

HB903**Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Donations to Food Banks and Other Charitable Entities**

Ways and Means Committee

February 26th 2026**Favorable**

Catholic Charities of Baltimore supports HB903, allows a subtraction under the Maryland income tax of up to \$1,000 for donations of certain food and monetary gifts made by a taxpayer during the taxable year to certain charitable entities that provide food at no cost to individuals in need; and requiring the Comptroller to report to the General Assembly by January 1, 2029, on whether the subtraction modification in the Act contributed to any increase in donations to charities providing food at no charge to certain individuals.

For over a century, Catholic Charities has provided care and services to improve the lives of Marylanders in need. We accompany Marylanders as they age with dignity, support their pursuit of employment and career advancement, heal from trauma and addiction, achieve independence, prepare for educational success, and welcome immigrant neighbors into Maryland communities.

As the largest private provider of human services in Maryland, Catholic Charities served nearly **381,000 meals in FY25** through programs that provide food to individuals and families in need. These include:

- **Our Daily Bread Employment Center:** 180,617 meals (avg. 15,051/month)
- **Christopher Place Employment Academy:** 22,587 meals (avg. 1,883/month)
- **Weinberg Housing and Resource Center:** 100,732 meals (avg. 8,395/month)
- **My Brother's Keeper:** 16,898 meals (avg. 1,416/month)
- **Sarah's House:** 29,973 meals (avg. 2,498/month)
- **Community Connections/Food Connect (Allegany and Garrett Counties):** 30,520 pantry meals distributed through local parish pantries

Across these programs, we feed between 20 and 400 individuals daily, many of whom have no other reliable source of nutritious meals. Some of our programs operate seven days per week, often serving multiple meals each day. We are also expanding our food services to respond to growing community needs. For example, Villa Maria Behavioral Health is launching a new food pantry at its Cumberland clinic in Allegany County to better support individuals receiving behavioral health services who are also experiencing food insecurity.

While demand for food remains steady, we have also experienced periods of increased need. At the same time, rising food costs have significantly strained our ability to keep pace. As we expand services to meet these needs, we have had to redirect limited program funds toward food purchases or rely more heavily on private donors to fill the gap.

A targeted tax incentive such as the one proposed in HB903 would encourage individuals and businesses to give more frequently and more generously. Even modest increases in donations would translate directly into additional meals for Marylanders experiencing food insecurity.

HB903 is a practical, fiscally responsible way to strengthen Maryland's charitable food network while supporting organizations that serve on the front lines of hunger relief. **For these reasons, Catholic Charities of Baltimore respectfully urges a favorable report on HB903.**

Submitted By: Madelin Martinez, Assistant Director of Advocacy