



Council of Senior Centers and Services of NYC

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www.cscs-ny.org

CSCS SNAP (FOOD STAMP) OUTREACH PROGRAM

ECONOMIC INSECURITY

According to the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity, 1 in 3 New Yorkers over the age of 65 lives in poverty.

FOOD INSECURITY

A Hunger Study conducted by Council of Senior Centers and Services shows that 35% of older adults in NYC are living with food insecurity.

OLDER ADULTS & HUNGER

Compounding elder hunger is the reality that seniors underutilize the SNAP benefit at alarming rates, with data showing an average 46% (about 300,000) of older New Yorkers who may likely qualify for the SNAP benefit have not enrolled.



Over 40% of seniors eligible for SNAP are not receiving it. More than 80% of seniors who receive food stamps have an income below the federal poverty level, and are living alone.

The population of older adults living with financial insecurity and facing hunger is growing. The economic recession, coupled with a dramatic expected increase in adults over the age of 65 by 2030, poses an enormous challenge to seniors' abilities to remain healthy and age with dignity, respect, and independence.

SNAP, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, is the new name for the Food Stamp Program. Just like Social Security, SNAP is a federal program that provides a monthly benefit for groceries.

The SNAP Outreach Program is a partnership between the Council of Senior Centers and Services of NYC, Inc. (CSCS), AARP Foundation, and NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA).

Our program is striving to end elder hunger by increasing awareness and participation of SNAP and other existing food and benefits programs

The program is an innovative and unique model that uses a team of SNAP specialists, recruited ReServists (retired professionals), to educate, screen, and assist older adults with their SNAP applications in all five boroughs of NYC. Currently, outreach occurs at NORCs, local senior centers, and public libraries or other public spaces able to host large outreach events.

Please contact us to schedule SNAP outreach and application assistance for your organization's members. Together we can alleviate hunger and ensure older adults can afford a healthy diet.

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Who is *CSCS*?

The mission of Council of Senior Centers and Services of New York City, Inc. (CSCS) is to champion the rights of older adults to make New York City a better place to live. CSCS is recognized as the lead NYC-based organization representing senior services and aging issues, advocating for needed community based services which allow older adults to age with independence and dignity. With over 100 member organizations providing community based services through more than 600 programs, CSCS' members range from individual community-based centers to large multi-service, citywide organizations and serve over 300,000 older adults annually. CSCS' work ranges from enabling healthy aging and supporting family caregivers to promoting economic security and addressing elder hunger. Through its network and initiatives, CSCS represents the interests of 1.4 million older New Yorkers from every community district and socioeconomic background that comprise NYC.

Find out more at www.cscs-ny.org or by calling 212-398-6565.

Current Members include:

- **Multi-service senior centers**
- **Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs)**
- **Meals-on-Wheels**
- **Mental health providers/facilities**
- **Legal Services**
- **Home care service providers**
- **Caregiving service programs**
- **Senior Housing**
- **Managed care providers**
- **Adult day programs**
- **Transportation**
- **Long term care facilities**
- **Assisted living programs**
- **Case management agencies**
- **Intergenerational programs**

On the *Leading Edge* – Programs and Services

Public Policy:

- CSCS has a **proven track record** of results in mobilizing local and statewide action, working with caregivers and coordinating with local elected politicians to support and create change
- Receive **Action Alerts** for information on NYC, NYS and federal policy

Linkages:

- CSCS provides **connections** for agencies no matter their size
- Get **linked into community services** or meet with local politicians to discuss relevant issues
- Participate in events such as the **Annual Conference on Aging** and **New Directors Training Institute**

Thought Leadership and Access:

- **Network** with leaders in non-profits, for-profits, government and academic organizations
- Learn best practices and programs that are **ahead of the curve**
- Engage in leadership and trainings from the **Management Assistance Program (MAP)**

CSCS *Highlights*...

Family Caregiver Coalition:

- Working to connect caregivers, the NYC FCC hosts education and networking events to unite caregivers in a forum that will lead to advocacy, policy and real change for real caregivers.

The Marketplace @ CSCS:

- The *Marketplace* is a Discounted Group Purchasing Program. To date members have saved over \$3.2 Million on food and related products, office supplies, insurance and more.

Senior SNAP Enrollment:

- With SNAP underutilization above a staggering 55%, CSCS is working with DFTA and AARP to tell more seniors about the benefit and help with food stamp enrollment.

Bill Payer Program:

- The Bill Payer Program uses compassionate, trained volunteers to provide free money management services to low income older adults in NYC, helping them to manage and pay their monthly bills on time.

