

Second Harvest Food Bank Advocacy and Agency Update



A Program of the Community
Action Committee of the
Lehigh Valley



May
2017

**Free Friday
items are now
viewable on our
ordering page
every Friday
morning.**

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News You Can Use

*Second Harvest Food Bank will be closed June 26th to June 30th for inventory. We are doing a full shut down, this includes deliveries and agency pick-ups.

If you have a scheduled pick-up appointment that week, please speak with Valerie to reschedule if needed.

If your agency receives a regularly schedule delivery, you will contacted within the next week or two, to discuss a new delivery day.

*If your organization is interested in possibly receiving fresh produce this season, sign up with AmpleHarvest.org. When local gardeners and farms have excess product, they donate the product to AmpleHarvest.org to share in the community.

*Lehigh and Northampton County State Food recipient agencies, all 2016-2017 funds have been allocated to your agency. There is **A LOT** of product still available, with more coming within the next 2-3 weeks. All allocations must be spent (or committed) by June 30th, and all food needs to be out of our warehouse by July 17th. On May 31st, if we see that your agency isn't using the allotment in timely manner, we will start to share it with other agencies.

If you have it, use it or lose it!

Advocacy and Agency Update

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National Hunger Organizations Unite in Advocacy Effort

Dear President Trump and Members of Congress

We, the undersigned, are national, state, and local organizations committed to ensuring a strong and effective national nutrition safety net for vulnerable, low-income individuals and families. With a united voice, we reflect on the hunger problem in America and its solutions as we work with the new Administration and Congress on solutions to the problem.

There are 42 million people in this country — 13 million of them children and over 5 million of them seniors — living in households struggling with hunger. This problem would be far, far worse if not for the nation's successful and cost-effective anti-hunger programs:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps);
- The National School Breakfast and School Lunch programs;
- the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) that provides nutritious meals for children in child care, Head Start, and afterschool programs and shelters;
- The Summer Meals programs;
- the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC);
- the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which provides commodities to food banks;
- the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations; and
- nutrition programs for the elderly (e.g., the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and congregate and home-delivered meals.)

Together, these federal nutrition programs reduce hunger and poverty, improve health and learning, increase productivity, create jobs, and invest in the future of our communities. These programs help all Americans in every state including seniors, children, people with disabilities, veterans, military families, and low-paid workers, unemployed and underemployed adults.

In particular, SNAP, as our nation's first line of defense against hunger, has the broadest reach. It is structured to respond effectively to need as a result of economic downturns, natural disasters, and other causes.

We call on the Administration and the Congress to recommit our nation to one of its most important and widely agreed-upon beliefs, one that has deep and long-standing bipartisan support: nobody in this country should go hungry.

Specifically, we call on you to protect and defend the federal nutrition programs from block grants and structural changes; to fully fund these programs and defend them from budget cuts, taking steps to ensure all people in our country have access to the nutrition they need to live healthy and productive lives.

We stand ready to work with the President and Congress to achieve this goal.

(This letter was signed by all the major hunger related national organizations including Feeding America, the Food Research and Action Council (FRAC), Mazon, the March of Dimes, American Public Health Assoc., many other national groups, as well as hundreds of state anti-hunger groups, and regional food banks, including in PA, Hunger-Free PA and Feeding PA as well as Meals on Wheels, Lehigh and Monroe Counties. All the signers can be viewed on FRAC's web site).

News You Can Use

WFMZ and Dorney Park Host the First Ever Food Truck Food Drive

WFMZ and Dorney Park teamed up to host the first ever Food Truck Food Drive to collect thousands of pounds of food for Second Harvest - 9,543 pounds, to be exact! On Saturday, April 8th, hundreds of cars came to Dorney Park to drop off non-perishable donations, stayed for lunch from some local favorite food trucks, and grooved to some great tunes from DJ JJ Sands.

This is a great example of working with local businesses and community members to raise awareness of hunger. Reach out to your community, friends, local businesses, and start planning for your food drive today!

In the beginning of May, the yearly renewal applications will be mailed out, along with the annual survey. Within the application, there will be quite a few changes in the wording and requirements. Please read over the application thoroughly.

Every agency is required to report monthly distribution numbers by the 5th of the following month. This also includes the sign-in sheet for CSFP. If you have distribution earlier in the month, no need to wait until the 5th. The sooner you can hand them in the better.

When making a payment to Second Harvest, make sure its in the form of a money order or your organization's check. Cash and personal checks will not be accepted. Also, if you have multiple programs at your site, if each program is invoiced separately, you need to pay them separately.