



Office of Temporary
and Disability Assistance

NYS and Food Insecurity

March 12, 2024

Introduction

NYS Food and Anti- Hunger Policy Coordinator

To put more focus on reducing food insecurity in NYS, the NYS Anti-Hunger Task Force recommended that the State:

“ Create a high- level Anti- Hunger position to develop and implement strategies to address food insecurity in NYS.”

2019 the State of the State

Create the Food and Anti-Hunger Policy Coordinator:

Building on the success of the cross agency Anti-Hunger Task Force, the Governor will appoint a Food and Anti-Hunger Policy Coordinator to address issues of food insecurity and hunger. The coordinator will work with various State agencies, stakeholder groups, and the Task Force to implement new initiatives and to enhance existing activities that will help close the gap for many New Yorkers in need of healthy food options.



Overview

Hunger in New York State

- 11.7% of New York State residents (**2.2 million people**) lived in food insecure households from 2020-2022.
- 14.5% of children in the State (**579,658**)
- 9.0% of employed adults (**798,696**)
- 7.8% older residents (**369,402**)

Cost to Feed Food Insecure in New York State

AVERAGE MEAL COST IN NEW YORK

\$3.78

ANNUAL FOOD BUDGET SHORTFALL

\$1,514,465,000

2023 Feeding America Map the Meal Gap (2021 numbers)



Half of New York direct support professionals experience food insecurity .

A Crains report commissioned by NY Disability Advocates, a coalition representing over 300 nonprofit providers surveyed over 4,500 Direct Service Providers across the state on economic security .

- Half the respondents experience food insecurity.
- Women of color most likely to experience food insecurity
 - 44% have college degrees

Pandemic and Hunger

- In 2022- **1 in 10 New Yorkers** vs 2021, **1 in 12 New Yorkers** faced food insecurity.
- Food insufficiency **increased twice as much** in households with children compared to households without children from 2021 to 2022.
- Food insufficiency **increased by more than 30%** for New York adults ages 65 and older between 2021 and 2022.
- Rates of food insufficiency for **Black and Hispanic** New Yorkers were **twice as high** as rates for white New Yorkers.
- Across all races and ethnicities, food insufficiency rates between 2021 and 2022 **increased most sharply for Asian and Black New Yorkers.**

Federal and NYS Government Policies to Reduce Hunger during the Pandemic

New York State

Federal

- SNAP (formerly food stamps) greatly expanded. NYS administered these expansions.
- WIC (pregnant women & children) expanded
- Schools given flexibility to serve meals (eaten at school or taken home) to children of all incomes.
- Pandemic EBT created to place food credits on electronic shopping cards for parents in closed schools. NYS administered PEBT for 3 years.

- Created Nourish NY to help farmers and food insecure .
- Created Restaurant Resiliency Program to help restaurants and food insecure.
- Created feeding program for Veterans and military families.
- Applied and received federal waivers for state programs to provide ease of getting food and services to those in need.
- Bought refrigerators/ freezers for pantries in need with tax donation fund.
- Created statewide electronic map with most up to date information on where to get emergency food.
- Restaurant Meals Program for elderly, disabled& undomiciled SNAP clients to get a prepared meal at participating establishments.

Increase In Demand at Emergency Feeding Programs After Pandemic

- New York Food Banks reported serving 62% more Households and individuals in 2022 compared to 2019.
- Food prices increase 9.1% since April 2022, creating major stress on HH food budgets and EFP' serving them.
- Food pantry workers who have been doing this for decades have never seen the pressure on the food pantry system so high.

Voices From the Field

- “More than 40 food pantries and meals programs in Rockland County serve over 75,000 people EVERY MONTH. This number is more than 10% higher than during the height of the pandemic and continues to grow each month. It does NOT include the number of people that are turned away every day when pantries run out of food!

Anita Dreichler, Rockland Community Against Hunger, Rockland

- “In the Southern Tier, we have seen an increase of 40% year over year in our food distribution as compared to 2022. We have never distributed this much food.”

Les Aylesworth, CHOW, Director, Broome County

- “Utilization in our emergency pantry has increased from 200 households per month to over 1,400 each month. (600%). Our food supply and infrastructure have not kept pace with the increased need in our community.”

*Renee S. Fillette-Miccio, PhD., Dutchess Outreach, Executive Director,
Dutchess County*

Key State Hunger Programs

Hunger Prevention Nutrition Program (HPNAP)

- HPNAP provides state funds to over 2,500 Emergency Food Relief Organizations (EFRO) in NYS.
- HPNAP funding is awarded on a 5 -year funding cycle with an RFP process with FY23/24 the new cycle.
- Governor's budget proposes \$34.5 million, equal to the past 5-year funding.
- Last year Legislature added another \$22 million for a total HPNAP funding of \$56.5 million.
- Provides critical funding for operations and culturally appropriate food for pantries.

Nourish NY(NNY)

- Nourish New York Initiative was a lifeline for our families and our farmers who have been struggling with changes brought on by Covid 19.
- Began with a \$25 million dollar allocation to food banks and increased during the pandemic to \$112 million though end of 2022/23 Fiscal Budget.
- Funding for New York's emergency food providers to purchase products (fruits, vegetables, dairy and meat) from New York farmers and dairy manufacturers for our families in need.
- Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation S.4892-A/A.5781-A enshrining the Nourish New York program permanently in state law in November 2021.
- Governor budget proposes \$50 million in 24/25 budget.



Federal Programs/State Implemented

Summer EBT

- **U.S.D.A Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (EBT) for Children**
 - \$200 million + in federal funding will be allocated to New York.
 - Eligible families with school-age children receive \$120 per child during summer months. Approx. 2 million New York children expected to qualify.
 - Program aimed at reducing hunger & food insecurity among children unable to access free and reduced-price school meals during the summertime.

Universal School Meals (CEP)

- FY2024 State Budget included an additional \$134.6M to expand access to free school meals through the new Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) State Subsidy.
 - CEP is a federal provision that allows high-poverty schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students.
 - CEP is available to any school that has 40% or more students directly certified for free school meals, by means other than a school meal application

NYS Anti-Hunger Inter Agency Ad Hoc Work Group

- To break down silos, collaborate and expand access to anti-hunger programs, a NYS Anti-Hunger Inter Agency Ad Hoc Work Group was established;
 - The workgroup is designed to be an opportunity for state agencies to share and explore resources, increase communication and collaboration, and enhance and expand our current work focused on improving food and nutrition security across New York State.
- Office of Temporary Disability Assistance (chair)
 - Dept of Health (co-chair)
 - NYS Dep. of Agriculture & Markets,
 - Dep. of Environmental Conservation,
 - Dep. of Labor
 - State Office for the Aging
 - State Education Dept.
 - Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services,
 - Dep. of Corrections and Community Supervision,
 - Dep. of State
 - Division of Veteran Services,
 - Office for Children and Family Services,
 - Office for General Services,
 - Office for Mental Health,
 - Office for Prevention of Domestic Violence,
 - Office for People with Developmental Disabilities,



Examples of Collaboration

In just over a year, the Ad Hoc Work group has been able to facilitate several key connections to better meet the needs of New Yorkers. Some accomplishments include:

- Improvement in the delivery of Veterans' services on Native American reservations in NYS
- SNAP and WIC information shared with victims of domestic violence and eligible veterans.
- Needs assessment collected from agencies for diaper bank program under development for free diapers to clients in need.
- Collaboration between NYS Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Services and :
Compassion Coalition to get food, household goods, clothes and more to those affected by disasters and Hunger Solutions Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) to quickly enroll people affected by disasters into SNAP and minimize disruptions in SNAP benefits post-disaster.

Presentations from Agencies and Outside Not for Profits invited to present.

Not for Profits are welcome to submit a presentation idea that would benefit The NYS Anti-Hunger Inter Agency Ad Hoc work group so we better understand the tools available to lift our fellow New Yorkers out of food insecurity .

A sampling of past presentations include:

➤ **NYS Agency:**

- DOCCS Food Production Center
- Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)
- Integrated Eligibility System (IES)

➤ **Not for Profits :**

- Bargain Grocery /Compassion Coalition Expansion to Food Deserts
- Nutrition Outreach Education Program (NOEP)
- Food as Medicine
- Food Insecurity and Stigma



Food Related Grant Opportunities

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets receives millions of dollars from the USDA for grant opportunities.

Sampling of Past Opportunities

- [RFP 0325 - New York Food For New York Families Round 2](#)
- [RFP 0319 - New York State Regional School Food Infrastructure Gra...](#)
- [RFA 0309 - SNAP-Ed Food Box Grant Program](#)
- [.IFB 0275 - HVAC and Refrigeration Maintenance and Repair Services...](#)
- [IFB 0269 - Printing Services for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Pr...](#)

[Resources and Funding Opportunities | Agriculture and Markets \(ny.gov\)](#)

Sign up to receive the Opportunities newsletter and stay on top of available grants .



Thank You.

Susan Zimet

NYS Food and Anti- Hunger Policy Coordinator

Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
40 North Pearl Street, Albany, New York 12243

518-486-3256 (c) 518-949-3700 |
susan.zimet@otda.ny.gov
www.otda.ny.gov