



20
23

IMPACT REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION BALIMORE CITY
6615 Reisterstown Road, Ste. 201
Baltimore, MD 21215
301-226-7410
<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/baltimore-city>



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

M. Antonio Silas
City Extension Director

On behalf of University of Maryland Extension, I want to sincerely thank you for taking the time to read our 2023 Annual Report. This is an exciting time to experience Extension, as UME is continually expanding our programs and services to meet the needs of ever-changing societal circumstances and challenges. Extension's goal of providing non-formal education to improve lives in rural and urban communities will always remain at the forefront of our programming and collaborations. If this is your first time hearing about Extension, we invite you to interact with our faculty and staff through our programming or by reaching out to us personally.



**non-formal education
adapts to societal
needs, empowering
individuals and
communities to
thrive amidst
challenges.**

M. Antonio Silas

*University of Maryland Extension Baltimore
City Extension Director*

OUR STORY

The University of Maryland Extension (UME) is the largest department within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR), boasting over 300 faculty and staff. UME was born from the 1914 Smith-Lever Act of Congress, which directed the local land grant universities to provide non-formal educational programs, based on credible scientific research, for the residents of the state. To reach Marylanders, UME maintains offices in all 23 counties and the city of Baltimore. This extension network disseminates information, provides teaching opportunities, engages with community stakeholders to share knowledge, and administers services so as to create economic growth, community development, improved human health, enhanced environment, and wise use of our natural resources – within an approach that values diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect.

We deliver our mission through the following
four program areas:

Agriculture and Food Systems
4-H Youth Development
Family and Consumer Sciences
Environment and Natural Resources

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.

Los programas, actividades e instalaciones de la universidad están disponibles para todos sin distinción de raza, color, sexo, identidad o expresión de género, orientación sexual, estado civil, edad, origen nacional, afiliación política, discapacidad física o mental, religión, estado de veterano protegido, información genética, apariencia personal o cualquier otra clase legalmente protegida



THE FACULTY TEAM



Michael Elonge, Senior Agent | Finance Educator

Family & Consumer Sciences, Finance Education

Neith Little, Senior Agent | Urban Agriculture Educator

Urban Agriculture, Agriculture and Food Systems

Albert Lewis, Agent Associate | 4-H Youth Educator

Maryland 4-H, 4-H Youth Development

Bidemi Oladiran, Agent Associate | 4-H Youth Educator

Maryland 4-H, 4-H Youth Development

Farzana Rahman, Agent Associate | Nutrition Educator

EFNEP - Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

Rachel Revis, Agent Associate | Nutrition Educator

SNAP-Ed. - Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program

THE MANAGEMENT TEAM



Dr. Antonio Silas | City Extension Director

Strategic Visioning and Planning, Fund Management, Community Engagement

Tamara Scott | Business Services Specialist

Budget Management, Finance Reporting, Compliance and Auditing

Shanna Matulevich | Administrative Assistant

Office Coordination, Purchasing, Design Support

MASTER GARDENER

The **Master Gardener program** is designed to equip gardening enthusiasts with the knowledge and skills to become volunteers in their local communities. It offers comprehensive horticultural training to individuals who are passionate about sustainable gardening and environmental stewardship. The program is aligned with the University of Maryland Extension's outreach mission and provides research-based information through lectures, creating gardens, and conducting research. Master Gardeners contribute to the well-being of Baltimoreans by promoting agricultural literacy, efficient gardening practices, pest management, and pollinator protection.



In 2023, the MG program had a diverse class of 30 *interns* from various parts of the city. **Each participant donated 40 hours of volunteerism, which amounts to 1,200 hours of agriculturally-based community service to Baltimoreans.**

Baltimore City Master Gardeners have also logged 1,083 hours of continuing education to further their agricultural knowledge.



The Baltimore City Master Gardeners volunteered 5,972.55 hours. A volunteer's estimated hourly cost is \$33.49. In 2023, the BCMG did **\$200,020.69** worth of service to Baltimore City.



- The “Ask a Master Gardener” volunteer program supported over **1000 Baltimoreans** in 2023.



URBAN AGRICULTURE



The Urban Agriculture program serves urban farmers and other food and agriculture entrepreneurs by helping them learn skills and considerations that can positively impact their goals. The program provides professional development education and one-on-one technical support on starting a farm, business, financial planning, marketing farm products, soil health, and nutrient management, vegetable production methods, pest management, food safety, and regulatory compliance.

We Dig Agriculture.

32

Educational
Events

846

Participants

54

One-on-One
technical assistance
sessions

105

Educational
Hours Taught

*2023-23 Impacts

NEED HELP? WE'RE HERE!

- Beginner Farmer Education classes
- Agricultural Entrepreneurial Coaching
- Remote and On-Farm Technical Assistance
- Urban Farmer Meetings
- Guest lectures to communities and stakeholders





4-H Youth Development provides opportunities for young people to thrive through immersive educational programming. 4-H's programming focus areas are service-learning, workforce readiness, entrepreneurship, Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math (STEAM), and personal wellness. Our goal is to encourage Baltimore City 4-H youth and adult leaders to strengthen their communities through action.



OUR PROGRAMS

The Youth STEAM Ambassador Program

Youth learn civic and community engagement skills, service-learning, and leadership through participation in STEAM activities and programs.

Blacks N STEAM Matter

An initiative designed to increase youths' positive attitudes toward STEAM (science, tech, engineering, art, and math) subjects and careers by exposing them to STEAM activities and professionals of color in the STEAM Field.

**Make the Best Better.
Join 4-H.**



4-H's STEAM

This program is focused on increasing youth interest and skill development in *robotics, technology, science, and other creative and innovative subjects* with the long-term goal of having the youth pursue additional STEAM learning opportunities and careers.

The Healthy Living program

A train-to-trainer curriculum designed to educate youth about effective decision-making skills regarding food choices. This program aims to positively influence and empower youth and their families in education, social-emotional wellness, and physical activity.



Financial Education employs principles of economics and finance to empower communities through financial education assistance designed to positively impact practical application and efficient decision-making in managing finances. In 2023, the focus was on Housing Finance.

Who We Reached.

$$268 \times 3 = 804$$

of Housing residents who received training

Hybrid Sessions (virtual and in-person)

of City residents served

$$380 \times 3 = 1,140$$

Frontline Housing Staff trained (statewide)

Hybrid Sessions (virtual and in-person)

of Frontline staff participated for professional development

By estimate, the 380 trainers who attended professional development sessions (train-the-trainer) would serve 6,480 residents assisting with financial management skills, eviction, and foreclosure prevention.

PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS

- Adult Personal Finance (Community Agencies Staff & Clientele, Workforce, and Professional Development)
- Housing Finance (Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Education)
- Inmates/Ex-offenders (Small Business Ownership Education)
- Youth Personal Finance (K12, GED/Dropout programs)
- Risk Management in Agriculture and Business





The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) of Baltimore City is a free, federally funded educational program for families and individuals living in low-income communities. EFNEP's mission is to empower families and individuals to make healthy food choices, increase their physical activity, and save money while doing so. The program offers nutrition and health education classes, cooking demonstrations, and hands-on lessons to teach practical skills that support positive health-related behaviors.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- The St. Vincent de Paul Head Start Program
- Latin parents in EFNEP Spanish workshops
- The Baltimore Medical System
- Centro Sol
- Joseph C. Briscoe High School

These collaborations are focused on teaching people about nutrition and physical activity and helping young people learn about healthy eating during the summer.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

- For every \$1 spent on EFNEP, participants save an average of \$10.64 in healthcare costs.
- EFNEP participants save an average of \$57.30 on their monthly grocery bill.





Maryland Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) works to improve the health and well-being of Maryland residents. SNAP-Ed helps local families lead healthy lives through increased food access, improved nutrition quality, and physical activity. Through partnerships with state and community organizations across Maryland, SNAP-Ed provides comprehensive nutrition education programs, which consist of in-person education, social marketing programs, and policy, system, and environmental-level changes. SNAP-Ed programs introduce children and adults to healthy options and provide them with the skills and knowledge to make healthy choices.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND US?

Local Food Pantries

We partner and collaborate with food pantries to increase procurement of nutritional food and to promote healthy food options, including maximizing local produce donations, gardening efforts, and educating and tasting nutritious recipes.

The Farmer's Market

SNAP-Ed connects local producers and farmers' markets with low-income Marylanders to increase access to locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Community Organizations

Youth site SNAP-Ed programs work to establish a healthier cafeteria environment, a greater connection to local food access, including farms, on-site gardens, and food pantries, as well as supporting teachers in providing access to water, healthy celebrations, and physical activity resources for the school community.

