Prepared by the Coalition Against Hunger
www.hungercoalition.org
The Coalition Against Hunger conducted its biennial Emergency Food Provider Survey in early 2015. What follows is a summary of important findings, including charts and statistics on the problem of food insecurity in Philadelphia and its surrounding areas. We surveyed 232 food pantries, soup kitchens, and additional emergency food providers.

89.7%

of emergency food programs surveyed either ran out of or had to provide less food to clients at some point in the last 12 months.

In Philadelphia one in four people faces food insecurity. An extensive network of an estimated more than 700 food pantries, soup kitchens, and other emergency food providers is vital to the city and its surrounding area.

It is essential that we support these feeding programs to ensure that all people have the food they need to lead healthy lives.

The Coalition’s Emergency Food Provider Survey aimed to identify the issues these programs face and determine what we can do to improve food access for all.

The survey included 181 programs from Philadelphia, with the remainder spread throughout the region.

The survey covered both food pantries and soup kitchens. Food pantries, the most common program surveyed, provide clients with food to take home. Soup kitchens serve a meal on site. Several programs operate as both — often selecting one or two days during the week to serve a meal — while providing food to take home on other days.
The region’s two largest food banks, SHARE Food Program and Philabundance, provide food to hundreds of emergency food providers. The majority of programs use one or both of these resources, and sometimes pair it with additional providers to meet the need in their communities.
As the title suggests, a choice pantry is one that allows clients to select the food they want, with some limitations on how much of each (meat, fruit, dairy, etc.) they may take. This model is recommended by national organizations, such as Feeding America, because it cuts down on waste by allowing clients to select what they know their families need, and provides them with a measure of dignity.

Pre-packaged pantries provide bags of groceries for their clients based upon what the pantry has available.

If you operate a food pantry, do you:

Allow guests to choose foods they want from shelves (choice pantry): 15.5%
Provide pre-packaged bags or boxes of food: 65.5%
Other (some combination): 19%

Access to a pantry can be an issue for disabled individuals who have difficulty traveling.

- Of the programs surveyed, only two stated they would deliver food to clients.
- 23.7 percent of feeding programs indicated their facility is not handicapped accessible.
of feeding programs reported seeing more people now compared to the same time last year.

An additional 34.1 percent said the number remained roughly the same, while only 4.7 percent reported seeing fewer people.

“It’s the time of the season”

Is there a time of year when supplies are especially low?

Winter: 38.4%
Summer: 29.7%
Fall 16.4%
Spring: 1.3%
“No”: 7.3%
Other (certain dates): 6.9%
Percentage of feeding programs that are closed at some point during the year:

19.4%

what they said:

"We would like to further discuss what can be done to improve the city-wide emergency food system to increase the overall efficiency."

"It’s a needed program. I am 85 and have been doing this for 50 years."

"We need to teach the community about nutrition, especially the younger generation."

16.2%

of feeding programs indicated they offer SNAP (food stamps) screenings or referrals.
What are the major barriers to your program getting more food?

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<th>Answers to this question were varied but one response came up in nearly 60 percent of those surveyed. “Lack of food donations” was named a barrier by 58.9 percent of feeding programs. Just four programs mentioned “funding” or “money” as a challenge.</th>
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<td>The second biggest barrier was a “lack of volunteers or staff”. This was an obstacle for 14.1 percent of feeding programs.</td>
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<td>76.3% of food program coordinators are volunteers. Fortunately, if a coordinator retires or moves on, 84 percent of programs indicated there is someone trained and ready to assume the role or that they would continue to operate and find someone new.</td>
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<td>60% That’s the percentage of those surveyed that have had to resort to staff and volunteers spending their own money to keep their feeding program running properly.</td>
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While 53.4 percent of feeding programs surveyed are able to offer fresh fruits and vegetables to their clients, 90.1% of feeding programs are interested in providing healthier foods to clients such as fresh fruits and vegetables, low sodium/sugar canned foods, whole grain pasta, and brown rice.

How can the Coalition Against Hunger be helpful to you?

83.2% of feeding programs replied that we could be most helpful by assisting them to secure healthier foods.

The Coalition founded two Green Light Pantries in 2013 with the mission to provide only healthy food to its clients. To learn more about the Green Light Pantries at Drueding Center and Casa del Carmen, please visit: hungercoalition.org/greenlight
Food Program Mapping

One of the primary reasons The Coalition conducts this survey is to maintain an up-to-date map of food pantries and soup kitchens in the Greater Philadelphia region. Our SNAP Hotline allows people to call and complete SNAP applications over the phone. However, we also use this map to refer callers to programs while their SNAP applications are being processed, or after their monthly benefits have run out, and to connect those who do not qualify for SNAP to emergency food programs. While this report is a biennial project, we conduct a smaller survey each year to check for operational changes. This map can be found at: hungercoalition.org/pantry-map. With this survey, we have mapped 315 food pantries/soup kitchens in our region.

In an effort to consolidate hunger-fighting efforts, Hack4Impact collaborated with The Coalition Against Hunger and the Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council’s Anti-Hunger Subcommittee to build PhillyFoodFinder.org, an online food resource.

This toolkit serves as a way to bring the many food resources in Philadelphia together in one comprehensive on-line location, making it simpler for people to connect to emergency food, meals for children and seniors, public benefits, and fresh produce. In addition, this website is mobile compatible.
The following feeding programs completed the 2015 Emergency Food Provider Survey:

Philadelphia County

Advocate Cafe @ Church of the Advocate
Allen AME Church
Baptist Women’s Center Food Cupboard
Berean Presbyterian Care Closet
Bethel Presbyterian Church
Bethesda Project
Bibleway Baptist Outreach Kitchen
Bickley New Beginning UM Church
Bridesburg Community Food Pantry
Bridgeway, Inc.
Bright Hope Community Kitchen
Broad St. Ministry Hospitality Collaborative
Bryant Baptist Church
Calvary Agape Community
Calvin Presbyterian Church
Campbell AME Church
Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church
Casa del Carmen
Cathedral Church of Our Savior
Catholic Social Services
Center for Social Responsibility (Mitzvah Food Project)
Center in the Park
Children’s Mission Inc.
Christ Bible Fellowship Church of Philadelphia
Christ’s Presbyterian Church
Church Of Hope And Faith
Church of Redeemer Baptist
Church of the Holy Apostles
Community Center at Visitation
Community Church of God
Cornerstone Baptist Church
Congresso de Latinos Unidos
Crusaders for Christ
Devereux Church
Divine Mercy Food Cupboard
Drueing Center
Drug Task Force Ministry
East Park Revitalization Alliance
East Parkside
Eastwick United Methodist
Eben-ezer Mission
Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church
Face to Face
Faith Assembly of God
Faith Chapel
Faithful Temple Evangelistic Deliverance Church
Father's House of Prayer
FAWN
Feast of Justice
First African Presbyterian
First Church Worship Center
First Pentecostal Church
Ford Memorial Temple/ Harvest Ministry
Freedom Development Corp
Fresh Start
Friends Neighborhood Guild
Friends of the Kingsessing Library Food Pantry
Germantown Ave Crisis Ministry
Germantown SDA
Gibson Temple Baptist Church/Blessed to be a Blessing
Gift of God Resources
Giving of Self Partnership
Good Samaritan Baptist Church
Grace Community Christian Center
Greater Life Christian Center
Greater Straightway Baptist Church
Haitian Evangelical Baptist Church
Harambe Baptist Church
Harold O. Davis Memorial Baptist Church
Haven Peniel United Methodist Church
Heavenly Hall Full Gospel Temple
Helping Hands for the Hungry
Helping Hands Rescue Mission
Holmecrest Homes Community
Holsey Temple Christian Methodist Church
Holy Redeemer Food Pantry of PA
Holy Temple Church
Holy Temple Community Center
Holy Temple of the Lord + Savior
Hope Prison Ministries
House of Prayer
Hunting Park NAC
Iglesia De Dios Pentecostal
Intercultural Family Services
Interfaith Food Cupboard
James Spring Memorial Baptist Church
Jerusalem French Church SDA
Johnson Care Center
Jubilee Commandment Keepers Church
Keep the Faith Development
Kitchen of Love
Liberty Baptist Church
Living Waters
Living Word Church
Lombard Central Presbyterian
Macedonia Mission Center
Mantua Haverford Community Center
Masjidullah
Mazzoni Center
Mercy Hospice
Metropolitan Baptist Church
Mizpah SDA Church
Monumental Baptist Church
Moorish Science Temple of America
Morris Brown AME Church
Morris Chapel
Mount Airy Church of God in Christ
Mount Carmel Baptist Church
Mount Ephraim Baptist Church
Mount Olive Holy Temple
Mount Zion Holy Church
Mount Zion Pentecostal Church
New Beginning Pentecostal Church
New Jerusalem
New Pond/Upon This Rock
Nicetown CDC
North East Group Greys Ferry Residents Assn.
North Light Community Center - FISH
North Philadelphia SDA
North Providence Baptist Church Soup Kitchen
Old First Reformed Church
Old St. Joseph’s
Our Mother of Sorrows
Paradise Emmanuel
Philadelphia Brotherhood Rescue Mission
Praise the Living God
Providence Baptist Church
Ralston/Mercy-Douglass House
Redeem Baptist Church
Refuge Evangelical Baptist Church
Remnant Church of God
Resurrection Baptist Church
Richard N Friends United in the Community
Sanctuary Church of the Open Door
Sarah Allen Senior Homes
Second Baptist Share Program
Second Chance Mission
Second Pilgrim Baptist Church
Sidney Hillman Apartments
Solid Rock United Methodist Church
Somerton Interfaith Food Bank
South Phila H.O.M.E.S. Inc.
South Philadelphia Family Service
Southwest Philadelphia Family Service Center (Catholic Social Services)
St. Benedict’s
St. Cyprian
St. Francis Inn
St. Gabriel Food Cupboard
St. Joan of Arc Church
St. John’s Hospice
St. Mark’s Hospice
St. Martin de Porres
St. Peter’s Food Cupboard
St. Timothy Lutheran
Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission
Take a Sistah to Lunch
Temple Presbyterian
Tenth Presbyterian Church
Thankful Learning Center
The First African Baptist Church
The Food Cupboard at Church of the Annunciation
The Simple Way
The Welcome Church
The Word in Action International Ministry
Tindley Temple United Methodist Triumphant Faith
True Vine Baptist Church
Union Baptist Church
United Communities Southeast Philadelphia
Victory Support Services
Voice of Deliverance Worship Center
Wayland Temple Baptist Church
We Feed The Homeless Philly
Well Done Community Resource
West Girard Community Council
Word of Life Healing Ministry
Word of Deliverance Fellowship Ministries
Yorktown CDC
Zion AME Church
Bucks County
Bucks Food for Friends
Fallsington United Methodist Church
Keystone Opportunity Center
Mary’s Cupboard
Chester County
City Gate Mission
Coatesville Community Food Co-Op
Delaware County
Bernardine Center
Blessed Virgin Mary Church
Mt. Zion CME Church
Delaware County Office of Service for the Aging
Chester Eastside, Inc.
Thomas Memorial Presbyterian Church
Christ Lutheran Church
Christ Tabernacle Church
City Team Ministries
Church of Nazarene
Community Outreach Project Life Center of Eastern Delaware Valley
First United Methodist Church
God’s House of Prayer & Repair
God’s House of Glory
AIDS Care Group
Interfaith Food Cupboard
Kaiserman JCC (Mitzvah Food Project)
Lansdowne Presbyterian Church
Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry
Neighbor to Neighbor CDC
Lancaster County
Freedom Life Christian Center
Montgomery County
Beth Sholom Congregation
Calvary Assembly of God
Catholic Social Services of Montco
Jewish Relief Agency
MANNA on Main
My Poor Feat
New Hope Baptist Church
Norristown Salvation Army Cupboard
North Hills Food Cupboard
Open Door
Positive Aging in Lower Merion
Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities
Siloam Baptist Church Soup Kitchen
Acknowledgements

Thank you to all of the feeding programs that participated in this survey. With these findings, we will be better able to focus on the challenges that are faced daily by those on the front lines in the fight against hunger in our region.

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David Cherry, Len Perlman, Stacey Andrews, Yvette Palmer, and Dorie Obertello.

About the Coalition Against Hunger:
Founded in 1996, the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger strives to build a community where all people have the food they need to lead healthy lives. The Coalition connects people with food assistance programs and nutrition education; provides resources to a network of food pantries; and educates the public and policymakers about responsible solutions that prevent people from going hungry.

If you or someone you know needs food, call our SNAP Hotline:
215-430-0556

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