

Bergen County Food Security Task Force



Quarterly Newsletter January-March 2023

The Food Security Task Force remains steadfast in raising awareness about food insecurity in Bergen County. This quarter has been especially challenging due to the ending of the temporary federal Emergency SNAP benefits. To help our pantries combat these challenges, we have empowered students to lead food drives, hosted monthly webinars, and trained pantry staff on a new pantry management software. In the coming months, we will be assisting in a county-wide drive for feminine hygiene products and hosting our 3rd Annual Food Pantry Summit.

Newsletter Highlights

ENDING OF EMERGENCY
SNAP BENEFITS

OASIS INSIGHT

FEED THE FRONTLINES

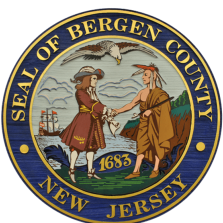
CONGRATULATIONS TO
PATRICIA ESPY

BEST WISHES TO ILENE
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SOUPER BOWL
CHALLENGE

LUNCH & LEARNS

UPCOMING EVENTS



County Executive James Tedesco III

Bergen County Board of Commissioners


Thomas J. Sullivan, Chairman | Germaine M. Ortiz, Vice Chairwoman |



Dr. Joan D. Voss, Chair Pro Tempore | Mary J. Amoroso |

Rafael Marte | Steve Tanelli | Tracy Silna Zur

Ending of Emergency SNAP Extra Benefits


On March 1st, the Emergency SNAP Extra monthly benefits ended. During the pandemic, families were receiving a minimum of \$281 a month; while the NJ State Legislature supplemented federal funding to ensure families will receive \$95, the drastic change in SNAP benefit levels is still jarring. If you are looking to help, please contact your local food pantry to find out what food or supplies their families are in need of. To find a pantry near you, please visit: <https://bergenfightshunger.org/food-pantry-finder>


IMPORTANT UPDATE
 IF YOU GET SNAP FOOD ASSISTANCE BENEFITS

EMERGENCY SNAP EXTRA BENEFITS ARE ENDING IN FEBRUARY 2023

Due to a recent change in federal law, the extra temporary benefits you have received known as SNAP Emergency Allotments are ending. This means you will receive your regular SNAP benefit starting March 1, 2023. The minimum monthly SNAP benefit in New Jersey is now \$95.



Oasis Insight

Oasis Insight is a client-focused pantry management software. With this software, you are able to track the amount of assistance you provide, create client appointments, message other pantries, and refer clients to a variety of social services in the county. The Food Security Task Force is offering this software for free to any food pantry located in Bergen County. If you are interested in learning more about Oasis Insight, please contact Stephen Shuler at sshuler@co.bergen.nj.us to receive a training video and schedule a tutorial session.



Oasis Insight



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Feed the Frontlines

We would like to recognize Ridgewood's Feed the Frontlines. This program fed thousands of food-insecure families with fresh hot meals. These meals additionally supported local businesses that are still struggling from the pandemic. In January, the Health Barn Foundation and the team behind Feed The Frontlines were invited to ring the closing bell at the Nasdaq Stock Exchange. Since the start of the pandemic, over 500,000 meals were distributed to families because of Feed the Frontlines.



Congratulations to Patricia Espy from Center for Food Action

Patricia Espy served as the Executive Director of Center for Food Action (CFA) for the past thirty-six years. In March, Patricia retired from CFA. Because of Patricia's efforts, CFA has become a vital organization to help end hunger in Bergen County. CFA started as a small food pantry in the basement of a church. As of 2023, CFA operates out of six locations, serving thousands of Bergen County residents per month. Thank you, Patricia, for everything you have done to help end food insecurity in Bergen County. Wishing you all the best in your retirement!



Best Wishes to Ilene Issacs from Table to Table

Thank you, Ilene Issacs, for your twenty years of service with Table to Table. Under her leadership, Table to Table went from delivering 2 million meals to over 26 million meals annually. Over 295 million meals have been rescued and delivered because of her team's dedication to ending hunger. During Ilene's time as the Executive Director, the organization doubled the number of agencies served and tripled the number of food donors. Thank you once again and enjoy your retirement!



A Warm Welcome to Nicole Davis and Denise Andersen in their New Roles!



In March, Nicole Davis became the Executive Director of CFA. Nicole has been with CFA since 2018 and in 2022 was serving as the Events Director. Her goal as Executive Director is to focus on organizational growth and sustainability for the food insecure and homeless.

Denise Andersen is the new Executive Director of Table to Table. Denise previously led the Northeast Region of the National Kidney Foundation. With her extensive background working with health-centric organizations, Denise plans to promote the link between hunger, nutrition, and health.

Best of luck to both of you!



2023 Souper Bowl Challenge

Thanks to the efforts of the students from all five Bergen County Technical High Schools, over 3,000 cans of soup were donated to local food pantries. Carl Banks, a former two-time Super Bowl champion for the New York Giants, made a surprise visit to the winning school district. Next year, we plan to expand the Souper Bowl challenge to more high schools throughout Bergen County.



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Lunch & Learn

Lunch & Learn

In 2023, The Food Security Task Force hosted three free webinars that discussed the recent SNAP changes, Oasis Insight, and what disability services are available to Bergen County residents. Please join us for our next Lunch & Learn on April 25th for a follow-up discussion about Community Outreach hosted by the Food Security Task Force. If you would like to watch our previous Lunch & Learns, visit our website: <https://bergenfightshunger.org/lunch-%26-learn-series>

Upcoming Events

Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Month

Announced at the Bergen County Women's History Month Celebration, the Food Security Task Force will be working with the YWCA, Girl Scouts of Northern NJ, the Bergen County Commission on the Status of Women, and the Junior Commission on the Status of Women to bring awareness to the continuous need for feminine products at food pantries. These products are not eligible for SNAP and take a huge dent out of a family's monthly food budget. For more information about the drive, visit the Department of Human Services' Website: <https://www.co.bergen.nj.us/about-human-services>

3rd Annual Food Pantry Summit

We are excited to announce the return of our Food Pantry Summit. This year's summit will be held on June 7th at Bergen Community College's Moses Center. Please complete the invitational survey prior to April 28th to reserve your spot. If you are a service provider and your organization is interested in providing a resource table at the event, please contact Patrick Fallon at pfallon@co.bergen.nj.us for more information.