

April 2022

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

New Cafeterias Increase Student Participation

Since 2017, the New York City Department of Education has improved the cafeteria experience in over 45 schools.¹ This project, championed by Community Food Advocates, a member of the HFC Network, has resulted in a 20% increase in school lunch participation rates.²

The program calls for redesigning school cafeterias to make them more accessible and comfortable for students. This includes display cases of prepackaged meals, booths, and larger round tables as opposed to banquet-style tables. Students are finding the new atmosphere to be less intimidating and more welcoming.



According to Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food and Education Policy, students in these schools have more time to eat, are eating more healthily, and have more positive attitudes towards school lunch.

By prioritizing students' nutritional wellbeing and developmental health, they can have more energy and focus during school. Cafeteria redesigns have also led to more students eating on-site as opposed to going off campus.

Community Food Advocates is pushing for the program to be expanded to all 500 middle and high schools in New York City. For more information, please contact [Liz Accles](#), Executive Director, Community Food Advocates.

¹ Elsen-Rooney M. Revamping NYC School Cafeterias Can Feed More Kids, Say Students and Advocates. *New York Daily News*. Published March 27, 2022. <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/education/ny-advocates-push-for-more-cafeteria-enhancements-20220327-p6ien3tdbrdpxeioscyer4tf6e-story.html>

² Koch PA, Wolf RL, Trent RJ, Guerra LA. School Transformation after Redesign of 3 Cafeterias (STARCAFÉ). *Health Behavior and Policy Review*. 2020;7(4):345-357



UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT HFC QUARTERLY WEBINARS

**Tuesday, June 14, 2022,
02:00 PM – 03:00 PM EST**
Register [HERE](#)

**Tuesday, September 13,
2022, 02:00 PM – 03:00 PM
EST**
Register [HERE](#)

**Tuesday, December 13,
2022, 02:00 PM – 03:00 PM
EST**
Register [HERE](#)

Please note we moved our webinars to Zoom. Participants must now register for each Webinar via the links provided.

2022 HFC Virtual Summit

Save the dates:
November 16 & 17!

ARCHIVED EVENTS

If you missed any previous quarterly meetings, you can view the recordings [here](#).

If you have any questions or if you'd like to share any news with the HFC network in our next quarterly bulletin, please reach out to [Sara Ashraf](#).

UPDATES TO OUR RESOURCE LIBRARY!

“The Reach of Breakfast and Lunch: A Look at Pandemic and Pre-Pandemic Participation” by Food Research & Action Center

“The Case for Making SNAP Benefits Adequate: Reflections from Interviews with Older Adults” by Food Research & Action Center

“How food banks and food pantries get their food” by Feeding America

“Creating Healthier Students & Better Learners with the School Breakfast Program: Maryland School Breakfast Report” by Maryland Hunger Solutions

“Reimagining Hunger in Times of Crisis: Insights from Case Examples and a Survey of Native Communities’ Food Access During COVID-19” by Food Research & Action Center

NEWS FROM OUR NETWORK

Hunger Free Colorado

Are you looking forward to hiking this summer? Did you know that you can hike and help end hunger at the same time? Hunger Free Colorado’s biggest annual event, the Hike to End Hunger, is on June 11, 2022. Register [here](#).

Hunger Free Oklahoma

Double Up Oklahoma, a program of Hunger Free Oklahoma, doubles the value of SNAP dollars spent at participating farmers markets and grocery stores in the state. The Lift Oklahoma Communities, Agriculture, and Lifestyles (LOCAL) Coalition is seeking ways to expand the DUO program across the state through a stronger public/private partnership. [Read more](#).

Anti-Hunger Task Force of Long Island

Read the Health & Welfare Council of Long Island’s 2021 Annual Report.

Meet the Alliance’s new Emerson Hunger Fellow, Sofia Charlot!

Sofia will be supporting the Alliance’s racial equity work. **She is available to HFC partners to conduct racial equity trainings and provide technical assistance.**



Sofia is a proud first-generation Haitian-American from Miami, Florida. During her undergraduate career, she studied African-American Studies and Anthropology & Human Biology. Post-grad, she engaged in mutual-aid exchanges between Black farmers and Black youth seeking liberation by connecting with the land and each other on urban gardens and rural farms. These experiences helped her develop her passion for research, food and racial justice, and public health.

As an Emerson National Hunger Fellow, she has conducted qualitative research at Maryland Hunger Solutions about organizational approaches to addressing race in the anti-hunger workplace.

2022 Hunger Free Communities Virtual Summit

Save the Date! This year’s summit will be held on November 16 & 17!

Is it time to update your HFC Map profile?

Please take a look at your organization’s profile on our HFC Map. If there are any updates, please reach out to [Sara Ashraf](#) as soon as possible.
