**Food Access Resources**

Government & Community Services has compiled this list of programs, services, and organizations that help provide access to healthy foods. Resources are listed by the population served.

**For Everyone**

**COMET to the Market** | [www.catchthecometsc.gov](http://www.catchthecometsc.gov) | Hours: 6 AM to 8 PM, everyday

COMET To The Market: Seven days a week between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., apply the promo code COMETMARKET20 on Lyft and your trip must originate or end at the following fresh food markets: Walmart & Walmart Neighborhood Market, BiLo Kroger, The Fresh Market, Whole Foods Market, Aldi, Blossom Shop, Food Lion, Gourmet Shoppe, La Estrella Supermarket, Lowe’s Fresh Food, Ole Timey Meat Market, Piggy Wiggly, Publix, Rosewood Market & Deli, Sam’s Club, Costco, Save-A-Lot, State Farmer’s Market, Target, Trader Joes, Super Mercado El Mariachi.

COMET to the Market can only be used twice a week per passenger. Anything over $5.00 is the responsible of the passenger. The code must be entered to receive the discount. You can only use COMET To The Market, if you board or alight in a food desert area AND a grocery store.

To get started, please download the Lyft app from App Store (iPhone) or Google Play (Android). If you do not have a smartphone or require mobility device access, please call (803) 255-7124 to request service. [COMET FAQ Sheet](http://catchthecometsc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/The-COMET-On-The-Go.docx)

For additional information, call (803) 255-7100

*Note: GCS research indicates that The COMET’s $5 credit will cover about 2 miles of a ridesharing trip, so please plan accordingly.*

**FoodShare South Carolina** |201 Columbia Mall Blvd, Columbia, SC 29223 | (803) 851-4461 | Hours: 10 AM to 6 PM, Monday through Thursday; 10 AM to 3 PM on Friday |[www.foodsharesc.org](http://www.foodsharesc.org)

FoodShare’s goal is to enhance the community’s quality of life by increasing access to fresh, affordable produce and providing quality cooking skills education through Fresh Food Boxes filled with 12-15 varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables. Orders can be placed through one of the Partner Sites listed on the organization’s website. FoodShare has teamed up with The COMET to offer Fresh Food On-The-Go, where transit riders can purchase Fresh Food Boxes at the Transit Center at Laurel & Sumter Streets every other Tuesday from 3 PM to Transit Center closing. Boxes can be ordered online in advance or purchased on pickup days on a first-come, first served basis. Large boxes are $20 cash or $10 if paying with SNAP/EBT; small boxes are $15 cash or $5 if paying with SNAP/EBT. No debit or credit cards accepted. See the schedule on FoodShare’s website.

**Soda City Market** | 1300-1600 blocks of Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201 | [www.sodacitysc.com](http://www.sodacitysc.com)

Saturdays, 9 AM to 1 PM year-round, rain or shine

Averaging 150 vendors per week, Soda City offers fresh produce and baked goods, multicultural foods, entertainment, and a whole lot more! The market is accessible via The COMET’s Soda City Connector routes.

*Please see the other side.*

**South Carolina Department of Agriculture** | [www.agriculture.sc.gov](http://www.agriculture.sc.gov)

Find farmers markets, roadside stands, and other local produce vendors on the SCDA’s website, using the “Where to Buy Local” and “Community & Roadside Markets” links to search Richland County for the markets and vendors near you.

**South Carolina State Farmers Market** | 3483 Charleston Highway, West Columbia, SC 29172 | 803-737-4664

Shop year round for fresh produce, specialty products, and artisan items. The peak season for locally grown produce runs from April through early October. Vendor hours vary.

**City Roots Farm** |1005 Airport Blvd, Columbia, SC 29205 | (803)-254-2302 | <https://cityroots.org/>

Urban and Organic Farming. Products include microgreens, seasonal produce and farm pickles. City Roots, South Carolina's first urban farm, grows good food naturally in the heart of Columbia, while promoting sustainable living through food, education and events.

**EZE Farms** |2323 Harrison Rd, Columbia, SC 29203 | (910)-240-2075 | <http://www.ezefarms.org/>

Locally-grown produce. The farm exists to mentor middle and high school boys in faith, farming, and entrepreneurship.

**Fabel Farms** | 1208 Hinnats Store Rd, Winnsboro, SC 29180 | (803)-718-4574

Shop for all kinds of organically grown vegetables.

**Greenleaf Farms** |5301 Lower Richland Blvd, Columbia, SC 29061 | (678)-596-6803

Sustainable farm where a diverse array of produce is grown organically providing the community with food that is healthy and taste good

**Rare Variety Farms** |4622 N Main St, Columbia, SC 29203 | (803) 708-6481 | <https://www.rarevarietyfarms.com/>

Rare Variety Cafe offers 100% vegan products ranging from jack fruit sliders, southern fried cauliflower, to herbal teas. Founded in 2018, Rare Variety Cafe is poised to grow into a food hub, including a boutique grocery store. Rare Variety Cafe aims to provide an outlet for local farmers and healthy affordable options for the community.

**For Those with Emergency Food Needs**

**Harvest Hope Food Bank** | 2220 Shop Road, Columbia, SC, 29201 | 803-254-4432 | [www.harvesthope.org](http://www.harvesthope.org)

Emergency Food Pantry Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9 AM to 1 PM

The mission of Harvest Hope Food Bank is to provide for the needs of hungry people by gathering and sharing quality food with dignity, compassion, and education. Harvest Hope’s Emergency Food Pantry provides those in need with a food package that should cover 5 to 6 days and usually includes non-perishable and perishable items such as fruit, vegetables, bread, meat, and dried goods. These food packages can provide the basis for balanced and nutritious meals for families. Harvest Hope also provides information on other resources available in the community and assists clients in filling out Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) applications through the SC Benefit Bank. Harvest Hope advises clients to bring a current photo ID, current physical address, and birthdates for all household members.

*\* As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 crisis, the Columbia Emergency Food Pantry will be conducting curbside food pick-up until further notice. Once you arrive at the location, check in with intake, pop your trunk and follow the route. Volunteers will put food into vehicles. Please do not get out of your car. \*Please be sure to clean out your trunk before arriving to the food bank. We will only be serving one household per car.\**

**For Children**

**End Child Hunger SC** | 803-250-1806 | [www.endchildhungersc.org](http://www.endchildhungersc.org)

This organization is a partnership of school districts, churches, state agencies, civic organizations, and nonprofits in the Midlands that want to solve the issue of childhood hunger in South Carolina. Based at the University of South Carolina’s Center for Research in Nutrition and Health Disparities, End Child Hunger SC seeks to build awareness, increase community capacity, and create a coordinated effort to address child hunger in SC.

**For Senior Citizens**

**Senior Resources Inc.** | 2817 Millwood Avenue, Columbia, SC 29205 | 803-252-7734 | [www.seniorresourcesinc.org](http://www.seniorresourcesinc.org)

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM to 5 PM

Senior Resources offers three food programs for seniors: Meals on Wheels, Food Co-Op Program, and Senior Care Pantry. Meals on Wheels provides home-delivered meals to elderly, frail, and home-bound residents in Richland County, delivered at lunch time five days a week by caring volunteers. With the Co-op Program, volunteers pack bags of nutritious fresh fruits and vegetables at Park Street Baptist Church, where local churches and groups pick them up and deliver them to senior shut-ins in their area and to residents of low-income senior housing developments. Bags may also be purchased by seniors for a nominal cost. The Senior Care Pantry helps meet the needs of seniors who are on the waiting list for Meals on Wheels by providing boxes of non-perishable food items, bottled water, toiletries, and household items.

**About Richland County Government & Community Services**

Richland County Council has charged Government & Community Services with facilitating improved community outreach and helping resolve community issues. We serve county government as an in-house resource for building community awareness of services, policies, programs, and other topics of interest to the public.

8/19/20