



September is Hunger Action Month

Did you know...

- United Way of Palm Beach County and Board of County Commissioners launched the Hunger Relief Plan in 2015.
- United Way of Palm Beach County has a Hunger Relief Initiative dedicated to working collectively with the community to alleviate hunger in Palm Beach County.
- There are over 192,000 food-insecure residents in Palm Beach County, 50,150 of which are children.⁸
- 1 in 5 children in America don't have sufficient food, or food of adequate quality, to meet their basic needs.
- The official poverty rate in 2023 in the U.S. was 12.5 percent, with 40.7 million people in poverty.⁹
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 2025 Food Price Outlook anticipates that food prices will rise between 2-4% in 2025, on top of a +24% increase in food prices at the grocery store from 2020-2023.
- The Farm Bill is a comprehensive package of legislation passed once every five years that has a direct impact on agriculture, food systems, and consumers. It covers programs ranging from crop insurance for farmers to healthy food access for low-income families.¹¹
- It is projected that over 80% of the Farm Bill spending will be allocated to nutrition programs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP (formerly known as food stamps), makes up the largest portion of the Farm Bill.¹¹
- The Glades is a region of western Palm Beach County that is a vast agricultural area along the southeastern rim of Lake Okeechobee. In its cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay, poverty touches on average 29% of the roughly 32,000 residents. This is almost triple the poverty rate in Palm Beach County which is 10.7%
- You can "Go Orange" in September to show support for Hunger Action Month. Wear the color orange, switch to orange lightbulbs, light fountains or landmarks orange, and get creative!



**PALM BEACH COUNTY
FOOD FINDER MAP**



UNITED WAY
Palm Beach County



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SNAP

- SNAP is the nation's first line of defense against hunger, helping 3,070,653 people in Florida put food on the table.¹⁰
- In fiscal year 2024, SNAP brought \$6.6 billion to the State of Florida.¹⁰
- 13% of households in Florida participated in SNAP last year.¹⁰
- In fiscal year 2024, SNAP participants in Florida received an average of \$184.96 per month in SNAP benefits. This average \$6.08 per person per day.¹⁰
- Helped over 1 million children in Florida in fiscal year 2023.¹⁰
- SNAP supports local businesses, including 15,148 retailers in Florida, which redeemed a total of \$7.1 billion in 2023.¹⁰
- Every dollar in SNAP benefits spent helps generate an estimated \$1.50 to \$1.80 in economic activity.⁴
- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) feeds nearly one-quarter of all children in the U.S.¹
- SNAP reduces hunger by as much as 30%.¹
- SNAP helps nearly 4 million non-elderly adults who either receive disability benefits or have work-limiting health conditions.¹
- SNAP is linked to improved outcomes for education, economic security, and self-sufficiency.¹
- Research shows that increased fruit and vegetable consumption among SNAP recipients lowers rates of obesity, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. Those living in food insecure households are more likely to experience psychological distress and depression than those who in food secure households.¹⁴
- For every meal that food banks can provide, SNAP provides nine.²
- Among households receiving SNAP benefits, 81% include a child, senior or person living with disabilities.⁴
- Households usually spend their monthly benefits within weeks, so SNAP provides quick support to local economies.⁴



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- SNAP is well-designed to respond quickly and effectively to support families with low incomes and communities during times of increased need, expanding when the economy weakens and contracting as the economy recovers.⁴
- SNAP provides key support while people search for new jobs. Receiving SNAP benefits has been found to increase long-run rates of employment for people who worked steadily prior to application.⁴
- Most non-elderly adult SNAP recipients without disabilities work in the year before or the year after receiving SNAP benefits.⁴
- When added to households' gross incomes, SNAP benefits and emergency allotments raised 30 percent of SNAP households above the poverty level.⁵
- The average number of SNAP customers in Florida for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 was 2,999,486 (a 1.1% decrease from the previous year).⁶
- The average number of SNAP customers in Palm Beach County for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 was 168,015 (a 1.1% increase from the previous year).⁶

ALICE

- ALICE, an acronym that stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, represents the growing number of individuals and families who are working but are unable to afford the basic necessities of housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, and technology.⁷
- According to the 2025 report, 46% of Palm Beach County households struggled to make ends meet.⁷
- Twelve percent of the households live below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and another 35% – nearly three times as many – are ALICE households.⁷



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SOURCES

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2. [Why lawmakers must improve SNAP](#)
3. [Funding for federal food assistance fell while participation increased, report says](#)
4. [Feeding America Action – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#)
5. [USDA FNS - Characteristics of SNAP Households - FY 22](#)
6. [ESS Standard Reports – Department of Children and Families \(DCF\)](#)
7. [United Way of Palm Beach County - ALICE](#)
8. [Map the Meal Gap – Feeding America: Palm Beach County](#)
9. [Poverty in the United States: 2023](#)
10. [Record Rise in Poverty Highlights Importance of Child Tax Credit](#)
11. [FRAC – Road to the Farm Bill](#)
12. [USDA – 2024 Food Price Outlook](#)
13. [FRAC – SNAP State Fact Sheets](#)
14. [Food Security and Mental Health in the United States: Evidence from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey - PubMed](#)



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