



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shapiro Administration Awards \$1.6 Million to 39 Foodbanks, Pantries, and Soup Kitchens to Expand Emergency Food Access Across Pennsylvania

Governor Shapiro's Administration is committed — during Hunger Action Month and year-round — to fighting hunger and food insecurity across Pennsylvania.

Bethlehem, PA – Today, **Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding** visited New Bethany Choice Food Pantry in Bethlehem to announce awards of more than \$1.6 million to 40 food banks, pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens across Pennsylvania through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Reach and Resiliency Grants. Today's grant awards recognize Hunger Action Month, and demonstrate the **Shapiro Administration's** commitment to fighting hunger and food insecurity and increasing access to healthy food for Pennsylvanians, wherever they live.

"No one should go hungry in a state with the wealth and bounty we have in Pennsylvania," **Secretary Redding** said. "But far too often families do not know where their next meal is coming from and they need our help. Expanding the capacity of organizations like New Bethany to supply fresh, healthy food to families in need is just one part of a broad Shapiro Administration strategy to work toward a healthier, more secure Pennsylvania."

New Bethany is receiving \$23,610 to reconfigure the space in their Choice Food Pantry, allowing them to increase cold storage capacity, offer a greater variety of fresh, nutritious food, and more efficiently serve more people in need of food assistance. New Bethany offers hope and support to people experiencing poverty, hunger, and homelessness. The organization provides food, wellness programming, transitional housing, permanent affordable housing, and financial case management to those working toward self-sufficiency.

"More people than ever are relying on New Bethany's Choice Food Pantry to supplement their grocery budgets," **New Bethany Executive Director Marc Rittlesaid**. "In fact, we have nearly doubled our output of USDA food. TEFAP is essential to us in this work, as we expand our services in the Bethlehem Area."

TEFAP Reach and Resiliency Grants are being awarded to organizations distributing USDA Foods through TEFAP contracts with the state, county, or a county-designated Lead Agency.

Funded projects include expanded cold storage, warehouse space and equipment, delivery vehicles for food distribution, and other investments that expand TEFAP's reach into isolated or underserved rural or low-income communities.

The department will be announcing a second round of TEFAP Reach and Resiliency Grants, with more than \$2.5 million in available funding, in October 2023.

According to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap, in 2022, more than 1.1 million Pennsylvanians, or 8.9% of everyone in the state, and 13% of our children, may not know the source of their next meal.

The Governor's 2023-24 budget includes:

- **\$46.5 million** in funding to provide universal free breakfast to all of Pennsylvania's 1.7 million public school students and free lunch to all 22,000 Pennsylvania students who are eligible for reduced-price lunches through the National School Lunch Program;
- **\$2 million** to fund the Fresh Food Financing Initiative that will contribute to better health outcomes by improving access to PA-grown, processed, and produced foods; and
- **\$2 million** increase to the State Food Purchase Program to provide state funds for emergency food assistance for low-income Pennsylvanians, connect surplus food donated by farmers through the [Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System](#) to food banks and food pantries statewide, and connect low-income seniors to [Senior Food Boxes](#) filled with nutritious dietary staples.

TEFAP Grant Recipients announced today include:

Adams County

South Central Community Action Programs – \$39,492

Allegheny County

Community Human Services Corporation – \$50,000

Berks County

Helping Harvest – \$50,000

Bradford County

Child Hunger Outreach Partners – \$50,000

Butler County

Community Partnership – \$33,000

Cambria County

Interfaith Community Food Pantry – \$29,252

Centre County

The Food Bank of the State College Area – \$40,476

Chester County

Oxford Area Neighborhood Services Center Food Pantry – \$50,000

Clinton County

The New Love Center – \$50,000

Crawford County

Center for Family Services – \$48,904

Cumberland County

Shippensburg Produce and Outreach – \$50,000

Dauphin County

The Salvation Army Harrisburg Capital City Region – \$50,000

Central Pennsylvania Food Bank – \$50,000

Erie County

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania – \$41,020

Fayette County

Fayette County Community Action Agency – \$50,000

Franklin County

Franklin County Government – \$32,861

Indiana County

Indiana County Community Action Program – \$47,918

Lackawanna County

Friends of the Poor – \$50,000

Lebanon County

The Caring Cupboard – \$50,000

Mercer County

Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County – \$50,000

Mifflin County

Mifflin Juniata Human Services – \$32,229

Monroe County

West End Pantry – \$46,585

Montgomery County

ACLAMO – \$20,000

Family Promise Montco PA– \$50,000

Manna on Main Street – \$20,615

Martha's Choice Marketplace – \$38,137

Mattie N. Dixon Community Cupboard – \$8,000

Narberth Community Food Bank – \$17,012

Northampton County

New Bethany – \$28,610

Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast PA – \$40,330

Philadelphia County

Allegheny West Foundation – \$50,000

Philabundance – \$23,000

Share Food Program – \$50,000

Small Things – \$24,280

Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Association Coalition – \$50,000

The Center for Returning Citizens – \$50,000

Schuylkill County

Schuylkill Community Action – \$50,000

York County

New Hope Ministries, Spring Grove – \$50,000

York County Food Bank – \$50,000

Find foodbanks, pantries and other resources in your area, plus information on food insecurity and what you can do to help or find help at agriculture.pa.gov/foodsecurity.

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