

CONTACT:

Christa Johnson
Communications and Public Relations Specialist
412.460.3663 ext. 452
cjohnson@pittsburghfoodbank.org



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Rising housing costs increasing the risk of food insecurity for Pennsylvanians

PITTSBURGH, PA (May 31, 2022) According to a [new report](#) by the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, the Pittsburgh metro area only has 48 available and affordable rental units available for every 100 households who rent. The shortage of affordable housing greatly increases the risk of food insecurity for families in our region. Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's call center continues to receive calls for food assistance as a ripple effect of increased housing costs.

"When families pay more in housing, they are forced to sacrifice money they would normally use for expenses like utilities and groceries. Add on inflation and higher prices at the store and families are really getting hit financially from all angles. Without affordable housing, some of our neighbors are faced with the unthinkable choice of paying their rent or buying enough food for their families," said Food Bank Director of Community Connections Chris West.

According to the study, most people who are extremely cost burdened by housing expenses are working adults, seniors and those living with disabilities.

Pennsylvania is among the most severely affected states with only 39 affordable rental units available for every 100 extremely low-income households.

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank recognizes the lack of affordable housing is just one of the many root causes of food insecurity. The Food Bank has a community connections team and call center which not only provides the public with food assistance, but it also connects them to partners who can help them address the issues causing food insecurity, including housing struggles. For help, please call 412-460-3663 x655.

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About Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is a nonprofit organization that distributes food for more than 45 million meals annually across 11 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania through a network of more than 850 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.