



# FEEDING NEW JERSEY: A LOOK AT HOW WE FIGHT HUNGER TOGETHER

FY20 Fact Sheet

## PROBLEM

### Hunger Exists in Every New Jersey County

More than **40 million Americans are food insecure**, which means they don't know if they have enough to feed themselves and their families.

**Close to 900,000 of them live in New Jersey.**

About 260,000 New Jersey children (1 in 7 kids) don't have enough food to eat, which has a direct effect on their physical and mental health. They struggle to concentrate in school, have behavioral issues, etc.

Thirty-eight percent of households in New Jersey can't afford basic modern necessities, like housing, food, child care, health care, transportation, and a cell phone.



38%  
of households in NJ can't afford basic modern necessities



35%  
of families with children are struggling



46%  
of seniors 65 and older can't make ends meet



51%  
of jobs pay less than \$20 an hour

\*Figures from the United Way of Northern New Jersey

The face of hunger is ever-changing. Today, we see overweight and under-nutritioned children in food insecure households because their families often can only afford to purchase inexpensive and unhealthy food.

## SOLUTION

### Providing Food, Help and Hope – Together

The FoodBank started in the back of our founder's station wagon and is now the largest anti-hunger and anti-poverty organization in New Jersey. It has provided people across the state with food, help and hope for 45 years.

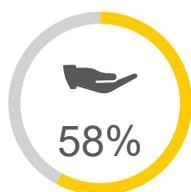
Today, the Community FoodBank of New Jersey has 175 employees who fight hunger every day. We package food orders for local soup kitchens and food pantries; purchase and collect food for distribution; help people in need through SNAP (food stamps) application assistance; reach communities with limited resources with mobile pantries; and encourage others to get involved.

The FoodBank's warehouses – in Hillside and Egg Harbor Township – are the size of five football fields (total) and act as the hubs that bring in and distribute food.

**THE FOODBANK PROVIDES FOOD TO MORE THAN 1,000 COMMUNITY PARTNERS – LIKE LOCAL SOUP KITCHENS, FOOD PANTRIES AND SHELTERS – THAT SERVE PEOPLE IN NEED IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.**

Last year, the FoodBank distributed more than enough food for more than **50 million meals**, 25-percent of which was fresh produce. The FoodBank addresses hunger as a health issue - providing more fruits and vegetables, nutrition education, and medical screenings to inspire positive lifestyles.

## WHERE OUR FOOD COMES FROM



DONATED



GOVERNMENT



PURCHASED

In addition to working with its community partners, the FoodBank has an array of programs that help meet the need, including:

### CHILD FEEDING PROGRAMS

**Kids Cafes:** Children receive nourishing after-school meals every day to make sure they don't sleep on empty stomachs. The program, which also includes a nutrition education component, currently serves 26 sites across the state – combating hunger and its health effects for thousands of New Jersey children.

**Family Packs:** Weekends and days off are especially tough times for hungry children and their families. Family Packs provide thousands of New Jersey households with bags of supplemental food for the weekend, when kids miss school meals.

**Summer Food:** Sites at schools and other public places (i.e. Boys & Girls Clubs, libraries, etc.) serve breakfasts and lunches for children who are at risk of going hungry during the summer, when they don't receive the school food they rely on. Last summer, the program provided more than 104,000 meals.

### JOB TRAINING PROGRAM

**Food Service Training Academy:** This free 15-week intensive culinary training and life skills program provides students with the foundation for a better life. It started in 2000 and has since graduated more than 2,500 students with a job placement rate of over 90%.

### ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

**Senior Boxes:** Monthly boxes of supplemental food reach seniors in our community who live on fixed incomes that don't provide enough for their daily needs (i.e. medicine vs. food).

**Mobile Pantries:** Our mobile pantries bring food to areas in South Jersey where there are not enough food pantries and soup kitchens to meet the need.

**Hunger as a Health Issue:** Our farmers markets, diabetes initiative, and SNAP-Ed nutrition education program support the FoodBank's efforts to address hunger as a health issue.

**Hygiene Programs:** We provide diapers and period supplies to people who can't afford these necessary hygiene items.

**College Pantries:** We work with campus pantries throughout the state to help struggling students.

**Food Rescue:** We rescue more than 10 million pounds of food that would otherwise be wasted through our supermarket gleaning program.



## KEY TO SOLVING HUNGER

### Support From the Community

**Volunteers:** Volunteers are the lifeblood of the FoodBank. Last year, they donated more than 102,000 hours - equivalent to about 52 full-time employees. They sort through donated food, assemble Family Packs, etc.

**Donate Funds:** Every \$1 donated helps the FoodBank to provide 3 meals for people in need, and 92-percent of the funds the FoodBank receives directly supports critical hunger-fighting programs.

\$1 = 3 MEALS

**Donate Food:** Fight hunger and reduce waste by donating food as a retailer (Retail Gleaning Program) or individual. You can also start a traditional or virtual food drive and encourage others to get involved.

**DIY Fundraisers:** Host your own event to benefit the FoodBank (i.e. run a marathon or host dress-down day at work, etc.)

**Spread Awareness:** Hunger is a 365-day-a-year issue that impacts us all. Share information about hunger and the work of the FoodBank through your social channels.

