



## Your monthly news & updates

The Passaic County Food Policy Council (PCFPC) is committed to expanding healthy food access in our communities in addition to supporting an overall Culture of Health. Our strategic plan, "**Building a Culture of Health: Blueprint for Action**", provides information about the kind of work we are doing. For more information or to join our next bi-monthly general body meeting, which is scheduled for September 29th at 9:30am, please email Mary Celis.

For this upcoming meeting, we are excited that Maura Sanders from Legal Services of New Jersey will present on the increases due to the Thrifty Food Plan and also decreases due to the end of pandemic boosts to SNAP. We will also have time for networking and updates.

Check out [our Facebook page](#) for more frequent updates. [Link to Strategic Plan](#)

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## NEWS AND ADVOCACY UPDATES

### SNAP Benefits Boosted Permanently

The Biden Administration is increasing SNAP monthly benefits by 25%. The increase will be the largest in the programs history. The boost in benefits is a result of a re-evaluation of Thrifty Food Plan- the basis for calculating SNAP benefits. This re-evaluation resulted in a more accurate depiction of what it costs a typical family to put food on the table. SNAP benefits will increase October 1st, 2021.



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## RESOURCES AND TOOLS

### In-Person and Virtual SNAP Assistance

The Community Food Bank of New Jersey (CFBNJ) is now offering free, onsite benefit screening and application assistance for prospective SNAP and LIHEAP applicants at socially distanced, in-person events. If you would like to offer these services to your clients, please email [snapoutreach@cfbnj.org](mailto:snapoutreach@cfbnj.org).



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## MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

### CUMAC's Benefit Enrollment Program

Access to benefit programs is not always easy to figure out. Luckily, CUMAC is creating a [Benefits Enrollment Center](#) and is providing free help with benefits applications for adults aged 65+ and adults living with a disability. The BEC is helping with programs such as: Medicaid, Medicare Savings, Medicare Part D Extra Help, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and more. For more info contact 973-742-5518 or [info@cumacecho.org](mailto:info@cumacecho.org)



# LEARNING AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

## Building a Culture of Health

Host: NJYMCA

December 9th- 10th, 2021/ 9am- 4pm

SAVE THE DATE: DEC 9<sup>TH</sup>- 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 / 9AM-4PM



Save the date for the 9th Annual Culture of Health Conference: Healing Communities and Connecting Voices. The event will be held at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City, NJ. There will be conversations around health equity and post pandemic strategies to heal our communities. Additionally, there will be a number of workshops on: Mental health, Health Equity, Vaccination, Cost of Poverty, Housing, Food Access, Healthcare, Childcare, and much more! For more details, please visit [here](#).

## HUNGER REIMAGINED

### The Story of Food Insecurity As Told Through Sculpture

Rahul Bhargava and Emily Bhargava are using art and sculpture to represent and draw attention to food insecurity in Massachusetts. The Bhargavas collected 1,659 individual pieces of silverware to make a table entirely out of cutlery. The number "1,659" represents the average number of new households who applied for SNAP benefits everyday in Massachusetts during 2020. The sculpture is meant to highlight how vast food insecurity is in Massachusetts.

