

# Ensuring children have the food they need to learn and grow.



**1 in 8**

**children across southwestern Pennsylvania face hunger**



**2.9x**

**Children struggling with hunger are 2.9x more likely to struggle with poor health**



**3x**

**Children struggling with hunger are 3x more likely to be suspended from school**



**2x**

**Children struggling with hunger are 2x more likely to repeat a grade**

**Children facing hunger often rely on schools and after school programs for their daily nutritional needs. Together, we can ensure that children have the food they need to learn and grow healthy and strong.**

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The reality of child hunger in our region is startling. Nearly one in six don't know where their next meal will come from.

Though schools and community sponsors step in to ensure that kids have access to meals, there is still work to be done to reach more kids, improve existing programs and lessen the stigma of meal programs. The Food Bank is working with schools and community sponsors to reach more kids through outreach, technical support and grant opportunities.

Our child nutrition team offers support to partners looking to start or expand their National School Lunch and Breakfast Program; Summer Food Service Program, locally known as Summer Youth Cafe; and Child and Adult Care Food Programs. We also support non-federal programs like Backpack, School Pantries and other options.

Our mission is to leverage the power of community to achieve lasting solutions to hunger and its root causes.

**Learn more at [pittsburghfoodbank.org](http://pittsburghfoodbank.org).**



# The benefits are clear!

## Outreach

We work to promote and market existing programs; recruit new partners, sponsors and sites to ensure that children in need have access to free meals.

## Best Practices and Problem-Solving

We collect and share both local and national best practices that can help solve common issues. We also support partners in overcoming barriers to program implementation.

## Impact Grants

The Food Bank offers three rounds of Impact Grants — fall, winter and summer. Grants help with equipment, activity supplies and other items needed to improve child nutrition programs.

## Technical Support

Interested in expanding services, but not sure where to start? We can offer guidance to help you choose the program that will work best for you and support you along the way.

## Supporting increased access to federal programs

The Food Bank's child nutrition team supports increasing access to federal child nutrition programs including:

### School Meals

For years, millions of children have benefited from federally-funded programs such as the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program. These child nutrition programs reduce food insecurity, improve health, and support academic achievement. Effectively serving meals to children through these programs reduces embarrassing stigma and creates the best opportunity to be successful.

### CACFP At-Risk After School Programs

Sponsoring organization can be reimbursed for up to one meal and one snack per student per day. Meals must be served to afterschool programs located in eligible areas. Organizations may participate as a sponsor, site (where meals are served) or both.

### Summer Youth Cafés

Nationally known as the Summer Food Service Program, this federally-funded child nutrition program reimburses organizations that vend or prepare free summer meals for kids in eligible areas. Organizations may choose to participate as a sponsor (meal facilitator), site (where meals are served) or both.

## Promoting non-federal food programs

Partners can participate in programs to purchase from Food Bank's wholesale inventory at low-cost including:

### BackPack Programs

BackPack Programs help ensure that kids have access to meals over the weekend when school meals aren't available. Typically packed with four meals worth of child-friendly items, Backpacks are often distributed discreetly to children by their teachers or school staff during school hours on Fridays.

### On-sites

On-sites are programs that serve prepared meals or snacks on-site or at related program. This is a great option for programs serving children in low-income families in CACFP or SFSP eligible areas. Food may include supper, snacks, or weekend meals and is intended to meet the nutritional needs of children that are not being fulfilled through school meals.

### School Pantries

School Pantries provide nutritional support to students and their families. Often school pantries are in a dedicated room within a school, but non-profits may also host Pantries at their location. School Pantries typically provide more food and more choice than Backpack Programs, making it a great choice for older students.



### Child Hunger Hero

Not all heroes wear capes, but many wear aprons. Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank recognizes schools and community sponsors that go above and beyond to serve kids through the annual Child Hunger Hero Award Program.

The awards were developed to help boost recognition for the work that food service staff have done to serve children despite obstacles and challenges. Participating schools and community sponsors are evaluated on their involvement in programs that improve childhood food insecurity including school meals, summer food, afterschool meals, weekend backpacks and school pantry programs. Participants are given gold, silver, and bronze status and are awarded prizes at each level.

"I think my staff enjoyed the recognition, especially with the way we chose to present the award. The award was presented at a school board meeting, so it was a good way for them to not only be recognized by the school board, but also by the public as a whole," shared Martin Lorenzo from Gateway School District.

Learn more today!



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Working to ensure everyone in communities across the three rivers region has access to the food and resources they need to thrive.