

**CONTACT:**

Christa Johnson  
Communications and Public Relations Specialist  
412.460.3663 ext. 452  
[cjohnson@pittsburghfoodbank.org](mailto:cjohnson@pittsburghfoodbank.org)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Summer Youth Cafés open as need for child meals increases**

**PITTSBURGH, PA (June 17, 2022)** With school out of session and inflation taking a financial toll, families who rely on school meals for their children face a critical time. In 2021, Feeding America saw a projected 16.5% food insecurity rate for children in Allegheny county. Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is seeing the need increase already for 2022 and is urging families to utilize Summer Youth Cafes.

Summer Youth Cafés are federally funded locations where any child 18 and under can get food at no cost. The cafés are critical in assisting children who rely on meals at school.

“With the cost of food, gas and the end of the Child Income Tax Credit, families are trying to stretch every dollar to put food on the table. They don’t know if they will have enough to pay their bills and provide food for their kids this summer when their kids are missing 2/3 of the meals they’re used to getting in school,” said Director of Child Nutrition Programs for the Food Bank Karen Dreyer.

Many Summer Youth Cafes will look different this summer as federal waivers expire. The majority of sites are either changing locations or adjusting protocols to operate and serve communal meals instead of grab-and-go meals for kids.

**Families can find a Summer Youth Cafe location near them by texting ‘FOOD’ to 304-304 or by calling 2-1-1 for the United Way hotline.**

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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](http://pittsburghfoodbank.org).