

## Congress Cuts Services to Needy, Prepares More Tax Cuts for Wealthy

With Christmas just hours away, the United States Congress has endorsed a plan to cut \$40 billion from federal entitlement programs. The final vote in the Senate was 51-50 with Vice President Cheney casting the tie-breaking vote. Had either Arlen Specter or Rick Santorum voted "no", the proposal would have failed.

Hardest hit in the spending cuts will be families just above the poverty line; they are likely to face Medical Assistance co-payments and premiums of up to 20 percent of the cost of needed medical services and prescription drugs. For the first time, coverage for children may be conditioned on parents first paying co-payments and premiums.

Also hard hit will be working parents who currently receive a child care subsidy. The newly adopted law imposes strict mandates on the states

on how they conduct activities designed to move parents from welfare to work. Because these mandates are expensive but are not accompanied by additional funding, many states (including PA) are expected to cut back on child care subsidies for low-wage parents not receiving welfare.

The Food Stamp Program was not cut.

In the end, Congress scuttled much of the Senate plan, which had achieved savings through cuts that affected drug companies, Medicare providers and managed care health providers. Specter and Santorum voted for the final plan, notwithstanding earlier statements in which they had opposed cuts that would affect low-income families. In the House, all of PA's Republican

members supported the plan and all Democratic members opposed it.

Next up for Congress in the new year is legislation that would provide \$70 billion in tax cuts, nearly all of which would go to the wealthy.

This action by Congress marks a decisive turning away from the theme of "compassionate conservatism" voiced by President George Bush in May 2001. Then Bush said the following: "We must build our country's unity by extending our country's blessings. We make that commitment because we are Americans... We are committed to compassion for practical reasons... And we're committed to compassion for moral reasons. Jewish prophets and Catholic teaching both speak of God's special concern for the poor."

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## Breakfast Up; PA Falls in National Ranking

Amid rising concern about childhood obesity and too little academic achievement, many Pennsylvania school districts are still ignoring one of the most obvious tools to reach their goals – implementation of the federally financed School Breakfast Program. A national report released December 13th by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) shows that Pennsylvania has slipped in the national rankings from 38<sup>th</sup> to 42<sup>nd</sup> among the states in making school breakfast available to students in need. The full FRAC report is available at [http://www.frac.org/Press\\_Release/12.13.05.html](http://www.frac.org/Press_Release/12.13.05.html).

Data provided by the PA Department of Education show that in the 2004-05 school year, daily participation in school breakfast programs across the state averaged 212,358 students. This compares to an average of 196,592 students in 2003-04 and is an increase of 8 percent. Among low-income students, the increase was 7 percent. While these increases demonstrate progress, they are less than what is being achieved in other states, thus accounting for the fact that Pennsylvania is being "left in the dust".

*Continued on page 4...Breakfast*

## Food Tax Founders

An effort to abolish school-based property taxes by broadening the sales tax appears to have failed in a series of November 21<sup>st</sup> votes in the PA House of Representatives.

The effort, led by Rep. Sam Rohrer (R-Berks) and the Commonwealth Caucus of the House, would have imposed a 5 percent sales tax on many food items purchased in grocery stores for consumption at home. This would have raised about \$1 billion in tax revenue. The extension of the sales tax to clothing, over-the-counter drugs and professional services would have raised additional billions. According to Rohrer, this new revenue would have been enough to replace revenue from property taxes.

During the debate, Rep. David Levdansky (D-Allegheny) introduced an amendment to keep food exempt from property tax; his amendment was approved. Similar amendments were introduced in regard to clothing and nonprescription drugs; those too were successful. Each amendment reduced the amount of additional sales tax revenue to the point where the entire plan was no longer viable.

Hunger Action was active in the run-up to the floor debate, encouraging legislators to retain the existing exemption on food purchased for consumption at home.

Other proposals to reduce the property tax by increasing the sales tax remain under consideration and may be considered before the Christmas recess. Hunger Action applauds efforts to lower property taxes for resident homeowners who have low incomes but will continue to resist proposals that make food staples more expensive.

## General Assembly May Cap Spending

With its reputation in tatters after an ill-conceived and excessive July pay raise, the General Assembly is hard at work to restore its reputation with the general public. Among its efforts to win back respect is a panacea called the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR). In short, it's a spending cap.

Both the PA House and the PA Senate have passed legislation that would tie state budgets to the prior year's spending plus a growth factor equal to growth in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the population growth rate or the personal income growth rate. The current state "general fund" budget is \$24.3 billion. Were the proposed spending cap to become law, the 2006-07 state budget would be limited to around \$25.1 billion (\$800 million in growth).

Proponents of the cap say that should be more than enough to meet legitimate needs. Opponents of the cap point to the fact that many costs covered by the state, such as Medical Assistance for low-income seniors and the disabled, are rising much faster than the CPI. They fear that a spending cap would be a cop-out, taking legislators off the hook when it is time to make tough decisions to fund necessary services.

The Senate and the House have adopted somewhat different versions of TABOR and the two versions would need to be reconciled before being sent to the Governor. Sandy Strauss, director of public advocacy for the PA Council of Churches, is asking legislators to "slow down" and not rush into another ill-conceived law. But legislators are in an impatient mood. "After what happened this summer, everyone is trying to prove who's the most conservative," said one Senate staffer.

## Heat or Eat?

Two bills awaiting action in the PA General Assembly would help take the edge off the "heat or eat" dilemma. The first (HB 1539) has already been approved by the Senate and would infuse \$25 million into the Low-Income Heating Emergency Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for distribution this winter. The second (HB 2216) has been approved by the House and would infuse only \$6 million into LIHEAP. Either bill, if passed, would be the first-ever expenditure of state money for LIHEAP. Before acting, state legislators are keeping a close eye on Washington where Congress also is considering an additional appropriation for LIHEAP.

Meanwhile, the Rendell Administration has launched a publicity blitz and referral network to help Pennsylvanians meet their heating needs this winter. The initiative includes a website ([www.staywarmPA.com](http://www.staywarmPA.com)) with links to local offices and a toll-free hotline (866.550.4355) which also includes local referrals. In a December 5<sup>th</sup> memo to the Governor's Inter-Agency Council on Food and Nutrition, Dennis McManus from the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank asked that food stamp outreach be included in the Stay Warm PA effort. According to McManus, more unused dollars are available for low-income families through food stamps than through any available alternative, including LIHEAP. "Between \$300-400 million may have been left on the table because eligible Pennsylvanians did not participate," wrote McManus. The Council, which met December 6<sup>th</sup>, took no action but encouraged Agriculture Deputy Secretary Cheryl Cook to follow up with Welfare Deputy Secretary Kathy Yorkievitcz.

## Funding for Nutrition Education

With growing levels of food insecurity in the U.S., it is even more crucial that low-income families have access to quality nutrition education. The PA Nutrition Education Program (PA NEP) works to do just that. Currently it is looking for new project partners for October 2006.

PA NEP programming is divided into three tracks: pre-school, school-age, and adult/senior tracks. Objectives, strategies, evidenced-based curricula, nutrition education materials and evaluation methods are outlined for each track. Local projects choose from a bank of resources and methodologies for their programming. This year, 15 local organizations are included in the PA NEP working in a total of 36 counties. Federal funding per project ranges between \$23,000 and \$3 million. Current PA NEP projects offer shopping tips, recipes, cooking demonstrations, adult classes, after-school programs, classroom lessons, senior workshops and more.

Projects may be public and private agencies that provide nutrition education to food stamp-eligible households using public, non-federal money. For example, a school that provides (or would like to provide) nutrition education in the classroom could qualify. Each non-federal public dollar and each public in-kind dollar used in a project (for example, a portion of a teacher's salary) can be matched by a dollar from the Food Stamp Program if that dollar is also used to provide nutrition education to food stamp-eligible audiences. Fundable costs include salaries and benefits, materials and supplies, and the production or acquisition of education materials for approved nutrition and food education activities.

Penn State University, which manages the PA NEP for the Department of Public Welfare, will release the 2007 Request for Proposals (RFP) in December; completed proposals will be due in January or February. For more information, contact PA NEN Promoter, Steve Gauvry (717.233.1791, [sgauvry@pahunger.org](mailto:sgauvry@pahunger.org)) or PA NEP Program Manager, Paula Shipman (814.863.0074 or [pjs30@psu.edu](mailto:pjs30@psu.edu)).



***"Hunger is a tragedy in Ethiopia, Bangladesh, the Congo, and Chad, but not in this country. Here, there is enough food...we all know that. Hunger in the United States, where farmers are paid by the government to turn crops under, where food is piled high in warehouses, is a scandal." ~Dr. Leonard Fein at Philadelphia's World Food Day Celebration***

## Director's Column



Charles Dickens began his **Tale of Two Cities** with the now-famous line, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." I find his memorable phrase coming to mind as I watch public events.

In Washington, we see Congress paying for more tax cuts by cutting basic services to the needy. It's a shameful reminder of how compassionate conservatism has devolved into political greed. Here in our Pennsylvania General Assembly, we see legislators rushing through artificial and unrealistic spending limits as a remedy for the pay raise they rushed through in July. They are like the spendthrift parent who, having wasted household resources in self-indulgence, clamps a tight limit on spending for groceries, school clothes and doctors' visits.

But there's good stuff happening too. The American people aren't fooled by the shell game Congress is playing with the budget. Two-thirds oppose the congressional plan to "reduce the deficit" by cutting \$35 billion out of human services and \$70 billion out of tax revenue. As for the goings-on in Harrisburg, people are paying attention like never before.

Recently I heard Rev. Jim Wallis, an evangelical preacher, speak to a large crowd in Lancaster. Wallis has become a national spokesperson for people of faith who object to the way the moral claims of justice and peace are being twisted into a narrow partisan agenda. He said the key choice we Americans face is between cynicism and hope. "Cynicism clearly sees the injustice but despairs that things will ever change. Hope believes despite the evidence and then watches the evidence change."

These past few weeks we at Hunger Action have talked by telephone to many food pantry volunteers. These are folks who prevent hunger by distributing food. It is often said they aren't interested in calling Congress. Well, that's not true, at least not any more. Food pantry volunteers, like millions of other Americans, are making the connections between the daily suffering of little people and distorted budgets assembled in Washington and Harrisburg. It's beginning to happen; the evidence is changing.

**Breakfast...continued from 1**

Sue Mitchem, a child nutrition specialist for the Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center, commented on Pennsylvania's ranking in the latest FRAC report. "Our state is making modest progress at a time when dramatic action is necessary. Our schools and our state policy-makers still haven't made the obvious connection between how a child starts his or her day and big problems such as obesity and academic achievement. They've put breakfast in a box and don't recognize it is part of the solution to bigger things."

Multiple research studies have shown that children have the best chance for academic success if they start their day with a nutritious breakfast. Studies have also shown that a healthy breakfast minimizes children's consumption of junk foods and reduces the incidence of obesity.

The **Pennsylvania School Breakfast Report Card** includes five categories. In addition to citing schools that are not providing needed nutritional support, it gives recognition to schools that are offering exemplary breakfast programs. Key findings follow.

**Star Performers**

"Star Performers" are school districts that integrate breakfast into the school day and encourage all children to participate. Selected for recognition this year are districts in which average daily breakfast participation was at least 50 percent of average daily lunch participation. Leading the way in 2004-05 for the fifth consecutive year was Farrell Area School District in Mercer County. Breakfast participation at Farrell last year was 86 percent of lunch participation.

New schools in this year's report include the following school districts: Avella Area (Washington), Union (Clarion), Purchase Line (Indiana), Turkeyfoot Valley Area (Somerset), Galeton Area (Potter) and Towanda Area (Bradford).

**Getting the Job Done**

Among school districts in which at least 29 percent of the children came from low-income families, fifteen stood out for serving breakfast to at least half of those students each day. Again topping this list of schools that are "Getting the Job Done" was Farrell Area School District; 82 percent of its low-income students had breakfast at school.

New to this category in the 2004-05 report are these districts: Avella Area (Washington), Jeannette City (Westmoreland), Conemaugh Township Area (Somerset), Turkeyfoot Valley Area (Somerset), Galeton Area School District (Potter), and Union (Clarion).

<b>Star Performers</b>	
Making Breakfast a Regular Part of the School Day	
	<b>Percent of Children Receiving Breakfast</b>
Farrell Area (Mercer)	86%
Midland Borough (Beaver)	80%
Homer-Center (Indiana)	72%
Western Beaver County (Beaver)	71%
Aliquippa (Beaver)	70%
Mahanoy Area (Schuylkill)	68%
Harmony Area (Clearfield)	65%
Harrisburg City (Dauphin)	63%
Jeannette City (Westmoreland)	57%
Avella Area (Washington)	54%
Conemaugh Township Area (Somerset)	54%
Cornell (Allegheny)	53%
Sto-Rox (Allegheny)	53%
Union (Clarion)	52%
Purchase Line (Indiana)	51%
Turkeyfoot Valley Area (Somerset)	51%
Galeton Area (Potter)	50%
Towanda Area (Bradford)	50%

<b>Getting the Job Done</b>	
Serving Breakfast to Most Low-Income Children	
Farrell Area (Mercer)	82% served daily
Harmony Area (Clearfield)	66% served daily
Midland Borough (Beaver)	66% served daily
Western Beaver County (Beaver)	62% served daily
Galeton Area (Potter)	61% served daily
Homer-Center (Indiana)	60% served daily
Aliquippa (Beaver)	60% served daily
Jeannette City (Westmoreland)	59% served daily
Conemaugh Twp Area (Somerset)	53% served daily
Avella Area (Washington)	53% served daily
Harrisburg City (Dauphin)	52% served daily
Union (Clarion)	52% served daily
Wallenpaupack Area (Wayne)	51% served daily
Turkeyfoot Valley Area (Somerset)	51% served daily
Forest Area (Forest)	50% served daily

### Moving Up!

Eleven school districts began offering the breakfast program last year including five school districts from last year's list of "failures". By starting breakfast, these eleven districts joined others that have made the link between nutrition, health and academics. Also meriting special recognition for a change for the better are Valley View School District, which increased its daily breakfast attendance by 89 percent increase, and West Shore School District, which increased daily breakfast attendance by 88 percent.

### Improvement Needed

Twelve school districts with at least 25 percent low-income students are cited for reaching only a tiny fraction of those students with breakfast. Kennett Consolidated (Chester), with 1297 low-income students, led this list; only 1 in 25 received school breakfast on a typical school day. At Mifflinburg Area

### Moving Up!

Starting or Growing Breakfast Programs Last Year

	Daily Breakfasts
Valley View (Lackawanna)	89.1 % increase
West Shore (York)	88.4 % increase
Derry Area (Westmoreland)	82.8 % increase
Franklin Area (Venango)	66.7 % increase
Sharpsville Area (Mercer)	65.6 % increase
Upper Darby (Delaware)	63.1 % increase
Fort Leboeuf (Erie)	493 new program
Dover Area (York)	306 new program
Dubois Area (Clearfield)	268 new program
Twin Valley (Berks)	228 new program
South Williamsport (Lycoming)	172 new program
Rockwood Area (Somerset)	156 new program
Lakeland (Lackawanna)	97 new program
Schuylkill Valley (Berks)	90 new program
Red Lion Area (York)	82 new program
Penn Trafford (Westmoreland)	58 new program
Warwick (Lancaster)	52 new program

### Improvement Needed

Lots of Need – Few Breakfasts Served

	Needy Students	Percent
Kennett Consolidated (Chester)	1,297	4%
Mifflinburg Area (Union)	601	6%
Ephrata Area (Lancaster)	861	8%
West York Area (York)	706	8%
Lehigh Area (Carbon)	646	10%
Schuylkill Haven Area (Schuylkill)	402	10%
Bangor Area (Northampton)	752	11%
Mountain View (Susquehanna)	549	11%
Forest Hills (Cambria)	929	12%
Butler Area (Butler)	2,188	13%
Middletown Area (Dauphin)	652	13%
Easton Area (Northampton)	2,095	13%

(Union), which has 601 low-income students, the ratio was also very poor (1 in 15).

### Failing the Children

Twelve districts with a high ratio of low-income children did not offer breakfast to its students. Four districts on the list for 04-05 are beginning breakfast this year. They are Kiski Area, Antietam, Wilmington Area and Tamaqua.

Once again Pottsville Area School District, with 1,300 low-income children and no breakfast program, has the dubious distinction of leading this list. Barefield Development Corporation of Pottsville recently received a \$373,000 Physical Education Program (PEP) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant, Pottsville Project Fit, will increase the opportunities for fitness, good health and nutrition in the Pottsville schools and community. Craig Shields of Barefield Development stated, "We are hopeful that 'Pottsville Project Fit' will help encourage the best possible health outcomes for our children, including bringing nutritious breakfasts to our schools."

### Failing the Children

No Breakfast Despite the Need

Pottsville (Schuylkill)	41%	low-income
Johnsonburg Area (Elk)	37%	low-income
Riverside (Lackawanna)	36%	low-income
North Schuylkill (Schuylkill)	35%	low-income
Weatherly Area (Carbon)	31%	low-income
Forbes Road (Fulton)	30%	low-income
Gettysburg Area (Adams)	29%	low-income
Hanover Public (York)	28%	low-income
Kiski Area (Westmoreland)	26%	low-income
Antietam (Berks)	26%	low-income
Wilmington Area (Lawrence)	26%	low-income
Tamaqua Area (Schuylkill)	25%	low-income

With schools across the state formulating federally mandated Wellness Policies to enhance student health, now is the perfect time for all schools to get on board with breakfast. If not now, when?

*For the complete report, go to News at [www.pahunger.org](http://www.pahunger.org).*

## Rural Summer Pilot Shows Modest Gains

Veteran reporter Helen Thomas said in 2002, "Hunger is an issue for all seasons." In rural Pennsylvania, it is a children's issue especially in summer.

This past winter Hunger Action, together with the PA Department of Education (PDE), collaborated to recruit new Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors in rural communities. It was the most intense rural outreach effort ever undertaken by either organization and consisted of letters, visits, and presentations in more than 36 rural counties. The precipitating event was an act of Congress, passed in June 2004, which created special rules just for PA during the summers of 2005 and 2006. These special rules enabled PA to operate summer feeding sites at locations where low-income children constituted 40 percent (instead of the usual 50 percent) of the population.

Just in are figures from the PDE that help us to evaluate the effectiveness of the first year of the SFSP Pilot. The latest data shows an 11 percent rise (from 660,239 meals in 2004 to 733,612 meals in 2005) in the number of meals served in rural counties through the SFSP. The total rural meal count would be even stronger were it to include meals served by urban sponsors in rural communities. Currently these meals are not captured in the rural data.

Here's more of the rural story. Rural areas saw 22 new sponsors in the summer of 2005 with 4 not returning from the previous year. There were 375 rural feeding sites operating in 2005, an increase of 98 sites over the previous year. Twenty sponsors provided meals in rural areas under the special 40 percent rules. These 20 sponsors operated 40 summer food sites. Hunger Action estimates 3,000 rural children received summer meals at these sites.

In summary, the outreach efforts brought in more rural sponsors who opened more rural sites. Sue Mitchem, who coordinated the effort for Hunger Action, explained, "We've only exposed the tip of the iceberg with the rural work from last year. Because of low population density and distances people must travel to central locations, SFSP is a tough program to operate in rural areas. To succeed we must inspire school and community groups to begin feeding children and shoot for expansion with existing sponsors."

Linda Cole-Koloski, food service director for Blue Ridge School District in Susquehanna County, said she found the motivation to begin a SFSP as she began to know the children in the district and received a mailing describing the 40 percent Pilot. "It is exactly what we needed to better serve the children and the needs of our community." Cole-Koloski continued, "The success of our SFSP program here is *because* of the 40 percent Pilot; we need to keep that Pilot alive."

Yet the task remains to find more local sponsors in rural counties and the effort continues. The challenges are many including effective financial management by sponsors, transportation of children/meals in remote areas and finding willing sponsors. Needed are good folks from churches, community groups and non-profits who'd like to make an impact by feeding children next summer. Call Sue Mitchem or Laura Rumley at Hunger Action 717-233-6705 to get involved.

## Hunters Sharing the Harvest

The Monday after Thanksgiving is not only the beginning of the deer season for many Pennsylvanian hunters, but also a time for giving. As it has been doing since 1991, Hunters Sharing the Harvest (HSH) encourages and appeals to hunters to donate venison in an effort to end hunger. The program is operated by Pennsylvanians for the Responsible Use of Animals (PRUA) in cooperation with the PA Game Commission and the PA Department of Agriculture.

Hunters have two options: they can donate a whole deer and pay the \$15 minimum up to the full cost of processing (at one of the more than 50 participating processors), or pay the full cost of processing and donate only a portion of the deer. The donated venison is then given to local food banks and soup kitchens. Last year, approximately 70,000 pounds of venison were donated which provided 200,000 meals for needy Pennsylvanians. The meat from one deer can provide 200 meals.

Hunters and non-hunters alike can also contribute to the cause by donating to "Give a Buck to the Pot" which is used to help underwrite the cost of processing preparation. A \$25 donation can help provide 100 meals. (For more information, visit HSH's website at [www.sharedeer.org](http://www.sharedeer.org).)

"So far this season, we've seen a lot of participation. However, our meat processors are telling us that they haven't had as many donations at this point in the year as they had in the past," explained Ken Brandt, statewide coordinator for HSH. "We are still hopeful, though, that we will achieve our annual goal of 70,000 pounds in the extended season."

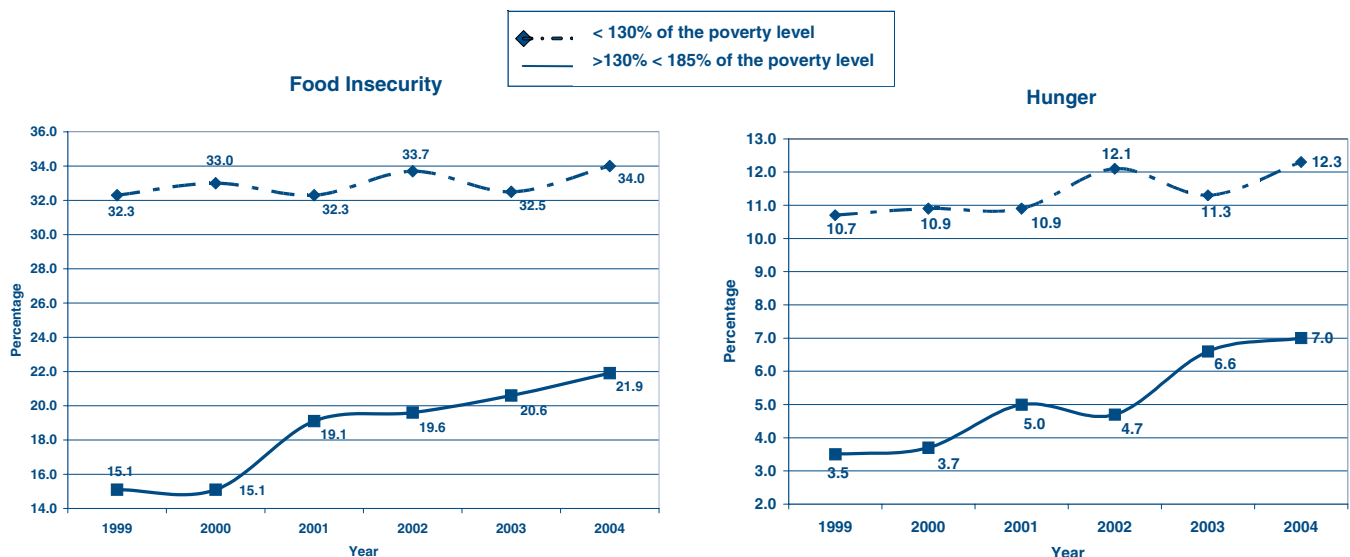
## Hunger and Food Insecurity Remain High

While the need for food assistance remains urgent across Pennsylvania, Hunger Action's latest pantry study suggests there may be a glimmer of hope for charitable food providers hit with sharp increases over the past couple of years. Based on a survey of nearly 500 food pantries, Hunger Action found that the number of households receiving food assistance during October declined slightly to 141 households per pantry. While still more than in 2003 or 2002, this is five fewer households per pantry than during October 2004, a decline of 3 percent.

This bit of good news from October is part of a larger picture that remains bleak. The USDA's latest report, *Household Food Security in the United States – 2004*, confirmed that last year was a tough one for low-income Pennsylvania households. According to the report, food insecurity in Pennsylvania affected 10.2 percent of households. This was the worst result for the state in the 10 years that the USDA has been collecting and reporting food security data, pushing the Commonwealth down from its 9<sup>th</sup> place ranking to 19<sup>th</sup> in the country. Hunger reached 2.9 percent of households in 2004, also a 10-year record high. Pennsylvania is one of the 11 states that experienced an increase in food insecurity of over 20 percent during the past three years. This suggests a link between rising food insecurity and the loss of family-sustaining jobs, a trend most pronounced in states that formerly had many industrial jobs.

The USDA study also documented an increase in food insecurity and hunger across the United States with the national food insecurity rate increasing to 11.9 percent of American households from 11.2 percent in 2003. This means that 38 million individuals lived in households that were uncertain of having and unable to acquire adequate food to meet basic needs during at least part of the prior year. In 3.9 percent of American households, members faced hunger; typically this more severe condition occurred during eight or more months out of the year. To read the full USDA study, go to [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov).

Hunger Action's analysis of the USDA data shows that the steepest and most consistent decline in food security occurred among households with incomes between 130 and 185 percent of poverty. From 2000 to 2004 the rate of food insecurity among these households increased from 15 to 22 percent. The rate of hunger among these households nearly doubled, from 3.7 to 7.0 percent. This is a clear indication that hunger is becoming a problem for a growing number of households in which a member has a job and is earning wages. The following graphs illustrate these trends across the United States.



Does Hunger Action's pantry survey suggest a turn for the better is occurring? "We'd like to think so," said Berry Friesen, executive director of Hunger Action. "But other factors – especially the high heating costs – are pushing the risk of hunger higher so we all really need to remain at full readiness. The other significant factor is wages, which in the lower paid jobs have not kept up with inflation. When folks working \$7 and \$8 an hour jobs start receiving consistent raises, then we will begin to see a significant decline in the number of families that need help from food pantries."



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## Hunger Action Faces Big Cut in Funding

For twenty years the Community Food and Nutrition Program (CFNP) has provided funding to the PA Hunger Action Center. Beginning in 2006, that funding will likely end.

The source of the problem is the deepening federal deficit. In a show of fiscal conservatism, Congress limited the growth in the spending authority of its appropriations committees for the 2006 budget. According to staff for Senate Labor-HHS-Education appropriations subcommittee chairman Arlen Specter, the subcommittee was "billions short" of what was needed to cover inflation. Thus, the subcommittee eliminated funding for numerous programs, including the \$7 million CFNP.

Hunger Action had expected to receive \$130,000 this year from CFNP. With the loss of funding, the following services will be at risk:

- Statewide emergency food referral;
- Food stamp screening and application assistance;
- School Breakfast and Summer Food Service Program recruitment;
- County food security workshops, conference, website and newsletter;
- Consultation with state personnel to improve food program effectiveness.

In a letter to Specter, Pat Temple-West, director for Nutritional Development Services at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, stated: "The federal government continues to look to the charitable and religious sectors to assume more and more of the burden of feeding the hungry and we are stepping up to the task. But we need technical assistance, guidance and mutual support – all of which is now provided by the Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center. Take this away and we will lose our efficiency, we will increase duplication and fritter away our scarce resources because of a lack of coordination and education; in short, hunger in Pennsylvania will increase."

Final congressional action on the \$600 billion Labor-HHS-Education appropriation is expected before Congress goes home for Christmas.

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