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New York State MUST Step Up to Adequately Fund the Emergency Food System

96% of New Yorkers agree, NO One in New York should go hungry.

And the majority, more than 90% of those polled, agree that we should spend whatever it takes to make sure no one goes hungry.

We are depending on you all to put food, an absolutely critical basic need, at the top of your list of priorities. Too many of our neighbors need more food on their table.

No one in New York State should go hungry.

We all agree, no one should labor 40 hours a week and live below the poverty line – we challenge you all to a living wage stance.

Families with two parents working are having to turn to food pantries to make ends meet.

We all agree, seniors need to have enough nutritious food to eat – we challenge you all to fight for seniors on fixed incomes. Older adults with SNAP benefits of \$28 a month are turning to food pantries because they have nowhere else to turn.

We all agree, mothers juggling careers and children need support – we challenge you all to make sure ALL children live in households that are able to put food on the dinner table tonight. Children and seniors are some of the highest increases in pantry services.

Stagnant funding for critical emergency food provider programs – Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program (HPANP) and Nourish NY - is not an adequate response for the current hunger crisis,

New York State DOH just released a report that states 1 in 4 New York adults are food insecure, they don't have resources for, or access to, enough nutritious food for a healthy life. 25% of adults.

People cannot perform well in the workplace if they are malnourished. Health is impacted, chronic stress, and more.

The 2023 census poll reported that compared with 2021, the number of New Yorkers who answered, “no, I do not have enough food to last me through this week”, increased 87%, compared to a 35% increase nationwide.

State Senators, Assemblymembers, **what more information do you need to do the right thing?**



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This hunger crisis falls to our frontline emergency food providers, to fill in the gaps.

- the gap of people not having living wages
- the gap of inadequately resourced federal food assistance programs
- the gaps in our society that turns to charity to solve a problem much bigger than we can respond to without INCREASED government support.

Food pantry workers who have been doing this for decades have never seen the pressure on the food pantry system so high. And there is no sign of relief.

If there was ever a time to make a big push for increased hunger relief funding for the charitable sector, it is NOW.

With service level increases around the state from 30-60% and higher - the state must fund:

HPNAP - \$75 million

(2024 - \$56.5 M + \$18.5 million = 33% increase)

Nourish NY - \$75 million

(2024 - \$50 M + \$25M = 50% increase)

Direct contracts to direct food providers for direct impact. The State must support resiliency in a strong and local food supply chain by making sure frontline emergency food providers, such as food pantries and food rescue organizations, are able to continue to secure direct contracts for New York State programs HPNAP and Nourish NY.

We are here to help you make the case that Hunger Relief needs to be prioritized. We MUST fund a hunger free New York State, because a hunger free New York State is possible.

On behalf of the millions of New Yorkers not making it right now, we encourage you to do the right thing.



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About The Alliance for a Hunger Free New York

The Alliance for a Hunger Free New York is a member-driven statewide coalition of frontline community food providers (like food pantries and soup kitchens). With organizations in 23 counties across the state and growing, our members are working collectively to end hunger.

For assistance in finding your local food pantry, please use the NYS Food Connect Map at <https://thefoodpantries.org/>