The Impact of Charitable Food Assistance in Somerset County

Food for Families is the Partner Distribution Organization (PDO) of Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank which serves Somerset County.

- 847,579 meals were distributed to individuals and families throughout the county in fiscal year 2014-15.

- Food for Families, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and local partners served 3,836 individuals* throughout the county during January 2016.

- Out of those who received food assistance in January 2016, 69 individuals were first-time recipients, meaning they had never received emergency food assistance during the previous twelve months.

The Impact of Food & Nutrition Programs in Somerset County

State Food Purchase Program

A state funded program administered by the PA Department of Agriculture. Tableland Services, Inc. is the lead agency. Income eligibility: below 150% of poverty level.

$96,978.80 was allocated to the county in fiscal year 2013-14. These funds helped feed 2,235 households, which included 1,769 children and 842 seniors.*

Somerset County was allocated $93,453.96 for fiscal year 2015-16.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

A federally funded program administered by the PA Department of Agriculture. Tableland Services, Inc. is the lead agency. Income eligibility: below 150% of poverty level.

3,487 cases of TEFAP commodities were distributed throughout the county in fiscal year 2014-15.

The Numbers

Food Insecure Population: 9,820

Food Insecurity Rate: 12.7%

Food Insecure Children: 3,140

Child Food Insecurity Rate: 21.7%

Population in Poverty: 9,206

Poverty Rate: 12.7%

Children under 18 in Poverty: 2,783

Children under 18 Poverty Rate: 19.5%

Seniors over 65 in Poverty: 1,497

Seniors over 65 Poverty Rate: 10.5%

Unemployment Rate (Feb. ‘16): 6.9%
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps)

A federally funded entitlement program administered by the PA Department of Human Services. Income eligibility: below 160% of poverty level or below 200% of poverty level for households with individuals over age 60 or with a disability.

10,603 individuals throughout Somerset County received SNAP benefits in March 2016.

In fiscal year 2014-15, $9,754,941 in SNAP benefits were redeemed at 62 SNAP-authorized stores in the county. For every $5.00 in new SNAP benefits, $9.00 in economic activity is generated.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

A federally funded program administered by the PA Department of Agriculture. Hunger-Free Pennsylvania partners with Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank to distribute the boxes. Income eligibility: seniors below 130% of poverty level.

In 2015, approximately 550 low-income seniors throughout the county received a monthly box of nutritious food.

National School Lunch & Breakfast Programs

A federally funded entitlement program administered by the PA Department of Education. Income eligibility: below 130% of poverty level for free meals and 185% for reduced price meals.

4,411 children throughout the county received free or reduced-price school meals during the 2014-15 school year.

Summer Food Service Program

A federally funded entitlement program administered by the PA Department of Education. Income eligibility depends on type of site.

12,785 meals and snacks were served to children throughout the county over the course of the summer of 2015.

Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

A federally funded entitlement program administered by the PA Department of Education. Income eligibility depends on type of site.

12 sites served a total of 61,758 meals and snacks throughout the county in fiscal year 2013-14.

Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

A federally funded program administered by the PA Department of Health. The Family Health Council of Central PA administers the program in Somerset County. Income eligibility: women and children under age five below 185% of poverty level.

On average, 1,256 women, infants and children in the county participated in the WIC program each month during fiscal year 2013-14.

In the same year, $869,132.50 in WIC benefits were redeemed at 8 WIC-authorized stores in the county.

Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program

A federal and state funded program administered by the PA Department of Agriculture. Income eligibility: WIC participants or seniors below 185% of poverty level.

In 2014, vouchers worth $20 were used by approximately 700 WIC participants and 1,300 seniors at authorized farm stands and markets.

Congregate & Home-Delivered Meals

Federal and state funded programs administered by the PA Department of Aging. The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) of Somerset County administers these programs. Eligibility is based on age or in-home assessments by AAA.

A total of 120,691 meals were served or delivered to 1,332 seniors* during fiscal year 2013-14.

* Duplication may be possible.