



HEALTHY FOOD. HEALTHY MOVES. HEALTHY YOU.

Nutrition News Nibbles

July 2020

Food Security in Pennsylvania:

Wolf Administration Urges USDA to Maintain Flexibility for States Administering SNAP Benefits in Response to Continued Threat of COVID-19

Governor Wolf writes to Secretary Sonny Perdue of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to extend waivers to states for public benefits during COVID-19. The waivers are specific to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and reduce in-person visits for current and potential clients to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. A one-month extension has been granted by the USDA, but the Wolf administration is asking for more flexibility. [Read more.](#)



PA Farmland Preservation Program Adds 48 Farms, More Than 4,400 Acres

More than 4,400 acres of farmland in 25 counties has been purchased for \$11.9 million. Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding announced that this investment was to help mitigate food insecurity that has been affecting residents across the Commonwealth due

to COVID-19. This move is to increase the quantity of food produced, as well as help drive the economy. [Read more.](#)

USDA's SNAP Online Grocery Pilot Grows to More than 40 States

The SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot has now expanded to 42 states across the country. South Carolina and Utah are the newest states approved for the pilot program. This expansion allows for SNAP recipients to utilize their electronic benefits transfer (EBT) cards to pay for groceries online using authorized retailers. [Learn more.](#)

Social Determinants of Health: Lead or Partner

Screening social determinants of health has become more crucial than ever in healthcare settings. Food insecurity, housing and job instability, as well as education are only a handful of social determinants of health that have a major influence on an individual's wellbeing. With the COVID-19 pandemic, community health priorities have shifted and now require a deep dive into ways to prevent social determinants of health from making a greater impact. [Read more.](#)

Coalition Against Hunger VIP Project

The charitable food system is more vital than ever to provide food resources to those who need it most. The Coalition Against Hunger Victory in Partnership (VIP) project networks food pantries and soup kitchens in Philadelphia. This project brings together anti-hunger organizations for quarterly workshops to share funding opportunities and to train on leadership skills. [Learn more about the VIP Project.](#)

Recognizing Family Strengths and Needs in Western Pennsylvania During COVID-19

The University of Pittsburgh Department of Pediatrics is conducting a survey of families to determine the needs of children during the COVID-19 pandemic. From the responses they've collected thus far, they have compiled resources for families with children in Western PA. [View the resources here.](#)

Spotlight on the Charitable Food System:

Gov. Wolf Thanks Pennsylvania's Food Banks for Helping Those in Need

Governor Wolf is traveling across the state to thank food banks, farmers, and volunteers for their efforts to feed Pennsylvanians during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor visited York County Food Bank's East York Emergency Hub that provides an estimated 2,000 families with food every Tuesday. [Learn more about the Governor's visit.](#)



Programs Fill Kids' Nutritional Needs During the Summer

Central Pennsylvania Food Bank is sponsoring three summer meal sites for students in Williamsport in partnership with the Williamsport Recreation Department. The Summer Meals Program gives children free meals when schools are out for the summer. Parents and children or just children are able to pick up the meals and asked to eat at home due to social distancing precautions. [Learn more.](#)



Chester County Food Bank - It's Not Too Late to Start Your Container Garden

Looking to start a garden at home? Try container gardening! It's a great option if you have limited space and perfect for common garden veggies. The Raised Bed Garden Program through Chester County Food Bank educates individuals and partners on how to grow a fruitful garden. With their garden partners, they have been able to grow more

Food Research & Action Center analyzed the Community Eligibility Provision in high-poverty schools that offers breakfast and lunch at no charge to all their students. Participation of school districts in the community eligibility increases by 9% each year, which has increased the number of children able to benefit from the free school meals. With COVID-19, the opportunity for community eligibility will increase for schools as more parents are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). [Read the full report.](#)

Webinar: Local and Global Impacts of COVID-19 on Food Security Front-line Realities from Nutrition Professionals

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics presents a free webinar on the changes of our local and global food systems and food security during COVID-19. For Registered Dietitians and Dietetic Technicians, 1 CPEU is awarded. [View the webinar here.](#)

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