

Rising to New Challenges

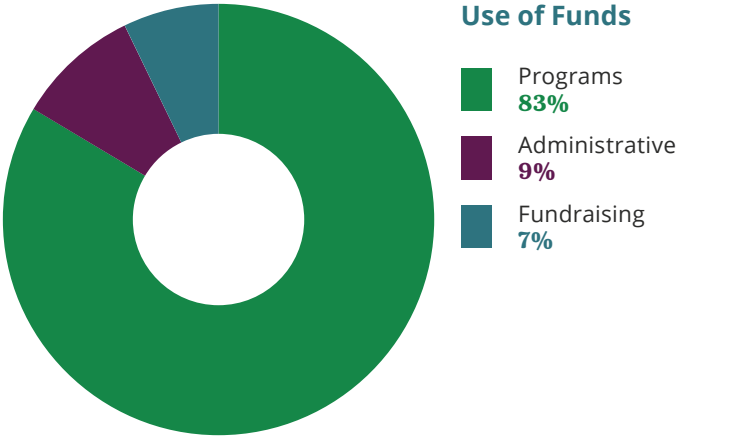
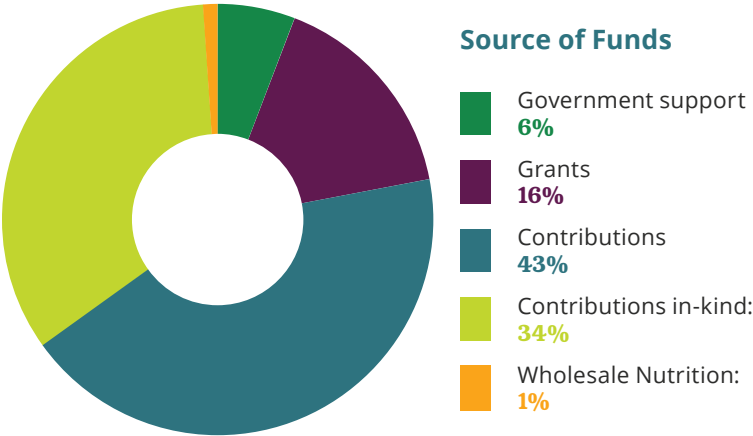
FY2022 Impact Report



Source & Use of Funds



The impact of the Chester County Food Bank extends beyond putting food on the table. We distribute food to those in need with the goal of not only providing nourishment but also reducing the hardship in making difficult financial choices such as deciding between paying for medicine or paying for groceries. **Thank you for your investment in our food security efforts to fuel our vision for Chester County.**



Rising Costs, Rising Need, and Rising to the Challenge

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Surging costs of food and fuel have impacted us all, especially our most vulnerable neighbors as they experience heightened trade-offs between meals for their families and paying rent or other bills. On the heels of when the pandemic seemed to have waned, the world economy took a turn, forcing families into impossible everyday household financial choices.

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the food price index rose 10% over the prior 12 months, the largest increase since 1981, and these inflated costs are projected to continue. Sadly, many households were already struggling with food bills before the current inflation event began. Making matters worse, most states are ending the emergency benefits put in place during the pandemic.

Thankfully, the community's response and generosity over the past two years has enabled us to provide food relief to those in need through our network of 160+ partners. We strengthened our network's infrastructure, continued to empower with our education and wellness programs, and reached more people through our expanded distribution.



Now the challenge is even greater. Food demand is up and so is the cost of providing it. More families are turning to community support as inflationary pressures are limiting their ability to fully meet their food needs.

We continue to need your support for our children, seniors, veterans, and families who need us most. With the challenges brings the opportunity to achieve our vision for a food secure Chester County.

We are rooted in our commitment and together we will face the challenges and rise strong.

Thank you for partnering with us. We are bold and not backing down. We look forward to the work we can do together in the year to come.

With Gratitude,

Andrea Youndt, CEO



Ruby worked for 43 years but she finds that, with inflation, groceries can eat up most of her budget as a retiree. “You’ve got to either pay your bills or your groceries,” she said. “But you need both.”

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**Why I
Give**

Rising Food Cost & Rising Need

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Ruby is part of a growing wave of people visiting their local food cupboard in need of assistance. Food is one of the items worst hit by the highest inflation in decades. And the cost of food and other essentials, such as gas and rent, fall hardest on lower-income households with little wiggle room.

Food Banks across the country, including Chester County Food Bank, are struggling to meet higher demand because of inflation and other significant problems. Food donations are unpredictably low. Plus, supply chain delays are disrupting the normal turnover cycle. Over the past two years, **CCFB has spent an additional \$1 million on food costs.** And just like everyone else, CCFB is getting hit hard at the gas pump. But unlike private businesses, we do not pass costs onto our customers. CCFB does not charge its network of **160+ hunger relief partners** any fees nor do clients of any program pay a fee.

“We have the responsibility to take care of each other, and that everyone deserves to have good, nutritious food.”

Kristin of Paoli, *Beyond Hunger* 365 donor



A Safety Net Through Unpredictable Times

The rise in food and fuel costs is creating just as precarious a situation for people who are trying to feed their families as was the case during the pandemic.

Looking to the year ahead, these numbers are unlikely to decline any time soon as the demand for emergency food stays at record levels.

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Beyond the Box: Building Capacity Through Our Community Network

“I didn’t know what to expect when I went to the pantry, but I was excited when I was able to choose the foods that I knew my family would eat — like milk, eggs, and even carrots and apples,” said Angela a single mother of three.



“

Our local Community Food Security research indicates that visiting a well-resourced pantry that has a variety of nutritional and culturally inclusive foods helps to prevent food insecurity.

In response to this research, we have worked to go “beyond the box” to provide a greater variety of food for many of our secondary agencies, such as senior centers, outreach organizations, schools, and small food pantries.

At the beginning of the pandemic, pre-packed boxes of food were the **safest and most convenient way** to transport food to families among those network partners with limited capacity.

Over this tumultuous year, including the impact of Hurricane Ida, CCFB has invested more dollars to **strengthen the infrastructure** of our community agency network, enhancing their ability to create a choice model shopping experience.

As we recover from the pandemic while struggling with inflation and supply chain challenges, we will **continue to uplift less resourced agencies improving food access in underserved communities.**

The CCFB has provided game-changing support to us over the years,” said Haillie Romanowski of Act in Faith. “We’re super excited about our next chapter and are extremely grateful for CCFB’s continued support as we strive to improve our support of our community’s most vulnerable.”



Lincoln's Promise Food Pantry at Coatesville VA

Named in honor of President Lincoln's Promise: “To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan,” the VA established a food pantry in early 2022 in partnership with Chester County Food Bank.

The food pantry is now available to veterans who screen positive for food insecurity by VA health providers. Rather than refer patients to an external food pantry, VA health care providers are now able to assist patients with accessing food directly within the building. In its first month, the pantry served 50 households and will continue to serve more veterans in need. Through our raised bed garden program, we have also worked with the VA to support their on-site gardens.



Why I Volunteer

"I love cooking and getting to teach people how to make a meal for their family."

Doug, Taste It Volunteer

Reaching More People Through Strategic & Inclusive Food Distribution

Many families continue to face both health and financial hardships and in response have relied heavily on our services. With increased food insecurity in our county, CCFB plays a central role in ensuring families have the nutritious food they need during unprecedented times

As a lifeline to those in need, we ensured access to real, healthy food by managing a variety of distribution strategies to reach diverse households throughout the county.



Bulk distribution for food pantries, senior centers, schools, healthcare facilities, and many other outreach organizations.



Grocery Boxes with shelf stable food for seniors, veterans, homeless individuals and prenatal patients. Fresh Food Boxes to support our Eat Fresh cooking program.



Veggie Bucks for those shopping at Fresh2You Mobile Market purchasing fresh produce and healthy staples with SNAP (food stamps) and FMNP (Farmers Market Nutrition Program)



Backpack food packs for children to take home for weekend meals and snacks.



Ready-to-eat Meals for summer student feeding, home bound seniors, those with disabilities, and many more.



FreshRx (Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions) for families who screen positive for food insecurity at healthcare appointments.

\$16,752

The eligibility threshold (before taxes) to receive SNAP/EBT (food stamps) for one individual living in Pennsylvania.

55%

Percentage of food insecure households in Chester County that are **ineligible for government food assistance** because their income is too high.

Source: Feeding America Map the Meal Gap

\$15,080

Pennsylvania's minimum wage is \$7.25/hour, the same as the federal minimum wage. PA is one of 20 states that has not raised the minimum wage in 13 years. The livable wage for an individual in Chester County is \$17.87/hour, or \$37,170 annually. Individuals making less than the livable wage are likely to experience food insecurity, yet may also be ineligible for SNAP/EBT because they make too much (eligibility gap).

How We Work

CCFB is the central hunger relief organization serving 160+ partner agencies in Chester County.

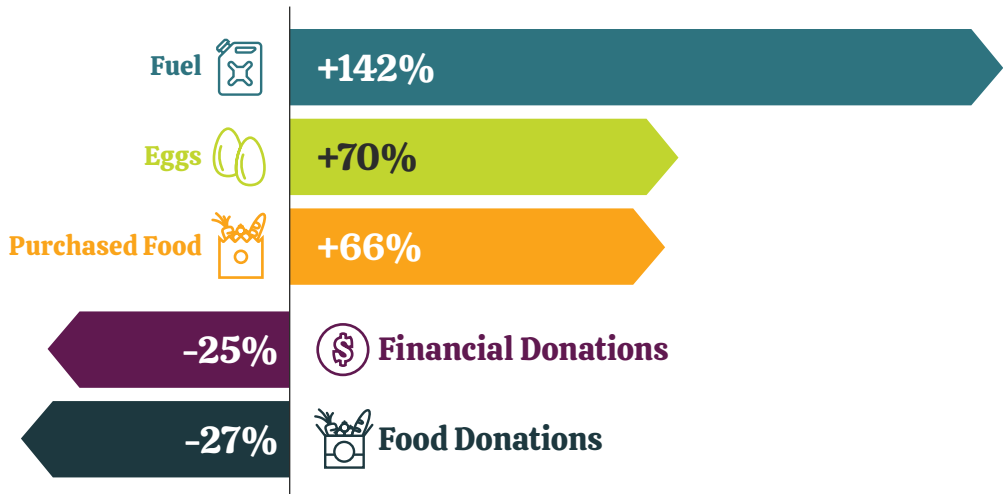
Through our network of food cupboards, hot meal sites, shelters, and other social service organizations, we serve over 40,000 people through access to real, healthy food and education and wellness.



Dealing With Inflation

Food demand is up and so is the cost of providing it. The cost for essential food as well as packaging materials and fuel continues to increase due to supply chain issues, disrupted harvests, labor costs and long-term pandemic effects. With fewer donations, we must purchase more food on the open market with higher prices driven by inflation. CCFB has spent \$500,000 more in the last six months than the same time last year. We absorb all costs without burdening our network partners — **keeping service fees at \$0.**

Examples of some of the increases we have been experiencing just in the last six months (January – June 2022)





100,000
"Heat & Eat" Meals Prepared
in Our Commercial Kitchen

\$168,500

Capacity Building Grants
Awarded by CCFB
Throughout Our Network

\$104,950

Grocery Store
Gift Cards Distributed
to Our Network



Photo by Peggy Peterson

1,728

Volunteers

15,176

Volunteer Hours





3 Million

Meals Distributed
Annually

1,247 FreshRx Fruit & Vegetable
"Prescriptions" Filled



50%+

of the Food We Distribute
is Fresh Fruits & Vegetables

..... of which

77%

PA Grown*

8

21%

Chester County Grown*

*During peak growing season



Pounds of Produce Grown by CCFB





Educating the Youth

We saw the return of our child and youth garden education programs after a hiatus due to the pandemic. **We hosted nearly 900 youth through 27 different garden classes.** Lessons included topics such as Garden Planting and Planning, Parts of the Plant, Composting, Soil Health, Food Webs and more.

A Sustainable & Holistic Approach to Food Security

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“I learned how to get the most value out of my garden by growing plants that cost the most in the grocery store but take up the least amount of garden space,” said a Seed to Supper class participant.

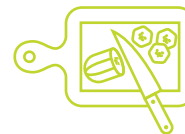
Alleviating hunger is the important first step to addressing the multifaceted issues of food insecurity. While we address emergency food response, **we go beyond hunger** by **raising sustainable food access** and **improving quality of life** through our education and wellness programming:

- **Eat Fresh** and **Seed to Supper** continued to provide quality education for adults to learn about cooking and gardening.
- **Fresh2You Mobile Market** provided 82,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables to communities with limited access to healthy and affordable foods.

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“This class has changed my life... as a man, I didn’t grow up in the kitchen,” said a participant of Eat Fresh cooking class. **“Then I had kids of my own and wanted good lives for them. Now I know how to toss a couple of different vegetables into whatever I’m cooking, and I know my kids will eat it.”**

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Investing in Our Community

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Facing the challenges ahead from a lingering pandemic and looming recession we will require resources to meet the needs of our community.

As neighbors continue to persevere societal and institutional challenges, the Chester County Food Bank is committed to helping our neighbors facing hunger have the nourishing meals they need.

Your support is vital for us to rise to the challenges.

Visit chestercountyfoodbank.org/donate to give today.



Why I Volunteer

"I want to contribute to something so fundamental as being able to put food on the table for your family."

Brandon of West Chester

Thank You to Our Donors



"As a kid, my family received food assistance. I give to the food bank because I know firsthand how much of an impact they can make for a family."

Linda of Kennett Square

Why I
Give

\$100,000+

Anonymous
The Albertsons Companies
Foundation (ACME)
The Bentley Family
Davenport Family Foundation
Bob & Jennifer McNeil
Rodman & Alice Moorhead
Michael & Nancy Pia Foundation
of the Chester County Community
Foundation
The RJM Foundation
Vanguard

\$50,000+

Anonymous
Claneil Foundation
Communications Test Design, Inc.
Deerbrook Charitable Trust
Michael & Anne Moran
PA Department of Community &
Economic Development

The Pennsylvania Hunt Cup
QVC
Wegmans Food Markets
W.W. Smith Charitable Trust
The Wyss Foundation

\$25,000+

Anonymous
Believe and Achieve Foundation
Blue Sky Family Foundation
Ed & Julie Breiner
Cleveland Cliff Foundation
Comcast Corporation
Connelly Foundation
County of Montgomery
Chappell Culpeper Family Foundation
Customers Bank
E. Kahn Development
Marjorie Findlay & Geoff Freeman
Genuardi Family Foundation
Peter & Elizabeth Hoover
The KCK Foundation

Dallas & Di Krapf
The Le Vine Family Foundation
The M&T Charitable Foundation
Jeff & Carolyn March
Marshall-Reynolds Foundation
McLelland Family Foundation
The Leo & Peggy Pierce
Family Foundation
Sam Slater & Lornie Forbes
Wilmington Trust Company

\$10,000+

Franny & Franny Abbott
Allstate Foundation
Milton Apfelbaum Fund
of the Philadelphia Foundation
Automation & Integration
Services, Inc.
Bank of America
The Barnstone Foundation
Kenneth Beck
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Benjamin R. Bibler Memorial Fund
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Brandywine Valley Summer Series
Brandywine Valley Water
Garden Tour
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The Casey-Dick Giving Fund
Chester County Hospital
Church & Dwight Company, Inc
Citadel Federal Credit Union
The Comegys Fund
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Charitable Fund
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Ferguson Plumbing Supply
First Cornerstone Foundation
The Fox Chase Bank Charitable Fund
The GIANT Company

Strengthening Our Community Together

Your gift will help provide food and hope to children, families and seniors facing food insecurity in our community.

Scan the QR code to make your donation today.



\$10,000+ (continued)

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 Tons of Turkeys
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 Michael A. Wall
 Kaitlyn & Marc Ward
 Wells Fargo Foundation
 WSFS Bank

\$5,000+

Applestone Foundation
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Please contact us with any necessary changes at give@ChesterCountyFoodBank.org or call **610-873-6000 ext. 104**.

\$2,500+

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ChesterCountyFoodBank.org

**Our Mission is to mobilize our community
to ensure access to real, healthy food.**

