

## Why the Farm Bill Matters

The farm bill provides the heart of our collective commitment that no one in New York or anywhere across this great nation should go hungry. The nutrition assistance programs contained in this legislation feed tens of millions of children, seniors, veterans and other hungry Americans in every county across the United States.

### THE NEED IN NEW YORK

In New York, 11.9% of people are food insecure, including 17.9% of children and 10.0% of seniors. Farm bill programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), provide food to those in need in New York. Feeding America's network of 200 food banks across the country, including 9 that serve New York, works in partnership with these programs to support food insecure individuals and families.

### SERVING THE NEED IN NEW YORK

The 2,352,940 food insecure individuals in New York need an additional \$1,242,696,000 to meet their annual food budget shortfall. Unfortunately, 25.9% of these individuals live in households that earn too much to qualify for food assistance from federal nutrition programs such as SNAP. For the 608,790 of New Yorkers who are ineligible for SNAP, but remain food insecure, TEFAP and food banks play a vital role in nourishing those in need in the community. Together, TEFAP and SNAP provide essential resources for millions of food insecure individuals and allow food banks to expand their focus to include job training, nutrition education, and other programming. Through public private partnerships, local food banks in New York are one step closer to closing the meal gap and ensuring all New Yorkers have access to nutritious food.

### DIRECTLY HELPING NEW YORK

In FY2017, SNAP provided food assistance directly to approximately 2,911,000 individuals in New York, roughly 71.6% of whom are children, seniors, or people with disabilities. The program provided \$4,737,481,755 in food benefits to New York, generating around \$8,053,718,984 in economic activity. SNAP supports nutrition education efforts (SNAP-ed) in New York as well as employment and training programs to help beneficiaries gain skills and work experience necessary to move toward self-sufficiency. New York received around \$71,281,277 for employment and training programs in FY2016. The broad reach of the SNAP program is further supplemented by the nutritious food made available through TEFAP, CSFP, and other federal programs.

### SUPPORTING PROGRAMS IN NEW YORK

TEFAP is an especially cost effective federal investment, providing 90 cents on the dollar in food benefits to food banks and communities in need. TEFAP supplements resources available to our nation's food banks and food pantries, enabling them to feed millions more families each year. Organizations in New York received \$17,346,434 in TEFAP food funding in 2017. CSFP also provides American-grown, healthy commodities to individuals at least 60 years old and operates in 49 states, Puerto Rico, and three Indian Tribes. New York received \$9,529,379 in FY2017 to help around 32,945 seniors.

## NEW YORK NEEDS OUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO PUSH FOR A STRONG FARM BILL

Feeding America supports a bipartisan farm bill that strengthens the national commitment to reducing hunger. Charitable donations alone cannot ensure families have adequate access to nutritious food. TEFAP funds one in five meals provided through Feeding America food banks. In addition, for every meal Feeding America provides, SNAP provides twelve. Feeding America urges Congress to protect SNAP and increase TEFAP funding to \$350 million per year in the next Farm Bill to reduce hunger in our communities.