeting 10:30-12
 - Parks & Rec advisory board meetings every 3rd thursday 5-6:30
 - Waiting to hear about plans for Washington Park 2026-2027
- ★ **Loaves & Fishes** - Jane Colony Mills, Paola Covarrubias, Matt Paysour
 - New freezer is installed and increases storage

- Uptick (285 households on Thursday) & cross referrals were working
- ★ **IRC** - Jo Olson, Tino Tirado (Client Benefits Specialist)
 - Digital literacy class on Tues & Thur – was able to share materials about SNAP and market (and shared through short videos (less than a minute) in native languages & text messaging platform) available for groups interested in sharing information
- ★ **UVA Community Food Pantry** - Nicole Pierce - nlp8ct@virginia.edu
 - UVA Basic Needs Resource Group (formerly FIRG) is now meeting again, reach out to Nicole for invitation & updates:
 - [Basic Needs Resource Group Powerpoint](#)
 - Next meeting is Friday, December 5th at 2pm in the Student Health and Wellness multipurpose room
 - Nicole is doing SNAP outreach for UVA folks
- ★ **Market Central IX** - Shakaya Cooper, Samantha Provencio, Cecile Gorham
 - SNAP at the farmers markets & VA fresh match (equivalent coupon for double fresh match)
 - Stretching the food budget & promotion of project (doing more promotion again in the spring)
 - Door knocking? Not yet, but advertising in the Cville weekly for 2 weeks & online media – Need support in word of mouth
 - Outreach at Loaves and Fishes was really successful
 - For ideas or support, reach out to: samantha@marketcentral.org, Shakaya@marketcentral.org, cecile@marketcentral.org

Working Group Updates & Next Steps:

- ★ **SNAP & Public Benefits (Gov't Shutdown)**
 - IRC Updates from meeting with Cville DSS:
 - Govt shut down means no SNAP benefits in Nov. 1st, 4th, 7th, (transmission coming out today and 10 days notice to recipients (true for WIC benefits) Nov 20th deadline – info by letter or in person and email if available & dependent on the same address
 - Last week IRC policy team (HR1 bill) SIVs will be impacted (5 year waiting period waiting for legal status) any new arrivals for the last 5 years will have a waiting period for SNAP. DSS is waiting on guidance from the state and the state is waiting on guidance, its a cycle.
 - 5 years from arrival (Oct 2027 key date)
 - Workshop next week or by the end of October IRC & tino to go over the bill, spending, and general planning about saving money
 - Attended by employment team & more
 - Maybe IRC presentation and notes and maybe recording

- Include QR code in messages (IRC)
- BRAFB Updates & Resources:
 - If you would like to refer guests to the Public Benefits Outreach Team at BRAFB for support with SNAP and accessing other pantries, guests and/or partner staff and volunteers can fill out the [Assistance Request Form](#) on our website (also linked in the slides). This form also translates over when you change the language of the BRAFB website in the top right corner.
 - Additionally, here are some helpful resources from the Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC) about SNAP/Medicaid & data privacy for immigrants in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). The VPLC said to check the page regularly for updates.
 - Food finder & tips/tricks
 - Share PDFs, Screenshare of using food finder
 - Translations hiccups (any notes about pantries are not
 - Marjan @ cville tulips has offered to help
 - MOVE (Multilanguage volunteer effort) Program at UVA (offer translations)
 - AMMENDMENT: In my SNAP Ambassador Training, I spoke about changes to work requirements. **I've just learned that most of those have not gone into effect yet.** Here is my updated understanding of the current rules:
 - The age range for ABAWD (Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents) is still 18-54; the maximum age **has not yet increased** to 64.
 - The exception categories **have not yet changed**. Here is the current list of exceptions that are still in effect:
 - Have dependent children under 18 years old
 - Are unable to work due to a physical or mental limitation
 - Are pregnant
 - Are unhoused/homeless
 - Are a veteran
 - Are 24 and younger and aged out of foster care at 18
 - The work requirement **still does apply to all counties** in Virginia as of Oct 1 (meaning there are no longer any exempt counties).
 - The changes I mentioned to the work requirements (ABAWD age and exception categories)**are expected to go into effect on Nov 1 or 2.** However, there is still not an official

date for when they will go into effect since DSS has not yet received guidance from the Food and Nutrition Service (USDA).

- In the training, I also discussed the uncertainty of whether or not SIVs (folks with Special Immigrant Visas) will be subject to the 5-year waiting period for SNAP eligibility for green card holders. **While no official update has been released yet, it's looking like SIVs will also be subject to that 5-year waiting period.** This will harm immigrant communities in our service area with large SIV populations (such as Charlottesville) and will, in turn, affect the food pantries that support them. I will keep folks updated as I learn more about when those changes are likely to go into effect.

★ Cville Feeding 500

- Applied for the BamaWorks grant under Bread & Roses (follow up in our December meeting after grant announcement). The group is working with BEACON kitchen for space and experience.

★ Child Summer Feeding (PB&J & VHFY past grants)

- Follow up meeting to be scheduled between the BRHAC and FJN to coordinate efforts around child feeding programs

★ Cville Area Feeds

- Fill out survey to update the site - Bridget Moss will be working to update & follow up

Next Meeting & Goals:

- ★ **Goal:** 1st meeting of child summer feeding programs & updates on path forward for the working group
- ★ **Goal:** Grant update from Feeding 500 group & next steps from the working group (either way the grant decision falls)
- ★ **Goal:** Update & check in on CvilleAreaFeeds.org
- ★ **Goal:** Update from Cville Food Co-op
- ★ **Goal:** Update about SNAP & government benefits (What's new? What to look out for? What are other folks doing/best practices?)

Resources & Upcoming Events:

- ★ [Protect Those You Serve: Use Produce Safety Best Practices While Gleaning Guidance for Gleaning Organizations](#)
- ★ [As Government Shuts Down, Administration of the Medicare Program Largely Continues](#)
- ★ [Immigrant Access to Health Insurance and Nutrition Assistance](#)
- ★ [W Minutes from Local food resources roundtable meeting 9.15.25.docx](#)
- ★ <https://studies.virginiageneralassembly.gov/studies/682>

- ★ https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=SXivjZ0gmESnK8N1pcs039WMY_aALGIFjKCTjUquoKNUREFJNTE1RIA2TVU5NFNBSkgwMVE0WUEwMC4u&route=shorturl
 - ★ <https://vakids.org/healthyschoolmealsforall>
 - ★ <https://vakids.org/posts/h-r-1-costly-impacts-for-young-people-and-families-across-virginia>
 - ★ https://vakids.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Voices_2025-H.R.1-Federal-to-State-Analysis_VA-General-Assembly.pdf
 - ★ <https://mealsofhope.org/blog/2025/07/21/how-meals-of-hope-keeps-kids-fed-when-schools-out/>
-

August 12th, 2025

AGENDA

- *Introductions & Organizational Updates*
- *Working Groups*
 - *SNAP Benefits*
 - *Child Summer Feeding*
- *Next Meeting*
 - *Goals between now & next meeting*
 - *Confirmation of meeting time*

Action Items:

- ☒ ~~Share SNAP information amongst group~~
- ☒ ~~SNAP 1/2 pager for public info – DSS Updates~~
- ☒ ~~Follow up SNAP meeting (hybrid & evening)~~
- ☒ ~~Follow up materials through google drive (and update contact list)~~

Introductions & Organizational Updates:

- ★ Theresa Booker, Charlottesville DSS
 - Changes to Medicaid and SNAP; 20 hr work requirement to impact all 19-64 year old people
 - SNAP changes are being implemented and screened
- ★ Monica Kelley, Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
 - SNAP no longer has exemptions for veterans, homeless folks, etc.
 - Attended a SNAP update meeting and will share notes when possible
- ★ Shannon Meade, Student Resource Center at PVCC
 - Students are coming back soon and still have 2 pantries on campus

- Providing workshops and nutrition events for students (There will be an all events flyer available to share with PVCC students)
- ★ Nicole Pierce, Cavalier Food Pantry
 - Students are coming back soon so there's a lot going on and they still have 2 pantries on grounds as well
- ★ Samantha Provencio, Cecile Gorham, Shakaya Cooper, Market Central at IX
 - New Farmers Market @ Jefferson School on Sundays (starting this Sunday!) Still looking for more food vendors
 - September Sun will be vending with SNAP & Fresh Match (They also vend on Tuesdays at Lampo and have a sliding scale purchase and CSA)
 - Farmers Market Week just ended
 - For any support or questions around the Senior Farmers market \$50 benefit contact Samantha
 - Upcoming potential for grant funded senior food access and SNAP benefits in September
- ★ Jane Colony Mills, Paola Covarrubias, Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry
 - Currently serving 11,500 people food per month
 - Concerned about the impact of families (especially non-green card holders) losing SNAP and the impact on community food pantries
 - New dietician on staff; Monica Davis is retiring and Matt Paysour is joining the team at Loaves & Fishes
- ★ Jo Olson, IRC
 - Plugging in about SNAP changes and the impact on their clients and our entire community
- ★ Cecilia, IRC New Roots
 - Adding another contact for the SNAP discussion and getting the word out
- ★ Bethany Kaduyu, Bread & Roses at Trinity Episcopal
 - New to the role!
 - Looking for new tenants and volunteers for upcoming programs
- ★ Lisa Murray, JABA
 - Supporting elders in the community and looking for resources and information regarding changes and impacts
- ★ Rhonda Oliver, Feeding Greene Food Pantry
 - Grocery store model food pantry serving food 4 days a week, as well as a backpack program, and delivery
 - Trying to stick to the healthy pantry initiative and maintain healthy food options for clients and community members despite growing difficulties
- ★ KJ Howard, Cultivate Charlottesville

- Back to school and gardening. Looking to hire gardeners and lean on Piedmont Master Gardeners for support in growing harvest yield and garden impact
- Just had intern graduation: 3 returning interns and 3 new interns
- Continuing to attend Parks & Rec meetings and more to come on the Power to Grow campaign and the next steps with the Washington Park community garden

★ Jamari Green, Piedmont Housing Alliance

- Currently serving food distributions at 11 residential distribution sites 1-2x a month
- Youth ambassadors graduated after working for their 2 week period
- Looking out for resources and information around SNAP and Medicaid for multi family and senior residents in particular

SNAP Benefits Working Group:

★ IRC called a meeting 2 weeks ago to communicate and learn about the evolving situation w/ SNAP and the client impact

- Specifically considering the non-green card holding clients. Currently 125 IRC families are expected to be impacted (an estimated 320+ individuals)
- IRC has the ability to text resources out to clients and is looking for communication strategies

★ Timing of SNAP impacts:

- Policy impact with recertification (Changes are happening to folks now and will continue rolling as people have to recertify and their paperwork is reviewed)
- Legal Aid Justice Center and Charlottesville DSS confirmed that benefits recipients must be notified if their benefits are cut (currently: if someone is losing benefits they have to give notice of at least a month if there are more than 10 days remaining in the month)

★ Status related impacts:

- Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) and anyone with lawful permanent resident status are eligible for SNAP
- Refugees & Asylees (folks on the path towards a green card or with a 2nd degree migrant status are no longer eligible for SNAP benefits)

★ Meetings & Questions

- DSS is having a SNAP related meeting on Thursday to get a grasp on the changing environment (they had a Medicaid meeting this past week)
- The Food Bank is under the jurisdiction of VDSS in regards to SNAP and has an obligation to keep them informed as soon as possible

- Medicaid no longer allows for telephonic and computer signatures, is this a concern with SNAP? Currently these are both valid but if that changes more information to come
- Language to impacted communities: Utilize the benefits that you are entitled to. There is no longer confirmation that your personal information and immigration status are protected by the states. The federal government has requested information from the states but it is state by state (VA law currently unknown)
- Impact to WIC: Currently none - WIC is income (Similar to USDA guidelines), child under the age of 5 or pregnant, and has no correlation with SNAP qualification
- Public Charge (Unclear if SNAP and other benefits will be weaponized - this would be a change in the current system)
 - Definition: "Under the public charge rule, immigrants to the United States classified as Likely or Liable to become a Public Charge may be denied visas or permission to enter the country due to their disabilities or lack of economic resources. "

★ Skimming

- Benefit theft is still happening and it was determined to be a bot that skimmed benefits before the cards were activated. Currently DSS offices are keeping a log of all those with stolen benefits but have no ability to refill or supply additional benefits

★ SunBucks (Child summer EBT)

- Was released in the first week of August and had major issues. Some folks didn't receive anything, some received it even though they didn't qualify, all sunbucks cards were taken back and some funds were deposited on family cards rather than on re-issued cards. There is a plan to distribute these funds in September.

★ Best way to sign up for benefits is the Hotline. (call and leave a phone # to hold your place in line while signing up over the phone)

Child Summer Feeding Working Group:

- ★ Follow up discussions to come (one off meetings will be shared and invited to folks through the email list)

Resources Shared:

- ★ <https://www.txfed.org/courses/SNAP-Rules>

Previous Meeting:

1. FNS has not written the policy yet, it is all just what they are told. Policy has not been put in place:
2. Right now:

3. Expenses will have to be verified (ie rent/utilities/etc)
 4. Will hold up processing times
 5. October will be the verification deadline
 6. "Everything for October needs to be verified"
 7. Big change that has never happened in 20+ years
 8. Electricity - standard is \$374 for a household of
 9. It was saying you pay anything for utilities but in October you will have to verify that you are paying anything
 10. This is the same with the phone expenses.
11. Exemption category (time limited benefit)
 12. Only eligible to receive benefits for a limited time and then after that time they needed
 13. Homeless, former foster care, and veteran exemption ends (if you were declared as homeless then the time line
 14. 6 months on a 36 month timeline
 15. No official list but have been told who will be taken off
16. Renewal, interim, change in rent (all require
 17. Intake folks are going to need to start this immediately so that everyone getting on benefits is on this new system
18. How do we inform people?
 19. Started putting the media information out there? VDSS site - should be up there by the end of the week (there's a lag)
 20. Maybe in rent notices
21. All localities are now required to provide this information and
22. Food Pantry impact
 23. All SNAP benefits cut due to documentation status
 24. Loaves & Fishes is giving 12,000 people and going to Loaves & Fishes 2x a month while giving 2 weeks of food to families (Demand is going up and supply is going down - and USDA foods have contacted while purchasable food from the food bank has gone down)
 25. Food may be plentiful at the end of the October due to the end of the fiscal year
 26. Loaves & Fishes put out a call for gleaned foods to pantries

27. Rides to Things (Gail Hyde Wiley)
28. bit.ly/R2T-Request
29. Underground (status agnostic) for transit
30. Security minded & picking up food directly for food distributions (Loaves & Fishes)
31. All our R2T drivers and care providers need to be on the free text-messaging app Signal for security. Reach out to Rides to Things on Signal at 434-218-3750 and I'll send the driver application.
32. Double match day for IX farmers market (Tuesday at Lampo, Wednesday at pen park, Saturday at city & IX, Sunday at Starr hill) 22-28th of Sept
33. International Neighbors, Becky Bassett & Molly Crouch
34. 2 large families are concerned and waiting on their green cards
35. Virginia Food Access Coalition
36. Stories that people can tell (and get in front of legislators)
37. Veteran resources?
38. Spanish speaking guests have gone down significantly
39. A lot of afghans and large/the most
40. Nutrition for IRC clients (maybe tours of pantries)
41. Halal meats from Medina market (Church of our Savior)
42. Cville Tulips, Marjan Omranian
43. Nutrition once a week
44. Greenstone on 5th once a month
45. Dari, Pashto, and Arabic translation of information (
1. Make sure to send your pantry information to Kassandra Baltazar Alcaron at The Women's Initiative to share.
2. Ingrid, Laura, Kassandra, Diana, Sibila, Alma y Karina
3. **Programa de Bienestar**
4. **La Iniciativa Para La Mujer**
5. (434) 328-1800
6. **bienestar@thewomensinitiative.org**

Max A Luna MD FACC

Associate Professor of Medicine
Division of Cardiovascular Medicine

Director, Latino Health Initiative
Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement
Department of Medicine
University of Virginia
P.O. Box 800158
Charlottesville, VA 22908
Phone: (434) 924-9605
Fax: (434) 982-1998
maxluna@virginia.edu

Paige Saunders, MA, CAPM

Project Manager | Latino Health Initiative | Population Health
434-320-9584 | pmz4er@uvahealth.org

Info for the group:

1. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas>
2. https://www.cvilletomorrow.org/snap-benefits-might-not-arrive-in-november-due-to-federal-government-shutdown/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20%28118081%29&utm_source=f16601be84&mc_cid=2953118504&mc_eid=8578d361bc
3. <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/furloughed-workers-return-manage-health-insurance-open-enrollment-126815389>
4. <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/DocX/clg/fiscal-stress/fiscal-stress-2022.pdf>
5. <https://communitypartnerships.virginia.edu/orange-dot-report>

UVA Basic Needs Resource Group - October 10th

1. Formerly FIRG with focus on local Basic needs resources
 2. Send for updates & more links
 3. Almost 3k visits in September

4. Donations: 4,805 lbs / \$18,558.61 fundraisers & donations / \$18,707.84 grants
5. Attendance
 6. Jackie Khawand Ward, Senior Assistant Dean
 7. Val Fisk, Basic Needs Case Manager
 8. Nicole Pierce, Basic Needs Coordinator & Cavalier Food Pantry
 9. Diedre V., Student Services for Nursing Students
 10. Carson M., School of —, Online & hygiene pantry
 11. Emma D., BRAFB (Benefits Outreach)
 12. Paola C., Loaves & Fishes
 13. Bailey B., Student Resources (CASS)
 14. Shelby G., Provost Office (CASS)
15. Presentation notes & Goals:
 16. Aim to eliminate food insecurity on campus
 17. Student leadership committee
 18. Food pantry - student health & wellness, 4th floor, rm 498
 19. Newcomb Hall Student activities center, rm 144
 20. Student council free store & hygiene closet
21. Financial Efforts on Grounds
 22. Directing students to CASS & Basic Needs
 23. Hoo needs help: unexpected, unforeseen, unavailable
 24. 147 applicants: 95 awarded (65%) 44 denied (35%)
 25. Summer applications w/o summer classes are auto rejected
 26. More international students anecdotely
 27. More than one grant is available per year
 28. Medical care is rarely possible to fund
 29. UVA requirement to have insurance
 30. Documentation status is part of the application
 31. CASS honor loan \$1500
 32. Good academic & financial standing (60 days to pay back)
 33. 1 time late fee \$10
 34. Some schools (nursing & engineering) have their own emergency funding for students (still talking w/ other departments)
 35. Unsafe housing - not enough affordable housing
 36. All pantry resources require a swipe & identifying info

37. Hygiene items (no period product dispenser)
38. JMRL (diapers, pades, tampons, etc)
39. Community food pantry (moved from acces to all to just students because of restricted donor funds)
40. Missing staff connection (facilities & dining)

Info on Cville Tulips

Marjan Omranian qft3bx@virginia.edu is one of the founders of Cville tulips. I noticed Cville Tulips recently provided translation services for Cville Tomorrow, although I do not know that they did it for free. Since I pay our bilingual staff members, I'm not sure how much you could get for free, particularly from a lower income population, but Marjan might have some ideas.

<https://www.tarjimly.org/> is another possible resource.