

Addressing Rising Child Hunger in New York 2023 State Policy Agenda

The last several years have been difficult for New York State and millions of New York children are still growing up facing hunger, especially those within historically marginalized communities. Hunger takes a profound toll on children's health, happiness, and their ability to build successful futures and break the cycle of poverty. **As a result, an estimated 1 in 7 children in New York State could face hunger this year.**



Although food insecurity is one of the most daunting challenges facing our state, it is also one of the most readily solvable. With the right policies, New York can lead the country in combatting rising hunger and making lasting change that ensures that no New Yorker faces hunger in the future.

15%

of children face hunger in
New York State¹

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 barriers that impede access to SNAP, New York has taken significant steps to increase access, but there is more we can do.

New 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 ([S2913A/A2645](#)).
- **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 ([S588](#)).
- **Authorizes the reissuance of certain benefits**, including SNAP, for recipients who were victims of skimming or lost benefits through fraud ([A4452](#)).



School Meals

School meals play a critical role in ensuring kids get three meals a day and the nutrition they need to thrive in and out of the classroom. School meal services have largely returned to pre-pandemic operations. As a result, school meals are no longer free for all students and schools must once again collect applications for free or reduced-price school meals

New Opportunities:

- **Healthy School Meals for All New York Kids**, expanding access to free school meals to an additional 726,000 students across the state. This investment would alleviate food insecurity, support children’s learning and health, and eliminate the pervasive burden of school meal debt for families and schools ([S1678/A1941](#)).
- **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 ([S423/A870](#)).

Economic Opportunity

It takes more than food to fight hunger. Tax credits, child care 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 feed their kids so they, in turn, have the opportunity to thrive.

New Opportunities:

- **Expand the Empire State child credit** by increasing the payment amount for each qualifying child over the age of four, and further increasing the amount for each qualifying child under age four ([S771/A2464](#)).
- Bolster family support programs including **expanding the New York State Child Tax Credit and expanding access to child care** for all New York families ([S3245/A4815](#)).
- **Establish the “Working Families Tax Credit”** which would will close major gaps in the current Empire State Child Credit (ESCC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), including increasing the benefit available to families ([S277A/A4022A](#)).

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.

For more information contact Rachel Sabella, Director of No Kid Hungry New York, at rsabella@strength.org.