

~~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

HUNGER FREE AMERICA (formerly known as the New York City Coalition Against Hunger) is a national nonprofit group building a nonpartisan, grass-roots 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. Towards 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 148 volunteers, enable participants to serve the country while fighting hunger. All of our projects are united by the basic goals of reducing hunger, improving nutrition, and empowering families to obtain access to better economic opportunities.

Benefits Access: Our team works to connect low-income New Yorkers with benefits to access food across all five boroughs. Our staff screens individuals for federal nutrition assistance programs, and helps them through the application and recertification process. In 2015, our team helped over 2,000 families access SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps. Our VISTA program also increases access to nutrition benefits nationwide.

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.

Farm Fresh Program Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) Initiative: Our pioneering community-supported agriculture program provides subsidized shares of fresh regional produce, in season, to low-income families.

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 newly launched web site: hungervolunteer.org, offers hunger organizations and the public 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 2015, HFA engaged 776 volunteers, doing 3426 hours of volunteer work in New York City alone. Of those hours, 63% were for skills-based volunteer work.

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 community, government assistance programs, and various social services such as SNAP, WIC, and Summer Meals. In 2015 the hotline connected 11,441 individuals to emergency food providers in their communities.

