

# ~~HUNGER~~ FREE AMERICA

**ENDING HUNGER LIFTS US ALL**

*"(Hunger Free America is) one of the leading direct service and advocacy organizations on hunger and poverty in the nation" **-The Nation.***

*"If you want to support first-class advocacy to combat hunger, go with the NYC Coalition Against Hunger [now known as Hunger Free America], a persistent and persuasive voice on the ways and means to have fewer people go to bed on an empty stomach."  
**-Errol Louis, The New York Daily News***

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**HUNGER FREE AMERICA** (formerly known as the New York City Coalition Against Hunger) is a national nonprofit group building a nonpartisan, grassroots membership movement to enact the policies and programs needed to end domestic hunger and ensure that all Americans have sufficient access to nutritious food.

Our long-term goal is not just to ameliorate the problem, but also to build the people's movement necessary to enact the economic and public policies needed to end hunger entirely. Given that hunger drains our economy and tears at our moral and civic fabric, we know that eliminating it will boost the nation both economically and spiritually. Toward that end, we've adopted the motto: "Ending hunger lifts us all."

## **Our Programs**

**Advocacy, Research, and Policy:** Our advocacy team is a voice for millions who struggle against U.S. hunger. One of the most effective and courageous advocacy groups in the nation, we work directly with elected officials on the city, state, and federal levels to advance policies to end hunger and promote economic justice. We also conduct ground-breaking research and publish cutting-edge reports that propose bold — yet concrete and realistic — solutions to hunger and poverty.

**AmeriCorps VISTA:** Our AmeriCorps VISTA teams, operating across 27 states with 76 volunteers, enable participants to serve the country while fighting hunger. Our AmeriCorps VISTA projects — which were unfunded by the Trump Administration for the 2019 calendar year — are united by the basic goals of reducing hunger, improving nutrition, and empowering families to obtain access to better economic opportunities. In 2017, VISTAs recruited 3,779 volunteers and helped 2,145 households enroll in SNAP.

**Benefits Access:** Our Benefits Access team works to connect low-income New Yorkers with benefits to access food across four of the five boroughs. Our staff screens individuals for federal nutrition assistance programs and helps them through the application and recertification process. In 2017, we assisted more than 3,000 families access SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps. We distributed more than 200,000 free Neighborhood Guides to Food and Assistance to over 550 agencies and individuals around New York City. The Guides are available in eight versions and include a detailed list of food pantries and soup kitchens in every part of the five boroughs.

**Child Nutrition:** Our child nutrition program works to ensure that every child in America has access to sufficient, nutritious food. By increasing participation in free summer meals and school breakfasts, we connect kids with the food they need in order to grow and thrive. In New York City, we worked with Mayor Bill de Blasio and the City Council to bring in-classroom breakfasts to 530 schools — nearly 340,000 students — during the 2017-2018 school year.

**Food Action Board (FAB):** Our FAB program empowers low-income community members to fight for their own futures and build the anti-hunger movement by helping them develop their leadership, advocacy, and community organizing skills. FAB members take on key positions and leadership roles in efforts at the city, state, and federal levels aimed at promoting food security and economic opportunity. In the past year, Hunger Free America has worked with about 60 community members in five different under-resourced neighborhoods throughout NYC.

**Strategic Volunteerism Program:** Our Ending Hunger Through Citizen Service initiative connects people and groups with volunteer opportunities that can make the greatest impact in the national fight against hunger. Our website, [HungerVolunteer.org](http://HungerVolunteer.org), offers hunger organizations innovative strategies and tools for engaging volunteers in effective activities to build the capacity of nonprofit groups, increase participation in government nutrition assistance programs, and advocate for improved economic and governmental policies. In 2017, HFA engaged 774 volunteers who completed approximately 3,650 hours of volunteer work in New York City alone.

**USDA Clearinghouse:** Our USDA National Hunger Hotline is a resource for individuals and families seeking information about how to obtain emergency food. The Hotline staff connects callers with emergency food providers in their communities, government assistance programs, and various social services such as SNAP, WIC, and Summer Meals. From January 2018 through October 2018, the hotline connected 17,269 individuals to local emergency food providers. More than 10,000 of these calls were inquiries about the SNAP program.

