

# CHILD POVERTY SOLUTION: FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR ALL

## *New York State Must Ensure that Low-Income Children Are Eligible for Food Assistance Regardless of Immigration Status*



**Many non-citizen children live in families Ineligible for Federal Food Assistance (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/SNAP).**

Since 1996, Congress has excluded many non-citizens from participation in SNAP, an essential safety net program, regardless of whether they are recognized as lawfully present in the U.S. New York State once had a program to ensure these children would not go hungry, but it was discontinued in the early 2000s. As a new generation of new arrivals make New York State their home -- just as waves of immigrants have for centuries -- it is time for New York State to ensure children do not go hungry in the Empire State.

## *New York must ensure that all families can provide nourishment for their children*

Across New York State, nearly 65,000 households with children are currently excluded from participating in SNAP due to their family's immigration status.

New York must create a Food Assistance Program that fills in the gaps left by federal SNAP regulations. This program would ensure New York children who are excluded from SNAP receive comparable assistance for the purchase of food. New York has done it before and can do it again. The impact of this program would go beyond reducing child poverty (the Urban Institute estimates by 1.6 percent), it would help make New York State's ideals of racial equity and a welcoming home for all a reality.

## *New York Children Need Food Assistance Now*

Children across New York State who are excluded from the SNAP program need assistance now to ensure they have access to the food and nutrition benefits they need. No child in New York State should go hungry, no matter their zip code, their family income, or their parents' country of origin.

### **ABOUT NEW YORK CAN END CHILD POVERTY**

*New York Can End Child Poverty* is a coalition of organizations from across New York State working to improve long-term outcomes for children and families from households experiencing economic hardship. We are dedicated to advancing public policies that support children and families while reducing child poverty and inequity across New York State.

