



**Leading Fact:** \$17.67: the amount per hour the [Living Wage Calculator](#) suggests an individual living with another adult and two children must earn to support their family. The current statewide minimum wage, \$9.25 an hour, is simply not enough.

**Learn More:** The current minimum wage in Maryland is a major contributor to the reality of hunger and poverty in our state. Minimum wage employees do not make enough money to support themselves and their families adequately, resulting in hunger, poverty, and related social problems. Our work advocating for a \$15 statewide minimum wage by 2023 through the Fight for \$15 campaign supports legislation that would put Maryland on track towards achieving a living wage for all people and families. A \$15 minimum wage would bring great relief to many in Maryland living paycheck to paycheck and renewed hope that practical change can be achieved through just legislative action. This legislation would not entirely address the ever grave situation of poverty afflicting Baltimore, where, according to the [Baltimore City Health Department](#), nearly 30% of families currently have an income below the poverty level, and about 13% of the population is unemployed entirely. However, it would be a drastic improvement. To learn more about hunger and poverty in Maryland specifically, check out this fact sheet on [Ending Hunger in Maryland](#).



JUSTICE & PEACE  
COMMITTEE