

HUNGER IN BERGEN

All 70 municipalities in Bergen County are dealing with new realities brought on by the pandemic. Unfortunately, one of the most immediate and visible realities is food insecurity and the need to feed their residents. Many households cannot afford groceries for the first time in their lives and SNAP applications continue to rise after they nearly doubled during the initial onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In August 2020, Feeding America released a report estimating a 71% increase in food insecurity in Bergen County, totaling 103,000 individuals. That means up to 1 in every 9 people in Bergen County do not have sufficient access to enough nutritious food; 30% of which are children.



CONTACT US

Interested in getting involved? Let us know if you're looking to volunteer, donate, or help us spread the word.

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VISIT US AT
BERGENFIGHTSHUNGER.ORG



Bergen County Office
of Food Security



@bergencountyofs



BERGEN COUNTY OFFICE OF FOOD SECURITY



James J. Tedesco, III

Bergen County Executive

**Bergen County Board of
Commissioners**

Department of Human Services

Melissa H. DeBartolo, Esq., *Director*

ENGAGING WITH YOUR LOCAL PANTRY

- Use the 'Find Your Nearest Pantry' tool on our website
- If you are at a town or community event, look for a local pantry booth to speak to a volunteer
- Follow the pantry on social media
- Visit a pantry's website

SCAN THIS CODE TO FIND YOUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY



WHAT IS A SUITABLE DONATION?

All donations are extremely appreciated and needed. Some donations items that pantries need but people may not know to donate are:

- Fresh produce (fruits & vegetables)
- Frozen meals
- Fresh meat
- Dairy Products (fresh or shelf-stable)
- Hygiene Products (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, feminine products, etc.)
- Reusable bags
- Cash and gift card donations

Reach out to your local pantry or visit our website to learn more about its needs and refrigeration/freezer capacity.



ABOUT US

The Bergen County Office of Food Security, formerly the Food Security Task Force, was formed in 2020 due to the overwhelming need caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, our office has become a permanent fixture of the Department of Human Services. We have worked to pursue our mission to create a more resilient network of emergency food providers by supplementing pantry distributions, building relationships between partners, and investing in vital infrastructure.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Build a relationship with your local food pantry to fill their shelves according to their specific needs.
- Spread the word about the ongoing levels of hunger in our community, and help your local pantry gain support from surrounding communities.
- Volunteer your time at a local pantry to help organize donations and distribute food and essential items.