

## HUNGER IN PENNSYLVANIA

### Pennsylvania at a Glance

<u>Food Insecurity</u>	<u>Poverty</u>	<u>Health</u>	<u>Unemployed</u>
12.4% of people	13.1% of people	30.0% adults obese	5.3%
19.3% of children	19.1% of children	13.5% children obese	<u>Underemployed</u>
5.53% of seniors	6.00% of seniors	9.60% adults diabetic	4.1%

### For Too Many Americans, Hunger Persists

While some parts of the country have emerged from the recession, too many families are being left behind. Nationally, 42.2 million Americans are food insecure, including 13.1 million children and 5.7 million seniors. Hunger infiltrates our armed forces – 1 in 5 households served by the Feeding America network includes a member that has served in the US military. The emergency food system and federal nutrition programs protect tens of millions of families from hunger and keep 10.3 million people out of poverty. These programs help people get back on their feet and improve their lives.

### Food Assistance Programs Work

Food assistance programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), provide a vital bridge to help get people through difficult times. SNAP coverage expands when the economy worsens and shrinks when it improves. SNAP participation increased when the Recession hit, and has now been declining for the last two years. Commodity purchasing programs, such as the Temporary Emergency Food assistance Program, help provide healthy food directly to those who need it. TEFAP foods provide approximately 20% of the food distributed by the Feeding America network each year. Child nutrition programs, such as the National School Lunch Program, are important tools for improving the health, education and behavior of low income students. Food assistance to the elderly and to disabled individuals helps them to lead healthy lives on limited incomes.

### Targeted Assistance

Food assistance programs are designed to be a hand up and to protect the most vulnerable. The programs are income-based to focus on the people who need help. Most SNAP recipients who can work, do work. 64% of SNAP recipients are either children, the elderly or disabled adults. Almost 2/3 of the rest either work fulltime, are caretakers of others or are participating in a training program. SNAP, and other food assistance programs, are a proven help during difficult times and a strong support for those who cannot help themselves.

### Feeding America Food Banks in Pennsylvania

Visit [www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank](http://www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank) to locate a food bank and arrange a visit.

#### Statewide Impact

Food Banks: 9

Agencies Served: 2,818

Pounds Distributed: 155,577,989

## Pennsylvania Nutrition Program Participation and Funding

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** supplements the food budgets of low-income households with monthly benefits via an electronic benefit (EBT) card used at authorized retail stores. SNAP serves households with gross incomes up to 130% of the poverty line, although some states have opted to raise the gross income threshold. All households must have a net income below 100% of the poverty line.

<b>Funding:</b> \$2,699,655,059 in benefits*	<b>Participants:</b> 1,858,232	<b>Participation Rate:</b> 90%**
<b>Average Monthly Benefit:</b> \$123.16*	<b>Payment Accuracy Rate:</b> 95.73%*	<b>Lifted out of poverty:</b> 340,000**
<b>% Households With Children:</b> 39%*	<b>Elderly:</b> 22.5%*	<b>Non-elderly Disabled:</b> 29.2%*
<b>Gross Income Limit:</b> 160% of poverty line	<b>Average Household Income:</b> 70.7% of poverty line*	

**The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)** provides food for distribution to low-income people through emergency feeding organizations like food banks, pantries, kitchens, and shelters. Food and funds are allocated to states using a formula based on poverty and unemployment.

**Funding:** \$12,912,108 total, including \$9,857,748 mandatory commodities and \$3,054,360 administrative, plus \$13,778,716\* in bonus commodities

**Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)** provides monthly food packages to low-income seniors over age 60, supplying the nutrients typically lacking in their diets. CSFP currently operates in 48 states, DC, and 2 Indian Tribal Organizations.

**Funding:** \$8,151,022 food\* and \$2,554,176 administrative\* **Participants:** 34,048\*

**Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** provides a monthly food package to pregnant or nursing women, infants, and children up to age 5 in families under 185% of poverty, supplying the nutrients typically lacking in the diets of the target population. WIC also administers nutrition counseling and health care referrals.

<b>Funding:</b> \$200,534,566 total, including \$141,841,415 in benefits and \$58,693,151 in nutrition counseling and services	<b>Average Monthly Benefit:</b> \$45.93*	<b>Participation Rate:</b> 56.1%**
<b>Women Served:</b> 52,619	<b>Infants Served:</b> 63,972	<b>Children Served:</b> 120,621

**Child Nutrition Programs** provide nutritious meals and snacks to low-income children in school, child care, after school, and summer settings. Children in households with incomes below 130% of the poverty level qualify for free meals, and those with family incomes between 130% and 185% of the poverty line qualify for reduced-price meals.

### **National School Lunch Program (NSLP):**

<b>Funding:</b> \$416,374,635 total, including \$369,272,377 in reimbursements and \$47,102,258 in food commodities		
<b>Program Schools:</b> 3,285	<b>Participants:</b> 1,008,055	<b>Meals Served:</b> 169,462,611
<b>% Participants Free &amp; Reduced Price:</b> 65%		

### **School Breakfast Program (SBP):**

<b>Funding:</b> \$110,896,207.27	<b>Program Schools:</b> 2,933	<b>Participants:</b> 375,483
<b>Meals Served:</b> 63,931,253	<b>% Participants Free &amp; Reduced Price:</b> 86%	

### **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP):**

<b>Funding:</b> \$12,980,697	<b>Participants:</b> 71,015	<b>Program Sites:</b> 2,365	<b>Meals Served:</b> 5,192,113
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### **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP):**

<b>Funding:</b> \$111,095,089*	<b>Participants:</b> 145,069*	<b>Meals Served:</b> 73,722,832
<b>Program Sites:</b> 3,164 child care centers,* 1,744 homes,* and 41 adult care centers*		

Most programmatic data is FY 2016. \* indicated FY 2015 data. \*\* indicates older data  
Certain tribal data may be calculated separately from state level data  
Data is best available as of December 2016  
Please contact [policy@feedingamerica.org](mailto:policy@feedingamerica.org) for complete source information.  
Check out [www.FeedingAmerica.org/Advocacy](http://www.FeedingAmerica.org/Advocacy) for more resources.