



Invest in New York's Food Assistance Network

Budget Ask: Increase Combined Funding for HPNAP & Nourish New York to \$150M

Overview

New York's emergency food system is at a breaking point. More than 2.8M New Yorkers are struggling to put food on the table, and the network is facing an 87% increase in food pantry visits in NYC since 2019.

Nutrition and safety net programs are at risk due to federal cuts. The federal shutdown showed how essential the food assistance network is, especially in times of crisis. The experience, infrastructure, existing vendor relationships and capacity of the food assistance network all made the quick and effective response to shutdown possible.

The Federal government has stepped back. Now New York must step up.

Our Request: \$150M total for HPNAP and Nourish NY

Increase combined funding for the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) and Nourish New York from \$112.5M to \$150M. This investment will stabilize the state's emergency food network and help close the growing gap in charitable food access for millions of New Yorkers.

Why It Matters

Rising Need Across the State and Looming Federal Nutrition and Safety Net Cuts

- Food bank utilization is up 7% statewide, with regional increases from 3%–28%.
- In NYC, food pantry visits reached 47M in FY25 — 25M more than before the pandemic.
- H.R.1 cuts \$186 billion from SNAP, putting 408 million meals at risk in NYS.
- The H.R.1 cuts will cost New York up to \$1.2 billion annually, leading to more strain on the state safety net.

HPNAP Has Been Flat-Funded

- HPNAP baseline has remained at \$34.5M since 2018, even as food, transportation, and utility costs have soared.
- Despite yearly restorations, total funding hovers around \$56M, far short of what's needed to meet demand.

Nourish New York Strengthens Local Agriculture

- Since 2020, Nourish NY has generated \$260M in direct purchases from over 4,000 NY farms and producers.
- Supports 3,000+ community partners distributing 20M pounds of fresh, local, culturally relevant food annually.

The Cost of Inaction if New York does not increase support:

- Emergency food providers will face severe shortages.
- Families, veterans, and seniors will go without essentials.
- Local farms will lose a critical market and revenue stream.