



January 21, 2026

Dear Senators and Assemblymembers of the Joint Budget Hearing (Health),

I am writing you on behalf of The Alliance for a Hunger Free New York, to ask for your support in addressing food and nutrition insecurity in New York State in the upcoming budget. Specifically, we are asking for your support in ensuring that the **Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) is funded at \$75 million**, **Nourish New York is funded at \$75 million**, and that you work to **secure the 40-yearlong precedent of supporting food pantries, food rescues, and meals programs**, in addition to food banks with any increases to these programs.

The Alliance for a Hunger Free New York is a member-driven coalition of frontline emergency food providers across New York State serving 35 counties and growing. Our work is to amplify the collective voices and build a supportive network of frontline community food providers, like food pantries and community meals programs, as well as community members experiencing food insecurity. Our vision is a hunger free New York.

New York State is experiencing a continued crisis in food insecurity. Released in December 2025, the 2024 Food Insecurity Stats show that New York State is at **14% food insecurity rate**, compared to US at 13.3%.

In conjunction with the dramatic **39% rise of food inflation** across New York State from 2019 to 2025, the pressure on direct providers to meet these needs is immense. Not only is it more expensive for families to shop at the grocery store, it's more expensive to keep pantry shelves stocked with healthy, nutritious food.

We are past the point of hunger being a short-term emergency, not having enough nutritious food to eat is crippling people through chronic health conditions, not being able to focus at work, impacting school performance, and having to make difficult decisions between paying for food, medications, gas for the car, household bills, and more.

With changes to SNAP and other federal nutrition security programs we will continue to see increased pressure on our food pantries and other community-based feeding programs.

During the recent **SNAP crisis** in late October and early November of 2025, The Alliance distributed a survey to our network and partners across the State of New York

to understand the increased demand on emergency food providers during this period of time when SNAP was delayed. We received **262 survey submissions** from food pantries and other community-based food assistance programs serving **45 New York State counties**. Here are the results:

- **90% of respondents reported an increase** overall from before the USDA announcement that there would be no SNAP benefits effective November 1st, and after the announcement
- **56.7% was the overall average increase reported**
- 1%-500% was the range of increases reported

Even without the SNAP crisis factored into the equation food pantries and community-based food providers have been reporting continued increases over the year prior. In New York's Capital Region a coalition of 75 food pantries are reporting a 5% increase over 2024.

Food pantries need direct support to provide culturally appropriate, nutritious food with proper staffing and operations. Putting the funding directly into local communities' better addresses needs for more autonomy in food purchasing options, and builds a stronger, more reliable local food supply chain, now and during emergent situations.

We appreciate your leadership on this critical issue and are grateful for your support. All New Yorkers deserve to have nutritious food on the table.

Submitted by:
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