



Changing Lives. Improving Our Community.

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## Executive Budget Request to Adequately Fund Emergency Food

We are urging and depending on our State Senators and Assemblymembers to put emergency food assistance at the top of your priority list. Food is a basic human need and no one who lives in New York should be food insecure; no one should go hungry.

**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, youth cannot perform well in education when they do not have foods at home that provide proper nourishment. 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.

This hunger crisis is creating an increase in service numbers amongst emergency food providers, many who cannot meet the demand because of their current funding and the economic conditions (inflation). At a time when need is reaching new heights, foods cost more, and a livable wage remains out of reach for many New Yorkers.

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)



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We believe that direct contracts are needed to continue to support direct purchasing that meets community and cultural needs. The State needs to 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 have to fund a hunger free New York State, because a hunger free New York State is a healthier and thriving New York State.

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

#### Submitted by:

Erin Hernandez (she/her)  
Chief Operations Officer  
Commission on Economic Opportunity for the Greater Capital Region, Inc. (CEO)

#### About CEO

CEO is the Community Action Agency for Rensselaer County, New York. CEO's mission is that "CEO develops partnerships and creates opportunities for growth and empowerment in our community." CEO serves over 11,000 low-income individuals annually, through a variety of human service programs, including but not limited to Food Pantry, Nourish NY, Head Start/Early Head Start, WIC, Weatherization, and the Foster Grandparent program. Each service is intended to assist our community in meeting their needs and increasing self-sufficiency.