

JUST HARVEST ADVOCATES AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC POLICIES THAT CAN END HUNGER

BUDGET REFORM (FEDERAL & STATE)

Responsible state and federal budgets must fully fund the anti-poverty programs and services that help our most vulnerable citizens live, learn, work, and thrive. Requiring corporations and the wealthy to pay their fair share allows for a more equitable society that meets the needs of all.



SNAP (FEDERAL & STATE)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or “food stamps”) is the nation’s largest nutrition assistance program. In 2015, SNAP helped lift more than 45 million Americans (roughly 160,000 in Allegheny County) out of poverty and keep food on the table.

EARNED INCOME AND CHILD CARE TAX CREDITS (FEDERAL & STATE)

These federal tax credits are the nation’s most effective anti-poverty program, improving the lives of hard-working people by putting more of the money they earned back into their pockets.



WIC (FEDERAL)

WIC serves 1/2 of all babies born in the U.S., providing important nutritional and health resources to low-income women, infants, and children under 5, including: food stipends, nutrition classes, and health referral services.

SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE (FEDERAL & STATE)

Increasing child care subsidies and allowing low-income families to continue to receive subsidies as their earnings begin to rise will improve their ability to maintain employment and transition out of poverty.



SCHOOL MEALS (FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL)



Community Eligibility Provision funds free school meals for all students in high poverty schools without requiring paper applications. This saves schools time and money and provides students with stigma-free nutrition. Expanding access to school breakfast in public schools is also critical for healthy development and academic success.

TANF (STATE)

The amount of cash assistance the state provides to families living in deep poverty through Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) has not increased since 1990! The state must allow families to more gradually transition off these public benefits and obtain self-sufficiency as they take on work-related costs like childcare and transportation.



SUMMER FOOD (FEDERAL & LOCAL)

Hunger doesn’t take a vacation. Summer meal programs play an important role in filling the nutrition gap children face when they don’t have access to school meals.

MINIMUM WAGE (FEDERAL & STATE)

Raising the minimum wage will help lift workers and their families out of poverty, decreasing reliance on public safety-net programs while boosting the economy and saving taxpayers money.



FOOD DESERTS (LOCAL)

Low-income people living in food deserts – communities without supermarkets – often have little or no access to good food choices. Ensuring access to healthy food for all requires innovative policy strategies.

PAYDAY LENDING (STATE)

PA currently has the strongest protections against loan-sharking but predatory “payday” lenders are trying to undo that. Their loans target low-income individuals living paycheck to paycheck. The enormous fees and short repayment periods lead to debt traps that often last nearly 200 days.



VOTING (FEDERAL & STATE)

Participating in the political process and being informed about candidates’ priorities is key to ending hunger and poverty. Meanwhile, the government must ensure voting access for all citizens.

