# FOOD • HELP • HOPE



## A LOOK AT HOW THE COMMUNITY FOODBANK OF NEW JERSEY FIGHTS HUNGER

**FY22 FACT SHEET** 

#### THE PROBLEM

#### **Hunger Exists in Every New Jersey County**

38 million Americans are food insecure. They don't know if they'll have enough nutritious food for themselves and their families.

About 800,000 of them are in New Jersey, including approximately 200,000 children. They live in every county, city, and town across the state. They are our neighbors, coworkers, family, and friends.

The majority of households that CFBNJ serves have at least one member with a paying job. Some of our neighbors in need work multiple jobs but still struggle to make ends meet. They often make tough choices – deciding between food and other necessities.

Black and Hispanic families, as well as LGBTQ+ individuals, are disproportionately impacted by hunger, facing barriers to economic stability. College students, seniors, and residents of resort towns also face unique challenges that make them more susceptible to food insecurity.

Hunger is a major concern for those affected by emergencies, as well. Recently, we have seen pandemics, natural disasters, government shutdowns, and economic downturns increase need.

Today, while food insecurity rates have diminished from where they were at the height of the pandemic, participation in charitable food assistance remains elevated. At CFBNJ, we continue to distribute more food than ever before, about 50% more during any given month than we were providing pre-pandemic.

#### THE SOLUTION

#### Providing Food, Help and Hope – Together

The Community FoodBank of New Jersey started in the back of our founder's station wagon and is now the largest anti-hunger and anti-poverty organization in New Jersey. It has provided people across the state with food, help and hope for more than 45 years.

Today, CFBNJ has over 200 employees who fight hunger every day. We package food orders for local soup kitchens and food pantries, purchase and collect food for distribution, help people in need through resource access initiatives, reach communities with limited resources via mobile pantries, and encourage others to get involved.

Our warehouses – in Hillside and Egg Harbor Township – are the size of five football fields (total) and act as the hubs that bring in and distribute food.

CFBNJ PROVIDES FOOD TO MORE THAN 800 COMMUNITY PARTNERS – LIKE LOCAL SOUP KITCHENS, FOOD PANTRIES AND SHELTERS – THAT SERVE PEOPLE IN NEED IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.

Last year, CFBNJ distributed more than 85 million meals, 24-percent of which was fresh produce. We address hunger as a health issue - providing fruits and vegetables, nutrition education, and medical screenings to inspire positive lifestyles.







In addition to working with its community partners, CFBNJ has an array of programs that help meet the need.

## CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

#### Kids Cafe

Children receive nourishing after-school meals every weekday to make sure they don't sleep on empty stomachs. The program also has monthly nutrition education lessons.

#### **Family Packs**

Weekends and days off are especially difficult for hungry kids and their families. Family Packs provide New Jersey households with bags of supplemental food for the weekend, when kids miss school meals.

#### **Summer Nutrition**

Sites at schools and other public places (i.e. Boys & Girls Clubs, libraries, etc.) serve breakfasts and lunches for kids who are at risk of going hungry during the summer, when they don't receive the school meals they rely on.

#### **School Pantries**

Parents and children in high-need districts pick up nutritious food at on -site school pantries.

#### **JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS**

#### **Workforce Development**

As part of our efforts to shorten pantry lines, we provide job training to help those in need secure stable careers in kitchens, offices, and warehouses.





#### **Senior Boxes**

Monthly boxes of supplemental food reach seniors who live on fixed incomes that don't provide enough for their daily needs and who face mobility challenges.

#### **Mobile Pantries**

This program brings food directly to areas in South Jersey where there are not enough food pantries and soup kitchens to meet the need.

#### Hunger as a Health Issue

Our distribution of fresh produce, diabetes initiative, hospital partnerships, and SNAP-Ed nutrition education program support CFBNJ's efforts to address hunger as a health issue.

### **Hygiene Programs**

We provide diapers and period supplies to people who can't afford these necessary hygiene items.

### **College Pantries**

We work with campus pantries throughout the state to help struggling students

#### **Food Rescue**

We rescue millions of pounds of food that would otherwise be wasted through supermarket gleaning.

#### **Resource Access**

Our multilingual Resource Access team provides pre-screening and application assistance for SNAP, cash assistance, and energy assistance (LIHEAP).

#### **KEY TO SOLVING HUNGER** SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY

#### Donate Funds

Every \$1 donated helps CFBNJ provide 3 meals for people in need.

#### **Donate Food**

Fight hunger and reduce waste by donating food as a retailer or individual. You can also start a traditional or virtual food drive and encourage others to get involved.

#### Volunteers

Volunteers are the lifeblood of CFBNJ. Last year, they donated more than 44,000 hours - equivalent to about 21 full-time employees.

#### **DIY Fundraisers**

Host your own event to benefit CFBNJ (i.e. run a marathon or host dressdown day at work, etc.).

#### Advocate

Hunger is a 365-day-a-year issue that impacts us all. Share information about hunger and the work of CFBNJ through vour social channels.

#### WE'RE PROUD OF THE WAY WE MANAGE OUR FUNDS

At the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, we dedicate a remarkable 95.5 percent of our expenses to programs, and only 4.5 percent to administration and fundraising. We want you to know that when you support CFBNJ, more of the money goes to help fight hunger and poverty in New Jersey.

