



The Food Bank Association works to end hunger by assisting the food bank network in obtaining more food and funds, fostering public awareness of the food banks' mission, and creating partnerships to help alleviate hunger in New York State.

Hunger in New York State—2015

The Program

Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) is the most essential source of government support for our eight New York food banks and the emergency feeding organizations (over 2,400 food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters) they support.

Through lines of credit at food banks, the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) enables local emergency food providers to distribute millions of pounds of nutritionally balanced food to New Yorkers in need. **More than 3 million New Yorkers (the majority of our most vulnerable—children, seniors, veterans, the disabled)**, rely on these emergency food programs to keep food on the table. Without the assistance of HPNAP, many of the thousands of local food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters that HPNAP supports would face closure. Many of these hunger relief organizations were already having difficulty keeping up with increased demand for assistance, a problem exacerbated by the federal reductions to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps) benefits on Nov. 1st, 2013.

The Problem

Millions of New York State residents (approximately 1 in 6) rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps) to keep food on the table. In November 2013, across-the-board cuts to SNAP took effect, resulting in an annual loss of 135 million meals in New York State and driving even more people to already strained food pantries and soup kitchens.

We Need Your Help- Increase Emergency Food Funding in SFY 2015-16 Budget!

The Food Bank Association of New York State (FBANYS) is advocating for HPNAP program funding being increased by \$10 million to a FY 2015-16 funding level of \$40 million. This increase comprises base lining and annualizing the \$28 million SFY 2014-15 HPNAP award; base lining and annualizing of the \$2 million one-time TANF allocation for emergency food in the SFY 2014-15 budget; base lining and annualizing a the 4.5 million HPNAP emergency food allocation in the Governor's SFY 2015-16 Executive Budget and providing an additional \$ 5.5 million emergency food allocation exclusively for the 8 recognized food banks, which brings the new baseline to \$40 million annually.

HPNAP Critical Points:

- Not only does HPNAP prevent hunger, it has been an important support for NYS agriculture, with funding dedicated to the purchase of NYS dairy and fresh produce each year. These funds have helped our local farmers while feeding our hungry neighbors. We look for increased HPNAP funding to increase purchases of NYS produce.
- HPNAP also promotes healthier food choices for our consumers. Many emergency feeding programs have reported serving consumers who suffer from health concerns (diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity). As a result, there is increased demand for healthier food choices (low sodium, low sugar, low fat, high fiber). These foods carry a much higher cost to procure for the network. Increasing HPNAP funding would allow food banks to increase the amount of health conscious food items available to the emergency feeding programs.