

TRINITY ALLIANCE OF THE CAPITAL REGION

Dear Senators and Assemblymembers of the Joint Budget Hearing on Health,

I am writing to you on behalf of my organization, Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region, 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-year long precedent of supporting food pantries, food rescues, and meal programs**, in addition to food banks with any increases to these programs.

Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region provides services to the community that will support and promote healthy families, adults and children. Our agency is dedicated to improving the neighborhood as a setting for family life, contributing to health and well-being, and promoting education and employment as a means of self-development.

New York State is experiencing an increase in food insecurity. This year the USDA ERS report released that 1 in 8 New York households are experiencing food insecurity, up from 1 in 10 in the year prior.

Food prices have inflated a dramatic 25% since 2019, leading to immense pressure and reliance on emergency food pantries. 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.

I have overseen Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region's two food pantry sites for the past seven years. And in those years, our HPNAP budget from the state has remained the same.

The challenge that we have been up against for some time now is that the cost to keep our pantry shelves stocked with food continues to go up, and the demand that we see from the community remains steady and often increasing.

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 and builds a stronger, more reliable food supply chain.

Additionally, we do not do this work alone. We're asking for this funding because we are part of a coalition of frontline community food providers (food pantries, community meals programs, etc.). We participate in The Alliance for a Hunger Free New York because we know that we can do more together than any one of us can do alone.



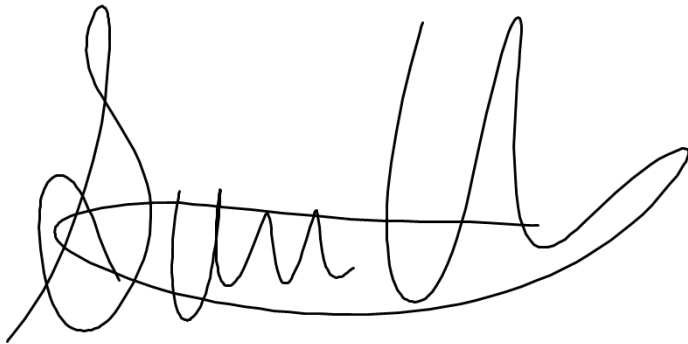
Proud member of The Alliance for a Hunger Free New York

www.alliancehungerfreeny.org/

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We appreciate your leadership and are grateful for your support.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sara Adams', written in a cursive style.

Sara Adams, Health & Wellness Division Leader, Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region