



Blue Ridge Area
FOOD BANK
Everyone should have enough to eat.



Partner With the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank to Nourish Health, Together

Imagine a healthcare system where **every patient has access to the nutritious food they need to support their unique health conditions.** The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank believes this vision is possible, and we want to partner with your healthcare organization to make it a reality for your patient population. True patient well-being extends far beyond the exam room—it's fundamentally linked to nutrition.

The link between food insecurity and health

Food insecurity significantly impacts health outcomes, increasing the risk of chronic conditions, emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and mental health challenges. Lack of nutritious food leads to higher



A patient at the Food Bank's Food Pharmacy partner, **Augusta Health**, receives nutritious food after her health care visit.

healthcare costs for payers, hospitals, and patients. Community Health Needs Assessments consistently highlight the need to prioritize access to good nutrition.

By collaborating, **we can directly address this critical social determinant of health** and create a healthier and more dignified future for patients and communities.



What Food Pharmacy patients are saying

"The beautiful, fresh produce has kept me alive. Thank you!"

"(Food Pharmacy staff) are very kind, they listen to me and always help with the food medicine I need."

Why Partner With the Food Bank?

Together, we can improve nutrition security, prevent emergency department visits, reduce hospital readmissions, and support the well-being of the communities we serve. A partnership with the Food Bank provides your organization with the tools to address nutrition security when and where patients need it most.

■ **“Food is Medicine” focus:** We are deeply committed to this approach. One-third of all the food we distribute is fresh produce, and 98% of our tracked inventory meets the *Healthy Eating Research Guidelines*. This ensures your patients receive foods that support health, culture, and lifestyle needs.

■ **Healthcare partner supports:** We provide a comprehensive set of supports for our partner healthcare teams, including:

- ✓ Staff training and dedicated liaison support
- ✓ Data collection and evaluation frameworks
- ✓ Peer learning across our Food Pharmacy partner network
- ✓ Assistance in identifying funding opportunities for clinics and FQHCs

■ **Experience and infrastructure you can trust:** The Food Bank has been serving the region since 1981. We collaborate with more than 400 community organizations. With partnerships at more than 30 healthcare sites—including hospitals, FQHCs, and free clinics—we know how to co-create flexible, sustainable programs that fit your operations, staff capacity, and patient population.



Staff at the **Free Clinic of Culpeper**, ready to help patients shop for free, medically tailored groceries.

Interested in learning more about Food Is Medicine research and collaboration? Scan the QR codes with your phone camera:



< Federation of Virginia Food Banks

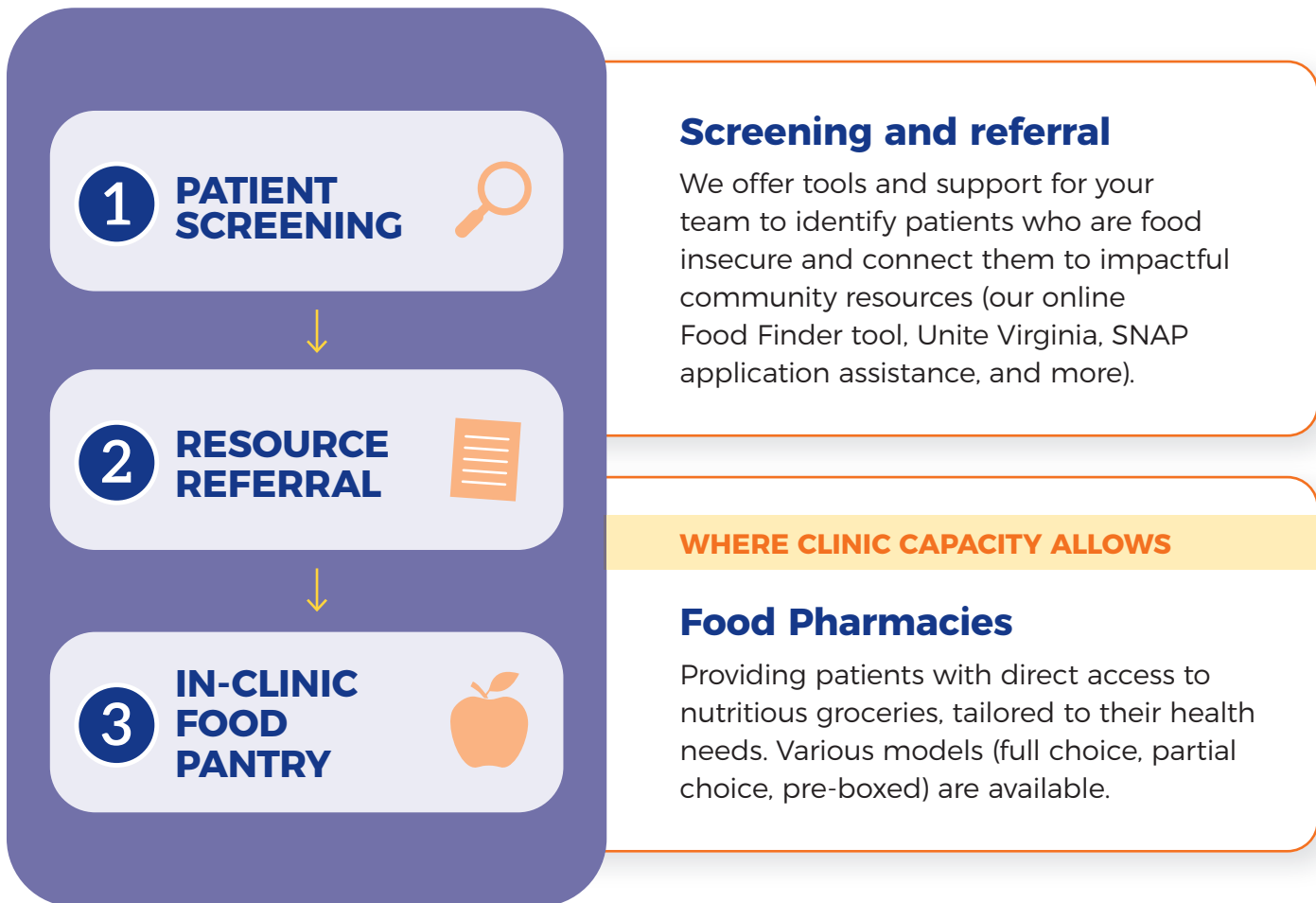


< SIREN Research Library

Partnership Pathways



There are many ways that we can collaborate, from simple screening and referral support to establishing in-clinic Food Pharmacies. The true power of Food Bank partnership lies in the flexibility to meet the needs of your patients, staff, systems, and space. **We co-create a program that works for you.**



The value of partnering with the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank

Your organization can:

Help your patients practice healthy eating and better manage their health conditions in the home and community settings.

Equip your healthcare teams with training and streamlined pathways for addressing food insecurity where it matters most—at the point of care.

Contribute to creating a healthier community where food security is supported through community partnership.

Let's Explore a Partnership

- **Healthcare organizations:** We have a simple application process designed to learn about your patient population, program implementation capacity, and strategic alignment.
- **Other organizations and individuals:** We are eager to hear from you and discuss how we can nourish health, together.

Get in touch to take the first step:

Maria Bowman, MPH
Director of Health Initiatives
Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
mbowman@brafb.org
540-688-3368

Resource created with support from Ariana Gatewood, MPH

“

“We started our partnership with the Food Bank in 2020 and almost immediately were able to meet needs that we didn't even know we had prior to COVID. Many of our patients struggle with a variety of socioeconomic challenges, so it was a natural fit for us to offer another option to address food insecurity.”

Lesley McPhatter,
Dialysis Clinical
Nutrition Manager, UVA
Health



“

“At Augusta Health, our mission is to strengthen the health and well-being of all people in our communities. Our partnership with the Food Bank enables us to address food insecurity by improving access to nutritious food for our patients and community members. We place a strong emphasis on the social determinants of health, and we believe that when basic needs—such as food access—are met, individuals are more likely to achieve better health outcomes. We are grateful for our partnership with the Food Bank for helping to make this possible.”

Catherine Hill, Health Educator, Community Outreach & Partnerships, Augusta Health



“

“Our partnership with the Food Bank has helped fill the gap in our food desert and improve health literacy levels. With only one stoplight and limited healthy food options in town, the Food Pharmacy at our medical center has been able to provide patients with nutritious foods at a convenient location and nutrition education during their visit.”

Emily Lagerquist, Community Health Worker,
Blue Ridge Medical Center, Nelson County



“

“Partnering with the Blue Ridge Area Food bank, the Orange County Free Clinic has been able to broaden our mission to provide whole-person care to our patients. Our new Food Pharmacy Program allows us to heal, nourish, and uplift those we serve.”

Dorren Brown
Executive Director, Orange Free Clinic



Blue Ridge Area
FOOD BANK



OUR MISSION is to improve food security through equitable access to good nutrition and the resources that support health and well-being.