



Pennsylvania's State Food Purchase Program (SFPP)

The State Food Purchase Program remains one of the commonwealth's most important tools in the fight against hunger --- and a lifeline for food banks across Pennsylvania

But funding for the program hasn't kept pace. Hunger remains an epidemic.

Learn how your support for SFPP will help those struggling with hunger and food insecurity in Pennsylvania.



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Hunger knows no boundaries. More than 1.5 million Pennsylvanians, or 12% of the state's population, qualify as food insecure, meaning they lack consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life.

Hunger remains an epidemic. It may not always be recognizable, but it's always there, in every corner of the state, in every community, affecting the people we know: children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities; low-wage and part-time workers who can't find steady employment; veterans; people who are homeless or in transitional housing; and people struggling with addictions.

Where do those at risk turn when they need help? They rely on the state's charitable food network. **Nearly 3 million residents turned to food pantries and meal programs last year to feed themselves and their families.**

But now that network is at risk.

Since 1983, the State Food Purchase Program (SFPP) has been the foundation for Pennsylvania's food banks and food pantries in the public-private effort to meet the most basic needs of hungry families. SFPP helps organizations purchase food, finance food provider transportation and infrastructure, and gain access to federal food commodities.

In 2006-07, the state allotted \$18.75 million for SFPP. More than a decade later, SFPP funding has **DECREASED** to \$18.188 million, even as everything from the cost of food to transportation fuel has increased. To simply keep up with inflation, which has increased 27.4% since 2006, SFPP should total \$24 million.

We care deeply about our neighbors struggling with hunger and food insecurity. We know you do, too.

Please help us fulfill our mission by finally increasing the line item for the State Food Purchase Program to \$24 million in the 2020-21 General Fund budget.

As a portion of the state budget, funding for SFPP is miniscule.

But the impact this funding has on the ability of the state's charitable food assistance network to provide critical aid and address the underlying issues of hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity is enormous.



Food insecurity among children places them at risk for cognitive impairment, obesity, and other long-term problems: **16.9% of Pa. children are food insecure.**



Food insecurity among seniors contributes to malnutrition, which exacerbates disease, increases disability, decreases resistance to infection and extends hospital stays: **14.9% of Pennsylvania seniors are food insecure.**

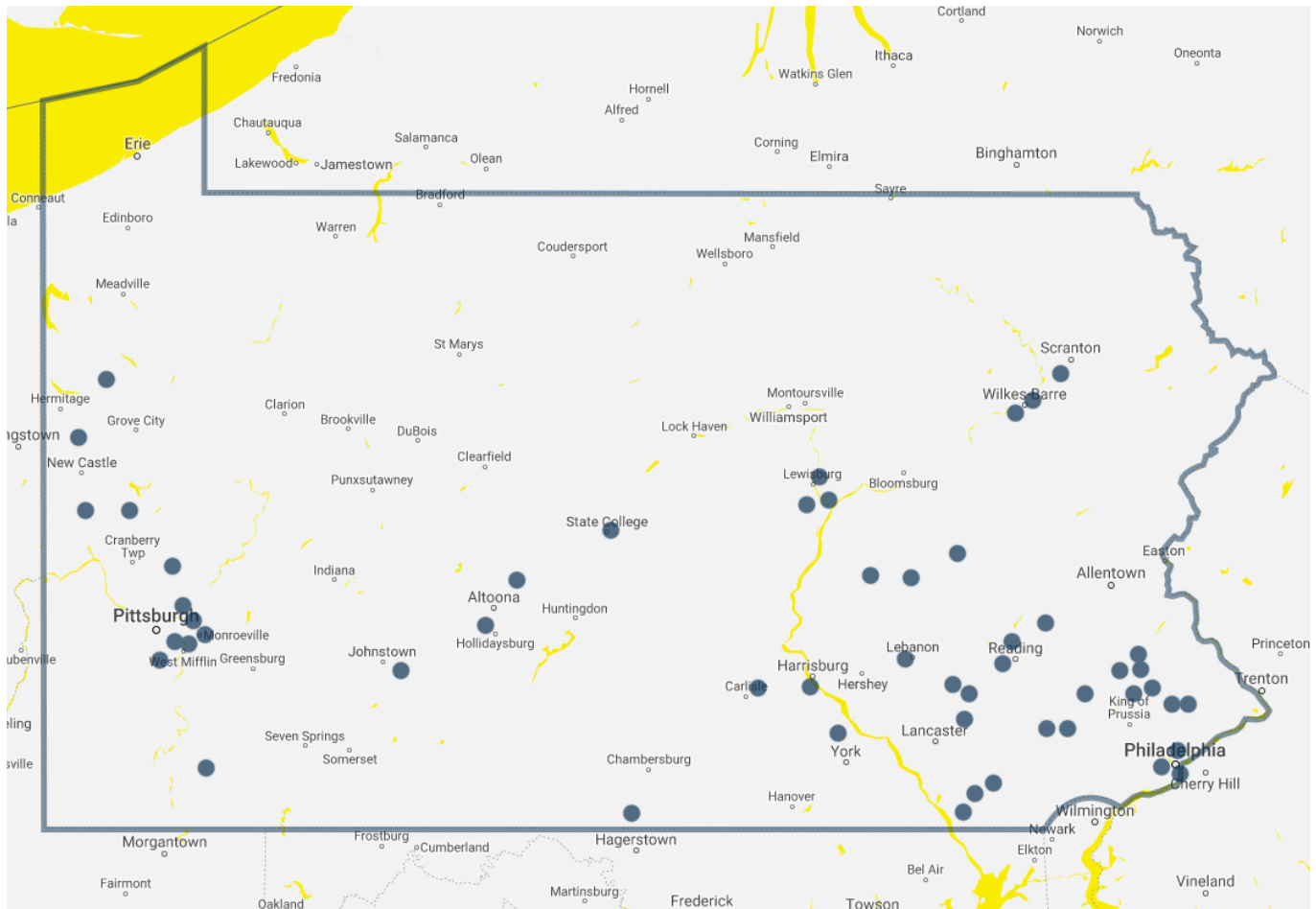


Inflation has increased 27.4% since 2006 but the line item for SFPP has decreased 3% over the same period, even as food costs have jumped 30%. **It's unsustainable.**

SFPP Vendors Help to Feed Residents, Power Pa. Economy

Pennsylvania's State Food Purchase Program (SFPP) doesn't just help put food on the tables of individuals and families in need. It also provides an economic jolt that this state so desperately needs, meaning the commonwealth receives a significant return on its investment.

Solving the state's hunger epidemic is a shared partnership among the commonwealth, the state's vast network of charitable food assistance providers, and the countless food vendors, warehouses and haulers who make sure those at risk can access the food they need.



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