

PHAC ADVOCACY DAY

Fighting Hunger Together


THE STATE OF HUNGER 2026



INVESTING IN A HUNGER-FREE PENNSYLVANIA

THE CRISIS BY THE NUMBERS

The hunger landscape in Pennsylvania has shifted dramatically over the last 24 months. While families work harder than ever, a "perfect storm" of sustained inflation and federal policy shifts has pushed our charitable food system to its breaking point.




1.7 million
Pennsylvanians are currently facing hunger—including **475,000 children.**

40% Increase:
The number of people experiencing food insecurity in PA has risen by over 40% in the last two years.



1 in 8 Neighbors:
Hunger now affects 1 in 8 people across the Commonwealth; in children, that number rises to 1 in 6.




WHY THE NEED IS GROWING

1 Lack of affordability of groceries
While general inflation has fluctuated, the cost of "food at home" remains a crushing burden for low-income households.

Sustained Costs
Since 2020, grocery prices in PA have risen by approximately 24%.




Meal Cost



The average cost of a single modest meal in PA has climbed to \$3.61, making healthy options out of reach for families on fixed incomes.

2 Federal Policy Changes
Recent federal policy changes (including the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025) have stripped resources from Pennsylvania tables:
Tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians could lose access to SNAP due to new reporting requirements included in H.R. 1.



\$366 Million Loss
The monthly loss in federal food assistance (SNAP) circulating in PA's economy, which previously supported our local farmers and grocers.



Administrative Shift
A looming federal shift will soon require Pennsylvania to cover 75% of SNAP administrative costs (up from 50%),


OUR REQUEST TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Charitable food banks cannot fill this gap alone. For every 1 meal provided by a food bank, SNAP provides 9. We urge you to support:


Increase the State Food Purchase Program (SFPP):
Provide flexible funding to counties to buy nutritious, local food.



Strengthen the PA Agricultural Surplus System (PASS):
Help our farmers get their surplus product to the families who need it most.



Protect SNAP Access:
Oppose further state-level barriers that make it harder for seniors and working families to access nutritional support.



“Hunger is a policy choice. Today, we ask you to choose a stronger, healthier, and more food-secure Pennsylvania.”