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Food Bank sees record number of SNAP applications (formerly known as food stamps)

Duquesne, PA (June 7, 2021) - As the Pittsburgh community starts to slowly recover from the financial impact of COVID-19, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is seeing a record number of people applying for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. **In April, the Food Bank broke its record for the most SNAP applications ever completed within a single month, with 477 applications across the 11-county service area.**

“Families in southwestern Pennsylvania have been so resilient throughout the pandemic. Many people who were struggling to pay their bills didn’t even know they qualified for SNAP,” said director of Life Stabilization at the Food Bank Chris West.

“We’ve made a drastic effort to let people know help is available. Since we added our call center last April, we’ve been able to directly sign people up for SNAP who are calling us for food assistance.”

Last month, the Food Bank broke its record for the most SNAP applications ever completed within a single month. The increase is unique to the Food Bank’s service area. While there was a very slight increase in applications regionally for April (0.04%), Pennsylvania as a whole saw a decrease in applications (-0.21).

Total SNAP applications for Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank:

Fiscal Year 2020: 1,869 applications

Fiscal Year 2021 (through April): 2,794 applications

Several grocery stores have also made it possible for families to use SNAP while buying groceries online during the pandemic.

According to Feeding America, SNAP is a federal program that helps millions of low-income Americans put food on the table. Across the United States there are 9.5 million families with children on SNAP. It is the largest program working to fight hunger in America.

West says the majority of the calls to the Food Bank call center are for SNAP and drive-up distribution events.

At the call center, folks call in to sign up for SNAP, home delivery, a drive up distribution, or get connected to their local pantry or emergency food.

West adds it's important for SNAP applicants and recipients to be aware the 15% increase to every SNAP recipient's monthly allotment is set to expire in September.

To contact our call center or to sign up for SNAP, visit pittsburghfoodbank.org or call 412-460-3663

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About Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is a nonprofit organization that distributes more than 40 million meals annually across 11 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania through a network of agencies, partners and programs. The Food Bank was founded in 1980 and is a member of Feeding America, the leading domestic hunger-relief charity in the U.S. For more information on hunger in our region or how to get involved, visit pittsburghfoodbank.org.