



GETTING BY IN THE ERA OF SNAP CUTS

It's officially here. The promised cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are in force, increasing financial struggles for families across the city. Congress has enacted changes to reshape the program and implemented the program's largest funding cut since its creation through the Food Stamp Act of 1964. The goal has been simple: reduce the social safety net and redefine levels of need for low-income individuals and families receiving SNAP assistance.

The definition of who qualifies for benefits has been revised and there are stricter work requirements in order to receive SNAP benefits for more than three months in a 36-month period. How benefits are calculated also has shifted, with some families receiving much less support than in the past. Other changes include what foods are

allowed to be purchased with SNAP dollars and what goods grocery stores must offer. In addition, there is a new process and paperwork required for states and counties to administer the program. The final cut eliminated the nutrition education program, SNAP-Ed, which strengthens the impact of SNAP by helping families stretch their food dollars and make informed decisions about what they eat. NYCP's Live Healthy! program is funded through SNAP-Ed. These are the initial changes; more will hit in 2027 as states are required to take on more of the funding and will need to make additional program cuts.

These SNAP changes will drive even more people to our doors for food and assistance. Roughly 66% of our Choice Pantry members receive SNAP and still must rely on our Pantries for food. As always, New York Common Pantry's case managers will be there to help explain benefits, determine eligibility, recertify guests for their benefits and assist with paperwork submission. They are a port in the storm for our neighbors.

To meet the rising need, NYCP needs relief. We've pressed elected officials to fund programs and initiatives that support the emergency feeding network. On the State level, we have met with Assembly and Senate members these past few months to request: increased budgets for the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) and Nourish New York Initiative at \$75 million each; funding of \$8 million for the Nutrition and Education Outreach Program (SNAP enrollment); establishing a dedicated \$10 million pilot Innovation Fund to support frontline providers in meeting expanding community needs in ways that center on dignity and accessibility, and raising the NY State SNAP minimum to \$100.

On the city level, we've met individually with City Council members to ask directly for their support. In addition, we've been attending City Council hearings to testify about food insecurity in our communities and to request continued baseline funding of \$100 million for the Community Food Connection (CFC) to provide sustained, flexible support for the 500+ pantries and community kitchens serving 1M+ New Yorkers. Our requests also include maintaining the \$15 million in funding for the Feeding Our Communities program, increasing support for SNAP case management services needed to implement the new administrative requirements, and to provide a baseline budget of \$5-7 million to fund SNAP-Ed, to ensure families retain access to nutrition education and cost-saving skills.

With committed, sustained investment to frontline providers like NYCP, we can build a more equitable and resilient food system that ensures all New Yorkers have reliable access to nutritious food.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER



RESILIENCY. TENACITY. RESOLVE.

At New York Common Pantry (NYCP) we are inspired by our guests' ability to stay strong and work through hard times. It's about the mettle and toughness they demonstrate when rising from a series of seemingly insurmountable challenges.

These characteristics have been on full display this past year due to the affordability crisis in our city, making it difficult for our guests to feed their families and make ends meet. More than 1.8 million New Yorkers rely on SNAP benefits to feed their families. With some New Yorkers losing their SNAP benefits entirely or receiving reduced benefits, they will have to do more with less. With the new work requirements and other

restrictions, the OBBBA/H.R. 1 SNAP cuts are projected to impact 300,000+ NYC households, and are estimated to push approximately 500,000 New Yorkers into poverty between 2028 and 2034.¹ This will drive more people to emergency food providers like NY Common Pantry to help put food on their tables. We're seeing this now, with a 15% increase in the number of individuals we've served through the third quarter.

As the federal government continues to reduce or eliminate funding for public safety net programs, there are fewer viable resources for our guests to access for assistance. This means that as providers, we too need to be resilient, tenacious and resolute. Our steadfast and dedicated case managers connect guests to our services and find external resources to help. Last year, we helped guests secure just over \$10.7M in public benefits available to support their food, healthcare and housing needs. Our Live Healthy! team worked with more than 20,000 New Yorkers to create healthier lifestyles for themselves and their families, and we served the equivalent of 33,000 meals through our Farm Share Program.

Put simply, we strive to go above and beyond to ensure our guests have the basics, to provide them with stability in an uncertain world.

In the face of economic challenges, when government funding was halted that supported our purchase of NY State produce, we became more resourceful. We've enhanced our alliances with Sharing Excess and City Harvest to receive more rescued, fresh produce for our guests. We grew our partnerships with Baldor and Restaurant Associates to get more food to those in need. And we deepened our relationship with The Roundtable: Allies for Food Access, which led to a new AI tool to get the best possible pricing when we purchase food. We continually find new ways to economize, to stretch every dollar, to better serve our guests.

New Yorkers may be facing hard times, but their grit and determination continue to inspire and guide us. Your support helps us be both unwavering and indefatigable while enabling us to help so many in the community, offering them hope for the future. Thank you.

Stephen Grimaldi
Executive Director

1. "The Annual State of Poverty and Disadvantage," Robin Hood and the Poverty Tracker Research Group at Columbia University, Volume 8, Winter 2026

MEET OUR GUEST: MIRIAN R.



"The scariest thing in the world is if you don't have anything to feed your kids."

Mirian began coming to the Pantry in 2025. She lives in a full household with her children and grandchildren and is currently unemployed due to multiple disabilities. Mirian has faced many challenges, including a difficult childhood, a period of homelessness as a young adult, and times

when she went without food to ensure her children could eat. For Mirian, the Pantry is more than a place to access food – it is a source of community and support. It offers her a positive outlet, allowing her to care for her family while also connecting with others in her community. "At NYCP, these people care about us. This place has been a blessing to my family," she says.

LIVE HEALTHY! FOOD MD GRADUATION



New York Common Pantry's (NYCP) Live Healthy! program held its first of two graduation ceremonies for its Food MD participants. The three-month program focuses on increasing the intake of nutrient-dense foods and reducing the risk of developing chronic diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and obesity. The program included 62 participants from East Harlem and the South Bronx, who were divided into six study cohorts.

Participants—many of whom entered with self-reported conditions like prediabetes or hypertension and had limited access to healthcare—received in-house health screenings (including BMI and blood pressure), nutrition workshops, access to NYCP's social services, and ongoing support by nutritionists. The program distributed 3,000lbs of produce to participants via free, biweekly bags containing a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Food MD program provides an opportunity for individuals who, due to socioeconomic barriers, may find it difficult to access healthcare and fresh food to take charge of their health with preventive care. Additionally, the program fosters a strong sense of community, accountability, and support.

JOIN THE GIVING TABLE: LEAVE A LEGACY OF NOURISHMENT

Your legacy can help ensure that every New Yorker has access to healthy food, dignity, and the support they need to thrive.

By including New York Common Pantry in your will or estate plans, you become part of The Giving Table, our legacy society dedicated to sustaining this mission for generations to come. A planned gift of any size strengthens our work, from providing nutritious groceries to offering social services case management and nutrition education.

Create your plan today at [GivingDocs.com/NYCommonPantry](https://givingdocs.com/NYCommonPantry) and help nourish futures for years to come.



**JOIN THE
GIVING TABLE!**

<https://bit.ly/3OAfltF>

Through pre- and post-program surveys and biometrics, the program has successfully recorded positive outcomes in participants' health. Despite the outstanding results from Food MD and other NYCP SNAP-Ed initiatives, the Live Healthy! program lost its \$1.1 million in federal funding early last year, threatening to eliminate these critical community programs.

Our long-time partner, Bloomberg Philanthropies, recognized the value Live Healthy! brings to the community, empowering people with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make healthier choices and improve their overall well-being. The organization provided Live Healthy! with a generous grant to continue its programs through 2027.

Bloomberg has been committed to NYCP's mission, demonstrated through meaningful, years-long volunteer engagement, NYCP site enhancement, employee fundraising initiatives, and generous financial support of our food and education programs.



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LAUGHS, GENEROSITY FLOW DURING ANNUAL FILL THE BAG BENEFIT



New York Common Pantry (NYCP) turned its annual Fill The Bag Benefit on its head with a talk show format, showcasing the year's impressive impact numbers, while also landing laughs and raising more than \$1.2 million to support its food programs and essential social services. "With inadequate wages to support families and the high cost of food, hard-working residents have been seeking help from food pantries and soup kitchens, many for the first time. The money we raised provides necessary funding for us to purchase healthy, nutritious food for thousands of families in need," said **Stephen Grimaldi**, Executive Director, New York Common Pantry.

Group photo (L to R): Margie Sung, Alan Pardee, Sara Moss, Margie Scholnick, Deborah Rath, Andrea Sperling, Pat Perlstein, Vicky Kess, and Stephen Grimaldi.
Photo 2: Show host, Hanke, with house band JazzStephane Quartet.

The "Late Night Snack" program featured traditional talk show sketches expertly delivered by the evening's Late Night Host and Auctioneer extraordinaire, **Christopher Hanke** of The Bidding Group. Several guest cameos added to the evening's festive ambiance, including from iconic late-night hosts, **Stephen Colbert** (The Late Show with Stephen Colbert) and **Samantha Bee** (Full Frontal with Samantha Bee), as well as from **Willie Geist** (host of Sunday TODAY with Willie Geist and co-host of MSNBC's Morning Joe). Rounding out the talk show experience, the house band was **JazzStephane Quartet**, which partnered with Hanke to add musical accompaniment, as well as entertained guests during the cocktail hour.

The Distinguished Partner Award was presented to **Alan Pardee**, NYCP Board Secretary and Head of Investor Relations at Stella Point Capital. In addition, **Sara Moss** former Vice Chairman of the Estée Lauder Companies and NYCP Advisory Council Member, presented The Estée Lauder Companies Distinguished Volunteer Award to the Pantry's Thursday Hot Meals Crew: Vicky Kess, Pat Perlstein, Gennie Perez, Deborah Rath, Margie Scholnick and Andrea Sperling.