

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum on Hunger and Food Insecurity in New York State



# Agenda

- **Welcome & Introduction**
- **Overview of Policy Priorities**
- **Community Advocate Speakers**
- **Legislative Panel**
- **Wrap-Up and Call to Action**

# Food Insecurity in New York State

- Food insecurity is characterized by limited or uncertain access to adequate food due to limited economic resources.
- **12.3% of New York households had low or very low food security** from 2021-2023, according to the annual [USDA Household Food Security Report](#).
- Nationally, **rates of food insecurity for Black and Hispanic households are twice as high** as white households.
- Food insecurity disproportionately impacts households with children. An estimated **19% of children in New York** experienced food insecurity in 2023.
- Earlier this year, USDA announced it will **discontinue data collection and reporting** on food insecurity.

# Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- SNAP provides monthly food benefits to nearly **3 million New Yorkers**, primarily children, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- Disruptions to SNAP during the government shutdown underscored the importance of the program and the need for **strategic state investments** to mitigate harmful federal actions.
- H.R.1 included the **largest cut to SNAP in history**—\$187B over the next decade.



# SNAP Cuts in H.R.1

## H.R.1:

- **Expands harsh work reporting requirements** and restricts states' ability to waive the requirements in areas with insufficient jobs.
- Jeopardizes SNAP access for **41,000 NY refugees and asylees**.
- **Reduces benefit adequacy** by changing budgeting rules and restricting updates to the USDA's Thrifty Food Plan.
- **Cuts federal funding for SNAP administration and outreach in half** beginning October 2026.
- **Shifts a portion of benefit costs to states** starting as soon as October 2027.

# NYS Can Minimize Harm & Support Food Security

The FY2027 State Budget must:

- **Protect & strengthen SNAP:**
  - Fully backfill cuts to SNAP administration and outreach, including NOEP (SNAP navigators) and SNAP-Ed (nutrition education).
  - Protect benefits by transitioning to EBT chip cards.
  - Provide state supplements to increase the minimum benefit and serve excluded New Yorkers.
  - Expand Double Up Food Bucks to increase purchasing power.
- **Bolster WIC to support increased participation.**
- **Increase investments in HPNAP and Nourish NY.**
- **Sustain universal school meals and Summer EBT.**

# Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP)

- **80+ SNAP navigators** across the state provide SNAP outreach, pre-screenings, application assistance, and referrals to other services.
- Last year, NOEP helped nearly **30,000 households** successfully apply for SNAP.
- NOEP can help **minimize harm from H.R.1** by helping families understand and navigate new program rules.
- NOEP is federally & state funded, but H.R.1 cuts its federal funding in half. To sustain SNAP navigators statewide, the FY2027 state budget must fund NOEP at **\$8.5M**.

**SNAP HELPS  
NEW YORKERS  
BUY FOOD.**

NOEP can help  
you apply for SNAP.



**FoodHelpNY.org**

# EBT Card Security

- **New York is the hardest hit state** in the nation by SNAP skimming and benefits theft:
  - Over 150,000 households have filed claims since the start of 2023.
  - More than \$50M in stolen benefits had been replaced.
- **The federal government stopped providing replacement benefits** for victims.
- Transitioning to chip-enabled EBT can prevent skimming at the source.
- **The FY27 budget must provide funding for New York State to protect SNAP benefits by transitioning to more secure EBT cards.**

# SNAP Minimum Benefit

- **Over 80,000 New Yorkers currently receive a monthly SNAP benefit amounting to less than \$1 per day:**
  - More than half are seniors (ages 65+)
  - More than half are women
  - More likely to participate in SSI
- Federal minimum benefit (now \$24 per month) is inadequate for a month of food.
- **Higher SNAP benefit amounts are proven to:**
  - Reduce hunger, poverty, and food insecurity
  - Improve health outcomes
  - Stimulate spending in local economies
- **The FY2027 budget should include \$100M to guarantee all New Yorkers receive a monthly SNAP benefit of at least \$100 per month.**

# SNAP for All

- **Over 700,000** income-eligible New Yorkers are excluded from SNAP solely due to their immigration status.
- Excluded New Yorkers contribute significantly to our state, economy, & society
- Changes to SNAP eligibility due to H.R.1 further exacerbate these exclusions by removing access for over **41,000 New Yorkers**.
- CPRAC has recommended expanding food assistance for excluded households with children, which would help **over 64,000 families** better afford food.
- The FY2027 budget should include **\$244M** to both:
  - Protect food assistance for New Yorkers set to lose SNAP access
  - Expand food assistance as per CPRAC's recommendation

# Double Up Food Bucks NY

- SNAP-matching nutrition incentive program, now up to \$50/day at Farm Direct locations.
- Summer 2025 launch at 48 additional Tops Friendly Markets and Market 32/Price Chopper stores added 16 new counties.
- 320+ locations in 53 counties. Goal is to be in all 57 counties outside of NYC by mid-2026.
- 2025 full year redemption total will be 4x higher than 2024.
- Sustained state funding will continue to grow the program at scale.



# WIC

- The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** supports pregnant and postpartum people and children under five with:
  - Healthy food
  - Nutrition education
  - Breastfeeding support
  - Referrals to other services
- More than **450,000 New Yorkers participate**, but **~200,000 more may be eligible**.
- Local WIC agencies are operating **over caseload** and with **budget shortfalls**.
- **\$30M** in the FY2027 state budget will support increased participation and outreach.





# The Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP)

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## Nourish New York



- HPNAP and Nourish New York are statewide anti-hunger programs that provide funds to food banks, pantries and community organizations for food procurement and distribution
- For over 35 years, HPNAP has been a cornerstone nutrition program, providing funding to purchase healthy, cost-effective food and supporting the operational needs that allow providers to store and distribute food safely.
- Since 2020, Nourish New York has generated over \$260 million in direct purchases from New York farms, growers, and producers.
- Across our network, these programs have been described as a lifeline, allowing organizations to get fresh, good-quality food out to their communities in a cost-effective way. Many could not keep their doors open without this funding.



# The Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP)

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# Nourish New York



- Federal cuts will mean more families may turn to food banks and food pantries to meet their nutritional needs.
- Food relief organizations will need to find ways to accommodate new families, in addition to the already growing demand in their distribution lines.
- The state must support HPNAP and Nourish New York to help meet this need, thereby supporting a network of food providers that can efficiently get food out to our communities.
- **Therefore, the FY2027 state budget must fund HPNAP and Nourish New York at \$75 million each**

# CALL TO ACTION

- **NYS Anti-Hunger Advocacy Day**
  - Date: January 28th, 2026 from 10am-4pm
  - Location: NYS Capitol Building, Albany
  - [Register here](#) by January 9th
- **Statewide Anti-Hunger Sign-on Letter**
  - [Sign on here](#) by December 18th
- **Click to Action**
  - [Click here](#) to send a message to your state representatives; please share with your networks!