Hunger Post-Sandy and Solutions

Presented to the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers

Feeding Families, Improving Lives.

Carlos Rodriguez, Executive Director
732.918.2600 crodriguez@foodbankmoc.org
## Food Insecurity by the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Map the Meal Gap, 2014</th>
<th>2012 Data used for the calculation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>In the US:</strong></td>
<td>1 in 6 people</td>
<td>48,966,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 in 5 children</td>
<td>15,898,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Jersey:</strong></td>
<td>1 in 8 people</td>
<td>1,151,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 in 5 children</td>
<td>375,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monmouth:</strong></td>
<td>1 in 10 people</td>
<td>64,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 in 7 children</td>
<td>22,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ocean:</strong></td>
<td>1 in 9 people</td>
<td>59,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 in 5 children</td>
<td>27,510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Map the Meal data 2014, Feeding America.
Urban and Suburban Hunger

Poverty and Hunger shift to suburbs

% Increase in Population below 200% of Poverty 2006-2011 by Urban/Suburban Counties

- 17.3% Suburban
- 11.7% Urban

Urban: Camden, Essex, Hudson, Passaic Counties

- 55% of SNAP recipient households now live in suburbs (2011)
- 2007-2011 saw a 100% increase in SNAP recipients in suburbs (69% in urban areas)

Barriers to services are different than in urban areas:
- Less density of services available in suburbs than in urban areas
- Transportation (access) to services is more costly and difficult

Source: Poverty Benchmarks 2013. Legal Services of NJ

Prepared by FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, May 2014
Impact of Hunger

Children Who are Hungry

- Are sick more often, recover slowly, are hospitalized more often
- Get more headaches, stomachaches, colds, ear infections
- Are less likely to learn as much, as fast, or as well
- Have more behavioral, emotional, and academic problems
- Are more aggressive and anxious than adequately nourished children
- Teens are more likely to be suspended and have difficulty getting along with others.

Adults and Children

- Are more susceptible to obesity, which is linked to diabetes, heart disease and cancers.

Source: No Kid Hungry. Share our Strength, Washington DC
The FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties provides monthly food and resources to more than 127,500 individuals – including 51,000 children – through a network of 300 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other charities.

**Ocean County**

- The fastest growing county in New Jersey
- **1 in 4** residents are low income (at or below 200% poverty)
- **80% increase in poverty** in last decade (6.7-11%)
- **Child poverty doubled** (10.4% – 19.2%)
- **2nd highest number of seniors** nationwide (21.4%)
- **13% of NJ’s veterans**
- **Per capita income under state average** ($30,000 vs $35,000 for NJ)

**Monmouth County**

- An affluent, stable county with a growing number of low income residents
- **1 in 5** residents are low income (at or below 200% of poverty)
- **30% increase in poverty** (5.3% - 6.6%) in last decade
- **18% increase in child poverty** (6.8% – 8.7%)
- **Per capita income over state average** ($43,000 vs. $35,000 for New Jersey)

Superstorm Sandy’s Impact on Low Income Households

**ALICE HOUSEHOLDS**

- “Asset-limited, income-constrained, employed”
- Above Federal Poverty but below financial stability
- 34% of New Jersey’s households

**SANDY’S DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT:**

**ALICE Households incurred 53% of residential expenses but received only 27% of recovery resources.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All Households</th>
<th>ALICE Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>$ 7.84 billion</td>
<td>$ 4.1 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery Resources</td>
<td>$ 6.95 billion</td>
<td>$ 1.9 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(insurance public assistance non profits, loans)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfunded</td>
<td>$ 887 million</td>
<td>$ 2.2 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WHY?**

- 69% did not have insurance
- 90% did not have flood insurance
- No savings to cover lost wages or damages not covered by FEMA
- Likely to buy or rent in disaster-prone areas
- Work in service jobs essential to the State’s economy and critical to the functioning of every community

Source: *The Impact of Superstorm Sandy on New Jersey Towns and Households*, Stephanie Hoopes Halpin, PhD, Rutgers – Newark, 2013

Prepared by FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, May 2014
Monmouth & Ocean Counties: Ground Zero for Superstorm Sandy

New Jersey residences damaged during Superstorm Sandy

Over 40,000 structures in Ocean County and 10,000 in Monmouth County, were damaged or destroyed in the storm – 68% of the state’s total. (FEMA, 2012)

18 Months after Sandy, 4,200 Monmouth and Ocean Sandy-impacted families still need emergency food each month.
Solutions to Hunger that Work

Feed the Line

• Emergency Food Distribution (goal 10 million pounds 2015)

• Increase nutrition density
  ✓ Fresh produce 20%
  ✓ Low sugar, fat, sodium
  ✓ High fiber, vitamins, minerals

• Target high needs areas

Shorten the Line

Build Financial Security through Income Supports:
  ✓ SNAP (food stamps)
  ✓ EITC and other tax credits through VITA
  ✓ Health Insurance
  ✓ Others (utilities, disaster)

Employment opportunities
  ✓ Culinary Training Program

• Savings and Asset Building

Prepared by FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, May 2014
FoodBank Growth in Food Distribution

Prepared by FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, May 2014
# Impact of Income Support

Household of 2 adults, 2 children, 1 wage earner with an income of 130% of poverty, and a $1500/month rental expense.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Without Income Support</th>
<th>With Income Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Income</td>
<td>$2,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental</td>
<td>($1,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescriptions</td>
<td>($100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available for other living expenses</td>
<td>$1,043</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Income Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Without Income Support</th>
<th>With Income Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average monthly SNAP benefit</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$251.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average monthly tax benefit*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$614.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average RX benefit (Medicaid)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Support additional income</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$966.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## SUMMARY

| Total Monthly Income       | $2,643                   |
| Rent/Prescriptions         | ($1,600)                 |
| Available for other living expenses | $1,043 | $2,109.08 |
|                          | $3,609.08 (185% poverty) |

* A qualifying household with 2 children can receive a $5,372 EITC credit and $1,000 CTC/child for the year. Additional benefits can include child care assistance so a second parent can work, utilities assistance at $475/year for heating and cooling.