



The New York State Anti-Hunger Task Force

January 16, 2014

The Problem

- More than **1 in 6 New Yorkers** suffered from “**food hardship**” in **2012**, going through periods when they did not have enough money to buy the food their families needed
- New York has the **highest food hardship rate** of all of our neighboring states
- State-supported food banks and pantries served **195 million meals** in FY2010-11
- And in just the last two months: 3.1 million New Yorkers were impacted by federal **SNAP benefit reductions**... and more than 100,000 lost federal **long-term unemployment** assistance

The Problem Impacts All NYers...

- Nearly **1 in 4 households with children** suffer from food hardship statewide, including:
 - 20.5% in Albany-Schenectady-Troy
 - 19.3% in Buffalo-Niagara Falls
 - 21.0% in the NYC metro area
 - 20.5% in Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown
 - 18.9% in Rochester
 - 21.6% in Syracuse

...and So Do the Solutions

- Hunger impacts our communities, our economic prosperity, our health and our educational attainment.
- Addressing hunger is an opportunity to:
 - Bring community partners together
 - Leverage food access as an economic development strategy
 - Improve student achievement
 - Improve health outcomes
 - Address the needs of the most vulnerable New Yorkers

We are Taking Important Steps

- Eliminated finger-imaging for SNAP
- Launched FreshConnect to link low-income New Yorkers with fresh, locally grown food
 - \$5M in fresh fruits and vegetables purchased by low-income families
 - Expanded access for SNAP benefits and EBT cards
- Improved SNAP outreach and education to under-served communities
- Expanded Community Eligibility and launching Medicaid matching for free school breakfast/lunch eligibility
- Provided additional \$4.5M to help 2,400 emergency food programs following federal SNAP cuts.

And there is more to do.



“What is needed is focus, commitment, and a structure to better coordinate the significant resources — both public and private — in our arsenal and ensure that proven best practices are being deployed where they can be most effective.”

- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

2013 State of the State Agenda

Task Force Purpose & Strategies

The Anti-Hunger Task Force will improve food access and quality for children and other vulnerable New Yorkers to address the crisis of hunger in our communities.

The task force will pursue three strategies:

1. Maximize resources to fight hunger in NYS by increasing participation in federally funded programs;
2. Use public/private partnerships to drive outreach and mobilize the power of government, businesses and the non-profit sector; and
3. Improve access to quality, healthy food through the use of New York farm products and locally produced goods – combating hunger while creating jobs and economic development.

Our Approach

- Our focus is on what we can do.
- We recognize that there are constraints – fiscal, inter-governmental, etc. – but there are also significant opportunities.
- The Task Force was created to be an action-oriented partnership. We are not waiting for a “final report” —we will make progress where possible on Task Force ideas on an ongoing basis.
- We will build on and coordinate with other boards and commissions, and seek input, expertise and help beyond the Task Force’s membership.



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