



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT FROM ELIZABETH MCCARTHY, PRESIDENT & CEO OF THE COMMUNITY FOODBANK OF NEW JERSEY,
CALLING FOR SWIFT ACTION TO ADDRESS LARGE INCREASE IN FOOD INSECURITY
USDA's Household Food Security Report for 2022 shows that food insecure people increased by 10 million to 44 million

HILLSIDE, NJ—October 30, 2023

According to a report released last week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the number of people living in food insecure households increased by 10 million in 2022 to 44 million people. This marks the largest one-year increase in food insecurity since 2008.

With this alarming news, it's clearer than ever that food insecurity should be treated as an urgent crisis, despite lower unemployment and a reportedly improved economy. The end of pandemic-related federal safety nets and the high cost of food have stretched our neighbors' budgets to the breaking point. Across the Garden State, we've seen growing lines at pantries and heard heartbreaking stories from struggling parents, seniors, students, and more. To make matters worse, food donations and fundraising have decreased since the pandemic, making it harder for CFBNJ and our fellow food banks to meet the growing need.

To address this critical issue, we must not only provide immediate hunger relief, but also continue to engage with partners across sectors, geographies, and politics. CFBNJ joins Feeding America in calling for a strong Farm Bill that invests in nutrition programs, as well as a solution from Congress to ensure that there is no government shutdown.

When we work together and make sound policies a priority, hunger is a solvable problem. Now is the time to reaffirm our convictions and take action.

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[The Community FoodBank of New Jersey](https://www.cfbnj.org/) (CFBNJ), a member of Feeding America® and the state's largest anti-hunger organization, has been delivering food, help, and hope across the Garden State for nearly 50 years. Last year, CFBNJ provided nutritious food for over 90 million meals through its network of more than 800 community partners, including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, child and senior nutrition programs, and more, serving 11 New Jersey counties directly and four in partnership with affiliate food banks. It also addresses the root causes of food insecurity with supportive services like nutrition education, job training, SNAP outreach, and hygiene product distribution. By delivering neighbor-centered solutions and collaborating with all sectors of society, CFBNJ believes that food insecurity is a solvable problem.