

NY Can Lead the Way to End Hunger

1 in 10 New Yorkers struggle with hunger—including nearly 1 in 5 children. Food insecurity in New York is both **unacceptable** and **solvable**.

The following investments will help ensure all New Yorkers can put food on the table:



Restore Full Funding for SNAP Outreach & Application Assistance

The Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) helps eligible low-income New Yorkers connect to SNAP, our nation's largest anti-hunger program. In prior years, the Legislature invested \$2M in additional NOEP funding to increase SNAP navigators in high-need areas; however, the FY2026 Executive Budget did not sustain that funding. We urge the Legislature to restore full funding of \$5.624M to maintain vital NOEP services.

Increase the SNAP Minimum Benefit to \$100 Per Month

SNAP helps nearly 3 million New Yorkers buy groceries. However, more than 107,000 participants in our state receive less than \$100 per month, with some receiving less than \$1 per day. Ensuring all New Yorkers receive a benefit of at least \$100 per month would reduce hunger, improve health outcomes, stimulate local economies, and maximize participation in SNAP, bringing more federal dollars into New York.

Increase Funding for Nourish New York and the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP)

Both programs support a statewide network of food relief organizations, including food banks, pantries, shelters, and community-based organizations working directly on the front lines of hunger. HPNAP enables emergency food providers to distribute over 300 million pounds of food each year, while Nourish New York helps them purchase nutritious and culturally-relevant foods directly from New York-based farmers. Funding both programs at \$75M each would help ensure that all New Yorkers have access to healthy food in their community.

Fully Fund Healthy School Meals for All New York Kids

The FY2026 Executive Budget includes a historic investment to establish universal free school meals in New York. The Legislature has long-championed this policy, which will alleviate hunger, support children's learning and health, and save families an estimated \$165 per child per month in food costs. We urge NY leaders to fully fund Healthy School Meals for All in the final budget to ensure access to free breakfast and lunch for all 2.7 million NY students.

Increase funding for New York State WIC Nutrition Services

WIC is our nation's premier maternal and child public health program, providing nutrition education, tailored food packages, breastfeeding support, and other services to more than 445,000 New Yorkers, a 25% increase since 2020 with near flat funding to WIC agencies. We urge NY leaders to provide \$20M to brace local agencies as NYS expects 30,000 more enrollees this year.

We also urge lawmakers to fund investments that address the **root causes of hunger**, including inequitable access to housing, health care, child care, and other basic needs. **No New Yorker should go hungry.** The FY2026 State Budget must ensure everyone in our state has consistent access to the food they need.

