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STATEMENT FROM CARLOS M. RODRIGUEZ, PRESIDENT & CEO OF THE COMMUNITY FOODBANK OF NEW JERSEY, ON PROPOSED ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND TAX INCENTIVES REFORM PLAN

HILLSIDE, NJ-December 18, 2020

The economic recovery and tax incentives reform plan proposed by Governor Murphy and legislative leadership is a win for New Jersey, and most importantly, for food insecurity. With 1.2 million of our fellow New Jerseyans struggling with food insecurity because of this pandemic, we are especially pleased to see this economic recovery package include a Food Desert Relief program, which aims to reduce food deserts in areas of our state that are historically underserved by grocery stores and food markets. Along with SNAP and WIC, it will provide much needed food access and economic development where needed.

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The Community FoodBank of New Jersey (CFBNJ), a member of Feeding America®, has been delivering food, help and hope across the state for 45 years. Last year, CFBNJ provided nutritious food for over 66 million meals through its network of more than 1,000 community partners including pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, mobile pantries, and child and senior feeding programs throughout the 11 New Jersey counties it directly serves (Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset and Union). For our hungry neighbors, the Community FoodBank of New Jersey is the powerful agent of change that fills the emptiness caused by hunger and provides resources that are essential to earning a sustainable living.