



American Rescue Plan Act Invests in Critical Federal Nutrition Programs

An alarming number of New Yorkers struggle to get enough to eat due to the public health and economic crisis created by COVID-19. The American Rescue Plan Act brings much-needed relief to households in need, investing \$12 billion in nutrition assistance programs designed to mitigate unprecedented rates of hunger across the nation.

The American Rescue Plan's major food assistance provisions:

- **Extend the 15 percent increase in the maximum SNAP benefit through September.** This will help millions of families and children have enough to eat. Other SNAP investments provide administrative funds to help states accommodate increased demand and expanded access for families to use SNAP benefits to purchase groceries online.
- **Extend P-EBT benefits for the summer and through the end of the COVID-19 health crisis.** P-EBT provides grocery benefits to low-income families to replace meals missed as a result of school closures or remote learning. The extension of this vital nutrition assistance program will reduce food insecurity among children during the summer and for the duration of the pandemic.
- **Invest in strengthening and expanding WIC.** The Act delivers funds to increase fruit and vegetable benefits, modernize service delivery, and support a robust outreach campaign to increase enrollment.

We commend Congress and the Biden Administration for taking these critical steps to bolster eligibility, access and benefit levels in this time of great need. The American Rescue Plan will guard against food insecurity and provide a lifeline to millions of people who struggle with hunger.

Additional Resources:

- [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Fact Sheet](#)
- [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities \(CBPP\) Statement](#)

- [Food and Research Action Center \(FRAC\) Statement](#)
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Upcoming Webinar: "A Conversation About Food Scarcity in New York During the Pandemic"

Food insecurity has become its own crisis within the coronavirus pandemic. A [recent report from our colleagues at New York State Health Foundation](#) (NYSHealth) examines food scarcity rates in New York State by race and ethnicity, age, and household income from the start of the pandemic through the end of 2020, using weekly self-reported survey data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Please join Sophie Wheelock, Policy and Research Associate from NYSHealth, for an [upcoming webinar on the report's findings](#). She'll be joined by Hunger Solutions New York's Sherry Tomasky, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, and Krista Hesdorfer, Child Nutrition Program Specialist. They'll discuss how food-scarce New Yorkers are accessing meals and groceries during the pandemic, how state and federal programs can improve food security and prioritize funding and outreach to food-insecure populations, and more.

Webinar Date:

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

12-1pm

[Register Now](#)

Hunger Solutions New York will continue to send email updates, post updates to our website, and use [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) to share information. Thank you for your continued efforts to help New Yorkers stay healthy and nourished during this time.



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