



*Help that works... Hope that lasts!*

February 28, 2023

**Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler Counties** operates food pantries and meal programs serving hundreds of neighbors-in-need each week. Please help us with the resources needed to continue. We ask the Governor and Legislature to fully fund anti-hunger programs in the state budget. Specifically:

**Nourish New York** enables food banks to support NY families with NY-grown produce. Since 2020, Nourish New York has provided hungry families with over 70 million pounds of healthy, nutritious food from over 4,000 producers across the state. This is a win-win for producers and hungry families. **Please fund at \$75 million.**

**New York's Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP)** helps support NY-based food banks, food pantries, emergency shelters, and community-based organizations that work on the frontlines in the fight against hunger. **Please fund at \$63 million.**

**The Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP)** provides free and confidential SNAP outreach and application assistance through local community-based organizations, helping more eligible low-income New Yorkers connect with SNAP, our nation's largest anti-hunger program, bringing millions of federal food dollars into local communities. **Please fund at \$5.22 million.**

**Healthy School Meals for All New York Students.** One in seven children in New York experience hunger and many families who are struggling to make ends meet do not qualify for free school meals. Even students who do qualify fall through the cracks because of school meal stigma, and administrative and language barriers that prevent their families from registering for the program. Funding Healthy School Meals for All in the FY2024 state budget is a concrete, evidence-based step to reduce child hunger and advance equity in health and education in nearly every community across the State. Studies show a direct link between access to universal school meals and improved academic performance, attendance, and classroom behavior. Every dollar invested in providing healthy meals for students leads to at least two dollars in health, economic, equity, and environmental benefits.

New York has always been a leader. Let us continue to lead the way by investing in programs that produce well-nourished and healthy New Yorkers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Dubel

Director of Justice and Peace