



HUNGRY NEW YORKERS BARELY HANG ON



As Demand for Food at NYC Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens Continues to Soar,
Greater Hunger Catastrophe Avoided by Federal Aid from Stimulus Bill and Food Stamps

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Demand at New York City's 1,100-plus food pantries and soup kitchens increased by 6.8 percent overall in 2010, on top of a 20.8 percent increase in 2009. Despite this, most hungry New Yorkers were able to hang on, due in large part to a massive increase in federal anti-hunger funding through the stimulus package (the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, "ARRA") as well as higher rates of enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program). Similarly to 2009, stimulus spending and food stamps program participation prevented a greater hunger catastrophe.

SNAP is designed to be a counter-cyclical program, intended to expand during periods of higher unemployment and lower income. During this deep recession, the program has expanded in exactly the manner in which it was designed. As of September 2010, 1.7 million New Yorkers received SNAP/food stamp benefits, an enormous increase of over 200,000 people since June 2009. SNAP will provide more than \$3.2 billion of federal funding for food purchases in New York City alone in 2010 (a \$458 million jump over 2009 and a \$1.35 billion increase over 2008) not only significantly boosting the City's economy, but also dwarfing the per-household value of food provided by food pantries and soup kitchens.

In 2009, one in eight households in New York State was classified by the federal government as "food insecure," meaning that household could not afford an adequate supply of food, according to new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) data analyzed by the Coalition. On average, between 2007 and 2009, 12.4 percent of households in New York State were food insecure, a statistically significant 26.5 percent increase from the average rate of food insecurity in 2004-2006 (9.8 percent). Nationwide, 17.4 million households, and 50.2 million people, were classified as food insecure in 2009.

This year, food pantries reported the average monthly value of food they distribute per household at around \$98, compared to the average monthly benefit for a household receiving SNAP/food stamp benefits in New York City, estimated at \$289.45. Stimulus spending boosted monthly SNAP/food stamp benefits by 13.6 percent (For a household of three, this would amount to \$63 more per month). As more New Yorkers received SNAP/food stamps benefits and those already enrolled in the program received greater resources, New York City's emergency food providers (soup kitchens and food pantries, or EFPs) were slightly better able to meet growing demand (see Chart 1).

¹ City of New York, Department of Social Services, NYC Human Resources Administration, "Trend in Food Stamp Recipients 2006-2010." 2010. http://www.nyc.gov/html/hra/downloads/pdf/fs_new.pdf

² City of New York, Department of Social Services, NYC Human Resources Administration, Facts. http://www.nyc.gov/html/hra/html/statistics/hra_facts.shtml and United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service. Program Data: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/snapmain.html>

³ Mark Nord, Alisha Coleman-Jensen, Margaret Andrews, and Steven Carlson. United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service Report #108. "Household Food Security in the United States, 2009." November 2010. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR108/ERR108.pdf>

⁴ Joe Richardson, Jim Monke, and Gene Falk. Congressional Research Service, CRS Report for Congress. "Reducing SNAP (Food Stamp) Benefits Provided by the ARRA: P.L. 111-226 & S.3307." August 20, 2010.

This year, 51.4 percent of agencies reported that they were not able to meet current demand, down from 55.3 percent in 2009 and 68.6 percent in 2008. The New York City Coalition Against Hunger (NYCCA) believes it is totally unacceptable for more than half of the city's pantries and kitchens to lack enough food to meet the growing demand.

The 13.6 percent increase in SNAP/food stamp benefits from ARRA (stimulus) brought an additional \$453 million in purchasing power to NYC SNAP/food stamp recipients, and thus, the NYC economy. However, recent legislation was passed that enacted provisions rolling back the increase earlier than planned. The President and Democratic leadership in Congress have pledged to work together to restore funding before the boost in SNAP/food stamp benefits is set to expire.

Seventy-nine percent of EFPs saw fastest growing need for their services among families with children, with 71 percent reported feeding an increased number of seniors. In addition, 69.9 percent of agencies saw higher volume among immigrant populations, the homeless (58.8 percent), and those with paid employment (59.6 percent).

This year's survey also reinforced the need for long-term, skilled volunteers at EFPs. Only 11.4 percent of feeding agencies reported needing unskilled volunteers for serving, packing, and distributing food. By comparison, 39.2 percent of kitchens and pantries did report needing long-term, skilled volunteers to assist with projects such as website development and grant-writing.

Because of stimulus spending, 71.4 percent of EFPs receiving federal FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program funding in the past 12 months also received either increased funding, or at least the same level of funding as the previous year (see Chart 2).

The hike in federal funding, continuing from last year, provided critical assistance to EFPs as City and State funding fell flat. The Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) and the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) saw program funding reduced or remain stagnant (See Charts 3 and 4). Without the continued stimulus funding, hungry New Yorkers would be much worse off.

CHART 1

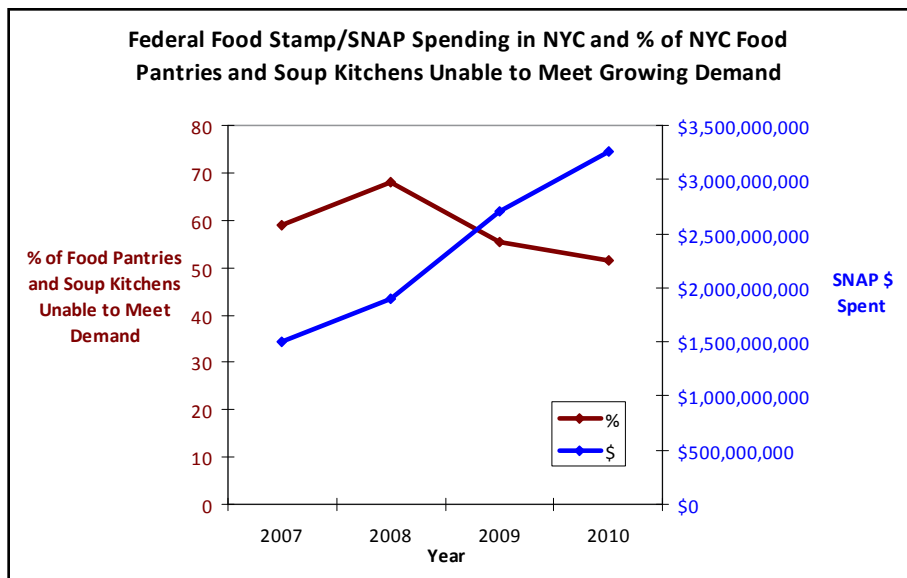


CHART 2

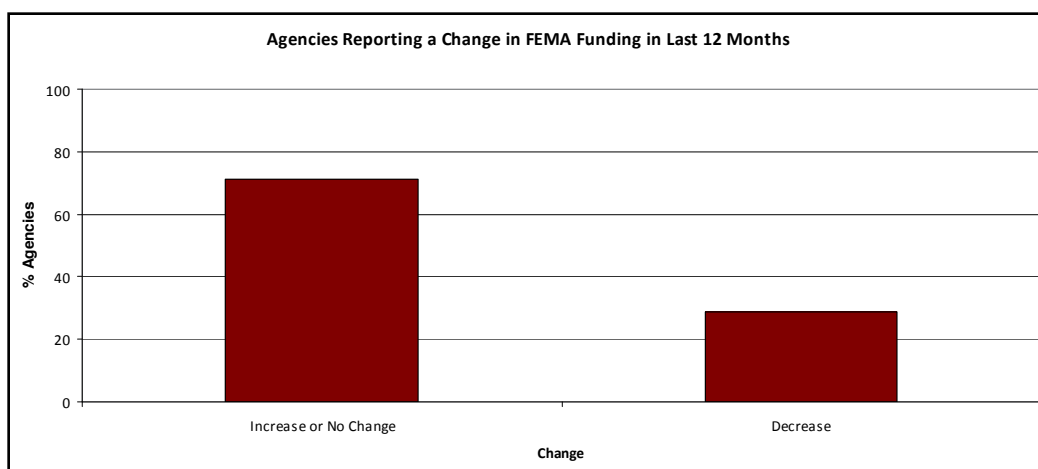


CHART 3

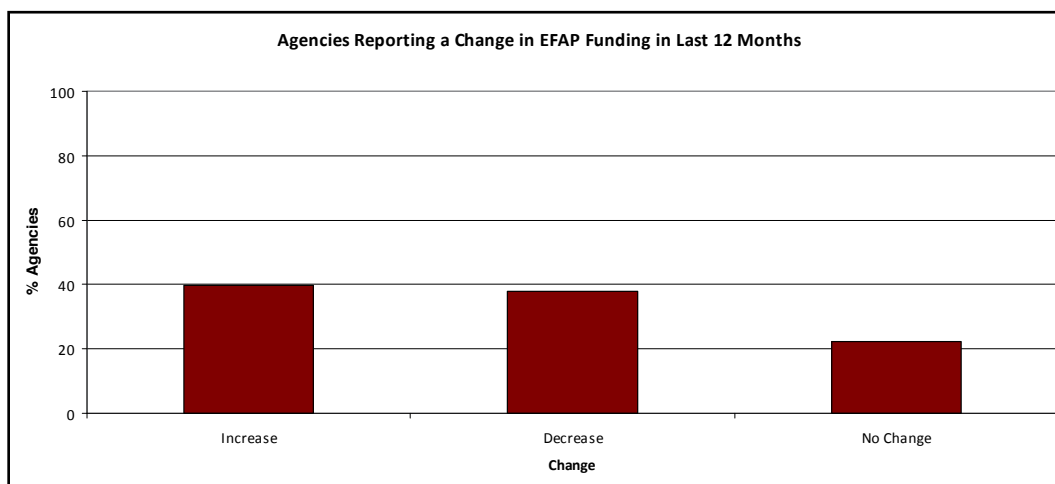


CHART 4

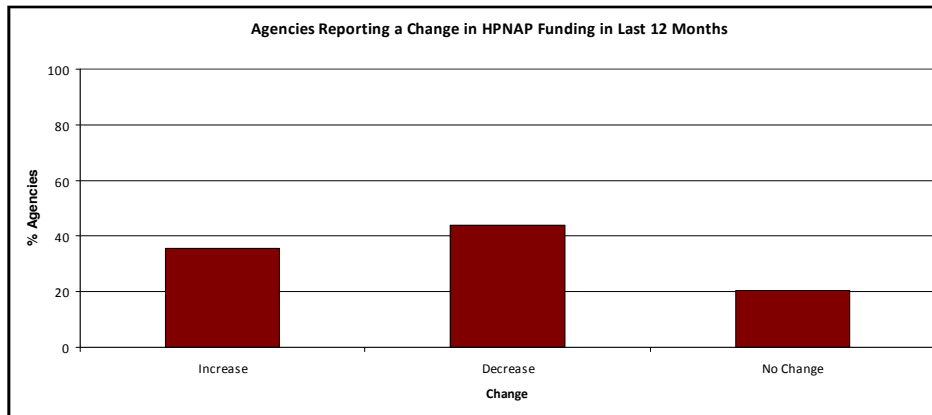
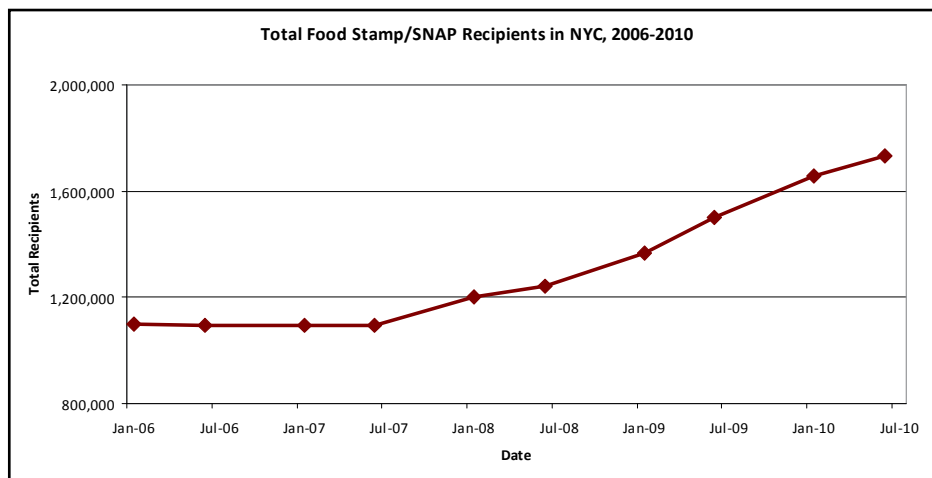


CHART 5



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This past year New Yorkers and the rest of the nation suffered in the economic downturn. Although the overall economy showed signs of limited improvement, at least on paper, the vast number of New Yorkers mired in long-term poverty, unemployment and under-employment, coupled with the growing number of middle-class New Yorkers who slipped into poverty during the recession, serve as stark reminders that a meaningful recovery for millions of poor and near-poor New Yorkers has yet to come.

While this year's survey results bring the unfortunate news that low-income people are still struggling, they nevertheless reinforce the importance of the stimulus package (ARRA) and the government's nutrition safety net in curtailing the recession.

More pantries and kitchens were able to meet the demand for their services than last year, which is a positive indicator that stimulus funding and entitlement programs such as SNAP/food stamp benefits can make a difference. Although the stimulus package costs money, the survey results reaffirm the notion that without government support, more New Yorkers would be hungry.

Over the past year, in New York City and nationwide, SNAP/food stamp benefits enrollment is at record levels; this serves as proof that need exists, and that in times of need, entitlement programs work.

As a nation, we need to ensure that ending hunger is a priority, and charity cannot and should not shoulder the bulk of this burden. To end hunger, we must reduce poverty. We need to acknowledge the importance of a strong safety net and the long-term savings that come from a well-nourished and healthy generation of children, despite the short-term costs of doing so.

2010 was supposed to be the year of Child Nutrition Reauthorization - at a time when the health and well-being of children is widely discussed; we are still waiting to pass the key bill that could ensure more children will have access to school meals. Pantries and kitchens reported large increases in the number of families with children using their services. This only reinforces the necessity of solving child hunger once and for all - at the very least, as a down payment on ending all hunger in what is still the wealthiest city, and wealthiest nation, in history.

Joel Berg
Executive Director
The New York City Coalition Against Hunger

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The 2010 questionnaire (Appendix 2) was originally mailed to a list of 1,167 agencies in New York City believed to run food pantries, soup kitchens, and/or some variety of emergency food program (EFP). This list was created through a combination of the Coalition's existing EFP database, member agency rosters maintained by the Food Bank for New York City and City Harvest, agencies that have previously worked with NYCCAH, and recipients of the HPNAP/ EFAP funding streams.

Following the original request for information, the Coalition made follow-up visits, phone calls, faxes and sent emails to as many agencies as possible in order to solicit responses. Agencies were encouraged to either mail/fax the questionnaire to the Coalition, or to complete it online using Survey Monkey, a web-based data collection service. In this sense, sampling was only partly random because agencies having pre-existing relationships with the Coalition received more encouragement to complete the survey. However, the breadth of survey responses, the consistency of the findings with previous surveys conducted by the Coalition and other organizations, and the number of responses from agencies having no pre-existing relationship with the Coalition assured us that this sample set was representative.

All paper surveys were entered into the Survey Monkey database by Coalition staff and volunteers. In total, 235 agencies returned surveys. Responding agencies who do not offer food to the public (either by walk-in or referral) were removed from subsequent analysis, leaving 216 usable surveys. Not all percentages total 100 percent due to rounding, respondents answering "unsure" to various questions, or checking multiple answers. The overall analyzed response rate for this survey was 235 responses out of a list of 1,167 agencies, or 20.1 percent.

RESPONSE RATES WITHIN BOROUGH:

	Respondents/ Total Agencies	% Response
Bronx	36/223	16.1%
Brooklyn	61/340	17.9%
Manhattan	70/354	19.7%
Queens	49/210	23.3%
Staten Island	11/40	27.5%

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

BREAK-DOWN OF RESPONDING AGENCIES:

Food Pantry	64.2%
Soup Kitchen	13.0%
Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry	20.9%
Other	4.7%

70.3 percent of respondents identified themselves as faith-based, religiously affiliated, or physically housed in a religious institution.

2010 CITY-WIDE SURVEY RESULTS

- ➔ 51.4% of agencies surveyed do not distribute enough food to meet current demand, down from 55.3% last year.
- ➔ 41% of responding agencies reported having to turn away hungry New Yorkers, cut portion sizes, and/or cut hours of operation in 2010 because they lacked resources.
- ➔ 81.3% of agencies that don't distribute enough food to meet demand said that if they received more food, they would have enough institutional capacity to increase the amount of food distributed (13.4% of respondents reported that even if they were to receive more food, they wouldn't have the administrative capacity to distribute more).
- ➔ 85.4% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the past 12 months. 53.9% said this number increased "greatly."
- ➔ Of the populations that increased "greatly" in the past 12 months, responding agencies reported seeing the fastest growing need for their services among families with children.
- ➔ 79% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of families with children over the past 12 months (versus 6.8% reporting a decrease, and 8% reporting no change).
- ➔ 75.1% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of seniors over the past 12 months (versus 6.6% reporting a decrease and 14.2% reporting no change).
- ➔ 59.6% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people with paid employment over the past 12 months (versus 10.5% reporting a decrease and 8.1% reporting no change).
- ➔ 58.8% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of homeless people over the past 12 months (versus 5% reporting a decrease and 16.3% reporting no change).
- ➔ 69.9% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of immigrants over the past 12 months (versus 8.6% reporting a decrease and 16.3% reporting no change).
- ➔ 82.8% of responding agencies believe that their need will continue to increase in the next six months. 40% of responding agencies believe it will increase "greatly."
- ➔ 58.1% of responding agencies reported receiving less overall food and money in the last 12 months (versus 16.1% reporting no change and 18.1% reporting an increase).
- ➔ 49.1% of responding agencies reported using their own personal money "often," "always," or "sometimes" to support their feeding programs.

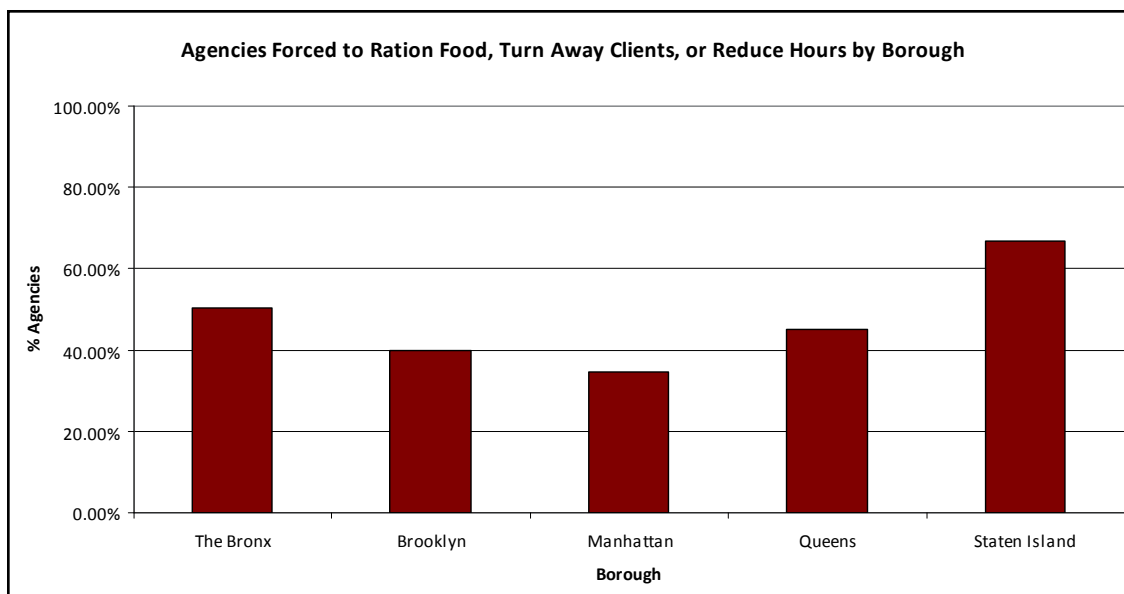
YEAR-TO-YEAR COMPARISONS

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
% of responding programs that are faith-based, religiously affiliated, or physically located in a religious institution	70.3%	75.5%	75.8%	73%	74%	72%
% of responding programs that are soup kitchens only	13.0%	11.2%	10.9%	9%	10%	11%
% of responding programs that are food pantries only	64.2%	66.4%	69.3%	65%	65%	64%
% of responding programs that are both food pantries and soup kitchens	20.9%	20.4%	17.2%	21%	18%	21%
% of responding agencies that don't have enough food to meet the current demand	51.4%	55.3%	68.6%	59%	47%	37%
% of responding agencies forced to ration food	41%	47.9%	58.8%	50%	44%	47%
% of responding agencies at which government money and food decreased in the past year	62.8%	52.0%	72.3%	51%	40%	41%
% of responding agencies at which overall money and food decreased in the past year	58.1%	51.9%	70.8%	50%	41%	41%
% that received support from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), funded by the Federal government	77.2%	73.7%	77.7%	56%	81%	70%
% that received support from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (ESFP), which is funded by the Federal government.	53.8%	45.8%	38.7%	49%	45%	56%
% that received support from the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) program, which is funded by the State	84.3%	85.2%	84.1%	80%	81%	84%
% that received support from the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP), which is funded by the City	72.7%	76.1%	77%	75%	73%	70%

2010 BOROUGH COMPARISONS

Borough	% of agencies at which demand for food increased	% of agencies at which the amount of food was not enough to meet growing demand	% of agencies forced to ration food by limiting portion size, reducing hours of operation, and/or turning people away
The Bronx	74.0%	46.2%	50.2%
Brooklyn	90.9%	64.4%	40.0%
Manhattan	84.8%	36.7%	34.6%
Queens	89.4%	57.5%	45.0%
Staten Island	100%	100%	66.7%

CHART 6



BRONX SURVEY RESPONSES

“We had to cut our “days” and “hours served” in order to be able to be a consistent source of emergency food to our community. Things have to change!”

- Rosemarie Rosa, Program Director, Cardinal McCloskey Services Outreach Center

- ➔ 74% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 44.4% said this number increased “greatly.”
- ➔ 41.7% of responding agencies reported that the number of families with children using their services increased “greatly,” and 31.8% said people with paid employment using their services increased “greatly.”
- ➔ 88% of responding agencies believe that the need will continue to increase over the next six months. 32% of responding agencies believe it will increase “greatly.”
- ➔ 52% of responding agencies reported receiving less government food and money in the last 12 months (and 8% reported no change).
- ➔ 63.7% of responding agencies reported receiving less overall food and money in the last 12 months (and 9.1% reported no change).
- ➔ 46.2% of responding agencies reported being unable to distribute enough food to meet demand.
- ➔ 50.2% of responding agencies reported having to turn away hungry New Yorkers, cut portion sizes, and/or cut hours of operation in 2010.
- ➔ 20% of responding agencies reported using personal money “often” or “always” to support their feeding programs (52% do this “sometimes,” “often,” or “always”).

BROOKLYN SURVEY RESPONSES

“We’ve seen a tremendous increase in the number of people in our area who need emergency food, especially in the past six months. Our program has almost doubled in the number of people we are serving, and the only way that we’ve been able to keep up with the demand is through the tremendous support we receive from volunteers. It takes a huge amount of physical labor to distribute food to so many people. While we’re happy to be able to perform such a valuable service, it would be far more efficient for our government to leverage the existing food distribution infrastructure (ie grocery stores) to help distribute food to poor and hungry people. We could do this by extending food stamps to a much more broad segment of society. By doing this, the government would be operating more efficiently and more people would be fed.”

- Co-Pastor Ann Kansfield, Greenpoint Reformed Church Food Pantry

- ➔ 90.9% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 59.1% said this number increased “greatly.”
- ➔ 48.8% of responding agencies reported that the number of families with children using their services increased “greatly,” and 39% also said seniors using their services increased “greatly.”
- ➔ 84.8% of responding agencies believe that the need will continue to increase in the next six months. 47.8% of responding agencies believe it will increase “greatly.”
- ➔ 67.5% of responding agencies reported receiving less government food and money in the last 12 months (and 12.5% reported no change).
- ➔ 60.5% of responding agencies reported receiving less overall food and money in the last 12 months (and 13.2% reported no change).
- ➔ 64.4% of responding agencies reported being unable to distribute enough food to meet demand.
- ➔ 40% of responding agencies reported having to turn away hungry New Yorkers, cut portion sizes, and/or cut hours of operation in 2010.
- ➔ 34.1% of responding agencies reported using personal money “often” or “always” to support their feeding programs (61.4% do this “sometimes,” “often,” or “always”).

MANHATTAN SURVEY RESPONSES

“On the ground, the demands and needs are increasing. While many supporters do spend time learning about the people and needs of the people we serve, too many do not. It would be wise, in fact I think it is demanded that those who arbitrarily cut funds in Albany spend time understanding the impact of their decisions, by joining us on the ground with the people we serve. This will always be a social justice issue, but no one should go hungry while we figure out how to bring food and hope to the people who are marginalized and for whom we are ultimately responsible.”

- Ray Bagnuolo, Pastor/Head of Staff and Executive Director of Outreach,
Jan Hus Presbyterian Church Homeless Outreach Advocacy Program

- ➔ 84.8% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 49.2% said this number increased “greatly.”
- ➔ 37.5% of responding agencies reported that the number of immigrants using their services increased “greatly,” and 35.3% also said families with children increased “greatly.”
- ➔ 79.3% of responding agencies believe that the need will continue to increase in the next six months. 29.3% of responding agencies believe it will increase “greatly.”
- ➔ 71.7% of responding agencies reported receiving less government food and money in the last 12 months (and 18.9% reported no change).
- ➔ 63.5% of responding agencies reported receiving less overall food and money in the last 12 months (and 17.3% reported no change)
- ➔ 36.7% of responding agencies reported being unable to distribute enough food to meet current demand.
- ➔ 34.6% of responding agencies reported having to turn away hungry New Yorkers, cut portion sizes, and/or cut hours of operation in 2010 because they lacked resources.
- ➔ 14.3% of responding agencies reported using personal money “often” or “always” to support their feeding programs (44.7% do this “sometimes,” “often,” or “always”).

QUEENS SURVEY RESPONSES

“Same story different year. Once again we have corporate and military interests trumping all others. There is more than enough money to meet the needs of all but with continued mismanagement and skewed priorities by our political and legal systems, most of us are even worse off than ever. I am hopeful that one day we will be able to figure out the strategy to topple the latest robber baron oligarchy, but it will not be just because we are right. Of course we are: when some can’t afford a Metro card for a doctor’s appointment while others sip \$200.00 wine at an ordinary lunch, it will take more than that.”

- Christy Robb, Director of Community Outreach, Hour Children

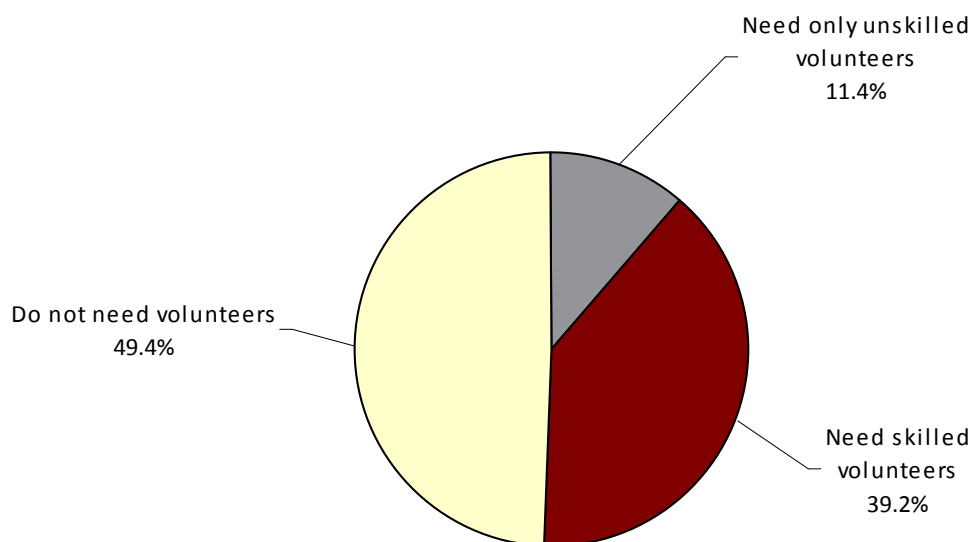
- ➔ 89.4% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 60.5% said this number increased “greatly.”
- ➔ 48.6% of responding agencies reported that the number of families with children using their services increased “greatly,” and 33.3% also said seniors and immigrants using their services increased “greatly.”
- ➔ 80.4% of responding agencies believe that the need will continue to increase in the next six months. 46.3% of responding agencies believe it will increase “greatly.”
- ➔ 47.1% of responding agencies reported receiving less government food and money in the last 12 months (and 11.8% reported no change).
- ➔ 45.5% of responding agencies reported receiving less overall food and money in the last 12 months (and 21.2% reported no change).
- ➔ 57.5% of responding agencies reported being unable to distribute enough food to meet demand.
- ➔ 45% of responding agencies reported having to turn away hungry New Yorkers, cut portion sizes, and/or cut hours of operation in 2010.
- ➔ 12.5% of responding agencies reported using personal money “often” or “always” to support their feeding programs (45% do this “sometimes,” “often,” or “always”).

STATEN ISLAND SURVEY RESPONSES

- ➔ 100% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 100% said this number increased “greatly.”
- ➔ 100% of responding agencies reported that the number of families with children using their services increased “greatly.”
- ➔ 100% of responding agencies believe that the need will continue to increase in the next six months. 83.3% of responding agencies believe it will increase “greatly.”
- ➔ 83.3% of responding agencies reported receiving less government food and money in the last 12 months (and 0% reported no change).
- ➔ 50% of responding agencies reported receiving less overall food and money in the last 12 months (and 16.7% reported no change).
- ➔ 100% of responding agencies reported being unable to distribute enough food to meet demand.
- ➔ 66.7% of responding agencies reported having to turn away hungry New Yorkers, cut portion sizes, and/or cut hours of operation in 2010.
- ➔ 16.7% of responding agencies reported using personal money “often” or “always” to support their feeding programs (50% do this “sometimes,” “often,” or “always”).

FINDINGS ON VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Volunteer Needs Among Emergency Food Providers



Every year between October and December, people think of volunteering at food pantries and soup kitchens to feed the hungry during the holidays. This year's survey of emergency food providers reinforced the Coalition's emphasis that while volunteerism is necessary, what pantries and kitchens really need are skilled volunteers to help with such tasks as website design, grant writing, and computer assistance throughout the year.

A mere 11.4 percent of responding programs need only unskilled volunteers to do things such as serve soup and work in the pantry. On the other hand, 39.2 percent of responding agencies reported needing long-term skilled volunteers. If New Yorkers gave their time and skills to pantries and kitchens year-round, emergency food providers would be better able to assist hungry New Yorkers.

APPENDIX 1: SELECTED QUOTES FROM SURVEY RESPONDENTS

BRONX

“The main issue for us, as with most food pantries, is that we need more resources. Even though I usually recommend other pantries to my clients, they won’t go. They like coming to Homee Clinic because I always give out fresh fruits and vegetables and recipes on how to fix nutritious meals with their pantry bags. Because of the economy people are not donating like they used to. If I got more funds that would help a lot. In the meantime I do the best with what I have.”

- Alice M. Morris, Food Pantry Coordinator, H.O.M.E.E. Clinic Inc.

“We got a grant for a little over \$4,000 this year and \$900 which isn’t much because you can spend \$4,000 on one order and you will only have enough for one month and a half. Every time we pack it is for 250 people and sometimes it is not enough so we have people coming through the week for emergency food.”

- Anonymous, Bright Temple AME Church

“Food pantry was cut in early 2010.”

- Harold Swann, New Era Veteran’s FNC

“SEND FOOD! PEOPLE NEED IT.”

- David Edelstein, Director, Jewish Community Council of Pelham Parkway

BROOKLYN

“The number of persons coming to our food pantry has increased. Our funding has decreased. The price of food items has increased. We have already used half of our HPNAP grant because TEFAP does not have many food items. It seems as if we will have to decrease our distribution from twice a month per person to once a month.”

- Beverley Smith-Hutson, Food Program Coordinator, Church of St. Mark

“I have noticed that the increase in the nutritional quality of the food supplied to food pantries by the Food Bank and United Way has been a welcome change in impacting the long-term health of the community members served.”

- Mireille Massac, Public Relations Coordinator, Child Development Support Corporation

“A greater need for kosher products.”

- Anon, Crown Heights Jewish Community Council

“Funding is needed to meet the increasing demands. Clients with special needs need more choice at the pantry. We need funding for salaries at the pantry. Volunteers come and so each pantry needs a salaried person who can take responsibility and be accountable to the director. These non paying positions are becoming too demanding!”

- Sister Burley, Executive Director, Chance for Children

MANHATTAN

“We have had to keep the number of participants steady as we can not handle the increased demand both because of staffing and capacity in addition to funding issues. We are an all-volunteer program with no paid staff in a very under-resourced space so it is difficult to keep expanding the program. In addition, funding and costs are going in opposite directions leaving us in a position where we can not adequately increase number of served participants without cutting quantity and quality.”

- Christy Robb, Co-Director, Yemaya

“The St. Francis of Assisi Breadline is operated by donations from the public - we receive no monies, food, etc, from any city, state or federal agencies. It cost us about \$800,000 a year to run the Breadline and from what we receive from donations, 95 percent goes right to the line and 5 percent to secretary services. To receive financial aid would certainly be welcomed.”

- Director of St. Francis of Assisi Breadline, St. Francis of Assisi Breadline

“Our food pantry is very small. We are able to give because our congregation donates money or canned goods. We have no other kind of help from any organization.”

- Sofie Pilarte, Administrative Assistant, West End Presbyterian Church

“In the first two months of FY’11: we paid for 71 percent of food, and only 29 percent was donated. Total 216,930 lbs. If this trend goes on, we will have to cut back, or raise more money.”

- Doreen Wohl, Executive Director, West Side Campaign Against Hunger

“Volunteers are always needed. We need to concentrate not just on giving individuals a fish to eat but teaching them how to fish.”

- President/Senior Pastor Reverend Dr. Dominick Reyes, A New Beginning

QUEENS

“Our church has invested greatly in this program but the situation has been very critical since 9/11 and present economic turmoil as many of our members have become unemployed. Because of this, financial support has decreased on local level.”

- Mr. Pierre Sanon, Director of Community Services, Jackson Heights SDA Community Services

“The food pantry has grown tremendously in the past year. The senior population needing food and services is growing every week. Working families who are not making enough money to take care of the children are also increasing. Also immigrants unable to find jobs are depending on the pantries’ help to survive.”

- Ruth D. Meletiche, Director of Community Services, St. Teresa of Avila Community Services

“Our original HPNAP allocation was \$6,500. Later we received additional funding totaling \$9,500. The additional funding from HPNAP and City Harvest as well as new funding from EFAP made it possible for us to provide food for our rapidly growing number of clients. The number of clients we served in September was more than double the number served in June.”

- Sarah M. Capers, Executive Director, National Sorority Phi Delta Kappa

APPENDIX 2: SURVEY LETTER & QUESTIONNAIRE



Dear Emergency Food Provider:

How does filling-out the New York City Coalition Against Hunger's (NYCCA's) annual survey concretely help fight hunger? Three ways:

1. It helps us make the case to both private and government funders to increase donations to organizations like yours.
2. It enables us to obtain more media attention to the problem of hunger.
3. It boosts our efforts to convince elected officials and business leaders to enact governmental and economic policies to reduce hunger and poverty.

Last year – with your help – we collected surveys from over 250 soup kitchens and food pantries citywide. As a result, your continued struggle to feed your neighbors received coverage from almost every major television station and newspaper, and obtained increased attention from many elected officials.

Your participation in this survey is vital! Attached here is NYCCA's annual hunger survey. As always, these surveys include questions about your program and the customers/clients you serve. All your information will be kept confidential and anonymous. Best of all, if you have an Internet connection, you can quickly and conveniently complete the survey online at www.nyccah.org/survey.

If you prefer to complete the paper survey, please return it to the person who gave it to you, or fax it to us at (212) 825-0267 or mail it to: NYCCA, 50 Broad St, Suite 1520 New York, New York 10004. The deadline for responding is Friday, October 22nd.

If you have any questions or would like someone to assist you in completing the survey, please call Amin Montgomery at 212-825-0028 x 202. If you have already received and completed this survey, thank you. Remember, information is power. Together, we can help your clients get that power.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Berg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joel Berg
Executive Director

APPENDIX 2: SURVEY LETTER & QUESTIONNAIRE

2010 Survey of Food Pantries & Soup Kitchens

2010 Survey of NYC Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens

PLEASE consider completing this survey online at www.nyccah.org/survey.

Otherwise, return this completed survey by **October 22nd** to the person who brought it to you, or mail it to NYCCAH, 50 Broad St, Suite 1520, New York, NY 10004, or fax it to 212.825.0267. Questions? Call us at 212.825.0028, ext. 202.

Section 1: Preferred Contact Information

1. What kind of food program do you run? (Check **ONE**)

- Soup kitchen
 Food pantry
 Both a soup kitchen and a food pantry
 Other type of emergency food program (explain) _____
 We have never run a feeding program (if you check this box, we'll take you off our list)
 We previously ran a feeding program and it closed on (date) _____

2. Your name: _____

3. Your title / role: _____

4. Your food program / agency formal name: _____

5. Where do you serve or distribute food? (not your mailing address, if different)

Street address: _____

City: _____, State: NY Zip: _____

6. Phone number of agency / program: (□ □ □) □ □ □ - □ □ □ □

7. Fax Number of agency / program: (□ □ □) □ □ □ - □ □ □ □

8. Email Address: _____

9. Website Address: _____

10. In what borough do you serve or distribute food?

- Brooklyn
 Bronx
 Manhattan
 Staten Island
 Queens

11. Is your agency / program mailing address the same or different from where you serve food?

- Same
 Different

12. If you answered "Different" above, what is your agency / program mailing address?

Address: _____

APPENDIX 2: SURVEY LETTER & QUESTIONNAIRE

City: _____, State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Section 2: Basic Program Information

13. Is your food program faith-based, religiously affiliated, or physically located in a religious institution (like a church, mosque or synagogue)?
 Yes No

14. When do you provide food in your **SOUP KITCHEN**?
 (If you don't run a soup kitchen, please skip to the **FOOD PANTRY** chart)

	Monday (check all times that apply)	Tuesday (check all times that apply)	Wednesday (check all times that apply)	Thursday (check all times that apply)	Friday (check all times that apply)	Saturday (check all times that apply)	Sunday (check all times that apply)
12 – 6 a.m.							
6 – 7 a.m.							
7 – 8 a.m.							
8 - 9 a.m.							
9 – 10 a.m.							
10 – 11 a.m.							
11 a.m. – Noon							
Noon – 1 p.m.							
1 – 2 p.m.							
2 – 3 p.m.							
3 – 4 p.m.							
4 – 5 p.m.							
5 – 6 p.m.							
6 – 7 p.m.							
7 – 8 p.m.							
8 p.m. –12 a.m.							

This schedule applies for:

- First week of the month
- Second week of the month
- Fourth week of the month
- Third week of the month

APPENDIX 2: SURVEY LETTER & QUESTIONNAIRE

15. When do you provide food in your **FOOD PANTRY**?

	Monday (check all times that apply)	Tuesday (check all times that apply)	Wednesday (check all times that apply)	Thursday (check all times that apply)	Friday (check all times that apply)	Saturday (check all times that apply)	Sunday (check all times that apply)
12 – 6 a.m.							
6 – 7 a.m.							
7 – 8 a.m.							
8 - 9 a.m.							
9 – 10 a.m.							
10 – 11 a.m.							
11 a.m. – Noon							
Noon – 1 p.m.							
1 – 2 p.m.							
2 – 3 p.m.							
3 – 4 p.m.							
4 – 5 p.m.							
5 – 6 p.m.							
6 – 7 p.m.							
7 – 8 p.m.							
8 p.m. –12 a.m.							

This schedule applies for:

- First week of the month Second week of the month
 Fourth week of the month Third week of the month

16. Is your food program open to the public (either by walk-in or referral)?

- Yes
 No

Section 3: Program Demand

17. Does your program currently distribute enough food to meet your demand? (check ONE)

- Yes, we DO distribute enough food to meet our current demand.
 No, we DO NOT distribute enough food to meet our current demand.
 Unsure

18. If you answered “No” above, which of the following statements best describes your current situation? (check ONE)

- If we received more food, we would have enough capacity (storage space, refrigeration, staff, and/or volunteers) to increase the amount of food we distribute.
 Even if we received more food, we would not have enough capacity to increase the amount of food we distribute.
 I do not know if we have the capacity to distribute more food.

APPENDIX 2: SURVEY LETTER & QUESTIONNAIRE

19. Please indicate how the number of people you serve has changed in the last year. For each line, check the box that is closest to the correct answer.

In the last year... (Oct. 2009–Sept. 2010)	<i>Greatly decreased</i>	<i>Somewhat decreased</i>	<i>No change</i>	<i>Somewhat increased</i>	<i>Greatly increased</i>	<i>Unsure</i>
Overall number of people needing food						
Homeless people						
People with paid employment						
Families with children						
Senior citizens (age 65+)						
Immigrants						

20. For **Soup Kitchens**: How many **meals** did you provide? (total should equal sum of columns)

<i>Time period</i>	<i>Children (under 18)</i>	<i>Adults (18–64)</i>	<i>Seniors (65+)</i>	<i>Total (must equal the sum of all 3 columns)</i>
All of 2005				
All of 2006				
All of 2007				
All of 2008				
All of 2009				
September 2009				
September 2010 (estimated)				
The first 6 months of 2010				
Estimated for all of 2010				

21. For **all programs**: How many **people** did you serve? (total should equal sum of columns)

<i>Time period</i>	<i>Children (under 18)</i>	<i>Adults (18–64)</i>	<i>Seniors (65+)</i>	<i>Total (must equal the sum of all 3 columns)</i>
All of 2005				
All of 2006				
All of 2007				
All of 2008				
All of 2009				
September 2009				
September 2010 (estimated)				
The first 6 months of 2010				
Estimated for all of 2010				

APPENDIX 2: SURVEY LETTER & QUESTIONNAIRE

22. In order to answer the previous questions, how did you get your answers?

- A count of non-duplicated individuals (only one person is counted even if they receive food more than one time)
- A count of the total people served (an individual may be counted more than once)

23. Were you forced to turn people away, reduce the amount of food distributed to each person, or limit your hours of operation because you lacked enough resources?

At any time in 2007? Yes No Unsure

At any time in 2008? Yes No Unsure

At any time in 2009? Yes No Unsure

At any time in 2010? Yes No Unsure

24. If you were forced to turn people away at any time for lack for resources, how many do you estimate were turned away? (total should equal sum of columns)

<i>Time period</i>	<i>Children (under 18)</i>	<i>Adults (18–64)</i>	<i>Seniors (65+)</i>	<i>Total (total should equal sum of columns)</i>
All of 2007				
All of 2008				
All of 2009				
September 2009				
September 2010 (estimated)				
The first 6 months of 2010				
Estimated for all of 2010				

25. How do you think the demand for food at your program will change in the next six months?

- Will greatly increase Will increase somewhat Will stay about the same
- Will decrease somewhat Will greatly decrease Unsure

APPENDIX 2: SURVEY LETTER & QUESTIONNAIRE

Section 4: Program Resources

26. How have your resources changed in the last year (October 2009–September 2010)?

For each line, check the box that is closest to the correct answer.

	<i>Greatly decreased</i>	<i>Somewhat decreased</i>	<i>No change</i>	<i>Somewhat increased</i>	<i>Greatly increased</i>	<i>Unsure / Don't know</i>
Government food & money						
Private food & money						
Total food & money						
Paid staff						
Unpaid staff / volunteers						

27. How often do you or your staff spend personal money on your food program? (check **ONE**)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Never | <input type="checkbox"/> Often |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Always |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure / Don't know |

28. Does your food program currently receive food or funding from any of the following sources?

EFAP (NYC) If so, did this funding increase or decrease in the last year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Increase <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease <input type="checkbox"/> Stay Same 2009 \$ _____ 2010 \$ _____
FEMA Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP) If so, did this funding increase or decrease in the last year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Increase <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease <input type="checkbox"/> Stay Same 2009 \$ _____ 2010 \$ _____
HPNAP (NY State) awarded through the Food Bank, United Way, Catholic Charities, or other sources	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Increase <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease <input type="checkbox"/> Stay Same 2009 \$ _____ 2010 \$ _____
TEFAP (USDA) delivered by the Food Bank	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure 2009 _____ lbs 2010 _____ lbs

29. **For food pantries only:** Please estimate the dollar value of food an average family can receive from your program in one month: \$ _____

30. Which of the following is your preferred form of communication from NYCCAH?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fax | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hard copy | |

APPENDIX 2: SURVEY LETTER & QUESTIONNAIRE

31. Which best describes your need for more volunteers? Please read carefully and check ONE:

- We already have enough volunteers for unskilled tasks like serving meals or packing pantry bags but we do need more long-term skilled volunteers for tasks such as accounting, fundraising, web design, legal assistance, etc....
- We need volunteers for both unskilled tasks like serving meals or packing pantry bags **and** we also need more long-term skilled volunteers for tasks such as accounting, fundraising, web design, legal assistance, etc...
- We need volunteers for unskilled tasks like serving meals or packing pantry bags but we don't need any long-term skilled volunteers.
- We don't need any more volunteers at this time.

32. Would you like someone from NYCCA to contact you about getting more volunteers?

- Yes No

Section 5: Other Comments

33. Please provide any additional comments. Feel free to attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

- Please check here if we have your permission to quote you in our annual survey.

Thank You!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, we thank the hundreds of soup kitchens and food pantries that took great care and time to answer our survey.

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