Urgent Appeal for Full Funding of Community Food Connection in New York City Budget

Hon. Eric Adams
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

CC: NYCC Speaker Adrienne Adams, NYCC Finance Chair Justin Brannan, NYCC General Welfare Chair Diana Ayala, NYC Comptroller Brad Lander, DSS Commissioner Molly Park

Dear Mayor Adams,

As organizations at the forefront of combating food insecurity in New York City, we express our deep concerns about the persisting high levels of food insecurity across our city and the proposed funding allocations in the FY25 Executive Budget for the ***Community Food Connection*** (CFC) program. Managed by the Department of Social Services (DSS/HRA), CFC represents New York City's primary baseline funding for direct community food assistance. CFC supplies nutritious and fresh food to nearly 700 programs across all five boroughs and is a vital source of food for our network which serves over 1 million New Yorkers annually.

Our city's affordability crisis leaves many relying on community food programs as their last defense against hunger. Reports indicate that more than 1 in 7 NYC residents are food insecure (a significant increase from previous years), and 50% of families, or nearly 1.3 million households, lack sufficient resources to meet their need. Furthermore, the most recent True Cost of Living Report finds that 63% of households with children are income inadequate.

Regrettably, the Executive Budget proposal unveiled on April 24th includes a drastic cut of nearly 50% in funding for CFC in FY25, with further reductions planned for FY26. Our networks have witnessed an alarming surge of up to 80% more visits since the pandemic onset, with a significant increase among families with children. Amid escalating food costs, SNAP benefit cuts, and a growing number of asylum seekers seeking our services, our capacity is already at its limit. Urgent action is needed and New York City must *bolster* its investment in CFC.

Recent adjustments in revenue projections reveal a substantial surplus of unallocated funds, reportedly totaling $1 billion. As you finalize the FY25 budget, we make a strong appeal to you to prioritize the fundamental food needs of New Yorkers and **establishing a baseline funding of $60 million for the Community Food Connection**. Each dollar invested in food assistance amplifies the health, stability, and economic resilience of our communities. This is an investment in our collective future.

Sincerely,

Grace Bonilla
President & CEO,
United Way of New York City

Leslie Gordon
President & CEO,
Food Bank For New York City

Jilly Stephens
CEO,
City Harvest

- Ágape Christian Center
- AIDS Center of Queens County, Inc. (ACQC)
- Al Hajjah Fajr Tyson Halal Food and Clothing Distribution Pantry
- Alfred E Smith Houses Residents Association, Inc.
- Allen Outreach Ministry, Feeding Programs
- Anthony House Pantry
- Antioch Outreach Ministries
- APNA Brooklyn Community Center
- Ash Shifaa Inc.
- Bayview Houses Emergency Food Pantry
- Bedford Central Presbyterian Church
- Beraca SDA Church/Food Pantry
- Bethany United Methodist Church
- Bethel AME Food Pantry
- Bethel Arverne Food Pantry
- Bethel Emanuel Temple/ BMSC
- Bethel Gospel Tabernacle
- Bethel S.D.A. Church
- Beth-Hark Christian Counseling Center, Inc.
- Blanche Memorial Church
- Blessed Assurance Church of God / Blessed Assurance Charity Inc.
- B'nai Jeshurun
- Bnai Raphael Chesed Org. Inc.
- BRC Lexington Ave Men Residence
- Broadway Community, Inc.
- BronxWorks
- Brooklyn Rescue Mission Urban Harvest
- Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation
- Cabrini Immigrant Services
- CAMBA
- Catholic Charities Community Services - Feeding Our Neighbors
- Catholic Charities of Staten Island
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York
- Celebrevents, LLC
- Center for Family Life in Sunset Park
- Center for Wellbeing & Happiness at the Lower East Side Girls Club
- Chambers Memorial Baptist Church
- Chance for Children Youth Information Center, Inc.
- Child Development Support Corporation
- Children of the Light Food Pantry Inc.
- Christ Abundant Life Ministries
- Christ Disciples International Ministries, Inc.
- Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Christ Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith
- Christian Fellowship SDA Church
- Church of God of Prophecy
- Church of God, Pentecostal
- Church of St. Mark
- Church of the Ascension
- Church of the Epiphany
- Citizens' Committee for Children of New York
- City Relief
- Citymeals on Wheels
- Collective Focus Resource Hub Inc.
- Community Health Action of Staten Island
- Community Healthcare Network
- Community Help in Park Slope
- Community Impact at Columbia University
- Community Services Housing Development Corp.
- Compassion House Community Development Corporation
- Convent Avenue Baptist Church Food Pantry
- Co-op City SDA Church Food Pantry
- Cornerstone Baptist Church Food Pantry
- Creston Avenue Baptist Church
- Crossroads Community Services
- Cuyler Warren
- Davidson Community Center
- DBE NY
- Deliverance Temple Church
- Divine Revelation Food Pantry
- Divine Truth Ministry, Inc.
- East 233rd Senior Ctr. Inc.
- East New York Farms!
- Eastchester Presbyterian Church Soup Kitchen
- Ebenezer SDA church
- Emmaus SDA Church
- Equity Advocates
- Expecting Relief
- Family Health Centers at NYU Langone
- Family Life Development Center
- Family Worship Center, Inc.
- Farm School NYC
- Father’s Heart Ministries
- Fellowship Covenant Church
- First Church of God In Christ
- First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica
- First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn
- First Presbyterian Church of Far Rockaway
- Flatbush SDA Pantry
- Flushing Jewish Community Council, Inc.
- Fulton TA
- Gethsemane SDA Church
- God Bless You All

- Goddard Riverside
- Goke Food Pantry
- Grace and Peace Food Bank
- Grace Church, West Farms
- Grace Episcopal Church
- Grant House Unity Corp.
- Greenpoint Reformed Church Hunger Program
- Hanson Place SDA Community Services
- Harlem Dowling West Side Center for Children and Family Services
- Hebrew Educational Society (H.E.S.)
- Hollis Community Christian Center
- Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen
- Hope Center Development Corporation
- Horeb Community Services
- House Of Completion CDC (HOC)
- House of David Workship Center
- I.S Roland Patterson Middle School
- Iglesia Alianza Cristiana Misionera Ebenezer
- In The Beginning Outreach, Inc.
- Inspirational Gospel Assembly
- Jamaica SDA Church
- Justice for Impacted Communities
- Kehilat Sephardim Food Pantry
- LES III Townhouses Resident Association
- Life Bridge NY
- Life Together Works NYC
- Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service Inc.
- Lower Eastside Girls Club
- Macedonia Church of Christ
- Madison Square Boys & Girls Club
- Make the Road NY
- Mamre SDA Church
- Mana de Cielo
- Manna of Life Ministries Inc.
- Meatloaf Kitchen
- Meltzer Tower Tenants association
- Miley's Touch Soup Kitchen: Calvary Fellowship
- Ministerio La Luz de la Esperanza para las Naciones de Jesucristo
- Montefiore Medical Center
- Montefiore Medical Project Bravo Food Panty
- More Than Conquerors
- Morris Brown Helping Hands Food Pantry
- Morrisania Revitalization Corp.
- Mosholu Montefiore Community Center
- Mount Carmel Worship & Outreach Ctr.
- Mount Sinai Seven Village Church
- Movement of Pentecostal
- MS 337: School of Inquiry and Social Justice
- Mt. Hebron Food For Life Pantry
- Mt. Moriah SDA Church
- Mt. Zion AME Church
- MUNA Social Services, Inc.
- Muslim Women's Institute for Research and Development
- National Committee for the Furtherance of Jewish Education
- National Council of Jewish Women New York
- National Sorority Phi Delta Kappa, Big Sister Educational Action and Service Center
- Nazareth Housing
- Neighbors Together
- New Covenant Community Development Corporation
- New Hope Family Worship Center
- New Pilgrim Community Baptist Church
- New York City College of Technology
- New York Common Pantry
- New York Democrats and moderates for choice
- No Longer Bound Ministries
- Northeastern Conference Adventist Community Services Center
- NYC Love Kitchen
- NYCHA Resident Association LES II
- O.P.I.N. (Other People In Need) Inc.
- One Way Church of Christ
- Open Door Family Life Center, Inc.
- Original Pentecostal Apostolic Church Inc.
- Our Lady of Good Counsel Food Pantry
- Our Lady of Grace Food Pantry
- Our Lady of Lourdes Food Pantry
- Our Lady of Refuge RC Church Food Pantry
- Part of the Solution (POTS)
- PATHHSEO, Inc.
- Peniel Community Development Food Pantry
- Pomonok Food Pantry
- Princess Diana Foundation
- Project CREATE Inc.
- Project Hospitality
- Queens College Knights Table Food Pantry
- Queens Community House
- Rabbinical Alliance of America
- Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries
- RCCG Chapel of Restoration
- RCCG Tabernacle of Restoration
- Reaching Out Community Service Inc.
- Resurrection And Life Pentecostal Church of America, Inc.

- Relief Access Program for the Bronx
- Resurrection And Life Pentecostal Church of America, Inc.
- RHOW Brooklyn Inc.
- Roosevelt Island Disabled Association
- Samuel Field YM & YWHA
- Santana & Vargas Charities Inc.
- SCAN-Harbor Inc.
- Second Chance Agape Worship Center
- Shorefront Jewish Community Council
- Sisters With Purpose, Inc.
- Solid Rock SDA
- Sound View Presbyterian Church
- South Asian Council for Social Services
- South Ozone Park SDA Church Food Pantry
- Southside Community Mission
- Southside United HDFC-Los Sures
- St Luke's Community Soup Kitchen
- St Simon Stock - St Joseph Church
- St. Albans Deliverance Food Pantry
- St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction
- St. Edward Food Pantry
- St. Jerome HANDS Community Center
- St. John's Bread and Life
- St. Joseph's RC Church
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church
- St. Mark AME Church
- St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church
- St. Paul's Lutheran Food Pantry
- St. Peter's Episcopal Church Love Pantry
- St. Peters Food Pantry
- St. Stephen Outreach Community Development Corporation
- St. Teresa of Avila Community Services
- St. Teresa St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry
- St. Therese of Lisieux
- St. Vincent De Paul - St. Catherine of Genoa Food Pantry
- Stapleton UAME Church
- Staten Island Hunger Task Force
- Staten Island Inter-Religious Leadership
- Tabernacle of Prayer Food Pantry
- The Campaign Against Hunger
- The Gospel Tabernacle Church Of Jesus Christ Inc.
- The Harding Ford Vision, Inc.
- The Legacy Center Community Development Corporation
- The Meatloaf Kitchen
- The Red Door Place, Inc.
- The Richmondtown School: P.S.23
- The River Fund New York
- The Rose Kitchen
- The Salvation Army Jamaica Citadel Corps Community Center
- The Salvation Army Sunset Park Corps
- The Salvation Army: Port Richmond
- The Temple of Restoration
- The United Methodist Center in Far Rockaway
- Thessalonia Baptist Church
- Thurston Memorial Outreach Ministries
- Treasures In Earthen Jars Food Pantry Inc.
- Trinity Human Services Corporation
- Trinity's Services And Food for the Homeless
- UJA-Federation of NY
- United Church Of Praise International Ministries, Inc.
- United Neighborhood Houses
- University Community Social Services
- Vineyard International Christian Ministries
- Vision Urbana, Inc.
- Way Out Church Ministries
- West Side Campaign Against Hunger
- Whosoever Will Baptist Church
- Worldwide Movement Father Son & Holy Spirit
- Xavier Mission
- Zeina Lorraine Inc.
- Zichron Acheinu Levi
- Zion Tabernacle F.B.H. Church Food Pantry