



NEW YORK

December 12, 2023

**The Honorable Kathy Hochul**

Governor of New York

New York State Capitol Building, Executive Chambers

Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to encourage you to prioritize funding for a Summer EBT program in 2024 and beyond. We estimate that over 2 million New York students could receive more than \$200 million in food aid, should New York implement a Summer EBT program in 2024. The Summer EBT program provides an efficient and effective way to provide nourishment to vulnerable New York State children and we urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure that our state's children have access to the Summer EBT program next summer.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit New York State, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) acted quickly to establish the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program for eligible families and children to receive the benefits they needed. New York's successful implementation and exceptional stewardship of the P-EBT program resulted in reaching over 2.1 million children and established the foundation for a permanent Summer EBT program. **It is critical that we continue to build on our learnings from the pandemic and prioritize the wellbeing of New York kids.**

For many children in our state, the end of the school year marks the end of consistent and reliable meals. This abrupt disruption can lead to a decline in nutritional intake, which can cause physical and mental health problems and lead to poor educational performance when school begins again. Food banks routinely experience an increase in demand from families with children during the summer months, when the loss of school meals and higher utility bills reduce resources for food. With a monthly \$40 per child grocery benefit, the Summer EBT program is proven and effective at reducing very low food insecurity among children during the summer.

Summer EBT is also an investment in the New York economy, as more purchasing power for low-income New York State families generates economic activity for agriculture, food retailers and manufacturers and creates jobs across multiple industries. Summer EBT presents an opportunity to boost local economies and build a more resilient local food system.

**We urge you to prioritize the implementation of Summer EBT for 2024 by opting-in to participate by the federal deadline of January 1, 2024 and allocating the necessary matching administrative funds for the current fiscal year and beyond as part of the upcoming state budget release in January.**

We also offer our partnership to ensure the program's successful launch and implementation and urge you to make the successful rollout of Summer EBT for Summer 2024 a priority for your administration.

We value our partnership and look forward to the opportunity to work collaboratively with your office to ensure that New York kids have access to the nutrition they need this summer.

Sincerely,

No Kid Hungry New York  
A Chance In Life  
Alliance for Quality Education  
American Heart Association  
Arc Wayne  
Bait-ul Jamaat House of Community  
Bread of Life Food Pantry, Candor NY  
BronxWorks  
Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler - Diocese of Rochester, NY  
Catholic Charities Tompkins/Tioga  
Cathy J Berry MD & Associates  
Center for the Integration & Advancement of New Americans, Inc. (CIANA)  
Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council  
Chinese-American Planning Council  
Christ Church Feeding Ministry  
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York  
City Harvest  
Citywide Oversight Committee Family Co-Chair  
Committee for Hispanic Children & Families (CHCF)  
Community Education Council District 19  
Community Food Advocates  
Community Nutrition Program, AIM Independent Living Center  
Counseling In Schools, Inc.  
Crop2Shop  
CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute  
Equity Advocates  
ExpandED Schools  
Family Health Centers at NYU Langone  
Feeding New York State  
Feeding Westchester

FeedMore WNY  
Field & Fork Network  
Finger Lakes Community Action  
First United Methodist Church of Windsor  
Food Bank For New York City  
Food Bank of Central New York  
Food Bank of the Southern Tier  
Food Industry Alliance of NY  
Foodlink  
Francis Lewis High School PTA  
Fresh Youth Initiatives, Inc. (FYI)  
Grace Community Meal Program  
Grace Lee Memorial Wesleyan Church  
Health and Welfare Council of Long Island  
Helping Hands Food Pantry  
Hunger Solutions New York  
Island Harvest Food Bank  
Keeping Ladies and Men Motivated Inc.  
Kwanzaa Village Garden for sustainability  
Lansing Food Pantry  
Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy  
Literacy Volunteers of Wayne County  
Local 372  
M-EALS and Leadership  
Meals on Wheels of Chemung County, Inc.  
National Supermarket Association (NSA)  
New York School Nutrition Association  
New York State School Boards Association  
NYC Black Women's Political Club  
NYS PTA  
OFHOPE Community Luncheon  
Partnership with Children  
PS 3 Charrette School Parent Action Committee  
Queens High School Presidents' Council  
Reeves Farms LLC  
Regional Food Bank of NENY  
Reynoldsville Food Pantry  
Rosebarb Farm  
South Asian Youth Action (SAYA)  
Spencer Van Etten Community Food Cupboard  
Steuben County Food Distribution Group  
Swipe Out Hunger

Syracuse-Onondaga Food Systems Alliance  
The Campaign Against Hunger  
The Institute for Human Services, Inc.  
The Skyline Charitable Foundation x RAP4Bronx  
Union Center Methodist Church  
United Federation of Teachers  
United Way of Broome County  
United Way of New York City  
United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region  
Waylandfoodpantry at Lighthouse  
YMCA of Greater New York  
Youth Food Advocates

CC: Stacy Lynch, Chief of Staff; Blake Washington, Budget Director; Micah Lasher, Director of Policy; Barbara Guinn, Acting Commissioner of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance; Kevin King, Deputy Secretary for Agriculture and Markets; Angela Profeta, Deputy Secretary for Health; Emily Badalamente Meyer, Assistant Secretary for Human Services & Mental Hygiene; Alyson Grant Tarek, Assistant Secretary for Human Services & Mental Hygiene; and Priya Joshi, Assistant Secretary for Health