

New Jersey Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee

2011 Report to the Governor and Legislature



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Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee
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*New Jersey Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee
2011 Report*

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Executive Summary

Hunger affects one in six people in America and is a growing problem in New Jersey. According to Advocates for Children New Jersey, the number of New Jersey families who are food insecure rose an alarming 56% since 2004 - 2006.¹

This report, which is being referred to as the 10th Anniversary Edition, serves to summarize HPAC's recent activities. In addition, the report reflects on the scope of hunger in New Jersey since 2001, when the Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee (HPAC) was created.

The last several years have been especially difficult for many residents who have been struggling through the economic recession. The number of children living in extreme poverty or in families that are poor or low-income continued to increase with 619,000 New Jersey children living in low-income households in 2010 – a 14 percent increase from 2006, according to ACNJ.² Families on average are earning less. After peaking in 2008, the average income for families with children dropped four percent in 2010³, and 567,000 children lived in a family where neither parent had regular, full-time, year-round employment, a 9.5 percent increase since 2009⁴, according to ACNJ.

With the cost of living in New Jersey, coupled with the national recession, record numbers of residents have been applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – formerly known as Food Stamps. In 2001, the average monthly enrollment of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Low-Income households receiving SNAP was 133,883. In 2011, it averaged 367,113 households, monthly.

Likewise, record numbers of people also have been receiving supplemental food through New Jersey's emergency food provider (EFP) system, which is comprised of the six regional food banks and approximately 1,100 food pantries and soup kitchens. The amount of emergency food



distributed in 2006 was 34.8 million pounds. Five years later, in 2011, 60.7 million pounds of food was distributed.

According to the Hunger in America 2010 study⁵, that was conducted in 2009:

- New Jersey provides emergency food for an estimated 830,200 different people annually;
- About 138,500 people receive emergency food assistance in any given week;
- 42% of the members households in New Jersey are children under 18 years old;
- 8% of the members of households are children age 0 to 5 years;
- 9% of the members of households are elderly;
- About 24% of clients are non-Hispanic white, 45% are non-Hispanic black, 29% are Hispanic, and the rest are from other racial groups;
- 34% of households include a least one employed adult;
- 72% have incomes below the federal poverty level during the previous month; and
- 4% are homeless.

¹ *New Jersey Kids Count 2012, the State of Our Children, Advocates for Children of New Jersey, page 7.*

² *New Jersey Kids Count 2012, the State of Our Children, Advocates for Children of New Jersey, page 7.*

³ *New Jersey Kids Count 2012, the State of Our Children, Advocates for Children of New Jersey, page 8.*

⁴ *New Jersey Kids Count 2012, the State of Our Children, Advocates for Children of New Jersey, page 9.*

⁵ *Hunger in America 2010 (New Jersey report), conducted by Mathematica Research Group on behalf of Feeding America (formerly America's Second Harvest), pages 1-3.*

The Hunger in America 2010 study also states that many clients report having to choose between food and other necessities, for example:

- 49% of clients in New Jersey report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel;
- 48% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage;
- 34% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care;
- 33% had to choose between paying for food and paying for transportation; and
- 24% had to choose between paying for food and paying for gas for a car.

With the issue of hunger increasing in the Garden State, additional efforts need to be made to enroll food insecure individuals/families in government sponsored programs such as SNAP, WIC, school breakfast and lunch programs, and the summer feeding program, as these initiatives are the first line of defense in fighting hunger.

Likewise, additional efforts need to be taken to address the growing problem of food insecurity in New Jersey. Although New Jersey has the new tax check donation box for emergency food on the state income tax return form, last year only \$33,495 was collected. Distribution of these funds has been delayed due to technical issues with the wording on the legislation. Specifically, the legislation requires that funds be disbursed directly to the food pantries rather than through the existing structure of disbursing funding to the six regional food banks, where they purchase food in bulk quantities for distribution throughout the emergency food

provider system. There is currently no system in place to directly fund food pantries. HPAC is recommending that the language be revised so the existing funding could be utilized. The language should be amended so funding will be disbursed directly to the food banks, and include utilization by soup kitchens and shelters (in addition to food pantries).

While HPAC has accomplished quite a bit during the past ten years, as identified in a later section of this report, the economic crisis has significantly increased the scope and magnitude of hunger in New Jersey with increased numbers of people seeking assistance through SNAP, receipt of supplemental food through the food banks, pantries, and/or soup kitchens, or both.

To address this sustained and increased need, funding needs to be identified to help the emergency food provider system deliver safe and nutritious food to those in need. The problem is further compounded by food prices going up an estimated 30% and projections of rising fuel costs which directly impact food distribution.

The HPAC is recommending that new funding, in the amount of \$5 million, be infused into the emergency food provider system, for the following:

- Acquisition of emergency food for the growing number of people in need and escalating food costs; and infrastructure costs including food distribution (these are not administrative funds) including storage, handling, forks lifts, fork lift operators, electricity for refrigerated equipment, trucks and refrigerated transportation, diesel fuel as well as funding to replace deteriorating equipment such as stoves, refrigerators, freezers, walk-in boxes, etc. According to New Jersey's Food Bank Directors, the actual cost to move food is \$.21 per pound of food.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which is federal funding, has varied its reimbursement rate in the last few years as follows: \$.08, \$.10, \$.04, \$.02 to the current rate of \$.05 per pound. This reimbursement rate does not cover actual costs, and the differential between real and reimbursed costs will continue to grow as fuel costs soar nationally, creating an even larger funding gap. This gap is further exacerbated by the 57% increase in the poundage of supplemental food distributed from 2006 to 2011. This gap creates such as significant short fall that emergency food providers





could be forced to turn-away food as they don't have the funding to store and distribute the food. HPAC would not want to see New Jersey's EFP system turn away federal food commodities at a time when we have record numbers of food insecure residents.

HPAC is requesting support from the Department of Education and the School Superintendents Association to overcome the barriers that prevent more children from participating in the free or reduced price school breakfast and lunch programs. New Jersey's participation rate, which was 46th in the 2009-2010 school year, has fallen to 48th in the nation in the 2010-2011 school year, according to FRAC⁶. The Universal Breakfast program and the Breakfast after the Bell program, both in Newark,

are national best practice models that may be able to be replicated in other low-income areas in New Jersey. In addition, HPAC will be looking for the support of the Department of Education, School Superintendents Association, and local school principals to help promote the Summer Feeding Program, which is also underutilized in New Jersey.

The Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee would like to thank both the Governor and the Legislature for their ongoing support and their commitment to serving New Jersey's food insecure residents. Special thanks also go out to Department of Treasury's staff for their assistance in setting up the tax donation/check off on the state income tax forms, which started with the 2010 tax season.



⁶ Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), *School Breakfast Scorecard*, Table 1, page 17.

HPAC Accomplishments from 2001 to 2011

The New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act, created through P.L. 2001, c62, was passed in April 2001. The Act established a 13-member Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee (HPAC) which is now celebrating its 10th Anniversary.

In recognition of this occasion, HPAC has reflected on the past ten years and what has been accomplished to date with acknowledgement of the ongoing support from the New Jersey Legislature on issues related to hunger. The accomplishments include:

- The New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act provided \$5 million in one-time, un-expended Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to the HPAC. Of that, \$4,750,000 or 95% of the funds went for the acquisition of emergency food, gleaning (collecting quality food left behind after harvesting), and supporting the emergency feeding organization with costs associated with the distribution of emergency food. The remaining \$250,000 was for the legislatively mandated hunger study through Rutgers University. While \$40,000 was originally earmarked for the creation of the www.endhungernj.org website, the Department of Human Services ultimately created it in-kind. HPAC is very pleased that most of the funding went directly for the acquisition of food, which was critical to sustain individuals and families during very difficult economic times.
- The New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act specified that up to \$250,000 could be allocated to Rutgers University to conduct a hunger study. This study was completed during October 2005 and included the following components:
 1. A 2005 survey of New Jersey Food manufacturers to determine if there was wholesome and nutritious food going to waste and that could be contributed to hunger relief organizations. The



results found that 18% of food manufacturers surveyed indicated that they currently donate food to hunger relief organizations. Combined these manufacturers donated a total of 35,000 pounds of food per week.

2. A 2005 survey of New Jersey's food pantries and patrons focused on identifying strategies and structures for minimizing spoilage of food resources and maximizing the availability of wholesome and nutritious foods to those in need. The key findings included:

The food pantries were effective in providing protein rich food and fruits, however less than

optimal comparisons were found for other food groups. Specifically, fats and sweets were provided in much higher amounts than recommended. Vegetable servings were half to two-thirds of those recommended, and the milk group servings were less than one-third of the daily recommendation. Calcium was significantly below recommended daily allowances. Fifty-three percent of the patrons surveyed indicated that they did not have enough food to make it through the month despite the positive contributions that food pantries provided.

3. A 2005 analysis of the strengths and challenges of New Jersey's soup kitchens indicated they play a valuable role in supporting citizens who are homeless and living in shelters. While caloric intake averaged 1,424 per meal which is excessive for anyone having additional meals per day, it was advantageous for patrons having only one meal per day, as it approached the daily range calorically for adults in the 19-50 age range. A nutrient analysis found that calcium and other vitamin D rich foods were lacking in soup kitchen meals while sodium far exceeded the daily recommended intake for adults.
4. A 2005 gap analysis found there are far fewer soup kitchens in New Jersey than food pantries. Gloucester County's only soup kitchen closed and there was only one soup kitchen in the counties of Hunterdon, Salem, Somerset, and Warren. Nutrition education services through the Federal Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (FSNEP) are located in predominantly urban centers. Neither service was available in Atlantic, Bergen, Morris, Salem, or Sussex Counties. WIC recipients are eligible for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) but low-income clients have a difficult time accessing authorized farm stands due to transportation barriers. Both food pantries and soup kitchens lack technology (computers and Internet access) to screen their clients for SNAP eligibility.



5. The last component of the study was nutrition education. As mentioned above, EFNEP and FSNEP are the two nutrition education programs for low-income individuals. With static federal funding and significant programmatic reductions over time, the number of people served has been reduced, and services simply are not available in all areas of the state.
 - The development of a hunger-related website, known as www.endhungernj.org. This website includes information on how to access local food banks, soup kitchens, and food pantries, nutrition education materials, nutritional references, food safety, general information on hunger, how to donate (food, money, or your time), recipes for clients, information on the HPAC, as well as other resources for families and individuals who are economically challenged. During 2010, HPAC turned the oversight of this website over to NJ 211 for ongoing maintenance and updating.
 - HPAC worked in collaboration with the Division of Family Development (DFD) to develop and distribute an array of literature to promote the www.endhungernj.org website as referenced above. All materials include the www.endhungernj.org grocery bag logo.
 - In 2007, HPAC worked in collaboration with the Community Food Bank in Hillside to promote National Hunger Awareness Day. This press event showcased the multiple services the food bank offers and provided a hands-on demonstration of the www.endhungernj.org website for those in attendance.

- HPAC in collaboration with the Departments of Human Services and Agriculture advocated for \$3 million in additional funding in SFY '07 for the acquisition of emergency food and an additional \$1 million for infrastructure needs for the emergency food providers, including freezers, refrigerators, and stoves. In SFY '08, an additional \$4 million was funded for the acquisition of emergency food on behalf of the growing number of food insecure residents. The funding was obtained and distributed via the Department of Agriculture.
- The HPAC worked in conjunction with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and Volunteers of America Delaware Valley to promote three regional forums to assist emergency food providers in recruiting and retaining volunteers within their respective agencies.



- The HPAC, in collaboration with DFD and the Department of Agriculture, worked with interested farmers in New Jersey to utilize the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) technology within the local farm markets. The use of EBT cards in the farmers markets became operational in July 2009, creating an opportunity for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – formerly Food Stamp- recipients to use their Families First card to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables using the SNAP benefits. Fresh fruits and vegetables had previously been identified as lacking in the diets of many food insecure New Jerseyans.
- In FY '08, HPAC in collaboration with the NJ Department of Human Services conducted the first annual “Hunger Doesn’t Take a Summer Vacation” food drive to benefit the six regional food banks. The committee facilitated this food drive as demand for emergency food increases during the summer months as school age children are not receiving the free and/or reduced price school breakfast and/or lunch programs, and food donations are down during this time of the year.
- Since all funding through the Act has been exhausted, HPAC recommended the creation of a funding source through a donation check off box on the NJ State tax form. With support from the Legislature, this initiative began with the 2010 tax year. These funds, which are routed through the NJ Department of Agriculture, will help the emergency food provider (EFP) system access calcium rich foods and fresh fruits and vegetables.



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)



The Federal Government renamed Food Stamps the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) back in October 2008. In 2011, the New Jersey Department of Human Services did the same aligning of the program name.

The Division of Family Development (DFD) oversees SNAP in New Jersey and has noted increases in enrollment during recent years. During April 2010, the maximum income limits for SNAP increased from 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 185%; increasing gross income limits for SNAP benefits. Files of Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) recipients who are interested in receiving SNAP benefits started being matched during early 2011, to provide more aged and disabled citizens with SNAP benefits.

| | Households | | | Persons | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| | TANF | Other Low Income | Total | Adults | Children | Total |
| CY 2001 monthly average | 33,302 | 100,581 | 133,883 | 142,675 | 147,427 | 290,102 |
| CY 2006 monthly average | 37,522 | 157,397 | 194,919 | 199,518 | 203,464 | 402,982 |
| CY 2011 Monthly average to date | 36,931 | 330,182 | 367,113 | 381,788 | 363,780 | 745,568 |

During the five-year time frame from 2006 to 2011, the number of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) households on SNAP decreased by approximately 591 households, while the non-TANF households receiving SNAP had an average monthly increase of 172,785. From 2001 to 2006, the numbers of TANF households on SNAP increased by approximately 4,220 households, while non-TANF households receiving SNAP grew by approximately 56,816. When looking at the data over the ten-year span from 2001 to 2011, the monthly average caseload increased by approximately 3,629 TANF households and 229,601 non-TANF households respectively.

During the five-year time frame from 2006 to 2011, the number of adults and children receiving SNAP increased by approximately 342,586 people monthly, as indicated

above. For the five years prior, from 2001 to 2006, the number of adults and children receiving SNAP increased by approximately 112,880 per month. When looking at the data over the ten-year span from 2001 to 2011, the caseload increased by approximately 455,466 individuals monthly, a 39% increase.

The above numbers represent significant increases in SNAP utilization which is our State's and nation's first line of defense in fighting hunger. SNAP benefits are supplemental in nature, and recipients reported that their benefits only last an average of 2.5 weeks per month. For individuals and households who remain food insecure, they turn to New Jersey's emergency food provider (EFP) system, consisting of food pantries and soup kitchens for additional assistance.

How Many Food Insecure People Do We Serve?



With the state economy struggling for the past several years through the national recession, the six regional food banks have reported a significant spike in the number of people seeking emergency food. At this point, the number of people being served remains at an all-time high.

The table below illustrates the increase in the number of people served by the food banks in SFY 2001, 2006, and 2011 which represents five year intervals.

Statewide comparisons cannot be calculated due to the lack of uniformity in data collection.

| Agency | Number of people served in 2001 | Number of people served in 2006 | Number of people service in 2011 |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Community Food Bank, Hillside | 506,000 | 537,000 | 900,000 |
| Community Food Bank of NJ – Southern Branch, Egg Harbor | 6,231 | 8,168 | Data is included in with the Community Food Bank above |
| Mercer Street Friends, Trenton | 13,000 | 18,000 | 25,000 |
| NORWESCAP Food Bank, Phillipsburg | 883,000* | 954,400* | 166,139 unduplicated 26,011 duplicated |
| Food Bank of Monmouth & Ocean Counties, Neptune | Not available | 70,000 | 127,000 |
| Food Bank of South Jersey, Pennsauken | Not available | 272,508 | 119,000 unduplicated |

*Data was collected by volunteers and may be subject to error.

Amount of Food Distributed



The chart below illustrates the amount of food that was distributed in SFY 2001, 2006, and 2011 covering five-year intervals over a ten-year period, from 2001 to 2011. While the report was unable to calculate the overall statewide distribution of food in 2001, it is recognized that 34.8 million pounds of emergency food was distributed in 2006. Five years later, in 2011, the amount of emergency food almost doubled, with 60.8 million pounds of emergency food being distributed. It should be noted that there have been numerous incidences of food shortages within the last two years. Emergency food providers limited the amount of food distributed to individuals/households during that time in an effort to serve everyone in need, in essence rationing the amount of food people received.

| Agency | Pounds of food distributed in 2001, in millions | Pounds of food distributed in 2006, in millions | Pounds of food distributed in 2011, in millions |
|---|---|---|--|
| Community Food Bank, Hillside | 17.9 | 21.2 | 38.1 |
| Community Food Bank of NJ – Southern Branch, Egg Harbor | 2.5 | 3.7 | Data included with Community Food Bank as listed above |
| Mercer Street Friends, Trenton | 1.1 | 1.6 | 2.6 |
| NORWESCAP Food Bank, Phillipsburg | 1.3 | 1.6 | 2.3 |
| Food Bank of Monmouth & Ocean Counties, Neptune | 2.55 | 3.3 | 6.9 |
| Food Bank of South Jersey, Pennsauken | Not Available | 3.4 | 10.8 |
| TOTAL | | 34.8 | 60.8 |

Legislative Support Needed



The HPAC is recommending the following initiatives for legislative consideration:

- The infusion of new funding, in the amount of \$5 million for the acquisition of emergency food for the growing number of people in need and escalating food costs as well as for infrastructure costs including food distribution (these are not administrative funds) including storage, handling, forklifts, forklift operators, electricity for refrigerated equipment, trucks and refrigerated transportation, diesel fuel as well as funding to replace deteriorating equipment such as stoves, refrigerators, freezers, walk-in boxes, etc. According to New Jersey's Food Bank Directors, the actual cost to move food is \$.21 per pound of food. The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which is federal funding, has varied its reimbursement rate in the last few years as follows: \$.08, \$.10, \$.04, \$.02 to the current rate of \$.05 per pound. This reimbursement rate does not cover actual costs, and the differential between real and reimbursed costs will continue to grow as fuel costs soar nationally, creating an even larger funding gap. This gap is further exasperated by the significant increase in the poundage of supplemental food distributed. As you saw in an earlier section of this report, in 2006, 34.8 million pounds of emergency food was distributed. Five years later, in 2011, 60.7 million pounds of food was distributed. This gap creates such a significant shortfall that EFPs could be forced to turn-away food as they don't have the funding to store and distribute the food. HPAC would not want to see New Jersey's EFP system turn away Federal food commodities at a time when we have record numbers of food insecure residents.
- Revise the language in P.L. 1999, c.21 (C.54A:9-25.14) so that funds could be disbursed directly to the food banks rather than requiring that the Department of Agriculture to fund the food pantries directly. In addition, the language should be revised so all emergency food providers (including soup kitchens, pantries, and shelters) could take advantage of this funding stream. A system is in place for funding to be distributed to the food banks, but there is no mechanism in place to fund food pantries directly. Funding food pantries directly would be administratively burdensome, eliminates New Jersey's ability to buy food in bulk quantities for distribution throughout the emergency food provider system, and eliminates soup kitchens and shelters from also using this funding. HPAC is recommending that the language be revised so funds could be released.
- Reinstate supplemental funding of the School Breakfast Program to encourage district participation. According to the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), New Jersey ranks 48th nationwide for its participation rate in the School Breakfast Program.
- New funding to offer small grants to school districts in low-socioeconomic areas, to encourage program participation, where at least 40% of school lunches are at the free or reduced price for two years in a row, to pilot "Breakfast in the Classroom" programs similar to those in Newark. Research has shown a good breakfast helps students focus in class, score higher on standardized tests and avoid trips to the school nurse. When children are hungry, they have difficulties concentrating on school work.
- Review and evaluate regulations and rule changes for schools in New Jersey to more easily serve breakfast

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- to food insecure children (classroom time, facilities, etc.) and promote the Commissioner of Education and Secretary of Agriculture's correspondence that school breakfast can be included as instruction time.
- Consider adding two additional seats to the Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee to include a state representative from Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), housed in the Department of Health and a state representative from the Department of Education. WIC is a supplemental feeding program for pregnant women and children up to five years of age. A representative from the DOE would assist HPAC in addressing issues of childhood hunger and implementation issues regarding the School Breakfast Program.
 - Encourage members of our legislature to visit a local food bank, soup kitchen and/or food pantry in their district and learn more about hunger in New Jersey and its impact. Information on where local EFPs are located could be obtained on the www.endhungernj.org website.
 - Support/promote National Hunger Action Month in New Jersey by having the Governor issue a proclamation declaring September Hunger Action Month in New Jersey.
 - Examine the tax laws in New Jersey regarding food donations. Determine what other states are doing to modify the laws to encourage the donation of more "healthy foods" and discourage the tax incentive of donating items like soda, which has no nutritional value. Based upon the Rutgers University Hunger Study completed in 2005, clients served by New Jersey's EFPs are in need of more fresh fruits, vegetables, and protein.
 - Encourage the Governor and members of the Legislature to take the SNAP challenge and try to live on the food allocation SNAP recipients receive. For a family of one, SNAP families receive \$200 per month, for a family of two they receive \$367 a month, for a family of three they receive \$526 per month and for a family of four they receive \$668 monthly. The challenge is a difficult one, but it is hoped that the Governor, the Legislators, and their respective families would try this for one week.



HPAC Goals for FY '13

- Advocate for additional funding of the State Food Purchase Program, housed in the Department of Agriculture.
 - Advocate for funding to support the distribution, storage and handling of food, as well as for infrastructure costs for the replacement of deteriorating equipment such as stoves, refrigerators, freezers, walk-in boxes, etc., at the six regional food banks.
 - Support changes to the Federal 2012 Farm Bill Reauthorization that will strengthen Nutrition Title IV.
 - Promote the tax check off box to obtain funding for New Jersey's EFPS through press releases and other outreach strategies and review the outcome of how FY '11 funds were used.
 - Develop volunteer recruitment/retention strategies for food pantries and soup kitchens by reaching out to the Commission on Higher Education, and College and University Presidents to encourage student participation in anti-hunger activities (similar to Rutgers Against Hunger (RAH)).
 - Develop literature in various languages to inform New Jerseyans with low income of services provided by the soup kitchens and food pantries. This information would be posted on the www.endhungernj.org website, making it easier for local agencies to download the information and provide it directly to their clientele.
- 
- Encourage participation of children with and who are in free and reduced price school meal and summer feeding programs. NJ needs to explore waivers and rule changes that ease regulations for schools in New Jersey to more easily serve food insecure children.
 - Strengthen communication strategies by leveraging websites and social media outlets to raise the visibility of hunger statewide and by encouraging other state department to include a link to the www.endhungernj.org website on their homepage.
 - Advocate for adding two additional seats to the Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee to include a state representative from Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), housed in the Department of Health and a state representative from the Department of Education. WIC is a supplemental feeding program for pregnant women and children up to five years of age. A representative from the DOE would assist HPAC in addressing issues of childhood hunger and implementation issues regarding the School Breakfast Program. In addition, HPAC is recommending that DHS send a representative from their newly created Division of Aging to future HPAC meetings.

Background on the HPAC Legislation

The New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act (P.L. 2001, c62) was signed into law on April 19, 2001. The legislation appropriated \$5 million in one-time Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds. The program was established within the Department of Human Services with the statutory purpose to:

- Improve the health and nutritional status of New Jersey residents in need of food assistance;
- Supplement the efforts of emergency food programs in the state to reduce hunger; and
- Enable families and individuals to become food secure and self-sufficient.

The specific goals of the program are to:

- Enhance the accessibility and availability of safe, nutrition food and food-related resources;
- Develop and provide comprehensive nutrition education programs;
- Periodically conduct assessments of the needs of persons requesting food assistance and hunger related issues to ensure program funds are used effectively; and
- Empower persons requesting food assistance or at risk of needing food assistance to increase their independence from emergency food assistance programs.



The legislation specified that the Commissioner of Human Services shall contract with Rutgers, the State University, to conduct a statewide needs assessment. This assessment was completed during the fall of 2005 and details of that assessment were included in the July 2006 Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee Report to the Legislature. This and other HPAC reports are available on the website at www.endhungernj.org.

Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee Membership

The New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act established a 13 member Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee (HPAC) in the Department of Human Services. The membership consists of the Secretary of Agriculture, Commissioner of Human Services, and the Commissioner of Community Affairs or their designees, who serve ex-officio and ten public members appointed by the Governor who include: two representatives of emergency food programs in the State; two representatives of programs serving homeless individuals in the State; the Executive Directors of the County Welfare Directors' Association of New Jersey; the Municipal Welfare Directors' Association of New Jersey and the Association for Children of New Jersey (currently known as the Advocates for Children of New Jersey), or their designees; a nutritionist, and two members of the public who are knowledgeable about emergency food programs. The 13-member HPAC has been meeting since 2002. The committee is comprised of the following individuals:

| HPAC Member | Agency | Seat | Term Expires |
|---|--|---|--------------|
| Gina Adams | Volunteers of America Delaware Valley | Programs Serving Homeless Individuals | January 2014 |
| Frank Cirillo | Mercer County Board of Social Services | NJ County Welfare Directors' Association | Indefinite |
| Kathleen DiChiara | Community Food Bank of New Jersey | Emergency Food Programs | January 2014 |
| Rosemary Gilmartin | Interfaith Food Pantry | Emergency Food Programs | January 2014 |
| Vesta Godwin Clark | St. James Social Services Corporation | Programs Serving Homeless Individuals | January 2014 |
| Vacant | | Knowledge of Emergency Food Programs | January 2014 |
| Susan Jones | Mercer Street Friends | Nutritionist | January 2014 |
| Barbara Miceli | Middletown Municipal Welfare Director | Municipal Welfare Directors' Association | Indefinite |
| Jeanette Page-Hawkins (for Commissioner Jennifer Velez) | Department of Human Services | Department of Human Services | Indefinite |
| Chip Paillex | America's Grow-A-Row | Knowledge of Emergency Food Programs | January 2014 |
| Sheldon Presser (for Cecilia Zalkind) | Advocates for Children of New Jersey (formerly known as Association for Children of New Jersey) | Advocates for Children of New Jersey | Indefinite |
| Pat Swartz (for Acting Commissioner Richard E. Constable III) | Department of Community Affairs | Department of Community Affairs | Indefinite |
| Rose Tricario (for Secretary Douglas H. Fisher) | Department of Agriculture | Department of Agriculture | Indefinite |

HPAC Expenditures



As of June 2011, HPAC has exhausted all of the funding from the original \$5 million allocation in the New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act. The funds were disbursed as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| \$ 90,000 | For gleanings (funds to the Department of Agriculture) |
| \$ 600,000 | Funds for the acquisition of food (distributed to the six regional food banks during CY 2002) |
| \$1,500,000 | Funds for the acquisition of food (distributed to the six regional food banks (CY 2004) |
| \$ 500,000 | Funds for the acquisition of food (distributed to the six regional food banks (1/1/05 – 6/30/05) |
| \$ 250,000 | Rutgers Study (Legislatively mandated) |
| \$ 500,000 | To Department of Agriculture to support emergency feeding organizations (\$125,000 for four years) |
| \$1,000,000 | Funds for the acquisition of food (distributed to the six regional food banks 11/05) |
| \$ 250,000 | Funds for the acquisition of food (distributed to the six regional food banks 7/08) |
| \$ 310,000 | Funds for the acquisition of food (distributed to the six regional food banks (1/10) |
| \$5,000,000 | Total Expenditures |
| \$0 | Balance Available |



New Jersey Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee
2011 Report

10th Anniversary Edition
2001 to 2011

