

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- INCREASE FOOD AVAILABILITY

The Community FoodBank of New Jersey is able to distribute 43 million pounds of food annually to help people put food on the table. Donations are critical to our success. As the need has continued at high levels, identifying and procuring food donations is more important than ever. Congress is considering legislation that would expand tax deductions for farmers, ranchers, and businesses when giving food to food banks and more importantly make the deductions a permanent part of the tax code. **The America Gives More Act has already passed the House and the Senate has introduced similar legislation (the Good Samaritan Hunger Relief Tax Incentive Act).** Encouraging food donations through permanent tax incentives would have a significant impact on our ability to secure more local food.

The Community FoodBank of New Jersey (CFBNJ) relies on food donations from partners from all sectors of society. Government commodities provide over 20% of the food we distribute to our partner agencies. While we are very grateful for this support, storing and distributing this food is costly. Congress has passed legislation that would set aside additional funding to help us defray some of this expense. Sadly, this funding (\$100 million) has not been fully appropriated. Less than half this amount has been available to food banks which only covers a fraction (22%) of our cost to distribute the food. **Appropriating the fully authorized level of funding for federal commodities (TEFAP) storage and distribution would allow us to spend extra dollars on additional food for our network.**

- STRENGTHEN AND PROTECT NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Feeding Children is a critical part of the mission of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. In addition to the 126,000 children fed through our food pantries and shelter programs, we partner with government nutrition programs such as after-school meals and summer food to feed 5000 children a week. These out of school time programs along with the school lunch and school breakfast programs and WIC are critical to helping children receive the consistent nutrition they need to lead a healthy life, learning and growing into adulthood. Sadly, too many children are unable to take advantage of these programs. **Child Nutrition legislation will be federally reauthorized this year and congress has an opportunity to make these programs even better by improving access to programs beyond the school day and improving the quality of school meals.**

Child Nutrition Reauthorization Policy Recommendations

- Strengthen States' Ability to Reach Kids During the Summer and weekends
- Streamline Regulations for Community Based Providers
- Leverage Schools Beyond the School Day
- Strengthen Access and Quality in School Meal Programs and WIC