How Libraries Can Alleviate Hunger Amid COVID-19 & Beyond
Agenda

• Food Insecurity Amid COVID-19

• Federal Nutrition Programs
  • Summer Meals
  • CACFP
  • School Meals
  • Pandemic-EBT
  • WIC
  • SNAP

• Q&A
• Feeding America projects an increase of more than **730,000** food insecure New Yorkers.¹

• **People of color** and households with **children** are especially hard hit.

• Food insecurity is linked with negative **health** and **academic** outcomes.²

¹ Feeding America. (2020). *The Impact of Coronavirus on Food Insecurity.*

Federal nutrition programs:

- **Decrease food insecurity** and improve health and academic outcomes.¹

- Leverage federal funds to provide sustainable, responsive food access.

- **Benefit local economies.**

Still, these programs are **under-tapped**.

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Summer Meals

- Summer Meals = Summer Food Service Program

- At “open” sites, all kids & teens age 18 and under can receive a meal at no cost.

- Typically, children must eat at the site, and sites must be located in eligible low-income areas.

- Those requirements are waived for 2021, allowing grab-and-go meals, and sites in all areas.
In a typical summer, we reach only 1 in 4 of NY’s low-income children with summer meals.

The good news: an increasing number of libraries are serving summer meals.

- 2014: 36 library sites
- 2019: 129 library sites
Grow Summer Meals

• Share information with families
  • Visit SummerMealsNY.org to find sites & outreach resources

• Serve meals right at the library
  • Connect with a local sponsor:
    o Summer Meals Sponsor Directory
    o If your local school district is not (yet) in the directory, reach out about their plans

• Learn more: SummerMealsNY.org
Child and Adult Care Food Program

• Reimburses for healthy meals and snacks served to youth in **child care** and **afterschool** programs.

• ~50% of NY child care providers participate in CACFP.

• Only **6.1** out of every 100 low-income NY students have access to afterschool meals.

• **Encourage more child care & afterschool programs to join:** [ChildcareMealsNY.org](http://ChildcareMealsNY.org) & [AfterschoolMealsNY.org](http://AfterschoolMealsNY.org)
Good news: most schools are providing **free meals to all kids** during the 20-21 school year!

Looking ahead to 21-22:

- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) can help schools provide **free meals even after the pandemic**.
- Serving **Breakfast After the Bell** can increase access.

Learn more: [SchoolMealsHubNY.org](http://SchoolMealsHubNY.org)
Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT)

• P-EBT is a **new** crisis response program that provides EBT food benefits to:
  
  • **Children who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals** and are learning remotely.
  
  • **Some SNAP-participating children ages 0-5** – details TBA.

• Congress extended P-EBT for 2020-2021

• NY’s state plan is awaiting USDA approval

• **Stay tuned for outreach resources:** [HungerSolutionsNY.org/PEBT](http://HungerSolutionsNY.org/PEBT)
The Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

WIC provides pregnant women, new and breastfeeding moms, and children under the age of 5 with:

- Healthy food
- Breastfeeding support
- Nutrition advice
- Referrals to services
Others Can Apply for Children in Their Care

- Dads
- Grandparents
- Foster parents
- Caregivers
Good nutrition during pregnancy and in the first years of a child’s life is very important.

Many families are eligible for WIC but not participating.
New York State
WIC Coverage Rates for All
Participant Categories by County, 2015

Coverage Rate: All
- Less Than 30% (5)
- 31% - 40% (22)
- 41% - 50% (26)
- 51% - 60% (6)
- Greater Than 60% (3)

NYS Coverage Rate: 53.2%

Eligible estimates based on 2011-15 American Community Survey and 2010 Census Data. Caseload derived from CT005Q April, 2015
ERSU - Aug 2018
WIC Participation over time

New York State
WIC Coverage Rates for All Participant Categories by County, 2016

Coverage Rate: All
- Less Than 30% (7)
- 31% - 40% (25)
- 41% - 50% (24)
- 51% - 60% (4)
- Greater Than 60% (2)

2016

NYS Coverage Rate: 51.1%

Eligible estimates based on 2012-16 American Community Survey and 2010 Census Data. Caseload derived from CT005Q April, 2016

ERSU - Aug 2018
New York State
WIC Coverage Rates for All Participant Categories by County, 2017

Coverage Rate: All
- Less Than 30% (9)
- 31% - 40% (32)
- 41% - 50% (13)
- 51% - 60% (7)
- Greater Than 60% (1)

2017
NYS Coverage Rate: 48.6%

Eligible estimates based on 2013-17 American Community Survey and 2010 Census Data. Caseload derived from CT005Q April, 2017
ERSU - Mar 2019
New York State
Preliminary WIC Coverage Rates for All Participant Categories by County, 2018*

Coverage Rate: All
- Less Than 30% (13)
- 31% - 40% (34)
- 41% - 50% (9)
- 51% - 60% (5)
- Greater Than 60% (1)

NYS Coverage Rate: 46.8%

* 2018 NYS Eligibles Not Yet Available

Eligible estimates based on 2013-17 American Community Survey and 2010 Census Data. Caseload derived from CT005Q April, 2018
ERSU - Mar 2019
WIC Participation over time

New York State
Preliminary WIC Coverage Rates for All Participant Categories by County, 2019*

Coverage Rate: All
- Less Than 30% (11)
- 31% - 40% (30)
- 41% - 50% (18)
- 51% - 60% (3)
- Greater Than 60% (0)

NYS Coverage Rate: 43.5%

* 2019 NYS Eligibles Not Yet Available

Eligible estimates based on 2014-18 American Community Survey and 2010 Census Data. Caseload blended from WICSIS and NYWIC April, 2019
eWIC is here!

- Paper WIC checks are a thing of the past. eWIC is a new way to shop with WIC.
- The eWIC card acts just like a debit card.
- Families can buy food when it works best for them.
- Participants must use all of their benefits by the end of a thirty day cycle.

How does WIC work?: eWIC & WIC2Go app

- Benefit balance
- Approved foods
- UPC scanner
- Clinic locator
- Store locator
- WIC appointments
1. Visit the WIC Help NY Resource Center for resources in English and Spanish.

2. Spread the word about WIC, including eWIC!

Promote the benefits of WIC! Find outreach materials to use in your community here.
Why Focus on SNAP?

Our nation’s primary nutrition assistance program, providing monthly benefits to purchase food for all who meet program guidelines.

- SNAP participants receive an EBT Card
- Ratio of SNAP meals to Feeding America meals: 9:1
- Expands/contracts with economy:
  - Served 2.56 million New Yorkers in 1.47M HH in February 2020 ($139/p)
  - Served 2.74 million New Yorkers in 1.58M HH in December 2020 ($188/p)

Sources: NYS OTDA caseload statistics, February and December 2020
SNAP is our nation’s largest anti-hunger program – and our largest child nutrition program.

In the 21st Congressional District:

- Nearly 38,000 (14%) households used SNAP to buy food:
  - 72% of families have 1 or 2+ workers
  - 33% include children
  - 42% include a senior
  - 58% include a person with a disability

- SNAP benefits are redeemed at 711 grocers, farmers' markets, and other retailers.

View all NYS Congressional Districts’ data sheets here.

SNAP Works. NOEP Helps.

The Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) offers free and confidential services to connect hungry New Yorkers with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP is our nation’s first line of defense against hunger, stretching the monthly food budgets of all who meet program guidelines. NOEP also provides referrals to other nutrition assistance programs.

To find a local NOEP Coordinator, visit FoodHelpNY.org

For assistance, visit myBenefits.ny.gov or call 844-366-3435

Updated 7/2018. Funded by NYSOTDA and USDA/FNS. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
NOEP Coordinators can:

- Conduct SNAP outreach.
- Prescreen for potential eligibility and benefit amount.
- Provide application assistance.
- Work with local social services offices, and if needed, help resolve barriers.
- Provide referrals.

All services are free and confidential.

FoodHelpNY.org
SNAP Outreach Toolkit

HungerSolutionsNY.org/SNAP-Outreach-for-Schools/

SNAP & School Meals can help.

If you need help buying food, SNAP can help.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact families. Find out if your family is eligible for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). SNAP provides monthly benefits to help you buy food. If you are eligible for SNAP, you can continue to receive meals from your school.

You can get and use SNAP while social distancing:

- Everything you need to do to apply for and receive SNAP benefits can be done by phone or online—no need to visit a local social service office.
- Use SNAP benefits at local grocery stores or shop online at Amazon, Walmart, or ShopRite and have groceries delivered or picked up. (See their websites for availability in your area.)

Apply for SNAP online at MyBenefits.ny.gov

Need Help Applying?
The Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) helps families apply for SNAP. NOEP Coordinators help you see if you may be eligible for SNAP, answer questions, and help you complete and submit your application. It is free and confidential. Find your local NOEP Coordinator at FoodHelpNY.org or use the list on the back of this flyer.

Apply for SNAP at myBenefits.NY.gov

Funded by NYSOTDA, USDA/FRS, FRAC, and The Walmart Foundation. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
Advocacy

- Key legislative advocacy opportunities:
  - Child Nutrition Reauthorization
  - Farm Bill (SNAP)
  - COVID-19 response

- Sign up for updates: bit.ly/2G8tR84

- View Hunger Solutions New York’s policy priorities
Trusted Messenger Actions

Cross Program Promotion

**SNAP:** [FoodHelpNY.org](http://FoodHelpNY.org)

**WIC:** [WICHelpNY.org](http://WICHelpNY.org)

**School Meals:** [SchoolMealsHubNY.org](http://SchoolMealsHubNY.org)

**Summer Meals:** [SummerMealsNY.org](http://SummerMealsNY.org)

**CACFP:** [AfterschoolMealsNY.org](http://AfterschoolMealsNY.org)

**Pandemic-EBT:** [HungerSolutionsNY.org/PEBT](http://HungerSolutionsNY.org/PEBT)

**COVID-19 Updates:**
[HungerSolutionsNY.org/COVID-19](http://HungerSolutionsNY.org/COVID-19)