



NYC Food Policy Alliance: FY25-FY26 NY State Budget Priorities

- **Guarantee that all New Yorkers participating in SNAP receive an adequate benefit of at least \$100 per month.** Following the end of SNAP Emergency Allotments, some New Yorkers saw their monthly benefits drop to just \$23 per month. Over 107,000 New Yorkers would benefit from this initiative—in particular older adults making around \$16,000 per year, including roughly a quarter of whom are actively participating in SSI. This proposal would benefit an extremely vulnerable population currently receiving less than \$1 per day. That is why a bipartisan coalition of legislators and 66% of New York voters support the idea. We urge you to appropriate \$70 million to ensure all New Yorkers have a monthly SNAP benefit of at least \$100 per month. ([A06214](#)/ [S7663](#))
- **Create a state-funded “SNAP4All” program that ensures all income-eligible New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, receive a monthly food assistance benefit.** Despite contributing over \$3 billion per year in state and local taxes, federal law currently excludes over 800,000 New Yorkers solely due to their immigration status, with many others subjected to an arbitrary five-year waiting period. SNAP access is a proven tool for reducing hunger and poverty, which is why New York’s Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council (CPRAC) recommended the creation of a state-funded food benefit for households with children that are ineligible for SNAP due solely to their citizenship status and over 80 organizations across the state support “SNAP4All.” We urge you to support CPRAC’s proposal and extend food assistance benefits for noncitizen households with children.
- **Fully fund statewide hunger relief programs, Nourish New York and the Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) at \$75 million each.** In each of the last three enacted budgets our state has invested over \$22 million in additional funding for HPNAP. This funding enables food banks to distribute an extra 30 million pounds of food, while helping nonprofits afford the higher costs of food and transportation. Nourish New York enables food providers to purchase directly from New York-based farmers and producers, increasing access to nutritious, locally sourced food. We urge you to build on this success and fully fund HPNAP and Nourish New York at \$75 million each.
- **Establish Healthy School Meals for All New York Kids.** We applaud Governor Hochul’s commitment to fund statewide universal free school meals in her Executive Budget. Providing universal school meals alleviates food insecurity, supports learning, and bolsters children’s health, all while saving families an estimated \$165 per month per child in food costs. Expanding universal free school meals statewide is the best way to ensure equitable access for all students and make New York more affordable. New Yorkers overwhelmingly agree; polls show 77% of registered voters support Healthy School Meals for All.

- **Maintain full funding for the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) at \$5.503 million** plus a cost-of-living adjustment, sustaining previous years' \$2 million add-on for expanded services. NOEP is the state's flagship program to ensure all who are eligible receive federally-funded SNAP benefits. We urge you to maintain this investment to sustain access to SNAP navigators statewide.
- **Maintain funding of \$2 million for the nutrition incentive program, Double Up Food Bucks NY (DUFBNY).** DUFBNY matches SNAP purchases dollar for dollar, between \$5-\$20 per day, to spend on fresh fruits and vegetables, with an emphasis on local produce. The program is a win-win-win, increasing accessibility and affordability of local, fresh produce for families, increasing economic opportunities for farmers, and supporting local economies.
- **Expand the 30% NYS Reimbursement Incentive and Maintain \$10 Million** in funding so that school food authorities that spend 30% of total reimbursable meal costs on New York food products are eligible to receive an additional 25 cent per school lunch reimbursement and expand the 30% program to include the School Breakfast Program (SBP). The state should also maintain \$1.5 million for the Farm to School Grant program.
- **Maintain \$1 Million for the Urban Farming and Community Garden Grant, \$4 million for the Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Farmers Grant, \$1 million for the Beginning Farmers Grant to support new and BIPOC farmers and community gardeners.**
- **Create a new Working Families Tax Credit** that streamlines and expands existing tax credits- including the Empire State Child Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit, and dependent exemption- providing increased cash assistance to NY's neediest families (S277B/A4022B).
- **Support the human services workforce to achieve equitable wages.** The state should:
 - Fund a 7.8% investment in human services, which will increase the amount of funding nonprofits have available for program costs and worker wages.
 - Pass S7793/A8437 to ensure ALL nonprofit human services programs are eligible for State COLA funding.
 - Pass S4675/A3329 (Wage Board Legislation) to create a human services wage board, which would investigate the pay gap between nonprofit and government human services workers and make recommendations for reform.