

Federal SNAP Freeze Leaves 20,000 Schenectady Residents at Risk

As the federal government shutdown continues, funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) lapsed on November 1st. The 2024 SCAP Community Needs Assessment shows that more than 21,000 local residents, including 22% of all children in Schenectady County, rely on SNAP to afford fresh, healthy food. Without swift action, many households face severe barriers to food access heading into the holiday season.

Local food pantries are working hard with state and county legislators and other non-profit agencies to establish pop-up food pantries and obtain additional volunteers and donations to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable people.

The service and outreach committee of St. Stephen's is coordinating with Neighbors Helping Neighbors and the Schenectady Foundation to offer additional food donations and monetary donations. If you would like to donate food items, the food basket is outside the double doors of the church. If you would like to donate monetarily, you may donate online directly to the Schenectady Foundation at <https://www.schenectadyfoundation.org>

or you may bring your donation to church marked for "Schenectady Foundation" or "Food" and it will be sent to the appropriate organization.

The Sycamore Collaborative pantry, and other local food pantries, are looking for volunteers to meet the sharp increase in need. If you, or someone you know, is in need, please speak with Mother Lisa or call the Church Office for assistance and/or resources.