



FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE QUARTERLY

This is a space dedicated to uplifting successes amongst Bergen County's 85+ food pantries, relaying updates on Task Force projects, and informing readers about initiatives intended to promote food security in our community. This edition, we will be spotlighting vital programs, such as the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and the City Green Good Food Bucks Program, as well as introducing a new team member and rolling out our Lunch and Learn schedule. You can expect to receive this newsletter on a quarterly basis.



Bergen County
**Food Security
Task Force**



Those not on our email list can visit our website, bergenfightshunger.org, to subscribe to this newsletter.

Please email bcfoodtaskforce2020@gmail.com with any questions, comments, or suggestions for how we can make our content the best it can be.

Thank you for taking the time to keep up-to-date with our team. We're so excited to use this platform to continue to share with and learn from pantry volunteers, social service partners, and those dedicated to fighting hunger in our community.

Lunch & Learn Schedule

Spend your lunch hour with the Food Security Task Force and learn a new skill! Our Lunch & Learn Speaker Series via Zoom will highlight social services or other relevant resources. If you plan on attending any of our Lunch & Learn webinars, [fill out this signup sheet](#).

JULY 21st at 12:30PM

Community Outreach 101

Presented by: Patrick Fallon, Kayleigh Lavornia

Tips on getting the word out about your organization, so the community you serve can learn more about the resources you provide. Covering topics such as finding community events, managing social media pages, and creating informative flyers to market your operation, this is intended to show you a multitude of marketing options.

AUGUST - TBD

Bergen County Senior Services Nutrition Unit

Presented by: Myrna Bruno

An in-depth overview of County nutrition resources presented by Myrna Bruno, Bergen County's Senior Wellness Specialist.

SEPTEMBER - TBD

Fundraising: A Deeper Dive

Presented by: Patrick Fallon, Kayleigh Lavornia

A presentation of free fundraising platforms specifically designed to make accepting donations as easy as possible for 501c3s.

OCTOBER - TBD

Oasis Pantry Database Presentation

Presented by: Oasis Team

Demonstration of the County's pantry software system, Oasis, for organizations utilizing our free data collection program to learn about its functionality.

Good Food Bucks!

Our friends at City Green have extended their Good Food Bucks Program to Bergen County!

The Good Food Bucks SNAP Nutrition Incentive Program “provides a dollar-for-dollar match, or discount to New Jersey SNAP shoppers to purchase more fruits and vegetables at participating farmers markets and supermarkets.” In 2021, the program operated in 10 different counties and 23 municipalities.

The program’s first Bergen County location, Hackensack Market, launched in May. Customers who shop on Tuesdays and Thursdays now receive a 50% discount when using SNAP benefits.

Learn more about Good Food Bucks, and all of the invaluable work City Green is doing to tackle food insecurity at [goodfoodbucks.com](https://www.goodfoodbucks.com).



LOCATION:

Hackensack Market
120 Passaic Street,
Hackensack, NJ

DISCOUNT DAYS:

Tuesday & Thursday:
8:00am- 7:45pm

Welcome Patrick!

Edition 1 | 6.29.22



Patrick Fallon is the newest member of Food Security Task Force, joining the team as Project Coordinator in May. He previously worked in the Bergen County Division of Senior Services, managing a federal grant for elder abuse training, education, and victim services.

His institutional knowledge of County resources, particularly those made available by our Department of Human Services, makes him an invaluable addition to the team!

To contact Pat, you can email him at pfallon@co.bergen.nj.us.

What are you most excited about as you begin your new role?

I'm most excited to meet the dedicated staff and volunteers at our pantries here in Bergen County, and learn more about their operations and how we can best support them.

What is your favorite weekend activity?

Especially in the summertime, I love getting out to our many parks, green spaces, and historical sites here in Bergen County. My favorite is DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst.

What TV show are you currently watching?

I'm watching Hacks on HBO, and looking forward to the final season of Peaky Blinders.

The purpose of the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) is to support local farming by providing SFMNP vouchers (\$30.00 value) to eligible seniors, age 60 and older. Eligible seniors can redeem the SFMNP vouchers when purchasing locally grown fresh produce (fruits, vegetables and herbs) at USDA approved farm stands and farmers markets.

The eligibility for the SFMNP is determined after meeting three criteria:

- Age (60 years old and older)
- Residence (applicant has to be resident of Bergen County)
- Income (monthly income for household of one- \$1,986 or less, for household of two- \$2,686 or less). Note that income guidelines will change on July 1st, with the increase of Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Vouchers are not redeemable at grocery stores, or at farm markets not approved by the USDA. A list of USDA approved farmers' markets in Bergen County where the SFMNP vouchers are accepted is available to view on Bergen County website (www.co.bergen.nj.us), and it will be provided to all participants receiving the vouchers.

Vouchers are limited and available on first come, first served basis. Participants can register once a year only, by applying in person at various locations throughout the county (schedule available on county's website).

Call 201-336-7400 for additional information. Reach out to one of our organizational representatives with any questions:

Myrna Bruno, Senior Wellness Specialist

MBruno@co.bergen.nj.us

Adam Wolak, Program Coordinator

AWolak@co.bergen.nj.us

Nancy Turnier, Nutrition Unit Supervisor

NTurnier@co.bergen.nj.us

Sustainability Grant

Edition 1 | 6.29.22

This September, the Food Security Task Force Sustainability Grant will open for a second round of applications!

Qualifying nonprofit, civic, faith-based, and/or local government agencies operating emergency food security programs for Bergen County residents will have access to this grant funding. Eligible applicants are allowed to apply for up to \$15,000, to either cover the costs of a single expense, multiple expenses not to exceed a total of \$15,000, or to contribute to offsetting a larger investment being undertaken by the Applicant.

Applicants must complete their Winter 2021 grant reporting, or have an explicit extension of the September 29th reporting deadline, to be eligible for this round of funding.

If you have any questions pertaining to the grant application process or eligibility criteria, please contact Kayleigh Lavernia at klavernia@co.bergen.nj.us or Patrick Fallon at pfallon@co.bergen.nj.us.



Photos provided by Social Service Association of Ridgewood



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