

Second Harvest Food Bank Advocacy and Agency Update



A Program of the Community
Action Committee of the
Lehigh Valley



**February
2017**

**We will be closed
on February 20th.
If you have a
standing delivery or
pickup appointment,
please call us to
reschedule.**

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News You Can Use

Thank you & Farewell

It is with mixed emotions that I am sharing with you that I've decided to accept another position and will be leaving the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania. It has been such a wonderful honor to serve this community and to work with all of you to ensure that anyone that needs food can get it.

There have been many changes made in the time that I've been here and I thank each of you for working with us to make the Food Bank stronger. There remains much more to do and I trust that you will continue to work on these issues with the staff to forge an even stronger network. I remain impressed by how much you do each day.

My last day will be February 3, 2017, after which I will be moving to Philadelphia for new challenges. Thanks for your support and I wish you all the best in the future.

Paul Lynch

Save the date!

The annual Hunger Action Workshops are now scheduled. We will have 3 sessions this year to help accommodate schedules and locations.

The dates and locations are as follows:

- 3/22/17 - Allentown
- 3/24/17 - Bethlehem
- 3/29/17 - Lehighton

We will be mailing information along with the invitation within the next 2 weeks.

Advocacy and Agency Update

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Advocacy - SNAP

Child Nutrition Reauthorization Postponed

Reauthorization of critical child nutrition programs should have happened at the expiration of previous legislation at the end of September 2015. Both Feeding American and the Food Research and Action Center have noted that reauthorization is not likely to happen in the near future. In the meantime, the programs continue to run with available funds; however, no improvements to the programs will take place until Congress is prepared to pass a reauthorization bill.

Child nutrition legislation funds the following programs:

- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Special Milk Program
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Impact of the Repeal of the Affordable Care Act

In January, the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center released a report, “Devastation, Death, and Deficits: The Impact of ACA Repeal on Pennsylvania.” Some of their findings are as follows:

- Repeal of key parts of the ACA—Medicaid expansion and the tax credit subsidies for insurance on the health care exchanges—would cause more than 1.1 million Pennsylvanians to lose the health insurance they receive through these programs.
- An additional 3,425 premature deaths will occur each year as a result of lost insurance coverage.
- Hospitals and other healthcare providers will see their revenues decline substantially. Some hospitals and physician practices, especially in urban centers and rural areas, may not survive.
- Repeal of the ACA will cost over 137,000 Pennsylvanians their jobs, reduce the state’s gross domestic product (GDP) by over \$75 billion, and cut state and local tax revenues by \$2.4 billion over a five-year period.
- Repeal of the ACA will add over \$1 billion to the state’s structural deficit.

We hope that you find the report to be a valuable source of accurate information about what’s at stake, and we also hope you will be willing to help spread the word by sharing it on Facebook and Twitter.

To read the full report, go to:

https://pennbpc.org/sites/pennbpc.org/files/Impact_of_ACA_Repeal_Final.pdf

News you can use

The Commodity Supplement Food Program (CSFP SUNShine Box) will begin open registration starting April 1st.

This is a federal food program that is designed to improve the health and nutrition of seniors citizens. Participants must be income eligible (within 130% of poverty), must provide proof of income, proof of residency, and state ID at time of registration.

Some great news!

CSFP recently provided an increase in our caseload; we are now able to serve 2475 seniors in 6 counties!

New caseload slot assignment as below:

2016 = 2025/2130

Expansion = 450

2017 = 2475

Plases let me know if you need help with registration sign ups!

Janet Meyer

"Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice. Like Slavery and Apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great. YOU can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom."

— Nelson Mandela