



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Formed the first County-sponsored Task Force focused on confronting Bergen's food insecurity with 25 members from across Bergen County representing key food distribution sites, agencies, nonprofits, and county officials
- Established a growing list of 90+ food pantries, nonprofits, and other agencies to form an Emergency Food Provider network to communicate new programs or provide donations and learn of community resource issues
- Partnered with Bergen Volunteers:
 - Bergen LEADS program to increase civic education and engagement on food insecurity issues
 - Launched a food security section on their Volunteer Database sponsoring food pantries and agencies' volunteer needs
- Collaborated with Englewood Hospital and the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) to expand nutrition engagement with pantries
- Launched a program with Bergen County Technical Schools tasking culinary students to create recipes using ingredients commonly distributed by Center for Food Action. Available at <https://feed.bergen.org/recipes>
- Developed a Social Services Directory distributed across the county to every nonprofit, food distribution site, and civic partner to assist low-income households access community based resources
- Created and distributed 20,000 Bergen-specific SNAP resource handouts for pantry clients
- Consulted with Russell Berrie Foundation to support City Green's SNAP Outreach program to increase SNAP dollars and awareness in Bergen County
- Launched a local billboard advertising and civic outreach campaign with support by Holy Name Hospital and Rochelle Park Municipality for Hunger Action Month in September 2020

GETTING MORE RESOURCES

- Partnered with the Community FoodBank of New Jersey (CFB) to increase food and diaper deliveries to Bergen County, increasing membership to Community FoodBank. CFB hosted four mass food distribution events totaling over 80,000 pounds of food. Also, the County - through CFB's diaper program - has provided over 600,000 diapers to 46 agencies.
- Launched two biannual Food Security Surveys to our Emergency Food Provider network with yielding an average of 75 responses. Surveys helped map out food insecurity trends and provide key data to understand the existing resource gaps across the County
- Secured 2 million dollars of CARES Act funding from County Executive, Jim Tedesco to make critical investments in infrastructure and emergency food supplies for our agencies and residents in need
 - Coordinated and purchased brand new commercial freezers and refrigerators for 23 sites
 - Purchased Warehouse Equipment, Storage Needs, and 21 tents for 27 agencies
 - Provided 23,000 Boxes to the Largest Sites Serving over 10,000 people weekly
 - Gave out over 8,000 Emergency Winter Meal Kits = 178,288 lbs of shelf stable food and provided 77,680 rolls of toilet paper to 61 Agencies
 - Thanksgiving 2020: 125,000 lbs of Yams and 550 turkeys given to over 60 Agencies / CommunityFood Bank Distribution provided 39,000 meals to 24 agencies
 - Funded the 412 Food Rescue Hero App
- Actively supported the Ridgewood Feed the Frontlines campaign to provide 100,000 hot meals in 12 weeks to over 40 emergency food providers across Bergen County.
- Granted \$200,000 NJ State Department of Community Affairs to support the creation of a database for all pantries to build infrastructure and strengthen communicating needs to donors.
- Facilitated the partnership between Bergen Medical Associates gastroenterology group and Parkside Community Church's food pantry for a weekly food donation from Bergen Medical along with providing education on nutrition and food allergies.

ADVOCACY ON BERGEN'S FOOD INSECURITY FRONT:

Dwight Englewood High School | Jewish Federation | DoorDash | Bergen County Employee Wellness Team | Congressman Josh Gottheimer | Office of the First Lady of State of NJ | Pandemic Foundation | Fellowship of Black Churches | American Dream | Robert Wood Johnson Foundation | Bergen Volunteer Center