Setting THE Table

A BLUEPRINT FOR A HUNGER-FREE PA

pennsylvania

pennsylvania

Setting the Table: A Blueprint for a Hunger-Free PA, July 2016.
Created by the Governor Tom Wolf Administration. Page 26: Read Executive Order: 2015-12 Coordination of Food and Nutrition Programs; Appointment of the Advisor to the Governor on Food and Nutrition Programs and the Governor's Food Security Partnership.
Page 29: Learn more about the agencies involved in this food plan.

Setting THE Table

A BLUEPRINT FOR A HUNGER-FREE PA

GOAL

To provide all Pennsylvanians with access to healthy, nutritious food, which will improve their well-being, health, and independence. Pennsylvania will leverage the strength of our community and business partners; federal, state, and local resources; and innovations in the charitable food network to set the table for a hunger-free Pennsylvania.

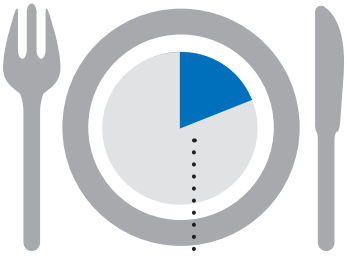
On September 29, 2015, Governor Tom Wolf signed an executive order establishing the Governor's Food Security Partnership (Partnership). The Partnership is comprised of the secretaries of the departments of Aging, Agriculture, Community and Economic Development, Education, Health, and Human Services. It is responsible for promoting coordination, communication, and joint planning between government programs and entities in the private sector in providing nutrition and food assistance to Pennsylvanians.

The Partnership has worked with public, charitable, and private leaders in food security over several months to develop the following goals and initiatives to create a hunger-free Pennsylvania.

HUNGER IN PENNSYLVANIA

For many Pennsylvanians, food insecurity is a daily part of life. It is estimated that **more than 1.7 million** Pennsylvanians, or **13.8 percent**, experience food insecurity.[1]

CHILDREN

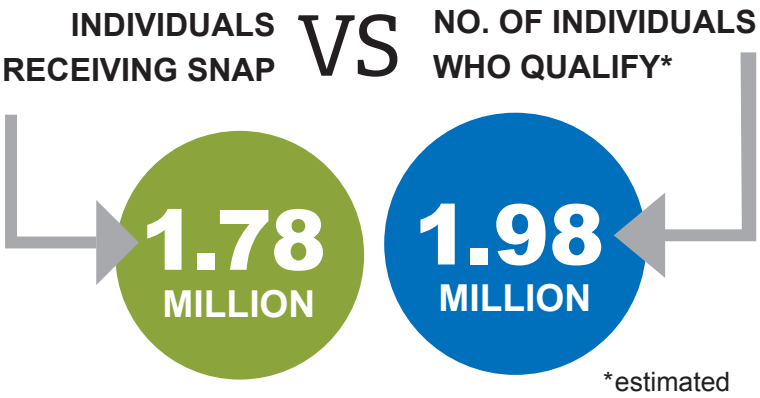


About **19.3%** of children in Pennsylvania experience food insecurity[3]

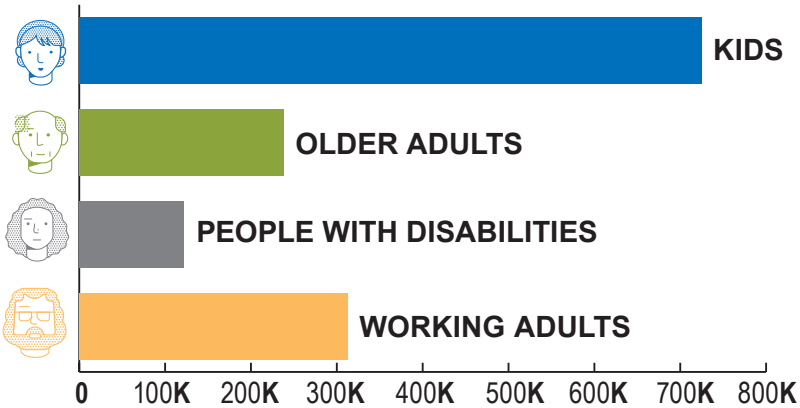
OLDER ADULTS

ELIGIBLE SENIORS RECEIVING SNAP[4]

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)[2]



SNAP POPULATION[5] INCLUDES:



1. Data from Feeding America, *Food Insecurity in Pennsylvania*. http://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2014/overall/pennsylvania

2. Data from U.S. Department of Agriculture, SNAP State Activity Reports, 2014, http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/snap-state-activity-reports

3. Data from Feeding America, *Map the Meal Gap 2016*. http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/map-the-meal-gap/2014/map-the-meal-gap-2014-exec-summ.pdf

4. Data from two American Community Surveys: *Age by Ration of Income to Poverty Level* and *Sex by Age*, 2010-14, five-year estimates. Approximately 800,000 of 2.8 million seniors (age 60 and older) have incomes less than 200% of the poverty level. The number of adults ages 55 to 64 who had incomes less than 200% percent of the poverty level were adjusted proportionately to arrive at only those 60 and older. In February 2016, eligibility for seniors in SNAP was approximately 240,000. This would mean an estimated 30% of "income eligible" seniors are participating in SNAP.

5. Data from Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, February 2016. Numbers are not unduplicated.

HUNGER AND POVERTY

Hunger is a symptom of the greater issue of poverty, a far too prevalent condition in Pennsylvania.

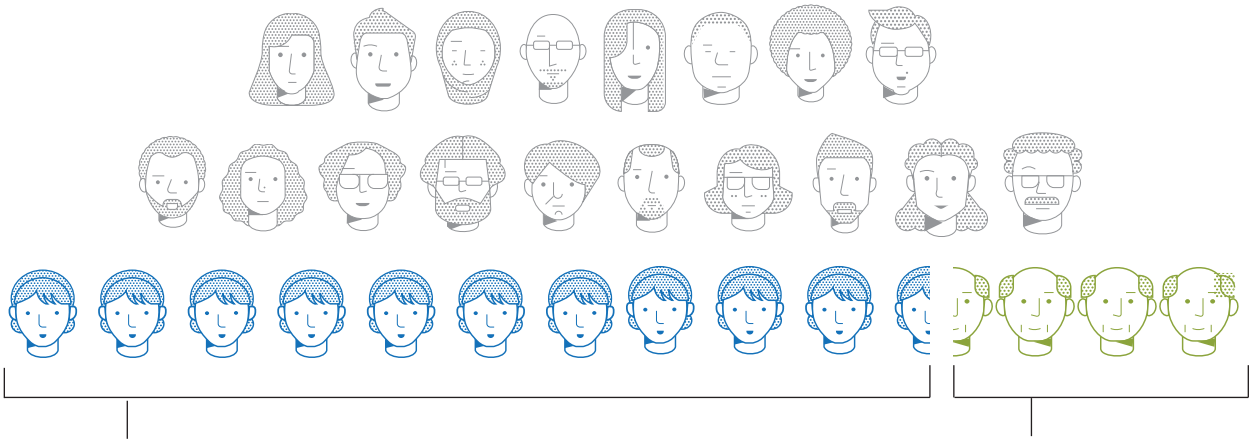
For a large number of Pennsylvanians – both those who live in urban settings and rural environments – poverty is a daily fact of life.

While this blueprint is intended to address the commonwealth's commitment to alleviating hunger, ensuring our fellow Pennsylvanians have adequate access to the food they need is only one piece of the puzzle. To truly end hunger in Pennsylvania, it will take a commitment from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to ensure the availability of a holistic array of interventions and supports to lift low-income families out of poverty.

1 IN 8 Pennsylvanians lives below the poverty line

(For a family of four, this means making less than $23,850 annually)

THAT'S **1.58 MILLION** PEOPLE IN POVERTY



522,000 are *children* & **173,000** are *older adults* (65+)

Data from U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014. https://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032015/pov/pov46_001_10050.htm

HUNGER AND POVERTY (CONTINUED)

675,000

PENNSYLVANIANS

living below poverty line in 2014 had incomes below 50% of the poverty line[1]

For a family of four,

that is less than

$11,925

annually

This figure includes:

202,000

CHILDREN under 18

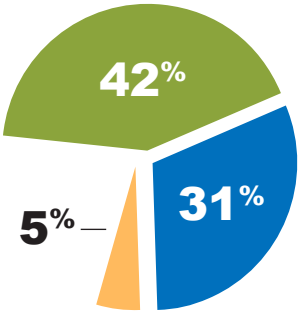
56,000

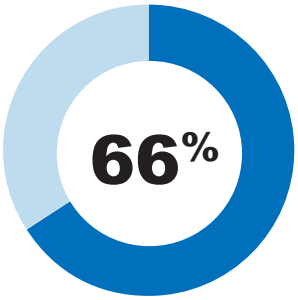
OLDER ADULTS age 65+

Data from U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey, Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014.* https://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032015/pov/pov46_001_10050.htm

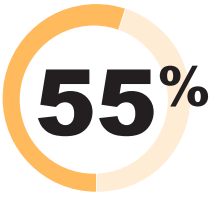
PENNSYLVANIANS WHO UTILIZE CHARITABLE FOOD NETWORK[1]

Annual income breakdown of client households:





Client households that have incomes falling at or below federal poverty level



of client households have chosen between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage at least once in the past 12 months (estimated)

MORE ON **FOOD NETWORK IN PA** ON **PAGES 21-23**

1. Data from *Feeding America: Hunger in America 2014, State Report for Pennsylvania*. http://help.feedingamerica.org/HungerInAmerica/PA_report.pdf?s_src=Y16XG2F1X&s_keyword=what%20causes%20food%20insecurity&s_subsrc=c&_ga=1.53754477.457596965.1456757835

EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

On Sept. 29, 2015, Governor Wolf held a Food Security Summit. The summit provided the opportunity for the commonwealth to renew its commitment to ending hunger – to reframe the issue of hunger and to begin the process of outlining goals and developing solutions to end hunger in Pennsylvania.

Following the summit, workgroups including public, charitable, and private leaders met to discuss how to better leverage resources and improve coordination.

Pennsylvania is a world-leader in agricultural production, yet more than 1.7 million Pennsylvanians struggle to secure enough food to eat. Pennsylvania has the human capital, resources, infrastructure, and natural advantages needed to achieve full nutrition security.

The issue of food security and eliminating hunger demands a comprehensive approach and a wide-range of stakeholders: farmers, processors, allied agriculture associations, academia, food banks and emergency food providers, food assistance policy and advocacy groups, and government entities. Each partner plays a critical role in creating and sustaining local and regional food security systems.

STRATEGIES FOR FOOD SECURITY

Governor Wolf brought together more than 100 leaders in the food industry, charitable food network, food security advocacy, and government to discuss food security in Pennsylvania. The group broke into workgroups to discuss:

Leveraging federal, community, and state resources

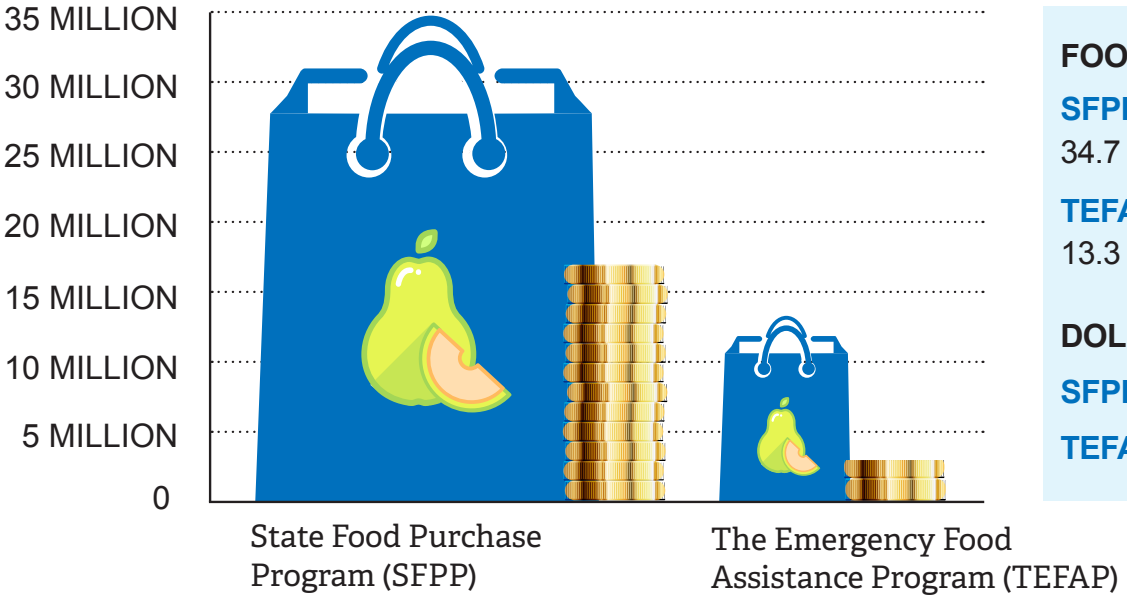
Improving nutrition and access to state products

Public-private partnerships

Outreach, awareness, and advocacy

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD PROGRAMS

POUNDS OF DISTRIBUTED FOOD & DOLLARS EXPENDED



FOOD DISTRIBUTED

SFPP
34.7 million pounds

TEFAP
13.3 million pounds

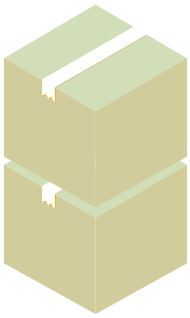
DOLLARS SPENT

SFPP: $16.8 million

TEFAP: $2.9million

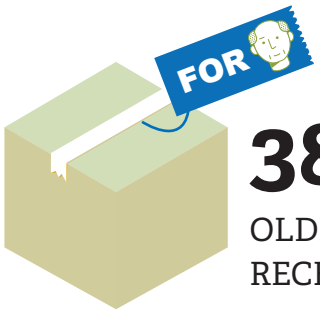
SFPP distribution numbers from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. TEFAP distribution numbers from Oct. 1, 2014 to Sept. 30, 2015.

TEFAP IMPACTS **1,869** FOOD PANTRIES IN PENNSYLVANIA



406,589

BOXES DISTRIBUTED THROUGH COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP)



38,648

OLDER ADULTS RECEIVED BOXES*

*[Distribution numbers from Oct. 1, 2014 to Sept. 30, 2015 • *Unduplicated]*

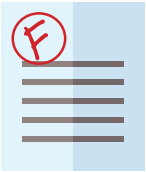
Data on this page from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

CHILDREN

Ensuring children have the nutrition they need to develop is a key to healthy development. Food insecurity is linked to:

BEHAVIORAL CHALLENGES

HEALTH PROBLEMS



REPEATING GRADES IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Pennsylvania is committed to fighting food insecurity to set the table for a bright future for our children.

OLDER PENNSYLVANIANS

1 IN 6 older U.S. adults struggles with hunger

they're less likely than younger adults to ask for assistance.

MAKING IT EASIER TO ACCESS SNAP BENEFITS

The Department of Human Services implemented the Elderly/Disabled Simplified Application Process (ESAP) for SNAP by reducing the size of the application by 22 pages and extending the recertification period by 24 months.

APPLICATION SIZE

RECERTIFICATION PERIOD

BLUEPRINT GOALS

by 2020:

- Every county and/or region in Pennsylvania will have a local food alliance to combat hunger in their local communities.
- The SNAP participation rate will increase from 90 percent to 98 percent or higher.
- The number of children benefiting from free and reduced price meals during the school year (linked to nutrition programs in summer) will increase from 20 percent to 30 percent.
- Sixty percent of students benefiting from free and reduced priced school meals will participate in school breakfast. This is an increase from 47 percent in 2014-15.
- The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Farmers' Market Nutrition Program redemption rate will increase from 308,000 to 340,000 checks annually.
- Double SNAP Bucks will be available at all highly accessible, high-need farmers' markets, and additional SNAP recipients will have access to SNAP employment and training and SNAP education.
- Pennsylvanians will have streamlined access to food security information and benefits.
- The average number of people participating in WIC programs will increase from over 245,000 to 260,000.
- Pennsylvania will improve access to healthy, nutritious food.

THE RECIPE

BY 2020, EVERY COUNTY AND/OR REGION IN PENNSYLVANIA WILL HAVE A LOCAL FOOD ALLIANCE TO COMBAT HUNGER IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

Work with local organizations in each county to form a local food alliance

- The commonwealth will work with community organizations to create and expand food alliances in all counties and/or regions of Pennsylvania. This will enable local community organizations to better leverage their resources, develop unique partnerships, identify local needs, and find solutions to addressing the gaps in their county or region.

Share best practices among local food alliances

- Stakeholders will work together to identify best practices.
- The commonwealth and stakeholders will develop opportunities to share best practices including forums, mentoring, and making information available online.

Share information on anti-hunger programming with state and local government officials and offices

- The commonwealth will share information about state-administered anti-hunger programs with state and local elected government officials and offices, and will encourage them to share this information with constituents and residents who may benefit from these programs.

South Central Community Action Programs Engaging the Community

The South Central Community Action Programs (SCCAP) in Adams and Franklin counties has started a community dialogue with service providers, the agricultural industry, and the health community about food security in Pennsylvania. By hosting community movies, holding forums where families share their stories, and speaking at events and places of worship, SCCAP grows awareness of food insecurity and engages partners in fighting hunger. Through SCCAP's Gleaning Project, more than 300,000 pounds of fresh produce has been rescued and distributed from more than 80 local producers and farmers by over 750 volunteers in 2015. More than 40 local organizations have received the produce to assist thousands of local residents. At SCCAP alone, nearly 9,000 individuals have been served since 2013.

- Stakeholders will share information about anti-hunger and feeding programs being operated in their region, county, or locality with state and local elected government officials and offices.

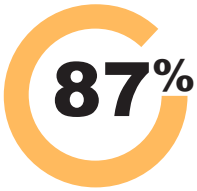
BY 2020, THE SNAP PARTICIPATION RATE WILL INCREASE FROM 90 PERCENT TO 98 PERCENT.

Create partnerships and increase number of outreach vendors to improve SNAP outreach program

- The Department of Human Services will work with its SNAP outreach vendors to identify best practices in outreach and increase partnerships with other agencies.
- The Department of Agriculture will include SNAP brochures in food packages provided through the CSFP.
- The Department of Aging will work with its partners, including the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), to hold SNAP enrollment events at senior community centers and senior events.
- The departments of Human Services and Aging will work with partners to conduct targeted outreach to older adults regarding SNAP.
- The Department of Human Services will increase awareness and utilization of the Elderly Simplified Application Project. This enables older adults and individuals with disabilities to use a simplified application for SNAP and extend their eligibility from one year to three years.

MORE ACCESSING ASSISTANCE

$2.6 MILLION in SNAP benefits issued in 2014



increase in those receiving SNAP from 2004 to 2014

SNAP benefits issued: SNAP State Activity Reports, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2014. http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/snap-state-activity-reports

- The departments of Human Services and Health will create partnerships with the medical community to increase SNAP and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children utilization. The departments will encourage medical providers to educate patients about the impact of nutrition on health outcomes.

FEEDING OLDER PENNSYLVANIANS

Meals are available at **more than 500** Pennsylvania senior community centers

LEARN MORE
bit.ly/agingPAmeals

MEALS SERVED STATEWIDE IN 2014-15

CONGREGATE

3.1 MILLION SERVED

$30 MILLION COST

DELIVERED

5.5 MILLION SERVED

$40 MILLION COST

FEEDING **67,632** CONSUMERS

Area Agency on Aging Greenhouse

In Northumberland County, a 2,160 square-foot greenhouse is operated by the local Area Agency on Aging. The Greenhouse Nutritional Program allows senior center attendees to receive potted vegetable plants to grow at local senior centers or in their own homes. These vegetables are then harvested for use in special meals at the centers or for personal use. The greenhouse program is coordinated with a local career and technology center's culinary arts program. Each month, students plan, prepare, and serve at least one luncheon for a senior center utilizing produce and herbs grown in the greenhouse. On average, participation in congregate meals triple on those days, and students and seniors teach each other cooking skills and form intergenerational bonds that strengthen the local community.

Data on this page from the Pennsylvania Department of Aging

BY 2020, THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN BENEFITING FROM FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR (LINKED TO NUTRITION PROGRAMS IN SUMMER) WILL INCREASE FROM 20 PERCENT TO 30 PERCENT.

Expand the number of Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sites

- The Department of Education will engage schools to actively and effectively offer and promote summer meals in support of the strong connection between nutrition and learning.
- The Department of Education will coordinate with the departments of Community and Economic Development, Human Services, and Aging and the Center for Rural PA to discuss additional opportunities for outreach and partnerships, and new SFSP sites.
- The Department of Education will host regional planning sessions to recruit new SFSP sites and sponsors, and plan for the expansion of existing programs. The department will seek to engage libraries, Boys & Girls Clubs, camps, schools, WIC agencies, senior community centers, places of worship, clinics, hospitals, housing authorities, and other community organizations to increase participation in SFSP.
- The Department of Education will expand awareness about the availability of summer meals through no- or low- cost communications channels. This may include backpack mail, public service announcements, automated calls, social media, and partnering with other agencies and offices that come in contact with eligible children and families.
- The Department of Agriculture will explore opportunities to coordinate with community-based SFSP providers to promote and utilize farmers' markets as SFSP sites.

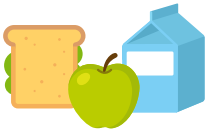
Summer Food Services Program

The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank operates the SFSP in more than 40 sites, including Boys and Girls Clubs, housing authorities, and recreational camps. They accrue partners each year and increase the number of sites where they provide meals. During the summer of 2015, over 50,000 meals were served through these sites.

Increase SNAP benefits for families over the summer

- The departments of Human Services and Education will apply to the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service to establish a demonstration project to increase SNAP benefits in the summer.
- The departments of Education

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)



44.5 MILLION+ MEALS
served to students from October 2014 to September 2015

3,998 SITES
where meals were distributed

benefiting
457,000+ STUDENTS

SUMMER MEALS

7 MILLION
estimated summer meals served in the summer of 2015

2,900 SITES
where meals were distributed

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEALS SERVED: **283** MILLION
(includes breakfast, lunch, supper, summer, CACFP)

$ EXPENDED ON THESE PROGRAMS: **$587.5** MILLION+

and Human Services will develop a SFSP mailer to be sent to SNAP households with children and those enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.

Create a website containing summer nutrition information

- The departments of Education and Human Services will develop a website containing information about SFSP and SNAP for families and community organizations to identify summer nutrition opportunities.

Encourage schools to make breakfast part of the school day

- The Department of Education will encourage schools to adopt alternative breakfast delivery models including Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab and Go Breakfast, and Second Chance Breakfast.

Data on this page from the Pennsylvania Department of Education

BY 2020, 60 PERCENT OF STUDENTS BENEFITING FROM THE FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS WILL PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL BREAKFAST. THIS IS AN INCREASE FROM 47 PERCENT IN 2014-15.

- The Department of Education will reinforce guidance to local schools and districts that breakfast can be counted as instructional time during the school day.

Develop and implement a plan to add information on school breakfast and other food and nutrition participation rates to school performance metrics

- The Department of Education will develop a simple, accessible, statewide dashboard to monitor progress toward food and nutrition goals and to share information with partners.

Assist schools and districts with reaching the established school breakfast goal

- The Department of Education will provide training, technical assistance, and implementation guidance and tools, including the school breakfast mentor program and school breakfast challenges, to help schools and districts increase their student participation in school breakfast.
- The Department of Education will identify and coordinate grant funds and in-kind donations to meet one-time start-up costs.

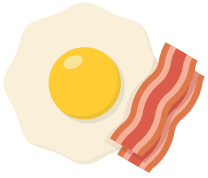
Pennsylvania School Breakfast Challenge

Students who eat breakfast at school perform better on standardized tests, have improved concentration and alertness, and show increased cognitive function. To highlight the importance of school breakfast, provide resources, and incentivize meaningful changes to increase student participation, the Pennsylvania School Breakfast Partners have held two rounds of the Pennsylvania School Breakfast Challenge. Over the course of two challenges, more than 1,000 schools achieved gains and reached an additional 20,000 students with breakfast. Schools that increase their breakfast participation are eligible to receive rewards. Increasing breakfast participation is usually most successful when implementing innovative strategies that attract students, such as breakfast in the classroom and Grab and Go Breakfast kiosks.

- The Department of Education will explore using Title IV funds to increase breakfast access.

BY 2020, THE WIC FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM REDEMPTION RATE WILL INCREASE FROM 308,000 TO 340,000 CHECKS ANNUALLY.

SCHOOL MEALS SERVED ANNUALLY



BREAKFASTS
59.4
MILLION +

LUNCHES
172.5
MILLION +

SERVED TO
1,767,332
STUDENTS

Apply for direct certification of reduced price school meal program for Medicaid recipients

- The departments of Human Services and Education will apply for the USDA pilot program to provide direct certification to Medicaid recipients for the reduced price school meals program. Pennsylvania is one of a few states that provide direct certification to Medicaid recipients who qualify for the free school meals program.

Provide information on how/where recipients can redeem Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) vouchers to purchase locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets

- The Department of Agriculture is looking to create a mobile app to locate the closest farmers' market(s) and other features to facilitate use of FMNP checks by WIC recipients. In 2015, the Department of Agriculture launched the FMNP website www.pafmnp.com. The website contains a list of all farmers' markets and farm stands where FMNP checks are accepted. The website can be accessed to find the closest FMNP location.

Improve communication with/outreach to WIC recipients about the FMNP

- The departments of Health and Agriculture will develop a communications

Data on this page from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, 2014-15 school year

BY 2020, DOUBLE SNAP BUCKS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT ALL HIGHLY ACCESSIBLE, HIGH-NEED FARMERS' MARKETS AND ADDITIONAL SNAP RECIPIENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO SNAP EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING AND SNAP EDUCATION.

strategy to inform WIC recipients and community agencies about the availability of the FMNP.

Work with stakeholders to identify funding for double SNAP

- The commonwealth will work with stakeholders in the food industry to fund Double SNAP Bucks at farmers' markets.

Work with federal government and foundations to identify potential funding sources for double SNAP for healthy foods purchased at farmers' markets

- The Department of Human Services will apply to the USDA for a grant to grow the double SNAP program in PA.
- The departments of Agriculture and Human Services will work with farmers' markets to increase the number of markets that accept SNAP and double SNAP.

Increase the reach of SNAP Education

- The Department of Human Services will work with contracted partners who help SNAP recipients make healthy choices with their benefits, to extend their reach and achieve a greater level of SNAP recipient population penetration.

Philabundance Community Kitchen

The Philabundance Community Kitchen (PCK) is an adult culinary arts vocational training program designed to promote the self-sufficiency of able-bodied, low-income adults through training and placement in a commercial kitchen setting. Most of the food used during training is donated product from local food businesses and the meals prepared through the program are then distributed to homeless and food insecure local citizens. PCK provides classes in culinary arts, safe food handling, life skills, and job readiness training; graduates currently hold jobs in hospitals, nursing homes, supermarkets, restaurants, shelters, and catering companies. PCK is a program of Philabundance, which serves approximately 90,000 people per week, including children and seniors in nine counties in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Increase the number of SNAP Employment & Training vendors

- The Department of Human Services will work with community organizations

BY 2020, PENNSYLVANIANS WILL HAVE STREAMLINED ACCESS TO FOOD SECURITY INFORMATION AND BENEFITS.

that operate training sites for SNAP recipients to leverage federal funding available to the department as a part of its SNAP Employment & Training State Plan.

Provide access to employment, education, or training opportunities for Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs)

- The Department of Human Services will work with community organizations and educational institutions to make available opportunities for employment, volunteerism, education, and training for ABAWDs. ABAWDs are required to meet work requirements to maintain eligibility for SNAP.

Develop a website with state data and resource information pertaining to food insecurity

- The commonwealth will develop a website with information regarding access to food security, data pertaining to food security programs, and updates on progress made in the initiatives of this Blueprint.

Develop mobile application for recipients to check the status of their applications and benefits

- With stakeholder input, the Department of Human Services will create a mobile app to allow a greater number of individuals access to information regarding their benefits instantly without the need to contact the department.

- The Department of Human Services will redesign benefits applications to make them easier to understand and complete.

Hunger-Free Lancaster County

Hunger-Free Lancaster County (HFLC) is a coalition of faith-based, nonprofit, health, public sector and local business organizations with the goal of closing the meal gap in Lancaster County. HFLC's goals concentrate on increasing participation in SNAP and WIC among eligible households; increasing access to and participation in school-based meals such as school breakfast, after-school snacks, and meals, summer meals, and weekend backpack programs; and increasing the overall volume of food distributed through the charitable food network. To date, HFLC has hired a SNAP Outreach Associate, tripled fresh produce distributed to pantries, launched a food hub and a mobile WIC clinic, and served more than 1,600 families with Power Packs, among other accomplishments.

Develop automated phone system to be utilized for Semi-Annual Review (SAR)

- The Department of Human Services will explore utilizing an automated phone system to allow SNAP recipients to do their SAR for eligibility. This will allow recipients to call the system when it is convenient for them during a specified window versus a scheduled interview with a caseworker.

Eliminate face-to-face interview for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to ease the burden on families that often find it difficult to get to the county assistance office (CAO) for interviews

- The Department of Human Services will work to eliminate face-to-face interviews for TANF. TANF requires that program applicants complete a job search before approval for benefits and maintain employment while receiving benefits. Removing the need for an in-person interview allows these families to focus on finding and maintaining work.

Improve Cultural Competency

- The Department of Human Services will publish all forms in the top five languages in Pennsylvania by 2017-18.
- The Department of Human Services will examine current training of CAO staff and add a module on cultural competency.

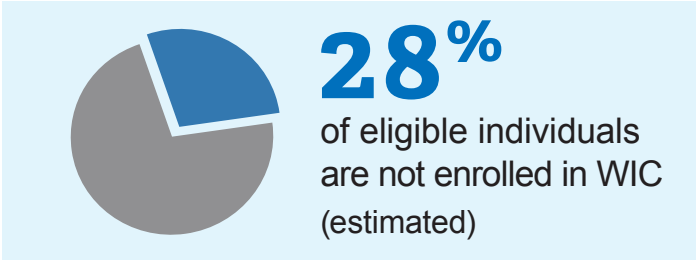
Develop clear communication for ABAWDs

- The Department of Human Services will develop clear, consistent communications to ABAWDs and community organizations. ABAWDs are required to maintain employment as a condition of receiving their benefits. Communication to these individuals and connecting them to opportunities is the key to avoiding a slip into food insecurity.

Support local agency providers and strengthen WIC partner networks by increasing WIC's presence in the community

- The Department of Health will collaborate with Head Start and Early Head Start to identify and overcome barriers to participation, including co-location of services, participation in family and parent teacher meeting schedules, and expanding service hours.
- The departments of Health and Human Services will partner to increase the percentage of families with newborns on WIC, create a new WIC brochure for mailings, and potentially provide an opportunity to pre-apply for WIC at CAO locations.
- The Department of Health will work with CareerLink offices to schedule semi-annual coordination meetings and provide education and referral materials to bolster referral numbers.

BY 2020, THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) PROGRAMS WILL INCREASE FROM OVER 245,000 TO 260,000.



• The Department of Health will work with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Family Service Coordinators throughout the state to identify and target eligible service personnel and their families who would benefit from WIC services.

• The Department of Health will work with Migrant Service Coordinators throughout the state to develop a statewide tracking network to not only identify potential families for participation but also effectively track these individuals and help assure they are not lost due to their migratory nature.

• The Department of Health will work with domestic violence service providers throughout the state to provide education and referral materials as appropriate.

Participate in events that are likely to be attended by WIC eligible individuals

• The Department of Health will coordinate with local agency partners, the Department of Agriculture, and the Culinary Institute to identify eligible women, infants, and children and demonstrate healthy foods available via WIC, showcased by PA Preferred and prepared via live demonstration by Culinary Institute students.

• The Department of Health will lead the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office's participation in the National WIC Association Outreach Collaborative Project. The expected results will include increased enrollment of WIC eligible moms, improved awareness and perception of the WIC Program, and retention of moms and their children as WIC participants.

Data on Page 19 from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, 2015.

- The Department of Health and local agency outreach coordinators will expand outreach efforts to the medical community, including hospitals, pediatricians, physicians, physician assistants, and others providing direct care to pregnant women, infants, and children.

- The Department of Health will reach out to institutions of higher learning to establish internship agreements to provide students an opportunity to gain practical work experience in providing nutritional services, compliance buy activities, and/or fraud detection and investigation; thus gaining an in-depth knowledge of WIC offerings to access in their career upon graduation.

Intensify WIC outreach efforts by participating in or coordinating community activities in conjunction with local family, health, and nutrition security related events

- The Department of Health will work with local agency providers to establish an annual outreach plan detailing their goals and initiatives to increase participation for the coming year by 2 percent.

Increase utilization of the Child and Adult Care Food Program at child care facilities

- The departments of Human Services and Education will work with child care providers, including in-home providers, to improve nutrition in their facilities and increase participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Implement electronic benefit transfer for WIC recipients

- The Department of Health will discontinue issuing checks for WIC benefits and move to electronic benefit transfer.

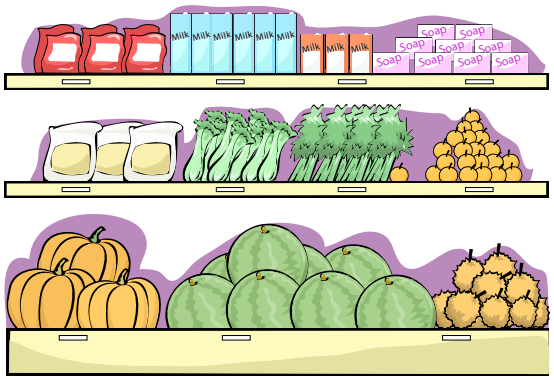
Fill a Glass With Hope™

In 2016, the Fill a Glass With Hope™ program aims to provide 2 million servings of milk to Pennsylvanians facing hunger.

Fill a Glass With Hope™ is the nation's first statewide charitable fresh milk program. This program — an innovative partnership formed among Feeding Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania's dairy industry — provides a sustainable, consistent supply of fresh milk to Pennsylvania families in need through Feeding Pennsylvania's statewide network of food banks. Through this program, Feeding Pennsylvania member food banks are certified as charitable sub-dealers, allowing them to purchase milk at deeply discounted rates. Pennsylvania's dairy industry has partnered with Feeding Pennsylvania on a campaign to directly raise funds for this program.

BY 2020, PENNSYLVANIA WILL IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTHY, NUTRITIOUS FOOD.

IMPACT OF FOOD BANKS



NORTHEAST REGIONAL FOOD BANK CHARITABLE FOOD PROGRAM

Residents served/impacted: 92,400

CENTRAL PA FOOD BANK

Residents served/impacted: 13,943

PHILABUNDANCE

Residents served/impacted: 487,578

NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Residents served/impacted: 14,175

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF NORTHWEST PA

Residents served/impacted: 167,700

TOTAL FOR 2014-15: 775,796

Data from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development

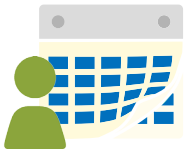
Private Sector Partnerships: Farming Connections, Gleaning, and Community Harvest

Gleaning projects are occurring throughout Pennsylvania to connect farms to families in need of nutritious foods. Two examples are the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's farming connections and gleaning programs and the Gleaning Project of South Central PA. These programs secure donations of surplus produce throughout the growing season from local farms. Farms donate their surplus through avenues such as gleaning. The gleaning programs organize volunteers to harvest excess produce, and the cost-recovery program helps farmers to make surplus or cosmetically imperfect produce donations possible by covering the growers' costs to pick and pack the donation for the food bank. In fiscal year 2014-15, the food bank was able to secure more than 800,000 pounds of fresh, local produce through these programs and connections. The food bank also accepts donations from individuals through their Community Harvest program. This program encourages backyard gardeners to grow extra fresh produce and donate it directly to local agencies affiliated with the food bank, such as food pantries and soup kitchens.

THE CHARITABLE FOOD NETWORK

In 2013, the charitable food network in Pennsylvania served:

227,500
unique **clients**
in a typical week



2.1 million
unique **clients**
in a typical year

80,100
unique **households**
in a typical week

724,900
unique **households**
in a typical year

VOLUNTEER TOTALS

56,400
volunteers

Providing
233,100
hours/week
to programs in the state

EMPLOYMENT OF FOOD NETWORK CLIENTS

49%
estimated **households**
with a member who had worked
for pay in the last 12 months

67%
estimated **households**
where the most employed
person for the past 12 months
is currently out of work

Bureau of Food Distribution

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Food Distribution helps move food from the farm to the dinner table. Using state and federal resources, the bureau works with Pennsylvania's more than 1,800 local food banks and pantries, lead agencies, soup kitchens, and other local nonprofit organizations to secure food products and funding. Learn more: **bit.ly/pafoodbureau**

HEALTH OF FOOD NETWORK CLIENTS

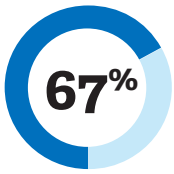
32 percent
of households report at least one member with diabetes

56 percent
of households report at least one member with high blood pressure

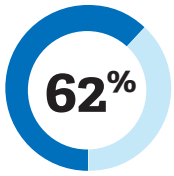
17 percent
of client households have no members with health insurance of any kind

65 percent
of households chose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care at least once in the past 12 months

COPING STRATEGIES AND SPENDING TRADE-OFFS



67% of client households said they had to choose between paying for food and utilities in the past 12 months



62% of client households chose between paying for food and transportation in the past 12 months

HOUSING

14 percent
of responding client households have experienced a foreclosure or eviction in the past five years

3% of clients reside in temporary housing, such as in a shelter or mission, motel or hotel, or on the street

97%
reside in nontemporary housing, such as a house or apartment

Data on Pages 22 and 23 from *Feeding America: Hunger in America 2014, State Report for Pennsylvania*. Percentages are estimates. http://help.feedingamerica.org/HungerInAmerica/PA_report.pdf?s_src=Y16XG2F1X&s_keyword=what%20causes%20food%20insecurity&s_subsrc=c&_ga=1.53754477.457596965.1456757835

South Central PA Harvest Hub

The South Central PA Harvest Hub (SCPHH), a Farm-to-School food hub, provides an innovative and cost-effective approach to school food service procurement and distribution of locally grown agricultural products. The Hub is operated by the Northern York County School District to assist 66 individual schools in Adams, Cumberland, and York counties (40,000 students) with putting locally grown foods on cafeteria menus, while benefiting Pennsylvania farmers by increasing their sales and diversifying their market opportunities. This program is, in part, funded through a two-year, $100,000 "Farm 2 School Project Implementation Grant" the Northern York County School District received from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service in 2014. The Hub is also supported by sales totaling $26,000 this year and SCPHH has set a goal of increasing that to $250,000 to maintain profitability.

Utilize the PA Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment (NAPSACC) at child care facilities

- The departments of Education and Human Services will utilize the PA NAPSACC and encourage child care providers to assess their nutrition, physical activity, and environments and implement health promoting actions.

Utilize a grant from Heinz Endowments to expand container gardens at child care facilities

- The departments of Human Services and Education will work with the Heinz Endowments and explore other funding opportunities to offer technical assistance, education resources, and supplies to child care facilities to begin container gardens as a foundation for Farm to Child Care. This will allow children to understand the process of growing food and encourage eating healthy fruits and vegetables.

Identify opportunities to improve food recovery

- The commonwealth and stakeholders will identify barriers to recovering uneaten and unused food, engage partnerships to improve food recovery, and share best practices in food recovery.

Utilize 'What A Waste' to reduce food waste and improve composting opportunities at senior centers

- The Department of Aging will pilot the What A Waste program at senior community centers. This will teach senior center nutrition program managers how to estimate the proper amount of food to prepare, provide healthy foods that older adults will eat, and compost uneaten food.

Establish farm-to-school program grants

- The departments of Education and Agriculture will work collaboratively to continue to offer education and grant opportunities to schools to implement or expand farm-to-school/table programs.
- The departments of Education and Agriculture will also work with Summer Food Service Program and Child and Adult Care Food Program providers to implement farm-to-table programs.
- The Department of Education will continue to provide training on incorporating geographic preference into procurement solicitations.
- Through a new USDA grant, the departments of Education and Agriculture will provide informative sessions pertaining to implementing Farm to Table in all child nutrition programs throughout the state.

Partner with the private sector to increase access to locally produced, healthy food for low-income individuals

- The departments of Agriculture, Community & Economic Development, and Health will create the infrastructure necessary to connect regional farmers and food producers with families in need. This may include increased support (equipment, land, financing) for local farmers to lower their cost of production and/or providing additional SNAP and entitlement benefits for consumers to purchase healthy local products. The departments will coordinate investments in small businesses and community development projects that complete the local food cluster in underserved neighborhoods, which could include food hubs, logistics companies, food incubators/small batch manufacturing, etc.
- The Department of Agriculture will implement the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS). PASS provides funds to put healthy and nutritious food grown by Pennsylvania farmers into the charitable food system. PASS provides a safe, efficient system for farmers to donate excess product while providing them with reimbursement for costs incurred in harvesting, packaging, and/or processing these foods. In this way, Pennsylvania-produced products will stay in the state to provide low-income individuals and families access to healthy food. At the same time, PASS provides an additional opportunity for the state's charitable feeding organizations to purchase locally-grown and produced agricultural products.
- The Department of Health will continue to expand the Healthy Corner Store Initiative to ensure underserved communities have equal access to healthy foods by encouraging corner store owners to increase healthy food options they stock and sell.

• The departments of Health and Human Services will partner to provide in-store education to assist SNAP recipients in making healthy choices with their benefits at participating Healthy Corner Stores.

Develop options to expand home-delivered meal programs to Medicaid recipients

• The Department of Human Services will work with Medicaid managed care organizations and home-delivered meal programs to offer healthy nutrition to Medicaid participants whose diagnoses require specialized diets.

Expand tax credit programs to encourage donations to charitable food organizations

• The Governor's Office, in collaboration with the Department of Community & Economic Development, will work with the General Assembly to increase funding for the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP), of which a portion of its tax credit allocation is offered to businesses in exchange for financial contributions to nonprofit, community-based organizations working in low-income and distressed neighborhoods.

Explore corporate philanthropy opportunities

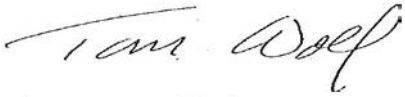
• The commonwealth will work with corporations and corporate foundations to identify opportunities for donations to charitable food organizations. This may include, but is not limited to, funding initiatives, equipment, or donations of perishable and non-perishable foods.

PENNSYLVANIA
GOVERNOR
TOM WOLF

Executive Order: 2015-12

Coordination of Food and Nutrition Programs; Appointment of the Advisor to the Governor on Food and Nutrition Programs and the Governor's Food Security Partnership

BY DIRECTION OF



TOM WOLF, Governor

WHEREAS, hunger and inadequate nutrition remain serious problems in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with too many of our citizens unable to access food for themselves or their families; and

WHEREAS, infant mortality, health problems associated with aging, the ability of children to learn in school, and the job readiness of workers are directly related to proper nutrition; and

WHEREAS, proper nutrition plays a significant role in reducing infant mortality, with programs such as the Special Supplement Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) having a demonstrated effect on reducing the incidence of low birth weight, the primary cause of infant deaths; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that 15.9 percent of Pennsylvania households experienced low or very low food security from 2012 through 2014; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania administers state and federal funds for food programs serving the elderly, families, pregnant women, infants and children, and other individuals in need; and

WHEREAS, through the coordination of the substantial and varied resources available to the public sector in conjunction with creative efforts in the private sector, Pennsylvania will ensure access to needed food and improve the nutrition of all Pennsylvanians.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws, do hereby direct that all food and nutrition programs funded and administered by the Commonwealth be fully coordinated to assure that such programs achieve maximum effectiveness. To achieve such coordination, I do hereby direct the following:

1. Advisor to the Governor on Food and Nutrition Programs. I hereby appoint an Advisor to the Governor on Food and Nutrition Programs (hereinafter referred to as the "Advisor") to coordinate all food and nutrition programs and the "Governor's Food Security Partnership" (hereinafter defined). The Advisor shall:

a. Coordinate interdepartmental efforts designated to reduce hunger and improve nutrition among Pennsylvanians.

b. Review and evaluate the operations and policies of all state and federal food and nutrition programs administered by the Commonwealth.

c. Organize private and public sector efforts to improve the Commonwealth's response to the food and nutrition needs of its citizens.

d. Work with state and federal officials, as well as with state and local food and nutrition providers, advocates and consumers to increase the effectiveness and accessibility of federal and state food and nutrition programs to reduce hunger and improve the nutrition of Pennsylvanians.

e. Convene meetings and oversee the activities of the Governor's Food Security Partnership.

f. Present the findings and recommendations of the Governor's Food Security Partnership to the Governor, the agencies of the Commonwealth, and the Legislature.

2. Governor's Food Security Partnership. There is hereby established a Governor's

Food Security Partnership to work with the Advisor to develop and implement strategies to improve the nutrition of Pennsylvanians. The Governor's Food Security Partnership will be chaired by the Advisor and will be comprised of the Cabinet Secretaries of the Departments of Aging, Agriculture, Community and Economic Development, Education, Health, and Human Services.

3. Purpose of the Governor's Food Security Partnership. Governor's Food Security Partnership is established to:

a. Work cooperatively towards alleviating hunger and related conditions of poverty in the Commonwealth.

b. Develop and implement plans and strategies which will improve the nutritional status of Pennsylvanians.

4. Duties and Responsibilities of the Governor's Food Security Partnership. The duties and responsibilities of the Governor's Food Security Partnership are to:

a. Promote coordination, communication, and joint planning between government programs and entities in the private sector in providing nutrition and food assistance to Pennsylvanians.

b. Provide a forum for new and innovative efforts directed toward reducing hunger and improving the nutrition of all Pennsylvanians. Such efforts may include developing new public or private sector initiatives.

c. Work cooperatively on efforts to reach those who are at the highest risk of suffering from hunger, and to expand food and nutrition delivery systems to create better access to food and nutrition services for those in need.

d. Identify gaps in food and nutrition delivery systems through statistical and program analyses, surveys, studies, and public hearings.

e. Develop, improve, and expand education programs dealing with food and nutrition in Pennsylvania.

f. Develop and implement strategies to expand the use of Pennsylvania agricultural products in public and private food and nutrition delivery systems.

5. Effective Date. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

6. Termination Date. This order shall remain in full force and effect until the Governor's Food Security Partnership goes out of existence or this order is rescinded by another Executive Order.

7. Rescission. Executive Order 1988-4, dated April 7, 1988 and Revision No. 1, dated December 27, 1990 are hereby rescinded.

ADD YOUR OWN SPICE

When it comes to fighting food insecurity, there are never too many cooks in the kitchen. What can you do to help fight hunger? Here are a few ideas.

- **Increase awareness** about food insecurity at your school, place of worship, with your legislators, or local businesses.
- **Volunteer** to teach cooking classes to low income families or deliver meals.
- **Plant** an extra row of vegetables in your garden and donate the produce to your local food pantry.
- **Talk** to people struggling with food insecurity about benefits that may be available for them.
- **Set up** a Summer Food Service Program site at a local park or library.
- **Establish** a local food alliance in your community or join one that currently exists in your community.
- **Advocate** to your local school district that they implement innovative ways of providing breakfast to students.
- **Work** with farmers to start gleaning projects where volunteers pick unharvested crops to get them into the hands of those in need.
- **Start** a food pantry in your place of worship, school, or library.
- **Ask** your grocery store if they donate their meats and produce to a food bank.
- **Hold** a fundraiser dinner or fun run to raise money and awareness for a food pantry.
- **Talk** to businesses and industries about how they can donate old box trucks or refrigeration units to food banks.

We need everyone to be part of the recipe for a hunger-free PA.
Find a food pantry near you: **dhs.pa.gov/ending-hunger**.

Setting THE Table

ABOUT THE AGENCIES IN THIS PUBLICATION

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF AGING

The Department of Aging serves Pennsylvanians 60 and older by connecting them with services and advocating on their behalf to enhance their quality of life. In Pennsylvania, aging services are carried out through a network made up of Area Agencies on Aging, senior community centers, adult daily living centers, and the PA Link.

ONLINE: www.aging.pa.gov

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Department of Agriculture is committed to a sustainable and safe supply of food and agricultural products in the commonwealth – from the farm to the table – and to being good stewards of the land and Pennsylvania's natural resources. The department promotes the viability of farms, protects consumers, and safeguards the health of people, plants, animals and the environment.

ONLINE: www.agriculture.pa.gov

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The mission of the Department of Community and Economic Development is to foster opportunities for businesses to grow and for communities to succeed and thrive in a global economy. The department works to improve the quality of life for Pennsylvania citizens while assuring transparency and accountability in the expenditure of public funds.

ONLINE: www.newpa.com

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The mission of the Department of Education is to ensure that every learner has access to a world class education system that academically prepares children and adults to succeed as productive citizens. The department seeks to establish a culture that is committed to improving opportunities throughout the commonwealth by ensuring technical support, resources, and optimal learning environments are available for all students, whether they are children or adults.

ONLINE: www.education.pa.gov

The mission of the Department of Health is to promote healthy lifestyles, prevent injury and disease, and ensure the safe delivery of quality health care for commonwealth citizens. The department works with community partners to facilitate the development of an effective public health system and licenses and regulates a variety of health facilities. It also provides outreach, education, prevention and treatment services. Community-based groups receive grants to provide essential services, including programs for women and children, nutrition, immunization, diagnosis and treatment of certain blood and communicable diseases, cancer control, and prevention.

ONLINE: www.health.pa.gov

The mission of the Department of Human Services is to improve the quality of life for individuals and families in Pennsylvania. The department promotes opportunities for independence through services and supports while demonstrating accountability for taxpayer resources. Services — including medical assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, child care, early intervention, child welfare, and assistance around physical/intellectual disabilities and behavioral health — provide care and support to Pennsylvania's most vulnerable citizens.

ONLINE: www.dhs.pa.gov

pennsylvania

www.pa.gov