



Hunger Action Network OF NEW YORK STATE

2006 Emergency Food Program Needs Assessment Findings

The Hunger Action Network of New York State conducted a survey of Emergency Food Programs throughout the state to examine Emergency Food Program needs in New York State in the last year. Hunger Action received 171 responses from surveys distributed throughout New York State, including 63 from New York City programs and 108 from programs outside NYC. The surveys included responses from food pantries (121), soup kitchens (14), programs that operate both a food pantry and a soup kitchen (22), programs that provide shelter and food (12), and other programs that provide food (2), etc. The Hunger Needs Assessment Survey yielded the following results:

I. 41% of statewide programs reported that they had to turn people away, reduce the amount of food distributed to each person, or limit their hours of operation in 2005 because they lacked enough resources.

- 55% of programs reported that they did not have to turn people away, etc.
- 4% were unsure.

157 programs responded to this question.

54% of programs in New York City reported that they had to turn people away, reduce the amount of food distributed to each person, or limit their hours of operation in 2005 because they lacked enough resources.

- 42% of programs reported that they did not have to turn people away, etc.
- 4% were unsure.

57 programs responded to this question.

33% of programs outside of New York City reported that they had to turn people away, reduce the amount of food distributed to each person, or limit their hours of operation in 2005 because they lacked enough resources.

- 63% of programs reported that they did not have to turn people away, etc.
- 4% were unsure.

100 programs responded to this question.

II. Based on their experiences, Emergency Food Providers ranked jobs and employment as the most important issue affecting low-income New Yorkers. The next most important issue was affordable housing and then low wages and education and training. Food providers also noted the following issues as important factors affecting low-income people: health care, access to food, child care, transportation, and welfare program issues.

- 78% said jobs and employment is an important issue affecting low-income people.
- 74% said affordable housing is an important issue affecting low-income people.
- 69% said education and training is an important issue affecting low-income people.
- 69% said low wages is an important issue affecting low-income people.
- 60% said health care is an important issue affecting low-income people.
- 46% said access to food is an important issue affecting low-income people.

- 46% said child care is an important issue affecting low-income people.
 - 43% said transportation is an important issue affecting low-income people.
 - 33% said welfare program issues is an important issue affecting low-income people.
- Programs could provide more than one response for issues affecting low-income New Yorkers.*

III. **Funding is the most important issue affecting Emergency Food Programs.** Space, quantity of food and demand for food were also important issues. Food providers also noted the following issues as important factors affecting their program: quality of food, transportation, volunteer recruitment, and staffing.

- 69% said funding was the most important issue affecting their program.
- 35% said space was the most important issue affecting their program.
- 32% said quantity of food was the most important issue affecting their program.
- 28% said demand for food was the most important issue affecting their program.
- 20% said quality of food was the most important issue affecting their program.
- 19% said transportation was the most important issue affecting their program.
- 18% said volunteer recruitment was the most important issue affecting their program.
- 15% said staffing was the most important issue affecting their program.

Programs could provide more than one response for issues affecting their program.

IV. 91% of Emergency Food Programs agreed with the following statement, “I support policies that promote community food security, which means that all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through local food sources that promote community self-reliance and social justice.”

- 2% did not agree with the statement.
- 7% were not sure if they agreed with the statement.

161 programs responded to this question.

V. **78% of Emergency Food Programs experience an increase in services during a specific time of year.**

- 22% do not experience an increase in services during a specific time of year.

165 programs responded to this question.

VI. **27% of Emergency Food Programs need help recruiting volunteers for their program. They need help stocking food, serving food, and fundraising, among other things.**

VII. **More EFPs received food from the New York State Department of Health’s Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) than any other source:** 83% of EFPs surveyed received HPNAP funds. Food Programs also rely heavily on community donations, their local food bank, and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP federal program), among other sources

- 83% receive food or funds from Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP).
- 68% receive food or funds from community donations.
- 51% receive food or funds from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP federal program).
- 49% receive food or funds from Food Bank (besides HPNAP, TEFAP which is administered through certain food banks).

- 43% receive food or funds from Emergency Food and Shelter Program (Federal program under FEMA).
- 89% of NYC programs receive food or funds from Emergency Food Assistance Program. *EFAP is available only for NYC programs. 51 out of the 57 NYC respondents receive EFAP funds.*
- 27% receive food or funds from local businesses.
- 20% receive food or funds from foundations
- 11% receive food or funds from other government funds.

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