The State of the Working Hungry: Low Wages Chief Cause of Malnutrition

HUNGER FREE AMERICA

New York City and State Hunger Report, 2016
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nearly half of all working-age New York City and New York State residents who can’t afford enough food live in households that are employed.

In both the state and city, the minimum wage is now $9.00 per hour, equaling $16,380 for a year of full time employment, leaving a worker with two children below the federal poverty line. Many New Yorkers are paid at or near the minimum wage – and significant numbers are illegally paid even below that. As a result, in 2013-2015, 864,053 New York State residents lived in households that included at least one person working, but were food insecure and unable to consistently afford enough food. Statewide, out of food insecure adults, 46 percent were working.

In New York City alone, in 2013-2015, fully 424,307 residents lived in food insecure households that included at least one person working. And 45 percent of all food insecure New York City adults were employed.
The New York City minimum wage will jump to $11 per hour in December and to $15 by 2018, and the rest of the state’s minimum wage will increase over a period six of more years to $15 per hour.

Seven years after the official end of the national recession, hunger and food insecurity are still sky high in New York State and New York City, at virtually the same levels as at the height of the recession, and are far higher than before the full impact of the recession kicked in. Statewide, nearly three million people, and citywide, approximately 1.4 million people, lived in food insecure households in 2013-2015, meaning they couldn’t always afford enough food. In contrast, in 2006-2008, before the recession’s impact was fully felt, 2.3 million people were food insecure statewide and just under one million citywide.

While food insecurity across the country dropped in 2015 due to the improving economy, and there are some initial signs that it may be starting to drop in New York State and City, whether hunger is now significantly decreasing won’t be clear until 2016 data is released by the federal government next year.

Statewide, in 2013-2015, nearly three-quarters of a million children, about one in seven, lived in food insecure homes. Citywide in that time period, about 429,000 children – or one in five – struggled against hunger.
Other findings of the survey:

- Bronx continued to be the hungriest borough, with 31 percent of residents overall, and 37 percent of its children, living in food insecure homes in 2013-2015.

- New York City’s food pantries and soup kitchens faced an increased demand of nine percent in 2016, on top of an increased demand of five percent in 2015, seven percent in 2014, 10 percent in 2013, five percent in 2012, 12 percent in 2011, seven percent in 2010, and 20 percent in 2009.

- Thirty-five percent of the city’s soup kitchens and food pantries reported not being able to distribute enough food to meet the demand.

- Of those agencies who reported not having enough food to meet current demand, 74 percent reported that if they received more food, they would have enough capacity (storage space, refrigeration, staff, and/or volunteers) to increase the amount of food they distribute; 13 percent believed that they would not have the capacity to accommodate such an increase.

- Seventy-three percent of agencies reported an increase in the number of people they served over the past year; 28 percent reported a great overall increase.
Does your program currently distribute enough food to meet demand?

- YES, we do distribute enough food to meet our current demand.
- NO, we do not distribute enough food to meet our demand.
- Unsure.
Please select one or more of the following responses that describe your organization’s volunteer needs.

- We could utilize more skilled volunteers to do things like bookkeeping, website design, and grant writing.
- We could use more volunteers to serve our customers/clients directly.
- We could use more volunteers but do not have the staff to manage them.
- We do not need more volunteers.
A Message from Hunger Free America’s CEO

Finally, we’ve had a sliver of good news.

Nationwide in 2015, domestic hunger decreased significantly, according to the US Department of Agriculture, with six million (13 percent) fewer Americans living in households that couldn’t always afford enough food.

The drop in US hunger was likely caused by a variety of factors, including a decrease in unemployment and increase in wages (some of which was caused by minimum wage hikes in key states, such as California and New York), as well as increasing participation of low-income children in the federal school breakfast and summer meals programs – all of which were a result of deliberate and effective government policies. This is the most recent proof that public policy matters – big time.

But before we celebrate too much, it’s vital to note that, even with that drop, a staggering 42 million Americans – more than the combined populations of California and New Hampshire – still struggled against hunger in 2015. That number is still seven million more people (20 percent) than in 2005, before the recession hit. Thirteen million American children – one in six – still can’t always count on getting enough food, The US continues to have the highest rates of hunger, by far, out of any industrialized democracy, even per capita.

This shameful data is the latest evidence that the American dream is seriously at risk unless we change our current economic and political policies across the country. Low wages are still the top cause of US hunger and malnutrition.

Our study finds that, statewide in New York, nearly three million people, and in New York City approximately 1.4 million people, lived in food insecure households in 2013-2015, meaning they couldn’t always afford enough food. In contrast in 2006-2008, 2.3 million people were food insecure statewide and just under one million citywide.

Across New York State in 2013-2015, nearly three-quarters of a million children, about one in seven, lived in food insecure homes. Citywide during that time period, about 429,000 kids – or one in five – struggled with hunger. The Bronx continued to be the hungriest borough, with 31 percent of residents overall, and 37 percent of children, living in food insecure homes in 2013-2015. And 35 percent of New York City “emergency” feeding programs reported not being able to give out enough food to meet the demand.

Shameful, simply shameful.

It is unconscionable that in the richest city in the history of the world, one in five kids still can’t always count on enough food. It is equally unacceptable that a third of our charitable food pantries and soup kitchens lack the resources to meet the growing need.

There are some initial signs that, as hunger is dropping nationwide, it may be also starting to decline in New York State and City, but whether food insecurity is truly
decreasing now won’t be clear until 2016 data is released by the federal government next year.

An astonishing 864,053 New York State residents live in food insecure households that included at least one person working. In New York City alone, 424,307 of our neighbors lived in food insecure homes that included at least one person working. The main cause of hunger and malnutrition in America and New York continues to be low wages. Yet one bit of additional good news is that, due to the advocacy of Hunger Free America and its many allies, the minimum wage in New York City will rise to $11 per hour in December, then to $15 by 2018. Wages will increase to $15 per hour over more years in the rest of the state. These wage hikes will soon provide food life preservers to New Yorkers who are drowning in hunger.

In contrast to these progressive advances in New York, the federal government may soon make changes that will throw us all backwards, dramatically increasing hunger. We all need to fight back on the national front. That’s why the New York City Coalition Against Hunger expanded its policy and program work nationwide, and changed our name earlier in 2016 to Hunger Free America.

After the 2016 general election, we analyzed USDA caseload data for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly called the Food Stamps Program. Disproving the stereotype that SNAP recipients are all in ‘inner cities’ or blue states, we found that, out of the top ten SNAP-utilizing states, eight voted for Trump in the general election. This proves that large numbers of citizens who rely on federal nutrition assistance programs live in rural, mostly white, areas. **With 44 million Americans – living in suburban, rural, and urban areas of every state – relying on SNAP, the ‘they’ is really ‘us.’** America can only be truly great if it feeds all its own residents, which is why we hope that President-elect Donald Trump commits to ending US hunger by creating jobs, raising wages, and bolstering the federal food safety net. At a bare minimum, we hope President-elect Trump pledges to stop House Speaker Paul Ryan’s misguided plans to again slash food aid to vulnerable Americans in order to pay for more tax cuts for the mega-rich.

The soaring hunger levels in New York and throughout our country harm health, hamper education, trap families in poverty, fuel obesity, eviscerate hope, and thus drags down our entire economy and places our national security at risk. Hunger harms us all. But, ending hunger lifts us all. We must build a grassroots movement and force our political system to enact the economic policies and social programs necessary to end US hunger once and for all.

Please join us in that fight.

Sincerely,

Joel Berg, CEO, Hunger Free America
**Report Methodology**

This report is based on two entirely different sets of data. The first set is federal food insecurity/hunger statistics collected by the US Census Bureau on behalf of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and analyzed by Hunger Free America. It is based on three-year averages, with the most recent year being 2015. The second set of data was directly collected by Hunger Free NYC, a division of Hunger Free America, in the fall of 2016 from a survey sent to about 726 of New York City’s soup kitchens and food pantries, of which a large sample size of 244 responded.

**Federal Food Insecurity Data Methodology**

Data for this section of the report is from an annual survey conducted by the US Census Bureau as a supplement to the monthly Current Population Survey. The USDA sponsors the annual survey and the USDA’s Economic Research Service compiles and analyzes the responses. The 2015 food security survey covered 93,948 households nationwide, comprising a representative sample of the US civilian population of 125 million households. The food security survey asked one adult respondent in each household a series of questions about experiences and behaviors that indicate food insecurity, such as being unable to afford balanced meals, cutting the size of meals because of too little money for food, or being hungry because of too little money for food. The food security status of the household was assigned based on the number of food insecure conditions reported. The raw data was collected from thousands of households in New York City, and the weighted responses were calculated by Hunger Free America.

According to the USDA, the number of food insecure conditions and behaviors that the household reports determines the food insecurity status of each interviewed household. Households are classified as being food secure if they report no food insecure conditions or if they report only one or two food insecure conditions. USDA defines “food insecure” as the condition under which: “At least some time during the year, the food intake of one or more household members was reduced and their eating patterns were disrupted at times during the year because the household lacked money and other resources for food.”

**Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen Annual Survey Data Methodology**

The 2016 questionnaire was originally mailed and e-mailed to a list of approximately 726 soup kitchens, food pantries, and other emergency food programs (EFPs) throughout New York City. Based on previous response feedback and adjusted organizational needs, Hunger Free America slightly reformatted this year’s survey to include some additional questions about volunteerism/civic engagement and information about our Guides to Free Food and Assistance, free booklets that can be passed out to hungry New Yorkers telling them EFPs in their neighborhoods and how to apply for benefits. The list of agencies that received the survey was extracted from an internal database that is used to regularly manage and update these Guides. Following our initial request for information, staff and volunteers made follow-up contact via
phone and email, working directly with agencies to ensure we have the most updated information and to encourage their responses. Respondents had the option to mail or fax completed surveys and/or to fill it out online via Survey Monkey. Altogether, we received responses from 244 agencies at a response rate, administrative errors aside, of about 34 percent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakdown of Respondent Agency Type:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type</strong></td>
<td><strong>Percent</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soup Kitchens</td>
<td>8.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Pantries</td>
<td>60.25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agencies with both Soup Kitchens and Food Pantries</td>
<td>24.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6.56%</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ratio of Where Agencies Distribute Food to Total Agencies by Borough</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Borough</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
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<td>Bronx</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manhattan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staten Island</td>
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</table>

[The number of total agencies in the chart above equals more than 726 and the respondents in the chart above equal more than 244 because some individual agencies have sites in multiple boroughs.]

Because there is no joint database of people served by New York City food pantries and soup kitchens, it is impossible to determine how many people served by one EFP are also served by other pantries and kitchens and as a result, this report does not determine the total number of people served by the agencies citywide in any given year. Rather, it determines the rate of change between years.

It is also important to note that the soup kitchen and food pantry response is not entirely random. We mail and e-mail the survey to every food pantry and soup kitchen we can find in the city, and then we use every response we get. However, EFPs vary dramatically in size and scope and most are very small and frequently staffed by volunteers, so therefore, a handful of the larger ones serve a very high proportion of the charitable meals in the city. The larger agencies, often with some professional staff, tend to be more likely to respond to this annual survey year after year, and since we report on rate of change, not raw numbers of people served, we do think that our focus on the larger agencies actually gives a better picture of the numerical trends than if we used a random sample.

There was also some uncertainty amongst responding agencies about what other demographic changes were observed. Some required “check-in” procedures used to keep track of their clients/customers may require the reporting of some demographic information, but it may be hard to track certain patron characteristics because asking those kinds of questions may be considered intrusive or may be sensitive discussion topics. For instance, of those categories noted, many agencies stated that they were unsure as to whether or not there was changes in the number of working professionals, SNAP recipients, and/or homeless individuals served.
Although it is becoming common practice for agencies, through a registration process, to inquire what resources clients do or do not have so they may provide information about and help connect them to benefit programs and other help, unless the specific question is asked during registration, there is no way to tell if someone is working, homeless, or receiving SNAP benefits, simply by looking at them. In a similar vein, the fact that agencies reported not knowing if there were changes in these demographics shows that poverty and hunger do not discriminate. There is no particular type of person that is hungry and/or poor in this country; any one of us can easily fall victim to these unfortunate circumstances.

**Federal Food Insecurity Data for New York City**

Seven years after the official end of the national recession, hunger and food insecurity are still sky high in New York City, at virtually the same levels as at the height of it, and far higher than before the full impact of the collapse kicked in. Approximately 1.4 million New Yorkers lived in food insecure households in 2013-2015 and couldn’t always afford enough food. In contrast in 2006-2008, before the recession’s impact was fully felt, just under one million were impacted.

While food insecurity nationwide dropped in 2015 due to the improving economy, and there are some initial signs that it may be starting to decline in New York City, whether hunger is now significantly decreasing won’t be clear until 2016 data is released by the federal government next year.

In New York City, in 2013-2015, 424,307 residents lived in food insecure households that included at least one person working. And fully 45 percent of all food insecure New Yorkers were employed.

Bronx continued to be the hungriest borough, with 31 percent of its residents overall, and 37 percent of its children, living in food insecure homes in 2013-2015.

**Food Insecurity in NYC Still Far Higher than Before the Recession**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Number of New York City Residents Living in Food Insecure Households</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Seniors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td>981,884</td>
<td>369,415</td>
<td>132,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2015</td>
<td>1,418,297</td>
<td>429,357</td>
<td>171,197</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Percentage of New York City Residents Living in Food Insecure Households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Seniors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td>14.37%</td>
<td>19.22%</td>
<td>10.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2015</td>
<td>16.82%</td>
<td>22.44%</td>
<td>13.58%</td>
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</table>
While there is not enough food insecurity data for Staten Island to calculate borough-specific statistics, the poverty rate, according to the US Census Bureau American Community Survey, was 14.5 percent in 2015, 15 percent in 2014, 13 percent in 2013, and nine percent in 2008.

Food Insecurity in New York City Children

Citywide in 2013-2015, about 429,000 children – or one in five – struggled against hunger. This is a sharp hike over 2006-2008, when 369,415 NYC children lived in food insecure homes.

Children, overall, might be considered the silent majority who are most affected by hunger in the United States. According to the USDA, in 2015 17.9 percent of all American children lived in households defined as “food insecure.” Despite their large numbers, totaling a little over 13.1

### Percentage of New York City Residents Living in Food Insecure Households by Borough

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bronx</td>
<td>28.93%</td>
<td>31.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
<td>11.46%</td>
<td>19.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan</td>
<td>13.75%</td>
<td>10.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens</td>
<td>11.38%</td>
<td>10.78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
million, they cannot vote and many cannot even advocate on their own behalf about the issues that affect them. Where their parents struggle to put food on the table each day, effective policies that can make a difference become that much more vital.

School meals are a critical component to fighting child hunger. In the spring of 2015, New York City’s Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the introduction of “breakfast after the bell” – or serving breakfast to all kids in their classrooms or via “grab and go” – for all stand-alone elementary schools, which serve about 339,000 students. The new policy is a great opportunity for the largest school district in the nation, to increase the number of students who begin the day with a nutritious breakfast, where previously, only about 30 percent of students financially eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches were participating in the school breakfast program. Likewise, after Los Angeles instituted its breakfast-in-the-classroom program during the 2011-12 school year, that city served an additional 65,924 low-income children each day during the 2012-2013 school year, which amounts to a participation increase of 117,860 additional low-income kids eating a healthy breakfast every morning.

Likewise, instituting other universal meal programs, such as the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program, can increase the number of children receiving nutritious, affordable school meals each day. Because of Community Eligibility, during the 2015-16 school year more than 18,000 high-poverty schools served free breakfast and lunch to more than 8.6 million low-income students across the country.

Only about 16.7 percent of students who received free or reduced-price lunches also participated in the Summer Food Service Program (or Summer Meals) during the summer of 2015. According to a Share Our Strength survey, a majority of low-income families (62 percent) spend more on food in June, July, and August than the rest of the year, citing an average increase of $316 per month. It’s not difficult to connect the dots – with kids out of school and missing out on the healthy, affordable meals provided there, family expenditures increase. And for many homes, this means cutting back on other necessities. Summer meals programs can make a huge difference, but only if children are able to access them. Based on a 2015 survey by Hunger Free New York City (a division of Hunger Free America), convenience was a key factor in determining whether parents and caregivers do or do not take their children to Summer Meals sites. Unfortunately, we also learned that half of families who do not participate in the program do not know where sites are located or other key information about it.

One of the most effective programs that helps feed millions of impoverished children – including about six million in 2015 alone, according to USDA – is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, or commonly known as WIC. Women enrolled in WIC purchase the healthy food that they need for themselves while they are pregnant and for their young children in their formative years. The program also provides other tools, such as nutrition counseling and assistance with lactation and/or formula. These benefits can ensure families that their kids are guaranteed the proper nutrients so that they can meet all of their developmental milestones.
Borough-by-Borough Child Food Insecurity

Percent of New York City Children that Live in Food Insecure Households by Borough

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bronx</td>
<td>36.47%</td>
<td>36.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
<td>14.54%</td>
<td>25.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan</td>
<td>23.75%</td>
<td>10.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens</td>
<td>12.45%</td>
<td>16.04%</td>
</tr>
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Seniors Struggling Against Hunger

In New York City, an average of 171,197 senior residents lived in food insecure households between 2013 and 2015. These numbers, are still at higher levels than they were prior to the recession between 2006-2008, where an average of 132,113 NYC seniors were living in food insecure households, representing a 30 percent difference.
Living in an urban environment presents unique challenges for seniors. Though slightly below the national levels of food insecurity and poverty, the struggles that New York City and State seniors face should not be taken lightly.

The alarming number of struggling seniors should alarm us all. Hunger and poverty for older Americans presents a unique set of challenges with decreased mobility, physical disability, possible dietary restrictions/needs, and the frequent reliance on additional outside support. Living even adequately may be quite difficult for an older individual who may be alone, homebound, and retired or unable to work (for whatever reason). And, just like other federal benefit recipients, senior citizens must comply with the arduous paperwork and bureaucratic requirements to apply/recertify for each individual assistance program. There are some jurisdictions, like New York City, that have implemented administrative processes to ease this burden (e.g. allowing the elderly and disabled to recertify every other year, rather than annually and providing applications that can be completed by telephone, rather than in person). And this should be the norm, not the exception.

Some benefits that seniors receive also face the very real threats of budgetary cuts or of funding even running completely dry. In as prosperous a location as New York, and, for that matter, in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, no senior citizen who worked hard his or her entire life should have to live in poverty and fight to survive.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Borough</th>
<th>Bronx</th>
<th>Brooklyn</th>
<th>Manhattan</th>
<th>Queens</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td>20.03%</td>
<td>9.34%</td>
<td>11.25%</td>
<td>6.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2015</td>
<td>22.48%</td>
<td>17.13%</td>
<td>10.81%</td>
<td>10.21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percent of NYC Seniors Living in Food Insecure Households by Borough

- Bronx: 21.00% (2006-2008), 23.00% (2013-2015)
- Brooklyn: 10.50% (2006-2008), 12.00% (2013-2015)
- Queens: 7.00% (2006-2008), 8.00% (2013-2015)
Federal Food Insecurity Data for New York State

Hunger and food insecurity continue to soar in New York State, even seven years after the federal government declared the recession ended. Hungry families suffer at nearly the same rates as during the worst of the economic collapse, and at far higher levels than before the full impact of the recession kicked in. Statewide, nearly three million people lived in food insecure households in 2013-2015 and couldn’t always afford enough food. Yet in 2006-2008, before the depths of the downturn were reached, 2.3 million people were food insecure across New York.

As mentioned above, while we are cautiously optimistic that we may see a slightly improving trend in hunger and poverty in New York State, we cannot be certain of any patterns until 2016 statistics are released by the federal government next year.

In 2013-2015, 864,053 New York State residents lived in homes that could not consistently afford enough food even though they included at least one person working. Forty-six percent of food insecure New York adults were working.

And across the state in 2013-2015, nearly one in seven children lived in food insecure households.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of New York State Residents</th>
<th>Living in Food Insecure Households</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2008</td>
<td>11.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2015</td>
<td>14.99%</td>
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</table>
Percent of New York State Residents that Living Food Insecure

- Total
- Children
- Senior

2016 Citywide Emergency Food Provider Survey Results

New York City’s food pantries and soup kitchens faced an increased demand of nine percent in 2016, on top of an increased demand of five percent in 2015, seven percent in 2014, 10 percent in 2013, five percent in 2012, 12 percent in 2011, seven percent in 2010, and 20 percent in 2009.

On a positive note, despite this overall increase, nearly 60 percent of responding agencies asserted that they are able to meet current demand, compared to only about half reporting so last year. However, three-fourths of those who said they could not meet their current demand stated that if they could simply access more food, their facilities would have the capacity to increase the amount of food distributed. On top of this, when all respondents were asked what additional resources would be most helpful, 75 percent replied that they could benefit most from increased funding to buy/distribute more food. This not only shows these programs’ need for greater access to food but may also demonstrate the functional limitations of the emergency food program system as a whole since they are still unable to meet the demand for food.

Seventy-three percent of agencies reported an increase in the number of people they served over the past year; 28 percent reported a “great” overall increase.

Some of the open-ended feedback from survey participants we have received over the years has expressed disappointment in both the variety of food purchasing options available and the logistical limitations in how food is currently provided to agencies. The structure of public money available to emergency food providers (EFPs) varies widely – from completely unrestricted funding that allows EFPs to purchase any type of food from any source, to much more restricted scenarios, where there is a narrow selection of available food. These difficulties, in addition to fragmented funding streams and lack of overall capacity, hinder agencies from being able to effectively and sustainably address their clients’/customers’ needs.

One potential way to counteract these problems is through collaboration and civic engagement. This was a key theme in responses throughout the results of this year’s survey. Two-thirds of agencies expressed that they desired partnerships, joint programming, and/or a referral system with other community-based organizations, as well as resources to build/maintain relationships with community members, public officials, and the media. The most effective service work is not done in isolation; if and when people truly come together, they are able to fight major community concerns like poverty and hunger. Especially in today’s polarized climate and shrinking resources, it is more important than ever for us to find ways to cooperate and open up dialogue between – and learn from – one another.

Civic engagement and volunteerism are two ways in which an EFP can foster a deep connection with community members. Volunteerism, which in and of itself is a vehicle of civic engagement,
has the power to bring different groups of people that may otherwise not be exposed to one another, together to interact and work to provide the most effective and efficient service to their communities. Survey results show that even 43 percent of agencies stated that they currently do not need any additional volunteers, about 39 percent replied that they could utilize more volunteers for direct service and one-third needed more skilled-based volunteers. The reported increase in need from last year for more direct service volunteers may reflect a belief by many EFPs that they have a growing responsibility in a perceived time of greater need.

What type of food program do you run?

- Soup kitchen
- Food pantry
- Both soup kitchen & food pantry
- We have never run a feeding program (if you choose this option, we'll take you off our list)
- We previously ran a feeding program but we have closed.
- Other type of emergency food program (please explain)
Q6 In what borough do you serve or distribute food?

Answered: 244  Skipped: 0

- Manhattan
- Brooklyn
- Bronx
- Queens
- Staten Island
If your program had the potential to access any of the following additional resources, which one(s) would be the most helpful to your program?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding to buy and distribute food</td>
<td>74.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding to provide additional programs for customers/clients</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships/Collaboration with other community organizations/initiatives to provide referrals or do joint programming</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More direct service staff/volunteers to help with food preparations and/or distributions</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More direct services staff/volunteers to help with food preparation and/or distribution.</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More capacity building staff/volunteers to help with running/expanding programming.</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More resources to keep in touch and build relationships with community members, public officials, and the media.</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bronx-Specific Results

“Our organization is very thankful for the support we have been given by the various agencies which support our community. There are areas that we wish to address in the future. We struggle with providing healthy ethnic foods for our community. For example, gefilte fish is a fantastic option for our patrons who prefer kosher food. We do not have options for people who may eat Caribbean or Asian dishes.” – Lisa, Volunteer, Black Forum of Co-op City

Food Security Data

- 31.46 percent of Bronx residents – or one in three – lived in food insecure households in 2013-2015.
- 36.98 percent of Bronx children – or a little over one in three – lived in food insecure households in 2013-2015.
- 22.48 percent of Bronx seniors – a little over one in five – lived in food insecure homes in 2013-2015.

Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen Data

- 56.41 percent of responding agencies reported not having enough food to meet current demand.
- Of those who reported not having enough food to meet current demand, 65.22 percent said that if they received more food, they would have enough capacity (storage space, refrigeration, staff, and/or volunteers) to increase the amount of food they distribute; however 30.43 percent believed that they would not have the capacity to accommodate an increase in the amount of food they distribute.
- 89.75 percent of agencies noted an increase in the number of people they served over the past year. 41.03 percent reported the number of clients increased greatly.
- 76.32 percent of agencies claimed that they could benefit from additional funding to buy and distribute more food
- 68.42 percent of responding EFPs desired additional resources/assistance to build partnerships and collaborate with other community organizations for referrals, joint programming, and/or to build relationships with community members, public officials and the media.
Brooklyn-Specific Results

“Volunteers get together in a circle of love and understanding in order to do our best in serving our clients and we give thanks for all that comes our way.” Kirby Theodore, St Catherine of Genoa Church

Food Security Data

- 19.44 percent of Brooklyn residents – nearly one in five – lived in food insecure households in 2013-2015.
- 25.41 percent of Brooklyn children – one in four – lived in food insecure homes in 2013-2015.
- 17.13 percent of Brooklyn seniors – a little over one in six – lived in food insecure homes in 2013-2015.

Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen Data

- 49.23 percent of responding agencies reported not having enough food to meet current demand.
- Of those who reported not having enough food to meet current demand, 87.88 percent of responding agencies said that if they received more food, they would have enough capacity (storage space, refrigeration, staff, and/or volunteers) to increase the amount of food they distribute; and just nine percent believed that they would not have the capacity to accommodate an increase in the amount of food they distribute.
- 70.77 percent of agencies noted an increase in the number of people they served over the past year. 29.23 percent reported the number of clients increased greatly.
- 80.85 percent of agencies claimed that they could benefit from having additional funding to buy and distribute more food.
- 63.17 percent of responding EFPs desired additional resources/assistance to build partnerships and collaborate with other community organizations for referrals, joint programming, and/or to build relationships with community members, public officials and the media.
Manhattan-Specific Results

“Our East Harlem neighbors rely as much as ever on the food pantry at LSA Family Health Service. In 2015, we served 10 percent more people than the previous year; in 2016, we expect an additional four percent increase. Working families and seniors of all backgrounds are struggling to make ends meet, and SNAP benefits, while critical, are never enough.” Lucia Russett, Director of Advocacy, Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service

Food Security Data

- 10.32 percent of Manhattan residents – one in ten – lived in food insecure households in 2013-2015.
- 10.81 percent of Manhattan seniors – one in ten – lived in food insecure homes in 2013-2015.

Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen Data

- 22.81 percent of responding agencies reported not having enough food to meet current demand.
- Of those who reported not having enough food to meet current demand, 47.62 percent of said that if they received more food, they would have enough capacity (storage space, refrigeration, staff, and/or volunteers) to increase the amount of food they distribute; but 19.05 percent believed that they would not have the capacity to accommodate an increase in the amount of food they distribute.
- 68.51 percent of agencies noted an increase in the number of people they served over the past year. 24.56 percent reported the number of clients increased greatly.
- 67.92 percent of agencies claimed that they could benefit from having additional funding to buy and distribute more food.
- 77.36 percent of responding EFPs desired additional resources/assistance to build partnerships and collaborate with other community organizations for referrals, joint programming, and/or to build relationships with community members, public officials and the media.
Queens-Specific Results

“Being aware of the increased price of food items, we are committed to stamping out hunger in our communities.” Sherma Miller, Pantry Associate, Mt. Olivet Mercy House Pantry

Food Security Data

- 10.78 percent of Queens residents – one in nine – lived in food insecure households in 2013-2015.
- 10.21 percent of Queens seniors – one in ten – lived in food insecure homes in 2013-2015.

Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen Data

- 24.07 percent of responding agencies reported not having enough food to meet current demand.
- Of those who reported not having enough food to meet current demand, 83.33 percent of said that if they received more food, they would have enough capacity (storage space, refrigeration, staff, and/or volunteers) to increase the amount of food they distribute; and only five percent believed that they would not have the capacity to accommodate an increase in the amount of food they distribute.
- 70.37 percent of agencies noted an increase in the number of people they served over the past year. 31.48 percent reported the number of clients increased greatly.
- 72 percent of agencies claimed that they could benefit from having additional funding to buy and distribute more food.
- 52 percent of responding EFPS desired additional resources/assistance to build partnerships and collaborate with other community organizations for referrals, joint programming, and/or to build relationships with community members, public officials and the media.
**Staten Island-Specific Results**

“It's rewarding to see clients faces light up when receiving their food items, but quite tragic seeing their poverty.” Rabbi Moshe Yudkowsky, Administrator, Mesivta of Staten Island

While there is not enough food insecurity data for Staten Island to calculate borough-specific statistics, the poverty rate, according to the US Census Bureau American Community Survey, was 14.5 percent in 2015, 15 percent in 2014, 13 percent in 2013, and nine percent in 2008. This 5.5 percentage point increase equals between 2008 and 2015 a whopping 61 percent increase in poverty in just six years. One in seven Staten Island residents now live in poverty. In 2014, 13 percent of Staten Island children lived in poverty. The overall food insecurity and child food insecurity rates for Staten Island are likely similar since poverty is the greatest correlate to food insecurity.

However, we are able to report on significant other food pantry and soup kitchen data from Staten Island:

- 33.33 percent of responding agencies reported not having enough food to meet current demand.

- Of those who reported not having enough food to meet current demand, 75 percent said that if they received more food, they would have enough capacity (storage space, refrigeration, staff, and/or volunteers) to increase the amount of food they distribute; yet, 25 percent believed that they would not have the capacity to accommodate an increase in the amount of food they distribute.

- 75 percent of agencies reported an increase in the number of people they served over the past year. 16.67 percent reported the number of clients increased greatly.

- The following increases were also reported:
  - 42 percent: People with paid work
  - 75 percent: Families with children
  - 25 percent: Immigrants
  - 50 percent: Seniors (age 60 and older)
  - 16.67 percent: Homeless

- 83.33 percent of agencies claimed that they could benefit from having additional funding to buy and distribute more food.

- 25% percent of responding EFPs desired additional resources/assistance to build partnerships and collaborate with other community organizations for referrals, joint programming, and/or to build relationships with community members, public officials and the media.
Appendix 1: Survey Questionnaire

September 7, 2016

Dear Emergency Food Provider:

It’s that time of year again! Hunger Free New York City – a division of Hunger Free America, formerly the New York City Coalition Against Hunger – urges you to participate in our Annual Hunger Survey. In lieu of our organizational shift, we have slightly changed the focus of this year’s Annual Hunger Survey.

Last year – with your help – we collected surveys from 200 soup kitchens, food pantries, and brown bag programs citywide. These efforts resulted in coverage from several major newspapers, television and radio stations, as well as increased attention from many officials, including Mayor Bill de Blasio, Public Advocate Letitia James and the New York City Human Resources Administration/Department of Social Services Commissioner Steven Banks.

Filling out the Survey helps fight hunger and food insecurity by:
- Attracting more media attention to the problem of hunger.
- Providing data used to update our Neighborhood Guides to Food & Assistance. These Guides are a valuable resource for community members looking for information about accessing nutrition benefits and food within the five boroughs.
- Boosting our efforts to convince political and business leaders to enact governmental and economic policies that boost funding for soup kitchens and food pantries and reduce poverty.

This year, in addition to asking you specifically about your customers/clients, there will be a few detailed questions about your program’s volunteer needs and how the organization is involved in your community. If your organization is interested, you will also be able to submit an order for our Neighborhood Guides to Free Food and Assistance.

Your participation is CRITICAL!

Best of all, if you have an internet connection, you can quickly and conveniently complete the survey online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016HungerSurvey

Paper surveys can be faxed to: 646-699-3685 or mailed to: HFNYC, Attn: Survey, 50 Broad St. Suite 1103, New York, NY 10004. The deadline to respond is Monday, October 17th, 2016.
If you have any questions or would like assistance in completing the survey, please contact Rasna Sethi at 212-825-0028 ext.202.

Remember, information is power. Together, we can help empower your customers/clients.

Sincerely,

Joel Berg, Chief Executive Officer

2016 Survey of NYC Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens

Please consider completing this survey ONLINE at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016HungerSurvey
It’s quicker and easier than filling out paper forms.

If you do not know the answer to any question or part of a question, please check “unsure” or leave blank. Otherwise, return this completed survey to us by Monday, October 17th, by mail to HFNYC, 50 Broad St, Suite 1103, New York, NY 10004, or fax to 646-699-3685. Questions? Call Rasna Sethi at 212-825-0028 ext. 202.

Section 1: Preferred Contact Information

1.) What type of food program do you run? (Check ONE)
   - Soup kitchen
   - Food pantry
   - Both soup kitchen & food pantry
   - Other type of emergency food program (explain) _______________________
   - We have never run a feeding program (if you check this box, we’ll take you off our list)
   - We previously ran a feeding program and it closed on (date) ________________

2.) Your name: ____________________________________________

3.) Your title / role: ________________________________________

4.) Your food program / agency formal name: ___________________

5.) Where do you serve or distribute food?
   Street address: ____________________________________________
   City: ______________________, State: ______ Zip: ______________
6.) Phone number of agency / program: ___________________________ - ________ - ________
7.) Fax Number of agency / program: ___________________________ - ________ - ________
8.) Email Address: __________________________________________
9.) Website Address: _________________________________________
10.) In what borough do you serve or distribute food?
    ☐ Manhattan ☐ Queens
    ☐ Brooklyn ☐ Staten Island
    ☐ Bronx
11.) Is your agency/program mailing address the same or different from where you serve food?
    ☐ Same
    ☐ Different
12.) If you answered DIFFERENTLY, what is your agency/program’s mailing address?
    Address: ____________________________________________________
    City: ______________ State: ______ Zip: ________________
    Phone: __________________ Fax: ___________________________
13.) What are your days and hours of operation?
    ____________________________________________________________________
14.) Please provide any additional requirements/instructions that clients/customers need to meet/follow in order to receive food from your program:
    ____________________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________
15.) Do you want to have your program listed in HFNYC’s 2017 Neighborhood Guide to Food and Assistance? Find it here: http://www.hungerfreeamerica.org/food-assistance-guides. If “Yes,” Please note we will use the information provided in this survey for the listing. PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION IS PROVIDED AND IS UP TO DATE.
    ☐ Yes
    ☐ Yes, but unsure if we are already listed
    ☐ No
    ☐ Our program is already listed and would like to be listed in 2017
    ☐ Our program is already listed but would like to be removed.
Our program is already listed but edits are needed. Please contact us.

16.) Is your food program open to the public (either by walk-in or referral)?
   - Yes
   - No

17.) Do you know of any food pantries, soup kitchens, or brown bag programs that have shut down or closed their doors in the last year, or any new programs that have opened up since last fall?
   - Yes
   - No

If yes, please provide any information on name(s), location(s), and any other contact information on the program(s) if available:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Section 2: Program Demand

18.) Does your program currently distribute enough food to meet demand? (Check ONE)
   - YES, we distribute enough food to meet our current demand.
   - NO, we don’t distribute enough food to meet our current demand.
   - Unsure

19.) If you answered “No” above, which of the following statements best describes your current situation? (Check ONE):
   - If we received more food, we would have enough capacity (storage space, refrigeration, staff, and/or volunteers) to increase the amount of food we distribute.
   - Even if we received more food, we would not have enough capacity to increase the amount of food we distribute.
   - I do not know if we have the capacity to distribute more food.
20.) Please indicate if the number of people you serve has changed in the last year. For each line, check the box that is closest to the correct answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In the last year... (Oct 2015 through Sept 2016)</th>
<th>Greatly decreased</th>
<th>Somewhat decreased</th>
<th>No change</th>
<th>Somewhat increased</th>
<th>Greatly increased</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall number of people needing food</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeless people</td>
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<tr>
<td>People with paid employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Families with children</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior citizens (age 65+)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Immigrants</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>People currently receiving SNAP (food stamps) benefits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
21.) **ALL PROGRAMS**: How many estimated **people** did you serve?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time period</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected estimate for ALL of 2016, including months that have not yet occurred</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22.) **Soup Kitchens ONLY**: How many estimated **meals** did you provide?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time period</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected estimate for ALL of 2016, including months that have not yet occurred</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23.) Were you forced to turn people away, reduce the amount of food distributed per person, or limit your hours of operation because you lacked enough resources?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At any time in 2015:</th>
<th>At any time in 2016:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>Unsure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 3: Program Resources

24.) If your program had the potential to access any of the following additional resources, which one(s) would be the most helpful to your program? *(Please select all that apply)*

- Funding to buy and distribute food
- Funding to provide additional programs for customers/clients
- Partnerships/Collaborations with other community organizations/initiatives to provide referrals or do joint programming.
- More direct service staff/volunteers to help with food preparation and/or distribution
- More capacity building staff/volunteers to help with running/expanding programming.
- More resources to keep in touch and build relationships with community members, public officials, and the media.
- Other: __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
25.) How have your resources changed in the LAST YEAR (October 2015 through September 2016)? Check the box that is closest to the correct answer for every type of funding source:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding for Food</th>
<th>Greatly decreased</th>
<th>Somewhat decreased</th>
<th>No change</th>
<th>Somewhat increased</th>
<th>Greatly increased</th>
<th>Unsure / Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government/Public Funding</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Funding</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL Funding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Paid staff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid staff/volunteers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

26.) How often do you or your staff/volunteers spend personal money on your food program? (Check ONE)

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always
- Unsure/Don’t Know

27.) Please select one or more of the following responses that describe your organization’s volunteer needs. (Please check ALL that apply)

- We could utilize more skilled volunteers to do things like bookkeeping, website design, and grant writing.
- We could use more volunteers to serve our customers/clients directly.
- We could use more volunteers but do not have the staff to manage them.
- We do not need more volunteers

28.) HungerVolunteer.org is a free website you can use to post volunteer opportunities and manage volunteer hours and assignments. Do you see your organization using HungerVolunteer.org? (Please refer to the supplemental flyer provided.)

- Yes, we will post our volunteer opportunities on HungerVolunteer.org.
- Yes, but we will need assistance with using HungerVolunteer.org. (HFA will follow up)
- No, we already use another volunteer management system.
  (If so, which one? _________________________)
- No, we do not want to use a volunteer management system like this.

Please check here if you would like HFA to contact you about getting more skilled volunteers or to provide more information about HungerVolunteer.org.
29.) Are there any other resources you would like for your volunteer recruitment and management? (e.g. training materials, recruitment guides)

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

30.) What is your preferred form of communication from HFA/NYC?

☐ Email

☐ Hard copy/Mail

☐ Phone

☐ All of the above

Section 4: Other Comments

31.) Talk to us - feel free to attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

☐ Please check here if we have your permission to quote you in our annual survey.

THANK YOU!
### Guides to Free Food and Assistance Order Form

Please indicate what area, what language, what quantity of the Guides to Free Food and Assistance you would like below:

*(If you have any questions and/or would like to place a special order, or an amount not specified, please email guides@hungerfreenyc.org)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Areas and Zip Codes Covered</th>
<th>Language and Amount Desired</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citywide</td>
<td>General Overview of all five boroughs</td>
<td>English □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chinese □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronx</td>
<td>Zipcodes Included: 10451-59, 10460-62, 10465-69, 10472-75</td>
<td>English □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staten Island</td>
<td>Zipcodes Included: 10301-04, 10306, 10307, 10310, 10314</td>
<td>English □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Queens</td>
<td>Covers all neighborhoods from Woodhaven to Jamaica and the Rockaways</td>
<td>English □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zipcodes Included: 11411-13, 11451-21, 11423, 11427-29, 11432-36, 11451</td>
<td>Spanish □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chinese □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Queens</td>
<td>Covers all neighborhoods from Astoria to Ridgewood to Flushing</td>
<td>English □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zipcodes Included: 11101-06, 11354, 11355, 11374, 11375, 11378, 11379, 11385</td>
<td>Spanish □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chinese □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Brooklyn</td>
<td>Cover all neighborhoods south of Prospect Park and Linden Boulevard</td>
<td>English □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zipcodes Included: 11203, 11204, 11209, 11210, 11214, 11218-20, 11223, 11224, 11228-30, 11232, 11234-36</td>
<td>Spanish □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chinese □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Brooklyn</td>
<td>Covers all neighborhoods from Greenpoint to Red Hook to East New York</td>
<td>English □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zipcodes Included: 11205-08, 11211-13, 11215-17, 11221, 11222, 11225, 11231, 11233, 11237-39</td>
<td>Spanish □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chinese □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Manhattan</td>
<td>Covers all neighborhoods south of 59th Street</td>
<td>English □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zipcodes Included: 10001-07, 10009-12, 10013, 10014, 10016-19, 10022, 10028, 10036, 10008, 10280</td>
<td>Spanish □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chinese □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Manhattan</td>
<td>Covers all neighborhoods north of 59th Street</td>
<td>English □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zipcodes Included: 10023-35, 10037, 10039, 10040, 10065, 10069, 10075, 10128</td>
<td>Spanish □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chinese □200 □100 □50 □25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Emergency Food Provider,

Thank you for being a part of the fight to end hunger in America. Hunger Free America is a nonprofit organization that has advocated on behalf of New York City's soup kitchens and food pantries for over 3 decades, and now we are turning to our national allies to join forces to END HUNGER. We know that soup kitchens and food pantries need volunteers to do more than sort, pack, prepare, and distribute food—you need skilled volunteers to assist with projects like website development, grant-writing, and more. We are excited to announce the launch of our volunteer matching and management website, HungerVolunteer.org to find you those volunteers. It is our belief that HungerVolunteer.org will help you to fulfill your mission and increase your capacity to serve by recruiting skilled, dedicated volunteers in an efficient way. Join us in moving "beyond the soup kitchen" to engaging volunteers in high impact activities, because ENDING HUNGER LIFTS US ALL.

Sincerely,

Joel Berg, CEO
Hunger Free America

So what is HungerVolunteer?

HungerVolunteer.org is a free website designed with you in mind! You can post unlimited volunteer and advocacy opportunities for your organization.

Using HungerVolunteer will allow you to:

- Save time by efficiently entering your volunteer opportunities online
- Find skills-based volunteers to strengthen your organization
- Increase the visibility of your volunteer opportunities to a wider audience
- Contact volunteers directly through automatic email notifications
- Be part of a national movement to engage volunteers in strategic volunteerism!
1. Registering Your Organization

- Click "Register" on the Hunger Volunteer homepage.
- After you create an account you will receive an email with log in information.
- You will be prompted to create a new password. Your "current password" is provided in the email.
- You can complete the organizational profile information at any time.

2. Creating Volunteer Opportunities

- Once logged in, click "Find Volunteers" on the Hunger Volunteer homepage.
- Scroll down to the "Manage" button, then select "Add Project."
- Complete the fields to create your volunteer opportunity. You can create multiple volunteer opportunities under one project.
- Tips for project descriptions:
  - List specific desired knowledge or skills.
  - Be impact focused—tell your volunteers what they will accomplish.
  - List any benefits volunteers will receive.
  - Use bullet points or numbers to highlight important features.
- Make sure you provide your postal code or volunteers will not be able to find your opportunity as easily.
- Once you have completed the basic info page, you will be able to list specific duties and the number of volunteers needed.
- When finished, click "Done." Now your opportunity is live.
- Once you receive volunteers you can assign them to activities and view your volunteer roster.
- Make sure you remember to log volunteer hours (in minutes).

For more information or technical assistance please email help@hungervolunteer.org
Appendix 2: Additional Comments from Food Providers

“Please remember that we must be aware of the increased price of food items and our limitations to purchase food with the limited resources we have. We are however still committed to stamping out hunger in our communities.” Sherma Mille, Pantry Assistant, Mt. Olivet Mercy House Pantry, Corona, Queens

“In order to keep up with providing enough food at our food programs we have had to seriously deplete our general reserves, making it tough to keep our other programs in operation. If we do not see an increase in funding for our food programs this year, we will have to cut back on the amount of food served, specifically at our soup kitchen, which we really don’t want to do.” Cassandra Agredo, Executive Director, Xavier Mission, Manhattan

“We have been fortunate to have enough resources to feed our community enough with the resources that we have. Access to better technology and food options would definitely be helpful. One thing that we have noticed is an increase of certain immigrant communities (particularly Asian) coming to our program. It would be helpful if there was a way that these types of changes could be tracked.” Rev. L. Withers, Harlem Community Nutritional Services, Manhattan

“We are a nonprofit in the community that would like to do more...to provide training and skills to enhance and better our community with education, nutrition, health and parenting issues.” Shyremia Latham, founder, Second Chance Deliverance Church, Queens

“We have appreciated the fact that our funding for food has been steady and even increasing a tiny bit. However, we are still always trying to find funding, as most hunger prevention agencies are, to pay for staff and operational expenses.” Marian J. Hutchins, Chief Operating Officer, Father’s Heart Ministries, Manhattan
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