How Libraries Can Alleviate Hunger Amid COVID-19 & Beyond
Questions about Summer Reading or how to get more involved with the Summer Meals program? Reach out to Sharon Phillips at nyslyouth@nysed.gov or Hunger Solutions New York at Krista.Hesdorfer@HungerSolutionsNY.org.
Ideas for promoting and collaborating on Summer Reading 2021

- Use 2021 CSLP PSAs to inform students and families about Summer Reading and encourage them to sign up and participate! Find the PSAs at [https://www.summerreadingnys.org/librarians-educators/le-kids-video-audio/](https://www.summerreadingnys.org/librarians-educators/le-kids-video-audio/)

- Work with local public libraries to coordinate on Summer Meals. Many libraries may be interested in bringing Summer Reading and Learning activities to school or district meal distribution sites – it's a great way to keep families and kids connected and engaged with learning.

- Share this resource within your networks: [Read Up!](https://www.summerreadingnys.org/). A free 26-page resource for Summer Food Service Program sites and other feeding sites outside of libraries, featuring easy-to-implement enrichment activities that support reading, creativity, and fun.
Libraries and Summer Food information on the CSLP site

- Find information and resources at: https://www.cslpreads.org/libraries-and-summer-food/#introduction


- CSLP Summer Meals Talking Points Flyer

- “CSLP – Feeding the Whole Child: Libraries and Food” Facebook group
  https://www.facebook.com/groups/2383790818612681/
There are MANY ways for libraries to be involved with Summer Meals to help students and families gain information and access to benefits and nutritious food all summer long...Just ask us!

• Find outreach materials on the Hunger Solutions NY partner page of the Summer Reading site at https://www.summerreadingnys.org/hunger-solutions/
Who are we?

Hunger Solutions New York is a statewide anti-hunger organization.

We increase awareness of, support for, and participation in federal nutrition assistance programs.
Agenda

- Food Insecurity Amid COVID-19
- Federal Nutrition Programs
  - Summer Meals
  - CACFP
  - School Meals
  - Pandemic-EBT
  - WIC
  - SNAP
- Q&A
Feeding America projects an increase of more than 480,000 food insecure New Yorkers.¹

People of color and households with children are especially hard hit.

Food insecurity is linked with negative health and academic outcomes.²

¹ Feeding America. (2021). The Impact of Coronavirus on Food Insecurity.
Federal nutrition programs:

- **Decrease food insecurity** and improve health and academic outcomes.¹

- Leverage federal funds to provide **sustainable, responsive** food access.

- **Benefit local economies.**

Still, these programs are **under-tapped.**

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Summer Food Service Program

- Provides healthy meals for kids during the summer break from school.

- Operates through local:
  - **Sponsors**, such as school districts or food banks that manage the program and procure meals.
  - **Sites**, the locations where kids get meals (including libraries!).

- At “open” sites, **all kids & teens age 18 and under** can receive meals at no cost.
In a normal year:

- Children must eat at the site.
- Sites must be located in eligible low-income areas, where 50% or more of the community’s children qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.

Those requirements are waived for 2021, allowing:

- Grab-and-go meals
- Parent/guardian pick-up
- Sites in all areas
• In a typical summer, we reach only 1 in 4 of NY’s low-income children with summer meals.

• The good news: an increasing number of libraries are serving summer meals.
  • 2014: 36 library sites
  • 2019: 129 library sites

Source: Hunger Solutions New York NYS Summer Food Service Program Status Report. Raw data provided by NYS Education Department.
Summer Meals at NYS Libraries

Summer reading and summer meals are a natural fit.

- Healthy meals **fuel learning**.
- Activities **reduce stigma** and keep families coming back.

"It was easy to do, brought families to the library, served our existing patrons, and feeds hungry kids."

- Margie Menard, Director, Kingston Library, Ulster County
Grow Summer Meals

• Share information with families
  • Visit SummerMealsNY.org to find sites & outreach resources

• Partner with a local sponsor to serve meals and/or provide activities:
  o Summer Meals Sponsor Directory
  o If your local school district is not (yet) in the directory, reach out about their plans

• Learn more: SummerMealsNY.org
Child and Adult Care Food Program

• Reimburses for healthy meals and snacks served to youth in child care and afterschool programs.

• ~50% of NY child care providers participate in CACFP.

• Only 6.1 out of every 100 low-income NY students have access to afterschool meals.

• Encourage more child care & afterschool programs to join: ChildcareMealsNY.org & AfterschoolMealsNY.org
Good news: most schools are providing free meals to all kids during the 20-21 school year!

Hot off the press: Schools will be able to offer free meals to all for the 21-22 school year, too – stay tuned for more details & outreach opportunities.

Learn more: SchoolMealsHubNY.org
Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT)

- P-EBT is a **new** crisis response program that provides EBT food benefits to:
  - **Children who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals** and are learning remotely.
  - **Some SNAP-participating children ages 0-5.**
- NY will be issuing benefits for the 20-21 school year in the coming months - details TBA.
- **Stay tuned for outreach resources:** HungerSolutionsNY.org/PEBT
The Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides pregnant women, new and breastfeeding moms, and children under the age of 5 with:

• Healthy food
• Breastfeeding support
• Nutrition advice
• Referrals to services
• When women are pregnant, they need vitamins and minerals more than ever.
• Good nutrition during pregnancy and in the first years of a child’s life is very important.
• Research shows that women who use WIC have healthier births and children who use WIC do better in school.

Source: The State Of WIC: Healthier Pregnancies, Babies and Young Children during COVID-19, National WIC Association, 2021
WIC helps dads, too.
& grandparents
& foster parents
& step-parents
& guardians...

Others Can Apply for Children in Their Care

- Dads
- Grandparents
- Step-parents

- Foster parents
- Guardians
Good nutrition during pregnancy and in the first years of a child’s life is very important.

Many families are eligible for WIC but not participating.
WIC Participation over time

New York State
WIC Coverage Rates for All Participant Categories by County, 2014

Coverage Rate: All
- Less Than 30% (2)
- 31% - 40% (10)
- 41% - 50% (29)
- 51% - 60% (16)
- Greater Than 60% (5)

2014

NYS Coverage Rate: 57.9%

Eligible estimates based on 2010-14 American Community Survey and 2010 Census Data. Caseload derived from CT005Q April, 2014

ERSU - Aug 2018
WIC Participation over time

New York State
WIC Coverage Rates for All Participant Categories by County, 2015

Coverage Rate: All
- Less Than 30% (5)
- 31% - 40% (22)
- 41% - 50% (26)
- 51% - 60% (6)
- Greater Than 60% (3)

NYS Coverage Rate: 53.2%

Eligible estimates based on 2011-15 American Community Survey and 2010 Census Data. Caseload derived from CT005Q April, 2015
ERSU - Aug 2018
WIC Participation over time

New York State
WIC Coverage Rates for All Participant Categories by County, 2016

Coverage Rate: All
- Less Than 30% (7)
- 31% - 40% (25)
- 41% - 50% (24)
- 51% - 60% (4)
- Greater Than 60% (2)

NYS Coverage Rate: 51.1%

Eligible estimates based on 2012-16 American Community Survey and 2010 Census Data. Caseload derived from CT005Q April, 2016
ERSU - Aug 2018
New York State
Preliminary WIC Coverage Rates for All Participant Categories by County, 2019*

Coverage Rate: All
- Less Than 30% (11)
- 31% - 40% (30)
- 41% - 50% (18)
- 51% - 60% (3)
- Greater Than 60% (0)

NYS Coverage Rate: 43.5%

* 2019 NYS Eligibles Not Yet Available
Eligible estimates based on 2014-18 American Community Survey and 2010 Census Data. Caseload blended from WICSIS and NYWIC April, 2019
eWIC is here!

- Paper WIC checks are a thing of the past. eWIC is a new way to shop with WIC.
- The eWIC card acts just like a debit card.
- Families can buy food when it works best for them.
- Participants must use all of their benefits by the end of a thirty day cycle.

How does WIC work?: eWIC & WIC2Go app

- Benefit balance
- Approved foods
- UPC scanner
- Clinic locator
- Store locator
- WIC appointments
Help Promote WIC

Visit the **WICHelpNY.org Resource Center** for resources in English and Spanish.

Good nutrition during pregnancy and in the first years of your child’s life is very important.

WIC provides pregnant women, new and breastfeeding moms, and children under age 5 with healthy food, breastfeeding support, nutrition advice, and referrals to other services. Dads, grandparents, and caregivers can also apply for children in their care.

WIC can improve lifetime health for women, their infants, and young children. WIC may be able to help you and your child!

**You may be eligible for WIC if you are:**
- Pregnant.
- A mother of a baby up to 6 months old.
- A mother of a breastfeeding baby up to 12 months old.
- A child under the age of 5.

**To get WIC, you and/or your child must:**
- Meet age and other eligibility rules.
- Live in New York State.
- Meet income guidelines, or receive benefits from Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF.

**WIC helps caregivers, too.**

Sometimes life takes an unexpected turn, and a child needs you. WIC can help.

If you are caring for a young child, they may be eligible for WIC. WIC provides healthy food, nutrition advice, and referrals to other services to kids under 5.

WIC means you have one less thing to worry about.

To learn more, visit WICHelpNY.org or call the Growing Up Healthy Hotline at 1-800-522-5006 and ask for help with WIC.

**eWIC**

eWIC is a new way to shop with WIC benefits. eWIC includes a new electronic card that works just like a debit card. No more paper checks! The WICGo app makes shopping with WIC easier than ever.

**Oh, yeah! Shopping just got easier with eWIC!**

Shop for your WIC foods using your eWIC card:
- Swipe your eWIC card at the register just like a debit card.
- Buy food when it works best for you and your family. Just use all of your benefits before the end of your 30 day benefit cycle.
- Check your balance on the WICGo app.

It’s that easy!

For help with WIC, find your local WIC Help Specialist at WICHelpNY.org. WIC Help Specialists tell you if you may be eligible for WIC, and help you set up and prepare for your first appointment at a WIC clinic near you. It is free and confidential.

WIC Help Specialists are available in 20 counties across New York State. In other counties, call the Growing Up Healthy Hotline at 1-800-522-5006 and ask for help with WIC.
Why Focus on SNAP?

Our nation’s primary nutrition assistance program, providing monthly benefits to purchase food for all who meet program guidelines.

• SNAP participants receive an EBT Card
• Ratio of SNAP meals to Feeding America meals: 9:1
• Expands/contracts with economy:
  • Served 2.56 million New Yorkers in 1.47M HH in February 2020 ($139/p)
  • Served 2.76 million New Yorkers in 1.59M HH in January 2021 ($223/p)

Source: NYS OTDA caseload statistics
In the 21st Congressional District:

- Nearly 38,000 (14%) households used SNAP to buy food:
  - 72% of families have 1 or 2+ workers
  - 33% include children
  - 42% include a senior
  - 58% include a person with a disability

- SNAP benefits are redeemed at 711 grocers, farmers' markets, and other retailers.

View all NYS Congressional Districts’ data sheets here.

Current SNAP recipients who have lost food purchased with SNAP benefits due to recent power outages may be eligible for replacement SNAP benefits. Households have 10 days from the date of the incident to report a loss. 

Click here to access the toolkit, which includes:

- Outreach flyer for families
- Form to request benefits
- More information
SNAP Works. NOEP Helps.

The Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) offers free and confidential services to connect hungry New Yorkers with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP is our nation’s first line of defense against hunger, stretching the monthly food budgets of all who meet program guidelines. NOEP also provides referrals to other nutrition assistance programs.

To find a local NOEP Coordinator, visit FoodHelpNY.org

For assistance, visit myBenefits.ny.gov or call 844-366-3435

Updated 7/2018. Funded by NYSOTDA and USDA/FNS. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
NOEP Coordinators can:

- Conduct SNAP **outreach**.
- **Prescreen** for potential eligibility and benefit amount.
- Provide **application assistance**.
- Work with local social services offices, and if needed, help **resolve barriers**.
- Provide **referrals**.

All services are free and confidential.

[FoodHelpNY.org](http://FoodHelpNY.org)
HungerSolutionsNY.org/SNAP-Outreach-for-Schools/

SNAP & School Meals can help.

If you need help buying food, SNAP can help.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact families. Find out if your family is eligible for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). SNAP provides monthly benefits to help you buy food. If you are eligible for SNAP, you can continue to receive meals from your school.

You can get and use SNAP while social distancing:

- Everything you need to do to apply for and receive SNAP benefits can be done by phone or online—no need to visit a local social service office.
- Use SNAP benefits at local grocery stores or shop online at Amazon, Walmart, or ShopRite and have groceries delivered or picked up. (See their websites for availability in your area.)

Apply for SNAP online at MyBenefits.ny.gov

Need Help Applying?
The Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) helps families apply for SNAP. NOEP Coordinators help you see if you may be eligible for SNAP, answer questions, and help you complete and submit your application. It is free and confidential. Find your local NOEP Coordinator at FoodHelpNY.org or use the list on the back of this flyer.

Apply for SNAP at myBenefits.NY.gov

Funded by NYSOTDA, USDA/FRMS, FRAC, and The Walmart Foundation.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
Advocacy

Key legislative advocacy opportunities:

- Child Nutrition Reauthorization
- Farm Bill (SNAP)
- COVID-19 response

Sign up for updates: bit.ly/2G8tR84

View Hunger Solutions New York’s policy priorities
Trusted Messenger Actions

Cross Program Promotion

**SNAP:** [FoodHelpNY.org](http://FoodHelpNY.org)

**WIC:** [WICHelpNY.org](http://WICHelpNY.org)

**School Meals:** [SchoolMealsHubNY.org](http://SchoolMealsHubNY.org)

**Summer Meals:** [SummerMealsNY.org](http://SummerMealsNY.org)

**CACFP:** [AfterschoolMealsNY.org](http://AfterschoolMealsNY.org)

**Pandemic-EBT:** [HungerSolutionsNY.org/PEBT](http://HungerSolutionsNY.org/PEBT)

**COVID-19 Updates:**
[HungerSolutionsNY.org/COVID-19](http://HungerSolutionsNY.org/COVID-19)