

Addressing Rising Child Hunger in New York

2022 State Policy Agenda

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a health and economic crisis, pushing many families into poverty and hunger. In New York, the reality created by the pandemic has led to financial hardship for families and made many more reliant on school meals and other safety net programs **As a result, an estimated 1 in 5 children in New York could face hunger this year.**

**20%**

the percent of
children in New York
projected to be food
insecure in 2021¹

School Meals

For many children, school meals are their only source of consistent nutrition. When children have school breakfast and school lunch, it leads to calmer, more focused classrooms where students are better able to learn. The importance of school meals has never been more apparent than when schools closed for classroom learning in the spring of 2020 due to the pandemic and the tremendous need families faced. New

Opportunities:

- **Implement a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Incentive, which would reimburse all School Food Authorities participating in CEP for costs incurred serving meals. This would allow all CEP eligible schools with an Identified Student Percentage (ISP) of 40% or more to be fully-funded to provide free school meals in high-poverty communities.**
- **Modify the Farm to School Incentive program to allow schools to include purchases made for the School Breakfast Program to be in the 30 percent threshold (S4315/A4820).**



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is one of the most effective and efficient ways to ensure that kids and families have the support they need to purchase food. With the economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis permeating every part of the state, it is more important than ever to remove the barriers that impede access to SNAP, New York has taken significant steps to increase access and this will help even more New Yorkers access SNAP.

Opportunities:

- **Establish a “Hunger-Free Campus Program” to address food insecurity among students at higher education institutions, including by expanding SNAP enrollment and benefit redemption options (\$1151/A6881).**
- **Create a home stability supplement program to provide shelter for up to 5 years for eligible families and contract with non-profit community organizations to provide social services, such as SNAP. (\$856/A6032).**

Economic Opportunity

It takes more than food to fight hunger. Child tax credits and other programs that create economic opportunity for children and families are fundamental to addressing the root causes of child hunger. Child tax credits provide families with extra income support to help them avoid having to choose between paying for rent, utilities, and food. They enable parents and caregivers to support and feed their kids so they, in turn, have the opportunity to thrive.

Opportunities:

- **Expand the Empire State child credit by increasing the payment amount for each qualifying child over the age of 4, and further increasing the amount for each qualifying child under age 4 (\$5866/A3146/).**
- **Bolster family support programs including expanding the New York State Child Tax Credit and expanding access to child care for all New York families (\$7595/A8623).**

About No Kid Hungry New York

No Kid Hungry New York is a campaign of Share Our Strength, a national anti-hunger organization dedicated to ending hunger and poverty. Using proven, practical strategies, our No Kid Hungry New York campaign builds public-private partnerships with the goal of ensuring children across the state have access to the healthy food they need, every day.

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