

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Carolyn Huckabay, Director of Communications

[chuckabay@thefoodtrust.org](mailto:chuckabay@thefoodtrust.org) | 267-668-2898

**Introducing the Nutrition Navigator, a Free Multi-Language Mapping Resource Built to Empower Food Communities in the Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. Regions**

*Online tool, originally created by the Bainum Family Foundation, will be overseen by The Food Trust with community-based support from the Montgomery County Food Council*

*Philadelphia, PA* – The culmination of a multi-year, multi-partner effort to help residents navigate their local food system, The Food Trust, the Bainum Family Foundation and the Montgomery County Food Council are pleased to announce the launch of the **Nutrition Navigator** (found at [map.thefoodtrust.org](http://map.thefoodtrust.org)). This interactive, multi-language, free online community resource map, currently focused on the Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. regions, gives residents a clear and comprehensive picture of the healthy food-related programs and resources available to them, from nutrition education and incentive programs, to local points of access and job training opportunities.

Formerly known as the Food Learning Locator, the map was initially launched by the Maryland-based Bainum Family Foundation in 2017 with a goal of connecting people to food-related community education and job training programs in their own communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, while many in-person programs were suspended and organizations pivoted in response to the crisis, the map went into hibernation, and the Foundation began its strategic process of identifying a new permanent home for the site.

In the spring of 2022, The Food Trust emerged as a natural partner to transition the site, expanding its geographic scope to the Philadelphia region and broadening its programmatic offerings to include points of access to healthy food as well as nutrition incentive redemption and distribution sites. In addition to an expanded focus on healthy food access, the new site allows users to navigate in any language. Expanded filters also allow users to search by language offered (e.g., Spanish, Vietnamese), specialized audience (e.g., seniors, caregivers) and by venue (e.g., farmers markets, houses of worship).

To strengthen local connections, The Food Trust has also formally established a vital partnership with the Maryland-based Montgomery County Food Council, which will act as the local, on-the-ground partner to help manage and expand the Navigator's offerings for the D.C. area. As a key bridge builder for businesses, nonprofits, government agencies and residents, with many existing connections in the Navigator network, Montgomery County Food Council is extremely well positioned to support the project through this next phase.

The Nutrition Navigator is designed to act as a clearinghouse for programs and resources supporting strong local food system by empowering providers to contribute and maintain their own information, while also cultivating a community of practice among partner organizations sharing in similar food systems-related missions. The Food Trust is actively recruiting organizations working in the food systems space in the Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., regions to join the network, and interested parties are encouraged to visit [map.thefoodtrust.org](http://map.thefoodtrust.org) to learn more.

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