

IZE on Food Security and Food Justice

March 22-29, 2020

RealIZE how food insecurity impacts our neighbors

EmpathIZE with persons who are food insecure

MobilIZE to change the current reality in Butler County

What is Food Insecurity?

Food insecurity refers to the USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food-insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household's need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods.

Is there Food Insecurity across Butler County?

Nearly 11% of all of Butler County residents and 16.3% of our County's children experience food insecurity. Food insecurity impacts families in our County's cities, rural and suburban communities. Many households that experience food insecurity do not qualify for federal nutrition programs and need to rely on our County's local food banks and pantries, community meals, and other hunger relief organizations for support.

Why Does this Issue Matter?

Working families across our County face countless situations that can result in food insecurity. Lay-offs at work, unexpected car maintenance, a health scare or an accident on the job can suddenly force a family to choose between buying food and paying bills. The impacts are real! Food insecurity can damage to a child's ability to learn and grow, reduce employees' productivity, have serious health impact on people living on fixed incomes, like people with disabilities and senior citizens, who must choose between food and critical healthcare.

March 27, 2020 — Harvesting Ideas for Food Security in Butler County

At this conference, participants will learn more about food insecurity and its impact in Butler County, discover best practices used in other communities to address the issue, and help identify strategies to ensure Butler County residents have affordable, accessible, high quality food. **Register online at Eventbrite.**

For more information about IZE on Food Security and Food Justice programs and events, contact: Alice Del Vecchio at alice.delvecchio@sru.edu OR Nichol Zaginaylo at nichol.zaginaylo@bc3.edu

Want to Stick a Fork in Hunger?

- 1 Register your project by March 20th on Eventbrite. Scan the QRC below



or go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stick-a-fork-in-hunger-butler-county-ize-on-food-security-tickets-95012758719>

- 2 Bring the food and funds from your project to the **Stick a Fork in Hunger! Celebration** on Saturday March 28 from 9-11 a.m. at The Venue on Main Street. 152 N. Main Street in Butler and celebrate what Butler County people can do when we come together to make a difference.

- 3 Complete the project before March 28 and email results to IZE Week coordinators at srusna.contact@gmail.com so we can include your great stories, results and photos on social media.

Can't make it to the Celebration?

Make a monetary donation online at <https://www.srufoundation.org/izeweek>



or make a check payable to:
SRU Foundation/IZE Week

and mail it to:

**Department of Philanthropy,
Nonprofit Leadership, and Public Affairs**
Slippery Rock University
200 Spotts World Culture Bldg
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

IZE on Food Security and Food Justice

a county-wide focus on
Food Security across Butler County
March 22-29, 2020

Together we can...

Stick a Fork in Hunger



RealIZE

EmpathIZE

MobilIZE

What is **Stick a Fork in Hunger!** all about?

Stick a Fork in Hunger! challenges Butler County individuals, businesses, social and civic groups, nonprofit and faith-based organizations, local governments and K-12 schools and youth groups to do something between March 22 and 29 to reduce food insecurity across Butler County.

Consider organizing a clever project to raise funds to support our County's hunger relief organizations, sponsor a nonperishable food drives or virtual food drive, volunteer with a hunger relief organization or even host a free nutrition and cooking workshop. Check out **Feeding America's Action Plan** for ideas.

Really, the possibilities to help are endless!

Ready to help **Stick a Fork in Hunger!**

- 1 Decide on a **Stick a Fork in Hunger!** project that you or your group will sponsor for one or more days between March 8 and March 28th.
- 2 Register your **Stick a Fork in Hunger!** project on Eventbrite (use QRC or URL on the back side).
- 3 Get folks excited about your project and finish it before March 28th.
- 4 Help fill a box truck to support the work of our County's hunger relief programs. Bring the food and funds from your project to the **Stick a Fork in Hunger! Celebration** on Saturday March 28 from 9-11 a.m. at The Venue on Main Street. 152 N. Main Street in Butler and celebrate what happens when we come together to make a difference.
- 5 **Can't make the celebration?** Make checks payable to SRU Foundation/IZE Week and mail to:

**Department of Philanthropy,
Nonprofit Leadership, and Public Affairs**
Slippery Rock University, 200 Spotts Bldg,
Slippery Rock, PA 16057
or contribute online at
<https://www.srufoundation.org/izeweek>

Here are some ideas to help you...

Stick a Fork in Hunger



Businesses

- Invite guests to round up checks to support hunger relief
- Designate a portion of your sales to support hunger relief
- Challenge other businesses to a competition to see who can raise the most for hunger relief
- Donate **'dress down Friday'** funds to support hunger relief
- Sponsor a food drive among your employees or customers
- Give a discount to customers who support your project

Schools and Clubs

- Organize a friendly competition among grades/classes/clubs to collect food or raise fund
- Host a bring-a-food item event at a school sporting event
- Hold a teachers vs. students event to raise food/funds for hunger
- Include a discussion about food insecurity in a class so students better understand the issue
- Have children write a poem or draw a picture of what it would look like if no one was hungry

So many ways...

Faith-Based Groups

- Include food security discussions in youth groups, Bible study, the weekly bulletin or the sermon
- Host a special collection
- Organize a friendly competition among religious education classes to support hunger relief
- Host an event to raise funds or food items for hunger relief
- Volunteer with a hunger relief program in the County
- Organize a 30 hour famine project to support hunger relief

Local Municipalities

- Make info about hunger relief services available to residents
- Organize a friendly competition among government departments to collect food/funds to hunger relief
- Establish a central food collection site where residents can bring nonperishable food items
- Your mayor challenges another to a nonperishable food item collection
- Host a town meeting about hunger

that you can help!

Civic and Service Groups

- Sponsor a special event designed to raise funds for hunger relief
- Host a food drive for your club
- Challenge another group to raise the funds/food for hunger relief
- Make a club donation to IZE Week to support hunger relief
- Have a friendly competition among members to see who can collect the most food/funds for hunger relief before March 29th
- Members donate the cost of one lunch or week of coffee

Social Service Agencies

- Distribute hunger relief info to clients who may need help
- Present a workshop at the March 27 **Harvesting Ideas Conference**
- Challenge another agencies to a food/funds drive to end hunger
- Determine how volunteers could help your agencies better serve people who are food insecure
- Coordinate a food drive among your staff and volunteers
- Provide special staff training about food insecurity