

The Problem

In 2020:

- More than **60 million people** utilized food banks and community food programs.
- **38.3 million people** lived in food-insecure households, including **12 million children**.
- The percentage of Black (21.7%) and Hispanic (17.2%) households that faced food insecurity was 2.5 to 3 times higher than white households (7.1%).

Catholic Charities' Response

Many agencies operate specialized food programs to reach children during out-of-school time, when they are most likely to be food insecure. These programs include child care centers and afterschool and summer lunch programs



95,000 children

were served **5 million meals**



Food Distribution Services

Agencies primarily maintain food banks, pantries or cupboards. In addition, some also offer government bulk food distribution, mass food distribution events and other food programs such as food cooperatives; community supported agriculture; community gardens and specialized food pantries for those with allergies; and food voucher services.

	Sites	Clients Served
Food Banks/Pantries/ Cupboards	1,000+	8.4 million
Federal Nutrition Programs	1,750+	3.5 million
Mass Food Distribution Events	1,400 (events)	2 million
Other Food Distribution Programs	483	290,000

Prepared Food Services

	Sites	Clients Served	Meals
Congregate Dining	400	1.5 million	9 million
Home-delivered Meals	338	93,000	3.3 million

SNAP and Healthy Eating



33,000

households assisted with SNAP applications



70,000

clients served with healthy eating education programs



27 agencies

operating community gardens, greenhouses and/or farms

Called to Serve

“The development we speak of here cannot be restricted to economic growth alone. To be authentic, it must be well rounded; it must foster the development of each [person] and of the whole [person].”

Populorum Progressio, No. 14

What Can Congress Do?

- Take up and pass Child Nutrition Reauthorization legislation.
- Support and expand government bulk food distribution programs (e.g., Summer Food Service Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Commodity Supplemental Food Program and the Emergency Food Assistance Program).
- Extend the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) certification period; increase eligibility to 6-years-old; allow an additional snack for full day care; and extend Pandemic-EBT.
- Retain support for key nutrition programs included in the Farm Bill.
- Ensure full funding for hunger and nutrition programs in the FY 2023 appropriations legislation.
- Ensure access to important nutrition programs for underserved communities, in particular persons of color and low-income individuals and families.

