

# Hunger Action Network OF NEW YORK STATE



## Hunger Alert

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October 2004

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Thanksgiving Action  
Against Hunger  
Nov 22

### Health Care and Job Creation Regional Forums



Hunger Action is organizing local forums to discuss the problems with lack of access to health care benefits and the need for job creation. Forums will be held in Rochester, Albany, Syracuse, the Southern Tier and NYC. We will also be holding a statewide conference in Albany on health care later in the year. To RSVP for any of the forums, contact Mark Dunlea in our Albany office.

### Assembly fails to override Governor's Budget Vetoes

The Democrats in the State Assembly were stunned in September when they fell one vote short of overriding a series of budget vetoes by the Governor. While the Dems have 2 more votes than the required 2/3 majority, three of the Democratic Assemblymembers were mysteriously absent – ill – when the votes were taken. Assembly Speaker Silver was unable to convince any of the Republican members to vote for the override. It was later learned that the Governor had cut a “deal” with the Assembly Republicans to free up money for libraries – and a prison in the Minority leader's district. Two of the missing Dems were also apparently enticed by the Gov – they had received the Republican endorsement in their election.

### Senate Maj Leader Bruno: Minimum Wage will be Increased

Right before the Republican national convention, Governor Pataki vetoed the hike in the state minimum wage. While the Assembly quickly overrode the veto, Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno said he would not take up the issue – if at all – until after the election. Sen. Bruno now says that the minimum wage will be increased this year – but he is not committing to a veto override. Bruno is apparently considering cutting a deal with the business community that would expand the existing “training wage” exception for new employees. This subminimum wage does exist in NY but is seldom used due to the paperwork involved. Bruno may be looking to eliminate the paperwork

### Growing a Healthy New York: Innovative Food Projects Manual

Hunger Action and SENSES have developed a manual titled “Growing a Healthy NY: Innovative Food Projects that End Hunger and Strengthen Communities.” This manual features programs that promote economic development, provide job training to youth while increasing the amount of fresh food available in communities, increase participation in federal nutrition programs, and unite people with local farmers. The manual details 30 different programs from across the state. Growing a Healthy NY provides many great ideas about projects that can be duplicated in your own community and it also connects you to information resources to get you started. Please contact Sheila in Albany or Susannah in NYC to receive a free copy of the manual, which will be available soon.

### Fit for Food Exercise-a-Thon To Raise Funds for Hunger Action

Our Fit for Food exercise-a-thon is a way for people to support our work by pledging to exercise during the week of Thanksgiving. The objectives of Fit for Food are to raise public awareness about hunger in our communities — including promoting access to nutritious fruits and vegetables for low-income families — and to raise funds to support Hunger Action Network's work to end hunger in New York State. To learn more about how you can participate or to register on-line, go to our web page [www.hungeractionnys.org](http://www.hungeractionnys.org) or call our NYC office.



### Community Food Security Meeting in NYC in January

Please join us to help end hunger and support locally grown food by learning about ways to increase **Food Justice in New York City**. Food justice, also known as community food security, is a different approach to ending hunger that not only seeks to provide people with food, but also examines where the food is coming from, if it is healthy, how it is grown, and how easily people can access that food. This meeting will provide an opportunity to explore the concept of food justice, learn about innovative food justice projects, and contribute to public policy recommendations to help expand our efforts. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for January of 2005. Call Susannah in the NYC office to get involved!

### People's State of the State Rally on Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Come rally in support of universal health care, job creation and increased funding for emergency food. Urge the Governor to do more to end hunger and poverty. Join us for the annual People's State of the State Rally at the Capitol in Albany on January 4, 2005. Call Mark in our Albany office to register.

### Join the Faith and Hunger Network (FHN) Listserv

FHN is a joint project of Bread for the World, Hunger Action and local and regional faith groups. Listserv announcements would be bi-weekly with information about local FHN events as well as updates on state, federal and international hunger and poverty issues. To subscribe, e-mail [dunleamark@aol.com](mailto:dunleamark@aol.com) or subscribe yourself at <http://mail.hungeractionnys.org/mailman/listinfo/>