

No Bailout for the Hungry

***Funding Slashed to Emergency
Food Providers as Hunger in
NYC Continues to Soar***

**Annual Hunger Survey
New York City Coalition Against Hunger
November 2008**



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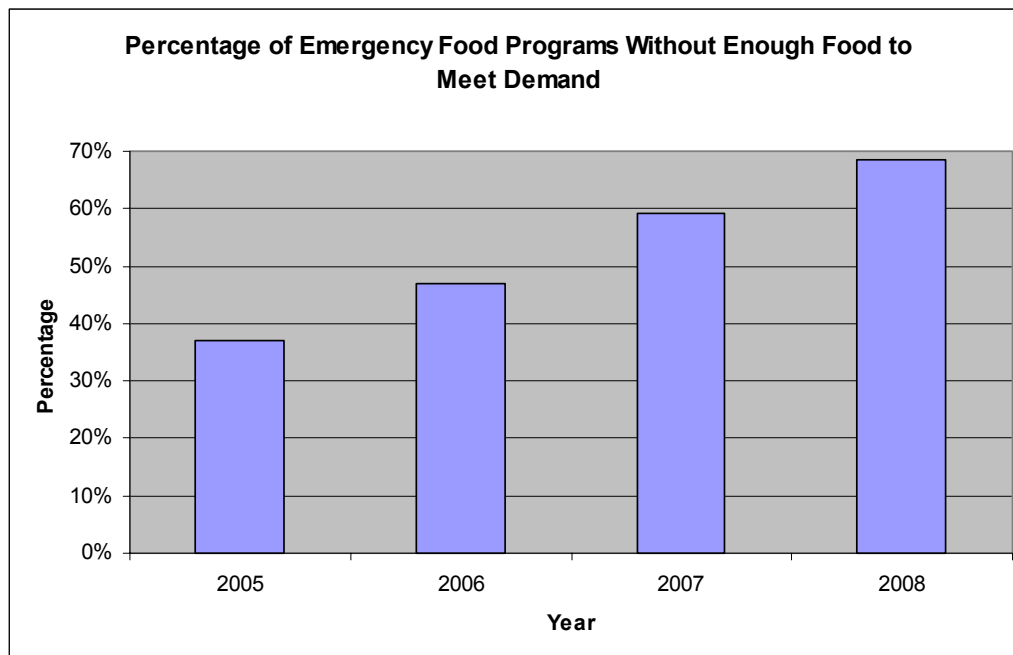
Executive Summary

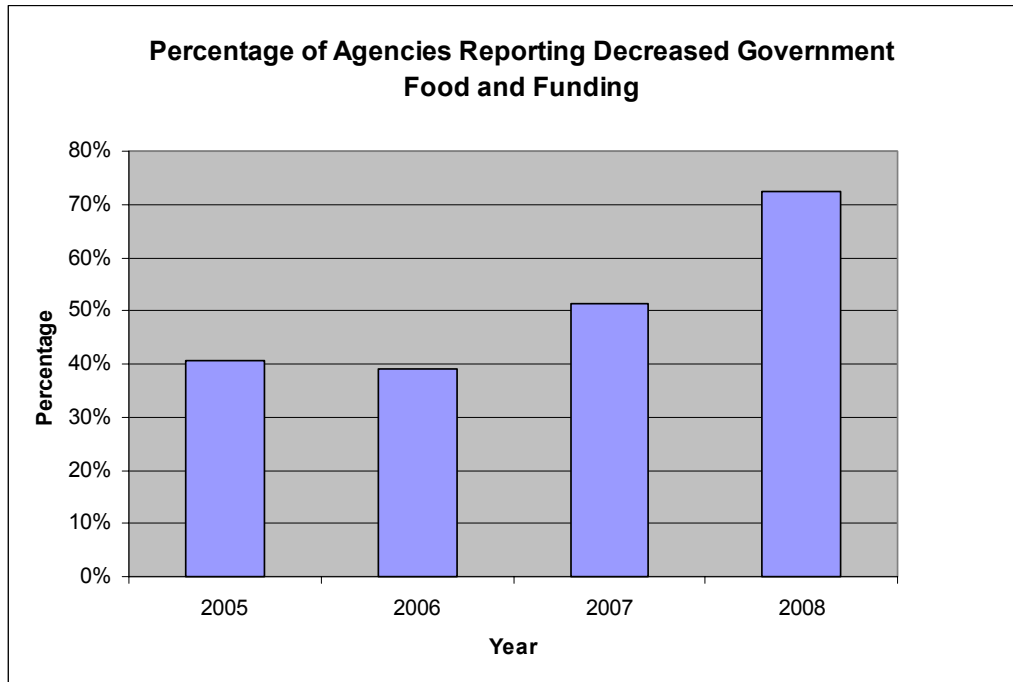
In 2008, emergency food programs served 28% more people than they had in 2007. This was a further increase from the New York City Coalition Against Hunger's 2007 survey results which showed a 20% increase in the number of people served by emergency food programs.

As the economy continued to decline in 2008, low-income New Yorkers saw an increase in the price of food, a decrease in the number of jobs, and an increase in other expenses such as housing and heat. Emergency food programs – already struggling with the numbers of people requiring their services in 2007 – were stretched to the limit in 2008 as they saw funding cuts on the city, state, and federal level.

Need increased dramatically: 87.2% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months and 55 % said this number increased "greatly." In addition to overall need increasing dramatically, agencies also reported seeing a significant increase in certain vulnerable populations like children, senior citizens, and immigrants. For example, 80% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of families with children over the last 12 months.

At the same time as agencies reported skyrocketing need for their programs, agencies reported that their private and government funding had been cut on the federal, state, and city level. In 2008, 72.3% of responding agencies reported a decrease in government money and food in the past year – up from 51% who reported government funding cuts in 2007 – and 70.8% of responding agencies reported an overall decrease in money and food decreased in the past year.





Other findings of the survey:

- 68.6% do not distribute enough food to meet their current demand.
- 87.2% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the 12 last months. 55 % said this number increased “greatly.”
- Of the populations that increased “greatly” at responding agencies, the fastest growth was seen among families with children, senior citizens, and immigrants.
- 80% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of families with children over the last 12 months (versus 7.6% reporting a decrease, and 8.1% reporting no change).
- 74.7% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of seniors over the last 12 months (versus 7.6% reporting a decrease, and 12.7% reporting no change).
- 58.1% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of working people over the last 12 months (versus 8.1% reporting a decrease, and 12.6% reporting no change).
- 89% of responding agencies believe that their need will continue to increase in the next six months. 60.6% of responding agencies believe it will increase “greatly.”

- 72.3% of responding agencies reported receiving less government food and money in the last 12 months (vs. 10.6% reporting no change, and 13.9% reporting an increase).
- 54.8% of respondents reported using their own personal money “often,” “always,” or sometimes to support their feeding programs.
- 91.7% of responding agencies said they would like to improve the nutritional quality of the food they distribute. When asked to indicate the top way to accomplish that goal, 55.3% needed more fresh fruits and vegetables, 35.2% wanted more nutritious canned and dried foods, 5.5% wanted nutrition education for their clients, and 4.1% wanted nutrition education for their staffs.

Survey Methodology

The 2008 survey questionnaire (Appendix 3) was originally mailed to a collective list of 1,282 agencies believed to run soup kitchens, food pantries, and/or some sort of emergency food program (EFP). This list was created through a combination of member agency rosters maintained by the Food Bank for NYC and City Harvest, and recipients of the EFAP/HPNAP funding streams.

Following the mailing, the Coalition Against Hunger made follow-up visits, phone calls and faxed/emailed reminders to as many agencies as possible in order to solicit responses. Agencies were encouraged to either mail/fax the paper survey to the Coalition or complete the survey online using Survey Monkey, a web-based data collection service. In this sense, sampling was only partly random, as agencies with a preexisting relationship with the Coalition received more encouragement to complete the survey. However, the breadth of survey responses, consistency of respondent characteristics with previous surveys done by the Coalition and other organizations, and number of responses from agencies with no preexisting relationship to the Coalition assured us that this sample was representative.

All paper surveys were also entered online using Survey Monkey by Coalition staff and volunteers. In total, 308 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 267 usable surveys. Not all percentages total exactly 100% due to rounding.

Message from the Executive Director

In November 2008, the week before this report was released, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported that 700,000 more Americans couldn't afford a full and stable supply of food in 2007 than in 2006. The USDA data further confirmed that there were 36.2 million Americans – including 12 million children – who were “food-insecure” in 2007 even before the current economic slowdown. The number of the hungriest children grew by 50% in 2007. (Report on-line at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR66/ERR66.pdf>)

The rapidly increasing lines at food pantries and soup kitchens nationwide and in New York City indicate that the problem is considerably worse now than it was in 2007 and, while the results from this year's survey were sobering, we unfortunately expect that next year's survey results will be even more staggering as the economy continues to decline.

Perhaps the escalation of hunger described in this survey will come as a shock to some of us, but low-income citizens in New York City know all-too-well the grim reality of the current economic situation: The price of food has skyrocketed; there are fewer jobs; and there are fewer units of affordable housing. As a result, there are far more families in New York City experiencing hunger and far too few resources to help those in need of food.

As the comments from Emergency Food Providers interspersed throughout the report reveal, programs in all boroughs have found themselves in a desperate situation at the same time as their communities need them now more than ever. Despite the “common knowledge” that hunger will increase in a time when we have both an economic downturn and a tattered safety net, this survey is important because it both shows the extent to which hunger increased in the past year and because it shows that – at the same time – funding has been drastically cut to these programs.

Here's the good news: Although we are living in difficult times, this is also a time for rational optimism. Every year we use the results of this survey to advocate for policies that can alleviate hunger in the short run and work towards ending domestic hunger. President-elect Obama has pledged to end child hunger by 2015 and it's our job, as citizens, to help him achieve that goal. We hope that the Obama administration and officials on the state and city level will draw from our policy recommendations.

It is our ardent hope that next year we will be able to publish a study entitled “Hunger on the Decline,” but that won't happen unless all levels of government take immediate action – just as they did when Wall Street was in dire straits – to “bail out” hungry New Yorkers in the short run and to make the structural changes necessary to end the root causes of hunger.

Sincerely,



Joel Berg
Executive Director
New York City Coalition Against Hunger

2008 Citywide Findings

Survey Overall Respondent Characteristics

(Unless otherwise noted, percentages are calculated from the response to a particular question, not the overall response rate.)

- The overall analyzed response rate for this survey was 308 agencies out of a list of 1282 agencies, or 24%.
- Response rates within boroughs:

	Respondents / Total Agencies	% Response
Bronx	48/236	20%
Brooklyn	88/374	24%
Queens	59/251	24%
Manhattan	82/376	22%
Staten Island	15/45	33%

- Respondents by type of program:

Food pantry	69.3%
Soup Kitchen	10.9%
Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry	17.2%
Other	2.6%

- 75.8% of respondents identified themselves as faith-based, religiously affiliated, or physically housed in a religious institution.

Year-to-Year Comparisons

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

2008 Borough Survey Results

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	88.1%	74.4%	71.8%
Brooklyn	85.9%	61.8%	50%
Manhattan	83.6%	52.2%	45.2%
Queens	84.2%	76.8%	64.2%
Staten Island	85.7%	71.4%	46.2%

2008 Bronx Survey Responses

The numbers here do not reflect the true needs in this community. They are receiving fewer food dollars and as a result often the pantry here will run out of food before they have served everyone who has come. With more food they could and would serve more people, since there is a need.

Sister Irene Freely, Tolentine Zeiser Community Life Center, Bronx

Among Bronx respondents to our survey:

- 88.1% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 64.3% said this number increased “greatly.”
- Of the populations that increased “greatly” at responding agencies, the fastest growth was seen among families with children, senior citizens and immigrants.
- 88.4% of responding agencies believe that their need will continue to increase in the next six months. 62.8% of responding agencies believe it will increase “greatly.”
- 62.8% of responding agencies reported receiving less *government* food and money in the last 12 months (and 14.3% reported no change).
- 57.2% of responding agencies reported receiving less *overall* food and money in the last 12 months (and 20% reported no change).
- 74.4% of respondents reported being unable to distribute enough food to meet current demand.
- 71.8% of responding agencies reported having to turn away hungry New Yorkers, cut portion sizes and/or cut hours of operation in 2008.
- 33.3% of respondents reported using their own personal money “often” or “always” to support their feeding programs (61.9% do this “sometimes,” “often” or “always”).

2008 Manhattan Survey Responses

Our pantry is about to close. We do not have enough funding lines and our third went from 16,000 to 5,000. At the same time our client's numbers have doubled. We are in desperate need of food sources and our funding. I believe we can stretch out what we have one more week. Please help us.

Sharon Shultz, Cavalry / St. George Food Pantry, Manhattan

Among Manhattan respondents to our survey:

- 83.6% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 44.8% said this number increased "greatly."
- Of the populations that increased "greatly" at responding agencies, the fastest growth was seen among families with children, senior citizens, people with paid employment and immigrants.
- 84.6% of responding agencies believe that their need will continue to increase in the next six months. 52.3% of responding agencies believe it will increase "greatly."
- 73% of responding agencies reported receiving less *government* food and money in the last 12 months (and 15.9% reported no change).
- 68.2% of responding agencies reported receiving less *overall* food and money in the last 12 months (and 9.5% reported no change).
- 52.2% of respondents reported being unable to distribute enough food to meet current demand.
- 45.2% of responding agencies reported having to turn away hungry New Yorkers, cut portion sizes and/or cut hours of operation in 2008.
- 19.4% of respondents reported using their own personal money "often" or "always" to support their feeding programs (37.3% do this "sometimes," "often" or "always").

Staten Island Survey Responses

Our storage shelves continue to be empty. Food that is received through the Food Bank, City Harvest is not enough. Even with credit, because of the increase of food prices. The grants do not go very far. The food pantry is suffering and the soup kitchen is not doing so good as well.

Memie Daniels, Stapleton U A M E Church, Staten Island

Among Staten Island respondents to our survey:

- 85.7% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 64.3% said this number increased “greatly.”
- Of the populations that increased “greatly” at responding agencies, the fastest growth was seen among families with children, working people, senior citizens and immigrants.
- 100% of responding agencies believe that their need will continue to increase in the next six months. 76.9% of responding agencies believe it will increase “greatly.”
- 81.9% of responding agencies reported receiving less *government* food and money in the last 12 months (and 9.1% reported no change).
- 91% of responding agencies reported receiving less *overall* food and money in the last 12 months (and 9.1% reported no change).
- 71.4% of respondents reported being unable to distribute enough food to meet current demand.
- 46.2% of responding agencies reported having to turn away hungry New Yorkers, cut portion sizes and/or cut hours of operation in 2008.
- 42.8% of respondents reported using their own personal money “often” or “always” to support their feeding programs (71.4% do this “sometimes,” “often” or “always”).

Brooklyn Survey Responses

With the economy the way it is right now more white collar clients are coming to New Haven's Food Pantry and Soup kitchen. Budget cuts are affecting everyone and it is heartbreaking when you see a mother on line with her baby in tow because she can't afford a babysitter. She can't pay her rent on time because the baby must be fed first. When is it going to take a turn for the better?

Deborah Best, New Haven SDA Temple, Brooklyn

Among Brooklyn respondents to our survey:

- 85.9% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 57.7% said this number increased "greatly."
- Of the populations that increased "greatly" at responding agencies, the fastest growth was seen among families with children, senior citizens and immigrants.
- 89.4% of responding agencies believe that their need will continue to increase in the next six months. 58.7% of responding agencies believe it will increase "greatly."
- 69.8% of responding agencies reported receiving less *government* food and money in the last 12 months (and 9.6% reported no change).
- 68.1% of responding agencies reported receiving less *overall* food and money in the last 12 months (and 11.6% reported no change).
- 61.8% of respondents reported being unable to distribute enough food to meet current demand.
- 50% of responding agencies reported having to turn away hungry New Yorkers, cut portion sizes and/or cut hours of operation in 2008.
- 32.1% of respondents reported using their own personal money "often" or "always" to support their feeding programs (59% do this "sometimes," "often" or "always").

Queens Survey Responses

I wish could receive more foods to help my community and the people of my church. In our community, we have homeless, low income elderly and children who really need our help. Thank you.

Marie J Bernadin, Director, Beraca SDA Church, Jamaica, NY

Among Queens respondents to our survey:

- 84.2% of responding agencies reported feeding an increased number of people in the last 12 months. 50.9% said this number increased “greatly.”
- Of the populations that increased “greatly” at responding agencies, the fastest growth was seen among families with children, senior citizens and immigrants.
- 85.7% of responding agencies believe that their need will continue to increase in the next six months. 62.5% of responding agencies believe it will increase “greatly.”
- 72% of responding agencies reported receiving less *government* food and money in the last 12 months (and 8% reported no change).
- 77.7% of responding agencies reported receiving less *overall* food and money in the last 12 months (and 11.1% reported no change).
- 76.8% of respondents reported being unable to distribute enough food to meet current demand.
- 64.2% of responding agencies reported having to turn away hungry New Yorkers, cut portion sizes and/or cut hours of operation in 2008.
- 18.2% of respondents reported using their own personal money “often” or “always” to support their feeding programs (56.4% do this “sometimes,” “often” or “always”).

Plan to End Hunger in New York City and in the United States

In response to these findings, the Coalition recommends a plan with government actions at the federal, state, and city level to end hunger in New York City and in the nation:

Federal Policy Recommendations

1. End Child Hunger, outlined in our petition at www.nyccah.org/endchildhunger
 - a. 2009 Reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Re-Authorization Bill that will:
 - i. Make universal, in-classroom school breakfasts standard in public schools;
 - ii. Fund universal school lunches;
 - iii. Increase reimbursements to school districts that provide healthier foods;
 - iv. Make WIC an entitlement and fund nutritional improvements in the WIC package; and
 - v. Reduce paperwork and increase reimbursements for both government and non-profit agencies that sponsor after-school and summer meals for kids.
 - b. In addition, the next President should support legislation that:
 - i. Funds WIC at a level that allows the program to be fully implemented without a reduction of services;
 - ii. Changes WIC into an entitlement program with an independent source of funding;
 - iii. Supports universal, in-classroom breakfasts and lunch;
 - iv. Creates new funding sources to increase the amount of fruit and vegetables offered on the menu; and,
 - v. Increases funding for Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).
2. Congress must pass a Second Economic Stimulus Package that
 - a. Increases funding for food stamps and
 - b. Increases funding for TEFAP commodities because the increases in the Farm Bill have already been undermined by increased food prices.
3. Major increase in the federal minimum wage, with future increases indexed to inflation.
4. Further improve the Food Stamp Program by:
 - a. Simplifying applications;
 - b. Increasing the average benefits amount;
 - c. Eliminating additional work requirements on able bodied adults without dependents;
 - d. Removing special restrictions on legal immigrants;
 - e. Prohibiting the ability of states to require finger-imaging in order to receive benefits;
 - f. Eliminating the face-to-face interview in favor of alternative methods of gathering and verifying information;
 - g. Increasing the resource limit and the list of exempt saving categories; and,
 - h. Combining the application for food stamps and other public benefits.
5. Improve the following programs that fund emergency food providers (EFPs) by fully funding these programs:
 - a. Increase funding to the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) by 46 percent over the next five years to a FY 2012 funding level of \$276.60 million.
 - b. Increase funding to the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) by 42 percent over the next five years, to a FY 2012 funding level of \$214.59 million.

New York State Policy Recommendations

1. **Urgent matter:** Fully fund the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) which provides NY State funds to improve the nutritional quality of food at food pantries and soup kitchens.
 - a. Restore all funding cut since April 2008 (\$5 million reimbursement and \$1.2 million to cover the cost of the 6% cut in August)
 - b. Provide additional funds to offset the increased cost of food (4% in the last year) and the increased number of meals served in food pantries and soup kitchens (9% increase since 2007).
2. Bring more Federal dollars into New York State by increasing access to the Food Stamp and other Federal nutrition programs to working families, unemployed people, children, seniors, and legal immigrants.
 - a. End the special exemption under which New York City is the only part of the state that still engages in the wasteful and punitive practice of requiring finger images from food stamps applicants in working families.
 - b. Extend Paperless Office System (POS) sites which allow food stamps applicants to be screened for food stamps in a social service site in their neighborhood rather than at a government office.
 - c. Require all municipalities, including New York City, to accept a waiver to enable able bodied adults without dependents (know as ABAWDs) to continue to obtain food stamps while looking for work for up to 12 months.
3. Improve Welfare Reform
 - a. Ensure that people leaving welfare – as well as people who previously left – have long-term, living-wage jobs which will give them an increased ability to support their family off welfare than on welfare;
 - b. Make policies that reduce poverty for adults and children a priority; and
 - c. Further reducing welfare rolls.
4. Promote Increased Supermarket Access
 - a. Support initiatives, such as NY State Senator Jose M. Serrano's (28th District, including E. Harlem and parts of the Bronx) which are working to fight supermarket closings in low-income communities;
 - b. Provide tax breaks, loans, and other incentives to bring new supermarkets into – or upgrade existing supermarkets in – low-income neighborhoods; and,
 - c. Promote the start-up of food-related micro-enterprises and small businesses such as food cooperatives.
5. Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
 - a. Ensure access to a WIC site in every low-income neighborhood.
 - b. Increase state funding for outreach, breast-feeding promotion and peer counseling.
6. Focus on the link between hunger and obesity.
 - a. Further promote farmers' markets, community gardens, and Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) projects and increase their interaction with Federal nutrition assistance programs.
 - b. Maintain strong support for the New York City Wholesale Farmer's Market.
 - c. Bolster nutrition education and obesity-prevention activities.

New York City Policy Recommendations

1. Increase funding for Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) by 38 percent over the next five years, to a FY 2012 funding level of \$20.34 million.
 - a. Create an advisory council consisting of representatives of emergency food providers from all five boroughs, including nutritionists to advise HRA on all EFAP food purchases.

- b. Improve the quality of food by offering more minimally processed and fresh food, and by giving programs choice over food selection.
2. Improve the Food Stamp Program (FSP) in New York City
- a. Increase the New York City food stamp participation rate to 90 percent by the end of 2011.
 - b. Eliminate finger-imaging. (New York City is still the only area in the state that continues this practice).
 - c. Shorten the amount of time that households must wait to receive their food stamps benefits after filing an application.
 - d. Simplify household access to food stamps by: minimizing face-to-face interviews; expanding food stamp office hours; and opening satellite offices for food stamp interviews.
 - e. Coordinate benefits programs so that clients can apply for several programs and services simultaneously (for example: public health insurance, childcare subsidies, and nutrition programs).
3. Fight Child Hunger.
- a. Begin universal, in-classroom breakfasts in all New York City public schools.
 - b. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Mandate that the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene work with the New York State Department of Health to improve the administration and benefits of the WIC program.
4. Improve Access to Nutritious Food
- a. Create new funding at the city level for the purpose of developing initiatives that would increase the supply of and access to fresh food in low-income neighborhoods;
 - b. Increase farmers' markets and community supported agriculture (CSA) projects in low-income communities; and,
 - c. Work with the State to provide incentives to keep supermarkets in New York City, especially in low-income areas where supermarket closings have decreased the availability of fresh food.

Appendix 1: Selected Quotes from Survey Respondents

- Our pantry is about to close. We do not have enough funding lines and our third went from 16,000 to 5,000. At the same time our client's numbers have doubled. We are in desperate need of food sources and our funding. I believe we can stretch out what we have one more week. Please help us.

Sharon Shultz, Cavalry / St. George Food Pantry, Manhattan

- With the economy the way it is right now more white collar clients are coming to New Haven's Food Pantry and Soup kitchen. Budget cuts are affecting everyone and it is heartbreaking when you see a mother on line with her baby in tow because she can't afford a babysitter. She can't pay her rent on time because the baby must be fed first. When is it going to take a turn for the better?

Deborah Best, New HAven SDA Temple, Brooklyn

- Our food program lately has had to turn away people because we are limited to serving only 30 people each time we serve due to the amount of food we are currently receiving from our food sources. We turn away about 5-10 people each time we serve. Each person can only come once a month because of the limited resources we have.

Nivia Mendez, Our Lady of Sorrows Food Pantry, Manhattan

- The numbers here do not reflect the true needs in this community. They are receiving fewer food dollars and as a result often the pantry here will run out of food before they have served everyone who has come. With more food they could and would serve more people, since there is a need.

Sister Irene Freely, Tolentine Zeiser Community Life Center, Bronx

- Our storage shelves continue to be empty. Food that is received through the Food Bank, City Harvest is not enough. Even with credit, because of the increase of food prices. The grants do not go very far. The food pantry is suffering and the soup kitchen is not doing so good as well.

Memie Daniels, Stapleton U A M E Church, Staten Island

- Food pantries are closing in the bronx and many people do not have some place to go.

Alice M. Morris, HOME E Clinic Inc., Bronx

- Due to job cuts and other, more clients are calling the food hotline, eating food even before they leave the premises, other food pantry and soup kitchens in the area have closed, and we even need to help with travel home in some cases.

Kirby Theodore, Society of St. Vincent De Paul/St. Catherine of Genoa, Brooklyn

- Fresh fruits and vegetables are returned many times because we are unable to use (over ripe or completely spoiled.) Maybe we could be included with those agencies that receive fresh produce and perishable items on a more timely basis.

Estelle Livingston, Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church Outreach, Manhattan

- We need nutritional counseling. **Yemi Oyename, St John's Bread and Life, Brooklyn**

- CCC is seeing a decrease in funding (gov't, private, foundation, etc.) and an increase in attendees at soup kitchen. Food distribution quantity and quality have been compromised due to escalating food and supplies cost - getting less for more money.

Sherri Partridge, Cathedral Community Cares Soup Kitchen, Manhattan

- We need to receive more food to distribute to those in need. We hope that in the near future our programs improve their services to the agencies in order to provide best nutritional care to our clients especially for our children and seniors. Thanks for your effort to get better service to all programs.

Carmen Morales, Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Church, Bronx

- Since your last survey our program has increased in the number of people we serve and the grant from HPNAP decreased and TEFAP order are always small and EFAP only come once /month, but we thank God for City Harvest.

Julius White, St. Luke Cathedral, Laurelton

- In the past year we have seen a great increase in the number of GMHC clients requesting to be enrolled in our pantry program- where clients pick up food for themselves and their dependents. Because of lack of funding we cannot honor all of the requests and many clients have to wait a few months before there is an opening. At the same time we experience a decrease in our EFAP grant and our city counsel grant was cut as well.

Jenny Torino, Gay Mens Health Crisis, Manhattan

- Our food distribution is given or distributed on every third Saturday at 9:30a.m.-10a.m. because of the decrease in funds and the lack of food packages.

Casandra Bethune, Hollis/Saint Albans Emergency Food Service, Jamaica

- The bags are not always nutritionally sound. We'll get peanut butter, no jelly. Cereal no powdered milk a lot of canned vegetables but no canned fruit. It just needs to be better balanced, the bags w. the food that is donated to us from local schools & business' that helps us out a lot.

Jackie Eradiri, Ridgewood older Adult Center & Services, INC., Ridgewood

- We have the space and staff to expand, but we are handicapped by the lack of equipment to store the frozen items.

Lawrence J Charles, First United Methodist Church of Jamaica, Jamaica, NY

- Not enough food to distribute. Need more food, meat, and dairy.

Helen Allen, Glenridge Senior Center, Ridgeway

- I wish could receive more foods to help my community and the people of my church. In our community, we have homeless, low income elderly and children who really need our help. Thank you.

Marie J Bernadin, Director, Beraca SDA Church, Jamaica, NY

- In general to deal with higher demand, higher costs, and decreasing resources we have been steadily decreasing the amounts given and continuing to request participants, except elderly and disabled limit their participation to 3 times a month. We have also had to rely much more on free foods rather than product we can purchase which has decreased the quality and diversity of foods distributed. Yet somehow there is 7 billion for wall street, 10 billion a month for one of the wars we're engaged in and we continue to throw food away rather than give low-income and poor people purchasing power. It used to be we were willing to give them a percentage of the unpurchased food through soup kitchens, pantries, and food stamps but even this seems to be flatlined (food stamps, TEFAP, EFAP, etc) or dwindling rapidly to bare bones.

Christy Robb, Hour Children Community Outreach and Food Pantry, Long Island City

- Need more rice, oil, milk.

Deacon Francois Innocent, Executive Director, Incarnation Parish Pantry, Queens Village

Appendix 2: 2008 Survey Letter & Questionnaire



Dear Emergency Food Providers:

Last year – with your help – we collected surveys from over 300 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, including Mayor Bloomberg.

With today's realities of escalating food cost, steadily climbing gas prices, and the increasing difficulties of families to meet their most basic of needs, it is even more critical to bring attention to the facts of hunger in New York City.

Help us do it again by completing the annual hunger survey online.

[Click here to complete the survey!](#)

The deadline for responding is Friday, November 7th. If you have any questions or need assistance in completing the survey, please call us at 212-825-0028 x217. 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,



Joel Berg
Executive Director

2008 Survey of NYC Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens

**PLEASE consider completing this survey online instead of on paper!
It's quick, and easy! Go to www.nyccah.org/survey.**

Otherwise, return this completed survey by **November 7th, 2008** to the person who brought it to you, or mail it to NYCCAH, 16 Beaver Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10004, or fax it to 212.825.0267. Questions? Call us at 212.825.0028, ext. 217.

Section 1: Preferred Contact Information

1. Your name: _____

2. Your title / role: _____

3. Your food program / agency formal name: _____

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

Street address: _____

City: _____, State: NY Zip: _____

5. Phone number of agency / program: ()

6. Fax Number of agency / program: ()

7. Email Address: _____

8. Website Address: _____

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

- Manhattan
- Brooklyn
- Bronx

- Queens
- Staten Island

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

- Same
- Different

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

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Section 2: Basic Program Information

12. Is your food program faith-based, religiously affiliated, or physically located in a religious institution (like a church, mosque or synagogue)?

	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.							

- Yes
- No

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

- soup kitchen
- food pantry
- both a soup kitchen and a food pantry

← Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

other type of emergency food program (explain) _____

14. When do you provide food? (If you run both a soup kitchen and food pantry, fill out both this chart and the identical one in the **Appendix**)

This schedule applies to (check all that apply):

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

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

- Yes
 No

16. How many staff does your food program employ (including yourself)?

- # ___ full time paid
___ part time paid
___ full time unpaid
___ part time unpaid

17. Does your agency run food programs at multiple sites?

- Yes
 No

Section 3: Program Demand

18. 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

19. 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.

20. 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. 2006–Sept. 2007)	<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						

21. For **SOUP KITCHENS**: How many MEALS did you provide? (total should equal sum of columns)

Time period	<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 2003				
All of 2004				
All of 2005				
All of 2006				
September 2006				
September 2007 (estimated)				
The first six months of 2007				
Estimated for all of 2007				

22. 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 2003				
All of 2004				
All of 2005				
All of 2006				
September 2006				
September 2007 (estimated)				
The first six months of 2007				
Estimated for all of 2007				

23. 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 (a individual may be counted more than once)

24. 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 2005? Yes No Unsure

At any time in 2006? Yes No Unsure

At any time in 2007? Yes No Unsure

25. If you were forced to turn people away at any time, 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 2005				
All of 2006				
September 2006				
September 2007 (estimated)				

The first six months of 2007				
Estimated for all of 2007				

26. 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

Section 4: Program Resources

27. How have your resources changed in the last year (October 2006–September 2007)? 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						

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

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always
- Unsure / Don't know

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

EFAP (NYC)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
FEMA Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
HPNAP (NY State) awarded through the Food Bank, United Way, Catholic Charities, or other sources	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
TEFAP (USDA) delivered by the Food Bank	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food Bank For NYC / Food for Survival (not including any of the above)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>

City Harvest	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local businesses	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religious congregations (either your own or another)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public food drives	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation grants	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other government grants (including direct funding from politicians)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual gifts / special events	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (explain) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

32. Would you like to improve the nutritional content and quality of the foods you serve at your program?

- Yes
 No

33. If yes, please indicate what factors would limit your ability to do so. (check all that apply)

- Lack of monetary resources.
 Lack of resources from your regular food distributor.
 Lack of knowledge

34. How can nutrition be BEST improved in your food program? (check ONE)

- We would like to receive more fresh fruits and vegetables.
 We would like our food sources to have more nutritious canned and dried foods.
 We would like help with nutrition education for our employees.
 We would like help with nutrition education for our clients.
 Other (explain)

Acknowledgements

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New York City Coalition Against Hunger

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