Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank:
Community Connections Partnership Team
SNAP Application Assistance

THE MISSION:

To leverage the power of community to achieve lasting solutions to hunger and its root causes

THE VISION:

Communities where everyone has access to the food and resources they need to thrive

THE NETWORK:

A leading hunger-relief charity serving 11-counties of southwestern Pennsylvania.

Through our network of more than **1000** partners including six distribution centers:

We source and distribute food for 40 million meals annually.

On average, we serve more than 110,000 people per month.

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In Fiscal Year 2023 we....

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Direct to neighbor programs

Together with our network we...

42m meals distributed

12.5M pounds produce

summer meals for kids
nearly **1.2M** meals

our network
31M + pounds of groceries

SNAP outreach
3.3M meals

afterschool meals for kids
nearly **127,000** meals and snacks

drive-up distributions
4.3M + meals

The Market
nearly **1M** pounds of groceries

Community support

YOU helped meet the needs through...

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

6,900 volunteers

71,000 + volunteer hours

Food rescue
18.4M pounds

Community food drive donations
125,900 + pounds

Retail store donations
7.6M + pounds

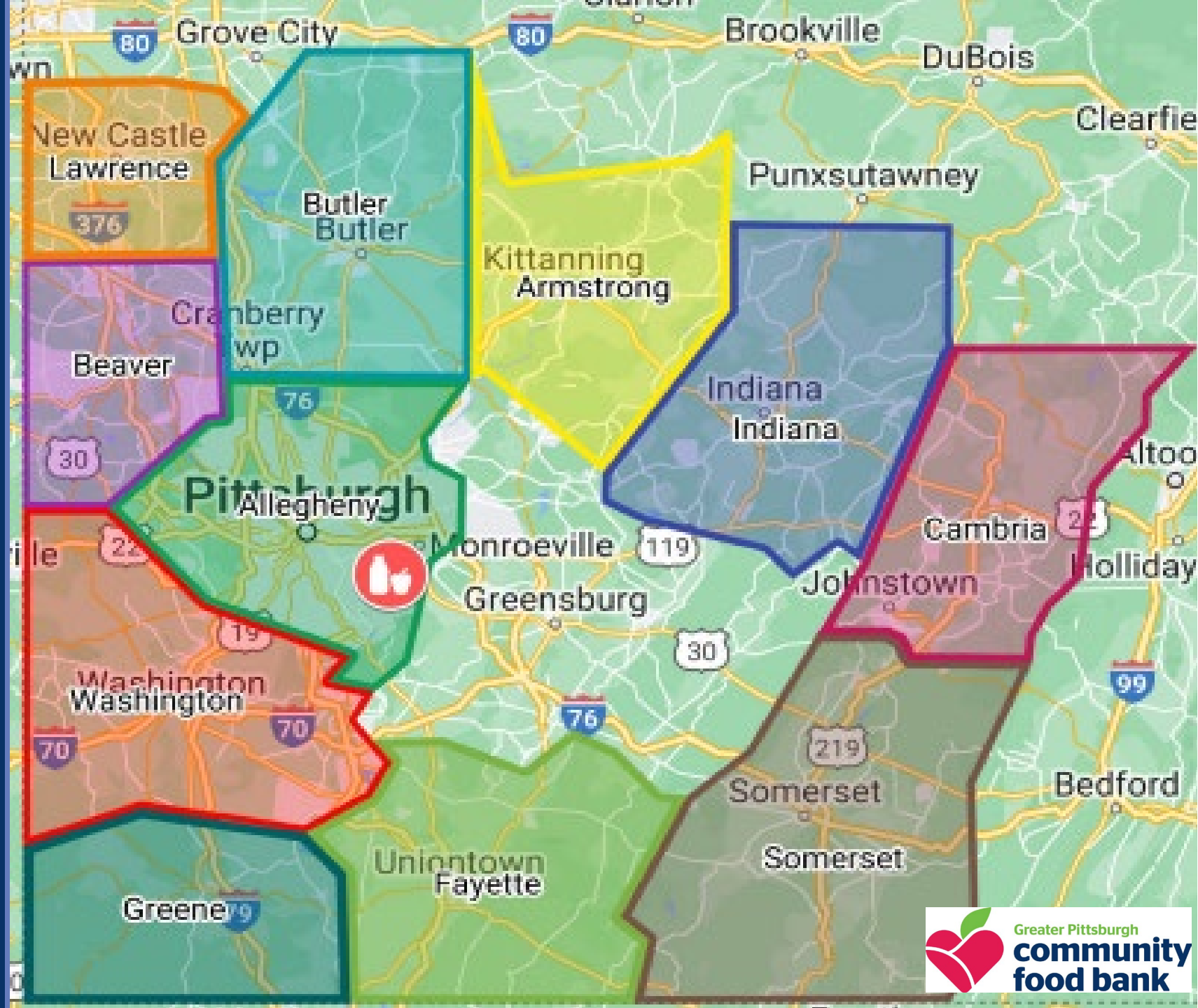**Community Table donations**
79,000 + meals

There when our neighbors need

Our Service Area

Allegheny

Armstrong

Beaver

Butler

Cambria

Fayette

Greene

Indiana

Lawrence

Somerset

Washington

The Community Connections Team

We make SNAP benefits more accessible by providing one-on-one assistance and meeting people where they are in the community.

We also offer Food Bank programs information and resources beyond food.

Our Partnership team can provide information through presentations, tabling, materials, and more!

The Community Connections Team

In FY23 we:

Reached over 2,500 neighbors through outreach

Submitted 2,703 SNAP applications and over 1,000 other applications (LIHEAP, Medical Assistance, etc.)

Made over 1,700 resources beyond food referrals

Received over 17,000 calls from neighbors in our service area
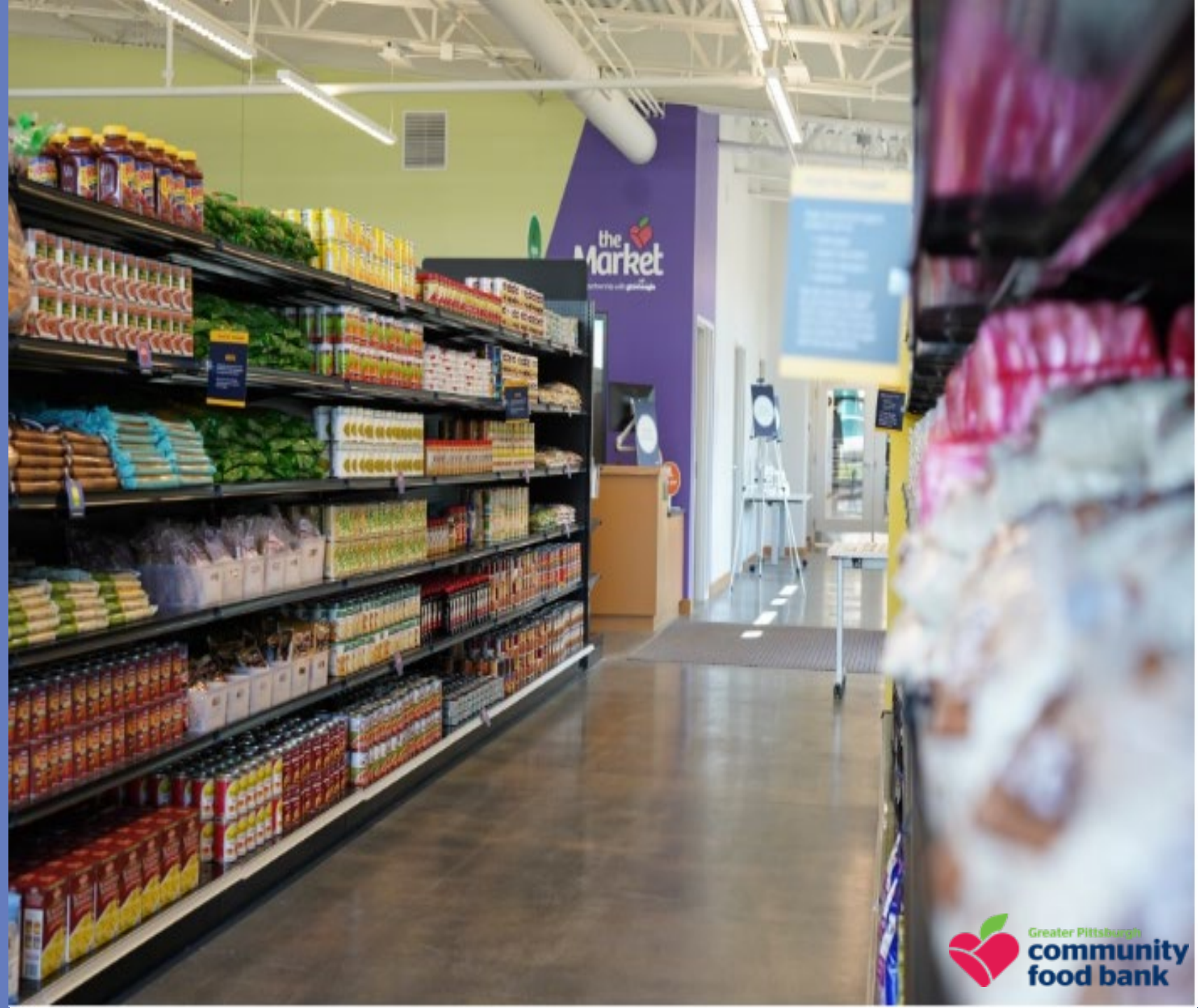
Other Food Bank Programs:

The Market

Drive-Up/ Walk-Up Distributions

Child Nutrition Programs

Pantries and Pantry Locator

Senior Box Program

Why SNAP?

SNAP offers choices for dietary preferences or restrictions

SNAP puts money back into the community

SNAP reduces strain on pantries and other service organizations
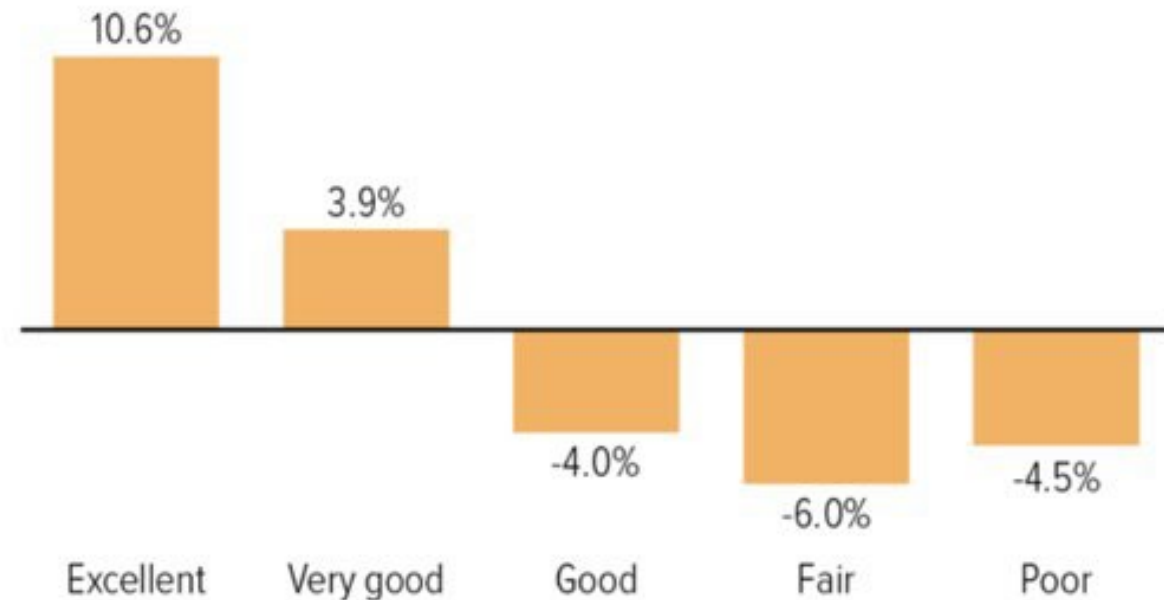
SNAP supplements other food programs

Signing up for SNAP can allow you to apply to other programs, such as reduced cost internet

SNAP provides flexibility in your budget to pay for other needs, such as medicine or utilities

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Did You Know?

SNAP Participants Report Better Health Than Eligible Non-Participants

Percent more or less likely to describe health as:

10.6% Excellent
3.9% Very good
-4.0% Good
-6.0% Fair
-4.5% Poor

Source: Christian A. Gregory and Partha Deb, "Does SNAP Improve Your Health?" Food Policy, 2015. Adjusted for differences in demographic, socioeconomic and other characteristics. Sample includes adults aged 20 to 64 in households with income at or below 130% of the federal poverty level.

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

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Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income for Households	Monthly Benefit Amount
1	$2,430	$23 – $281
2	$3,288	$23 – $516
3	$4,144	up to $740
4	$5,000	up to $939
5	$5,858	up to $1,116
Each additional family member	+$858	up to +$211

SNAP Income Guidelines
*Change every October

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Eligibility: Factors

The benefit amount you receive is based on both your income and factors in these expenses:
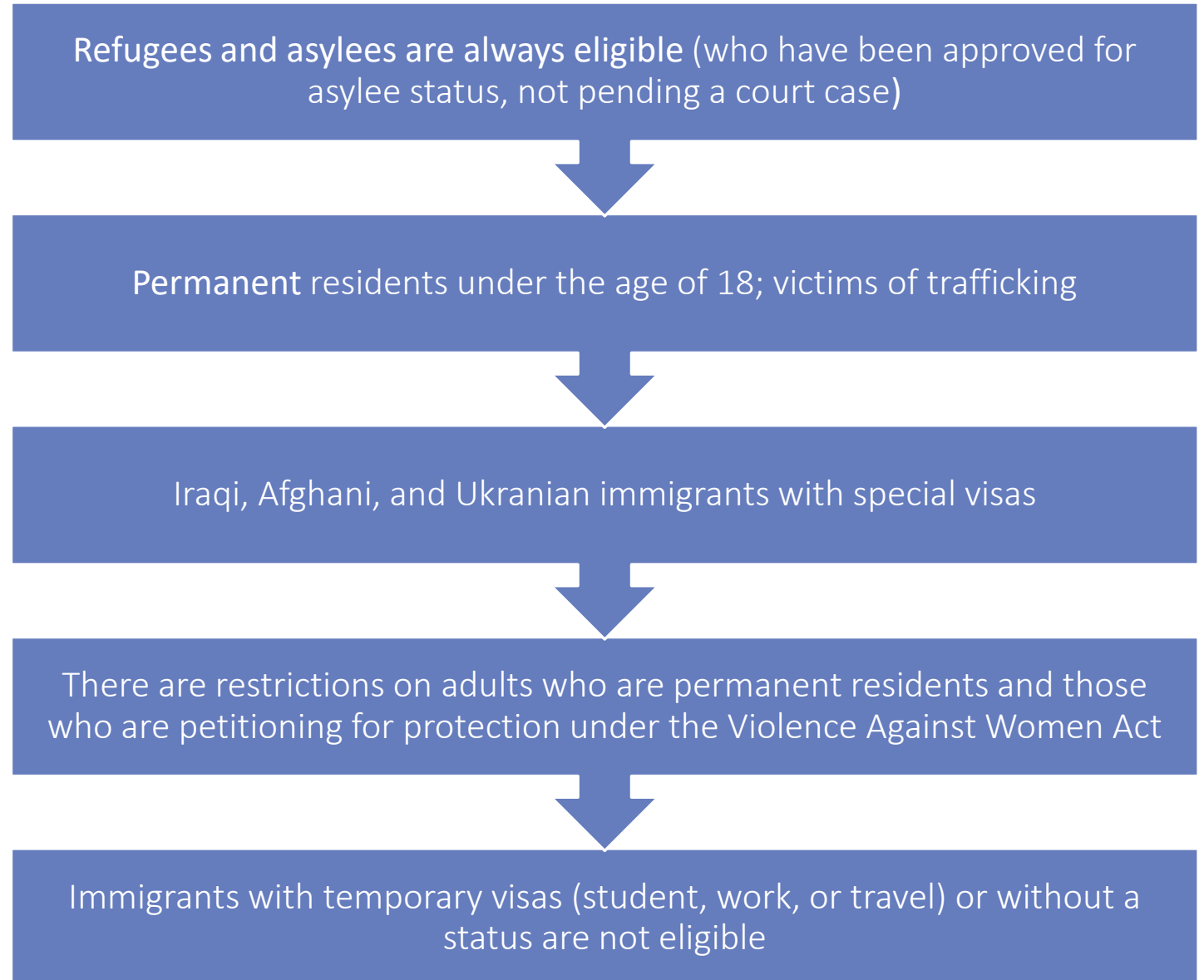
Rent/mortgage

Utilities

Child care or dependent care

Child support

Medical costs for people with disabilities and for elderly individuals

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Eligibility: Non-Citizens

*Not a complete list of eligibility

Refugees and asylees are always eligible (who have been approved for asylee status, not pending a court case)

↓

Permanent residents under the age of 18; victims of trafficking

↓

Iraqi, Afghani, and Ukranian immigrants with special visas

↓

There are restrictions on adults who are permanent residents and those who are petitioning for protection under the Violence Against Women Act

↓

Immigrants with temporary visas (student, work, or travel) or without a status are not eligible

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Eligibility: College Students

*Not a complete list of eligibility

There are also additional <u>restrictions</u> on students, who can qualify if they meet the income rules AND an exemption like:

Have 20 hours per week of employment or equivalent in wages or have a work-study award and position

Have a child under 12 years old

Have a physical or mental health condition that limits employability

Enrolled in community college and the college can complete form showing that the student is in a program to improve their employability. (The program is in a high priority occupation, or funded through Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006

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How long does the application process take?

What is a renewal period?

Can I receive a Senior Box, WIC, etc. And SNAP at the same time?

Who is considered a part of my household?

Do I need to complete a phone interview?

We can help answer questions from neighbors like:

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What can I buy with SNAP Benefits?

What?

Fruits and vegetables	Meat, poultry, and fish
Dairy products	Breads and cereals
Other foods such as snack foods and nonalcoholic beverages	Seeds and plants that produce food

Where?

Grocery stores	Superstores
Convenience Stores	Pharmacies
Farmer's Markets	Online with participating stores

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What can I buy with $23?

What can I buy with $23?

Proteins

What can I buy with $23?

Vegetables

What can I buy with $23?

Plant-Based

What can I buy with $23?

Gluten-Free

What can I buy with $23?

Unhoused, on-the-go,
no equipment,
physical limitations, etc.

What We Do

We Can:

Submit new SNAP applications	Submit SNAP renewals
Apply for LIHEAP, Childcare and Medical benefits	Upload client documents

We Cannot:

Approve applications	Modify active SNAP cases
Send EBT cards, new or lost	For question about active cases and lost cards, call 1-877-395-8930

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How We Do It

Call 833-822-7627:

- Connect with one of our telephonic coordinators and they will submit an application for you

- If you reach our voicemail, leave a message with your name, county and a specific day and time to reach you

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Reach Us Online

pittsburghfoodbank.org/SNAP

Go to the "Find Food" button at the top of our website

Select SNAP from the menu on the right

Complete the online form and our staff will be notified

One of our skilled application assistants will call you within 2-3 business days.

Interested in SNAP? We Can Help!

If you meet the income guidelines, fill out the form below and we will call you to complete a SNAP application over the phone.

Call: 1-833-822-SNAP (7627)
Email: snap@pittsburghfoodbank.org

| Your Name * | | |
| First | Last |

Your Email

Your Phone Number *

May we text you? * [Yes ▼]

What county do you live in? (Don't see your county? Please select other.) * [Allegheny ▼]

Zip Code *

0 of 5 max characters

How did you hear about us? *

What is the best time for us to call you?

[SUBMIT]

Life Stabilization

In addition to helping you apply for SNAP, we can also help you see if you are eligible for health care and LIHEAP benefits. LIHEAP is available during the winter months to assist in paying for heating bills.

We have many partners whom we can refer you to for other programs such as:

- Employment
- Utility Assistance
- Health Care
- Housing
- Applying for disability
- Many more options

Please let us know what other resources we could help connect you to, or click here for our resource page

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Become a Referral Partner

You will receive a link to use to refer your neighbors to us to apply for or renew SNAP.

You can use this link during intake, on your websites, or social media to help your neighbors apply for SNAP.

When this link is used, the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank will know it is from your agency and can provide referral reporting.

Let's Collaborate!

General Collaboration: Chris West (Director):

cwest@pittsburghfoodbank.org

Allegheny and General Collaboration:

Samantha Serrano (Supervisor)

sserrano@pittsburghfoodbank.org

Cambria, Indiana: Justin Kurtz (Coordinator)

jkurtz@pittsburghfoodbank.org

Beaver/Butler: Patricia Ferricks (Coordinator)

pferricks@pittsburghfoodbank.org

I'm a Student.
Can I get SNAP?

Yes, as long as you—

Meet all normal SNAP eligibility requirements, such as the income limits. Your financial aid and/or work-study earnings are not counted.
NOTE: If you are 21 or younger and live at home with your parent(s), their income must be considered when determining your eligibility.

AND

Do not have a meal plan –or– you have a meal plan that provides **10 or fewer meals per week** averaged over the course of a semester.

AND

Qualify for at least one of the following student exemptions:

Exemptions based on Enrollment Status
- Attending high school;
- Enrolled in school less than half-time, as determined by your school; *or*
- Attending a school or training program that is not an institution of higher education, meaning a school (or special curriculum at a college) which doesn't require you have a high school diploma or GED to enroll.

Exemptions based on Age or Disability
- Under age 18;
- Age 50 or older; *or*
- Physically or mentally unfit.

Exemptions based on being a Parent or Caretaker
- Receiving TANF benefits;
- Caring for a child under age 6;
- Caring for a child age 6-11 if childcare is unavailable; *or*
- Single parent caring for a child age 6-11 and going to school full-time.

Exemptions based on Work or Training
- Working 20 hours per week;
- Self-employed and earning at least $145 per week;
- Participating in a work-study program, regardless of hours or earnings;
- Participating in an on-the-job-training program (OJT); *or*
- Enrolled in school through certain workforce development programs.

Special Exemption for Community College Students Only
- Be enrolled in certain career-driven majors or courses of study. Your school can verify you meet this criterion by completing this form.

Special Exemption for Programs that Increase Employability
- Be enrolled in school through or in compliance with a DHS-approved state or local program to increase employability (approved programs).

Pennsylvania's Expansion
[Pennsylvania Hunger –Free Campus Initiative](#)

- **Students who participate in programs that meet the following criteria may now receive SNAP if otherwise eligible:**
  - Program primarily serves students from low-income households
  - Program is operated by a state or local government, or an instrumentality thereof, **and**
  - Program provides equivalent of at least one allowable activity under SNAP E&T
  - [Information on SNAP Eligibility and COMPASS Partnership (youtube.com)](#)

Pennsylvania's Expansion (cont)

Students enrolled in an IHE *through* programs that increase employability:

TRIO Upward Bound

GEARUP

ELECT

Title II Adult Basic Education

Chafee Education and Training Grant

Pennsylvania's Expansion (cont)

Students *in compliance with* programs that increase employability:

Act 101 Programs

Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver (FosterEd)

Programs At-A-Glance

Chafee Education and Training Grant (Chafee ETG) Program

- Enacted into federal law as the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999
  - Amended with the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001
- Program provides grants to undergraduate students aging out of foster care who are attending an approved postsecondary institution
- Jointly administered in PA by PHEAA and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS)
  - Federal allotment provided to DHS through the Education and Training Voucher (ETV)

PA Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver (FosterEd) Program

- Commonwealth program enacted into law under Act 16 of 2019
  - Amended by Act 91 of 2019 to require students to apply for federal and state grants
- Removes barriers in accessing postsecondary education for youth who are or have been in foster care
  - Waives tuition and mandatory fees for eligible students
- Jointly administered by PHEAA and the PA departments of Education (PDE), Human Services (DHS), and Labor & Industry (L&I)
- No Commonwealth appropriation

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Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for Chafee ETG and/or FosterEd, a student must:

- Be a resident of Pennsylvania who meets the program's age requirement (under the age of 26)
- Possess a high school diploma or Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma
- Be eligible for services under Pennsylvania's John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood
  - Be identified as a youth in foster care or a youth discharged, adopted from foster care, or exited foster care on or after age 16 due to permanent legal guardianship
- Not be in default on a federal student loan or owe a refund on other Title IV aid
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress (as determined by the postsecondary institution)
- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and submit the Chafee ETG application by the program's deadline

FosterEd Point of Contact (POC)

- Institutions **must** designate one or more staff as the POC
  - Each institution must determine who is most qualified for the role
  - Contact information for POC must be publicly available and posted online

PRIMARY STUDENT CONTACT

Serve as primary contact for potentially eligible foster youth applying to and attending the institution

FINANCIAL AID AND ELIGIBILITY ASSISTANCE

Assist students in attaining FosterEd eligibility, as well as ensure students apply for applicable federal, state, and/or other financial aid

RESOURCE REFERRALS

Provide students with information and referrals for **both** on-campus and off-campus resources (e.g., tutoring, mental health, medical insurance, transitional housing, etc.)

Questions?

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