



RESPONDING TO FOOD INSECURITY

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

In the New York area, more than 1.8 million people live in poverty. More than half a million New Yorkers who live in Jewish households struggle to make ends meet. **Last year, 9.6 million meals were served through UJA's network of nonprofits to keep hunger at bay.**

WHAT'S OUR RESPONSE?

We're addressing food insecurity for poor New Yorkers so individuals and families don't go hungry. Here's how:

- **Widespread Food Distribution** Through Met Council's kosher food network, UJA-supported nonprofits provide meal delivery, food pantries, and food vouchers for nearly 50,000 people each month.
- **Strong Advocacy** This year, \$20.1 million was secured for the Emergency Food Assistance program that supports food pantries and soup kitchens in the city, thanks to our lobbying efforts.
- **Anti-Poverty Support** Each year, UJA's network of nonprofits helps nearly 27,000 people struggling to make ends meet by providing legal and financial counseling, employment services, emergency cash assistance, and guidance in applying for public benefits, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps.

4 million pounds of food are distributed to New Yorkers each year — thanks to UJA's network of nonprofits.

UPWARD NEW YORK: A JEWISH RESPONSE TO POVERTY

We're on the cutting edge of service delivery. In 2018, three UJA partners — Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, Central Queens Y, and Shorefront Jewish Community Council — **piloted a digital food pantry system.** Touch screen technology allows people to choose the food that best meets their family's needs, reducing waste and eliminating long, embarrassing waits in line. It will serve as a model for other food pantries in our network of nonprofits and other organizations. And now, we're building **two community resource hubs** in Brooklyn and Queens with a holistic approach to moving people from crisis to stability.

ONE EXAMPLE ...

"Using the pantry makes me feel like a Jewish mother. I can serve a Shabbat meal with chicken and potatoes on the table and have options that keep my family eating healthy food."

– Esther, an Orthodox single mom of two young children, who creates kosher meals for her family thanks to the Central Queens Y food pantry.