



As you may have already heard, the Senate will vote tomorrow on a proposed budget that would **cut half** of the discretionary funding under **The Emergency Food Protection Program (TEFAP)** and would greatly weaken the **Food Stamp Program (SNAP)**.

Funding from these two federal programs enables Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty and many other community agencies and food pantries around the city to provide invaluable food assistance services to New Yorkers in need. **The proposed budget would cause a decrease of 7 million meals available for the food insecure in New York.**

We urge you to reach out to your respective Senators and advocate for their support on the Senate floor tomorrow. Please call or fax Senators Schumer and Gillibrand today!

We appreciate your continued support for our organization and your ongoing efforts to assist New Yorkers in need.

To find your representatives please visit: <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

or <http://www.contactingthecongress.org/>

Make a call:

Senator Charles 'Chuck' E. Schumer's Office

Phone: (202) 224-6542

District Phone: (212) 486-4430

Fax: (202)-228-3027

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand's Office (D-New York)

Phone: (202) 224-4451

District Phone: (518) 431-0120

Fax: (202)-228-0282

Your work does not end here! Next week house representatives will be tackling the same issues and proposing drastic cuts. Please take the time to call your representative. Our collective voice has a larger impact than you might think!

Talking Points for calling your representative:

Hello my name is ____ and I'm calling on behalf of the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty in New York City. I'm calling to ask for Senator Schumer / Senator Gillibrand's continued support for TEFAP and food stamp programs.

The USDA is on track to cut half of TEFAP's discretionary funding this year. These cuts will inhibit organizations like Met Council from providing invaluable food assistance services to those in need.

Met Council currently runs the largest kosher food distribution network in the United States and provides 5.4 million pounds of food annually to New Yorkers who are food insecure.

Under the proposed budget plan, 7 million fewer meals would be available for distribution in New York. Please urge the USDA to increase the availability of TEFAP this year.

In addition, please fight any proposals to weaken the food stamp program (SNAP), such as those in the 2012 House Budget Resolution.

Both TEFAP and SNAP enable Met Council and similar organizations to assist low-income New Yorkers in keeping food on the table. Cutting these essential programs would leave such New Yorkers with nowhere to turn.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Doniger at ndoniger@metcouncil.org. Thank you for your support.

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