

## Food Stamp Program at Risk in Federal Budget Debate

The United States Congress, struggling to find additional dollars it can use to fund yet more tax cuts for wealthy Americans, may downsize the Food Stamp Program.

During March both the House and Senate passed versions of the 2006 Budget Resolution directing billions in cuts from mandatory (also known as entitlement) programs. In the House version, mandatory programs under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Committee would be cut by \$5.3 billion over the next five years. In the Senate version of the Budget Resolution, mandated agriculture programs would be cut by \$2.8 billion. President Bush has said that most of this cut should be made in price support payments to farmers who grow crops such as sugar, rice and corn. But the agriculture committees are controlled by representatives from

states that produce a lot of these commodities. If told to cut mandatory programs, those committees are likely to cut the Food Stamp Program instead.

Before moving forward with any of this, the Senate and House must compromise their differences and agree on a final Budget Resolution. Prospects for this remain unclear. Meanwhile President Bush is keeping up the pressure. In an April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting with House and Senate leaders, he asked lawmakers to look for more ways to save money by cutting entitlement programs.

If a joint Budget Resolution is achieved and if it instructs the

agriculture committees to make cuts in mandatory programs, then the action will shift to those committees where food stamp supporters will attempt to minimize their share of the cuts. If a Budget Resolution is not achieved, then Congress will proceed through the appropriations process without an overall blueprint, much as it has the past two years. However, that approach has led to late budgets and deep annual deficits, problems that congressional leaders had hoped to avoid this time around.

During the budget debates several members of Pennsylvania's congressional delegation have

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## Pantry Usage Up for 3rd Consecutive Year

Charitable food providers again saw an increase in households served last month. Based on reports to Hunger Action from nearly 500 pantries across the State, during March the typical pantry distributed food to 135 households. This compares to 131 households served during March 2004, 121 households in March 2003 and 110 households in March 2002.

"The increase, though modest this year, continues a trend that really adds up when you look back over the history of the survey," said Laura Tobin, who administers the study for Hunger Action. "Pantries are serving 23 percent more people than just three years ago."

Twice a year (March and October), Hunger Action conducts a survey of 1300 pantries statewide asking how many households have been served in that month. The October data, which goes back to 2001, shows decreased need in 2002 but an increase of nearly 21 percent since then.

The new survey results are highly relevant to a crucial decision before the Pennsylvania General Assembly: what level of funding to authorize for the State Food Purchase Program (SFPP). The Program, currently funded at \$17,450,000, provides a grant to each county to buy food for distribution to

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## Hunger Action Hosts PA Nutrition Education Network

The Pennsylvania Nutrition Education Network (PA NEN), resident in State College since its inception in 1996, opened a Harrisburg office in early March. The new office, located with Hunger Action across from the State Capitol grounds at 208 North Third Streets, will bring PA NEN staff into more frequent contact with nutrition-related staff from state agencies and private associations.

The PA NEN is a membership arm of the Pennsylvania Nutrition Education Program (PA NEP), which provides information about healthy eating to food stamp eligible households. It is administered by Penn State's College of Health and Human Development in cooperation with the PA Department of Public Welfare and the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The PA NEN's mission is to ensure that nutrition education appropriate to the needs of low-income households is available across the State. Toward that end, its staff and 130+ members plan and implement a social marketing campaign related to healthy eating, coordinate work groups and events that enhance the quality of education being provided, and pilot projects that deliver nutritional messages in innovative ways.

Joining Hunger Action to implement this mission are two staff: Meg Bruening and Steve Gauvry. Tom McKenna, the PA NEN staffer responsible for social marketing, will remain at the State College office. Also in State College is Dr. Barbara Lohse, director of the PA NEN and Principal Investigator for the PA NEP.

Writing in the spring 2005 issue of *Food for Thought*, the PA NEN's newsletter, Dr. Lohse remarked on the significance of the PA NEN's accomplishments in recent years. The new office in Harrisburg, she said, would allow for more interaction with state agencies and policy makers. "The subcontract for Network management is being awarded to an organization with strong policy and networking skills, Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center. As a result of this physical shift, PA NEN will have increased staff with more specialized skills and a full-time nutritionist."

Readers who are interested in nutrition and healthy eating are invited to become members of the Nutrition Education Network. There is no membership fee. Membership provides for up-to-date nutrition information, access to PA NEN events and work groups and opportunities for collegial interaction and professional development. To find out more contact Steve Gauvry at 717-233-1791 or [panen@pahunger.org](mailto:panen@pahunger.org). *Join the Network!*

## Berry Friesen Receives Advocacy Award

Berry Friesen, executive director of the Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center, received the Wheeler-Wellstone Anti-Hunger Advocacy Leadership Award in a ceremony in Washington D.C. on February 27.

Jim Weill, president of the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) and presenter of the award, stated: "Berry has worked tirelessly for hungry Pennsylvanians. His advocacy efforts have been carried out with a vision of food security that links nutrition, poverty, welfare and public health problems and solutions. His influence has gone far beyond the borders of Pennsylvania."

Patrick Druhan, president of the board of directors for the PA Hunger Action Center, added his plaudits: "Berry is universally respected in the anti-hunger community and is dedicated to fighting for those less privileged members of our society who find life a constant struggle against increasing odds. We as a board are tremendously proud to have Berry as the leader of this organization."

The Award, the first Wheeler-Wellstone Anti-Hunger Advocacy Leadership Award, is named for the late Dr. Raymond Wheeler, an eminent Southern physician who in 1967 led a team of physicians traveling through rural America to assess the adequacy of nutrition among children; and for the late Senator Paul Wellstone from Minnesota, who was a passionate, steadfast and eloquent champion of economic justice.



### Our Phone is Ringing

PA Hunger Action's Food Information Line helped 175 callers in February and 237 callers in March.

1-800-FOOD-997

## A “Grand” Time for Kids

Pennsylvania’s Rural Summer Food Pilot provides the opportunity to operate open enrollment feeding sites at many additional locations. Right now many communities are planning innovative ways to take advantage of this flexibility and feed more rural children.

Folks in Wayne County are hoping to plan a special partnership that serves the children of Honesdale, Holly and a third community while also building relationships between the children and their elders.

What’s special about this is that the meals will be served at Senior Centers. That’s right; neighborhood kids and “grandparents” from the community will eat together in an inter-generational setting. One provider will prepare the meals for both groups. They hope to find a third partner to provide activities for the children.

The program will be offered through the new PA Summer Food Pilot, which allows open sites for areas with 40 percent free and reduced price eligible children. Formerly that threshold was 50 percent in rural areas.

Lynn Bertsche, RD for the Wayne County Area Agency on Aging, sees this as an opportunity to give children in need a healthy meal when school is not in session. She also sees it as an opportunity for fun and interaction, as children and seniors break bread together. Bertsche plans to couple the meals with activities, piloting the program for one day a week to begin this summer.

Bertsche says, “The concept of this summer feeding program is based on cooperation between the Wayne County Area Agency on Aging, the Wayne County Assistance Office and other community groups. The goal is good nutrition is a social atmosphere which encourages inter-generational sharing.”

More rural sites are needed for summer feeding in rural Pennsylvania. It’s not too late to start a program in your community yet this year. Call Sue Mitchem at 717-233-6705 to learn how to get involved.

### County Food Security Workshops

This spring Hunger Action has co-sponsored food security workshops in Mercer, McKean and Huntingdon counties. Local co-sponsors have included a food bank, a United Way and a community action agency. Workshop participants have included some of the many people involved in the food system: grocers, growers, school food service staff, WIC staff, food pantry managers, nutritionists and food stamp staff. If you are interested in co-hosting such a workshop in your county, contact Sue Mitchem at [smitchem@pahunger.org](mailto:smitchem@pahunger.org). Hunger Action will even buy lunch!

## Director’s Column



The most significant thing that has happened in my life recently is the birth of my first grandchild. Anna is her name and yes (thank you for asking) both she and her mother are doing well.

The birth of a baby is such a common event that one would expect it to be unremarkable. Yet it is anything but that. Especially when one’s kin is involved, the arrival of a baby is transformative. Suddenly one sees new possibilities, a fresh start, a different way of making one’s mark in the world. All this wrapped up in a tiny stranger.

Most everyone starts in life at about the same place: fragile, dependent, packed with promise. But then, as we proceed with our lives, our paths begin to diverge. Some children, because of parental circumstances, face a harder road than others. This is how we know the world to be. Yes, it is unfair. And more than that, it leaves us all the poorer because some of the children never get the chance to achieve their early promise.

Usually this column is about public policy: why this or that law or regulation would improve our economy, our communities or our families. Some people are moved by such assertions. Others – perhaps a larger number – are moved by what tugs at the heart, such as a child whose potential has been stunted by deprivation or want.

As you peruse this newsletter, as words about estate taxes and food stamps and state budgets flicker through your mind, focus your thoughts on a child that you know and love. Think about his or her possibilities and all she or he has to offer. Maybe then everything else will begin to make lots more sense.

## Eat Well, Live Well, Learn Well

On April 13 the House Education Committee took a stand to improve the health of Pennsylvania's school-children by unanimously approving three bills (H.B. 185, 189 and 191). Known together as "Eat Well, Live Well, Learn Well", these bills focus on what can be done within our schools to curtail the rising incidence of childhood obesity. It is expected the bills will come up for a vote in the full House soon.

House Education Chairman Jess Stairs (R-Westmoreland County) says the time has come to ask the schools to pay closer attention to how the school environment may be contributing to the problem of overweight among children. Stairs said: "Despite the fast pace of the world, we have become less active as a culture and it is beginning to show up as obesity and poor nutrition in a growing number of children and teens. In schools students are finding easier access to less-than-nutritional carbonated beverages, candies and chips."

**H.B. 185** would prevent a school district from entering into (or renewing) contracts to sell food and beverages in schools without having public hearings to allow for public comment. This puts any food or beverage sold in the schools (other than the food and beverages sold as part of the National School Lunch or School Breakfast programs) up for public discussion. The bill also defines how money garnered from such food or beverage sales may be used and how the foods or beverages may be marketed to the students.

**H.B. 189** would require school boards to adopt nutritional standards for the sale of competitive foods and beverages in the schools. This would

be significant but for the fact that the bill goes on to authorize schools to adopt as their standard a federal requirement that has been in place for at least 20 years: no sales of soda and junk food in the cafeteria during the time that National School Lunch Program meals are being served. By giving this alternative, the bill authorizes schools to carry on business as usual. The bill does go on to require School Boards to consider the nutritional standards established by the PA Department of Education. Again, this looks good but for the fact that the bill also requires Boards to consider a standard by which a fixed percentage of competitive foods and beverages could be sweetened soda and junk-food. In short, the "nutritional standards" portion of the bill needs lots of work!

**H.B. 189** also would require all school districts to develop a physical education program that is mandatory for all students. Elementary schools would be required to offer children at least fifteen minutes of recess for each two and one-half periods of instructional time.

Finally, the bill would require schools to assess each child's weight-to-height ratio.

This bill has not yet been formally reported out of Committee. However, it will be reported out of Committee in early May and likely will be voted on by the full House along with the other two bills.

**H.B. 191** would require schools to adopt "health and wellness plans" that focus on health education, physical activity and nutrition, (including the availability of the School Breakfast and Summer Food programs). To support the

development of these plans, school boards would set up and maintain local advisory councils that would report annually on the nutritional value of foods and beverages sold in the schools, the availability of fresh fruit and vegetables in school menus, barriers to student participation in school lunch and breakfast and practices related to physical activity and physical education classes.

**H.B. 191** would also establish a statewide Child Health and Nutrition Advisory Committee whose membership would consist of the executive team of Pennsylvania Advocates for Nutrition and Activity (PANA). The Committee would make annual recommendations to the departments of Education, Health and Agriculture on how better to combat childhood obesity. Among the matters it would consider are the sale of vended foods in the schools and the utilization of federal child nutrition programs. In addition to the PANA executive team, the Governor could appoint individuals from other organizations to serve on the Committee. Among the organizations listed as potential sources of appointees are the Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center and the Pennsylvania Nutrition Education Network.

Hunger Action supports the way this proposed legislation links child nutrition programs with the broader effort to reduce obesity. Recent research has demonstrated, for example, that children who regularly eat breakfast are at lower risk of being overweight. As stated by Ruth McGinley, President of the PA Dietetic Association, "Children who do not eat breakfast are more likely to snack later on non-healthy foods."



## Food Guide Pyramid Gets a Facelift

It's being called the new Food Guidance System with MyPyramid, a deliberately simple graphic unveiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on April 19<sup>th</sup>. The new look drops the one-size-fits-all approach in favor of a program that consumers and professionals can

tailor to individual needs. The previous system, the Food Guide Pyramid, was well recognized by Americans but very few followed its recommendations.

Coordinating with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines, which were released earlier this year by the USDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, MyPyramid attempts to communicate nutritional information in an easy-to-remember way. Its healthy eating tips include: make half your grains whole; vary your veggies; focus on fruit; get your calcium rich food; go lean with protein; and find your balance between food and physical activity. Key components to MyPyramid include:

- **Personalization**, including recommendations of the kinds and amounts of food to eat each day given your gender, age, and activity level.
- **Gradual improvement**, encouraged by the slogan, "Steps to a Healthier You." Individuals can benefit from taking small steps to improve their diet and lifestyle each day.
- **Physical activity**, represented by the pyramid steps and the person climbing them, as a reminder of the importance of daily physical activity.
- **Variety**, symbolized by the six color bands representing the five food groups and oils. Foods from all groups are needed each day for good health.
- **Moderation**, represented by the narrowing of each food group from bottom to top.
- **Proportionality**, shown by the different widths of the food group bands. The widths suggest how much food a person should choose from each group.

According to the USDA, the wide color bands stand for foods that should constitute most of our diet: grains, vegetables, fruits and dairy. In an effort to keep messages positive, MyPyramid does not speak to the problems associated with solid fats, added sugars or caloric sweeteners. Critics of MyPyramid have focused on this aspect, saying the new design fails to communicate the importance of reducing caloric intake from foods with highly processed carbohydrates and little nutritional value.

The USDA encourages consumers to personalize the new food guidance system by going to [MyPyramid.gov](http://MyPyramid.gov). A child-friendly version, targeted to 6-11 year olds, will be released by the end of the year.

## This & That

Senator Christine Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia) has introduced a bill to raise the minimum wage in Pennsylvania. Known as Senate Bill 369, it would on July 1<sup>st</sup> raise the minimum from \$5.15 an hour to \$5.85 an hour. Subsequent increases to \$6.45 and \$7.00 would occur on July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2006 and 2007. The bill is co-sponsored by 16 other senators, all Democrats. A similar bill has been introduced in the House as H.B. 257. To send your legislators a FAX about these bills, go to Hunger Action's website at [www.pahunger.org](http://www.pahunger.org).

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Congratulations Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger on another successful Walk Against Hunger this year! With an unprecedented turnout of over 3,000 walkers, the organization anticipates that they raised more money than last year. The 8 mile walk went up and down Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive with various entertainers, including gospel choirs, bands, Irish dancers, jugglers, cheerleaders, and radio stations, performing along the way.

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In its annual "Out of Reach" report, the National Low Income Housing Coalition found that for a two-bedroom rental, the average worker must make at least \$15.37 an hour, which is almost three times the federal minimum wage of \$5.15. In Pennsylvania, the average two-bedroom apartment costs \$719, meaning that the typical worker would need to make at least \$13.82 an hour. The report also found that the median hourly wage in the U.S. is around \$14, and that more than 25 percent of workers make less than \$10 an hour.

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defended the Food Stamp Program. Republican Senator Arlen Specter was the only member of his caucus to support an amendment that would have protected all agriculture-related programs (including food stamps) from cuts. In the House Republican congressmen Jim Gerlach and Todd Platts and Democratic congressman Tim Holden signed a letter urging their leaders to take a similar position. Unfortunately, these efforts have not prevailed.

The current threat to the Food Stamp Program is reminiscent of 1996 when Congress used the Budget Resolution to require deep cuts in mandatory programs, including food stamps. To achieve the required reductions in spending, Congress imposed new eligibility requirements. As a result, the Program became more complicated, the error-rate increased, participation declined and certain groups of needy households (legal immigrants and able-bodied adults without dependents) were excluded entirely. Although these changes reduced spending in the Program by billions of dollars, Congress has since come to see that its actions only undermined the goals of welfare reform and pushed the food insecure into the private pantry network. Thus, over the past eight years Congress has restored most of what it cut in 1996.

Other programs that are important to low-income families are also at risk in the budget debate. The House Budget Resolution would cut Medicaid spending by \$15-\$20 billion over the next five years. Another \$15 billion would be cut from the Earned Income Tax Credit, Supplemental Security Income (for the disabled and the elderly), TANF, child care, foster care and adoption assistance. Between these two cuts Pennsylvanians would lose about \$1.2 billion in critically needed help.

At least with regard to Medicaid, however, discomfort with the proposed cuts is starting to show within Pennsylvania's delegation. In an April 13<sup>th</sup> letter to Budget Committee leadership, seven Republican lawmakers (Charles Dent, Mike Fitzpatrick, Phil English, Jim Gerlach, John Peterson, Don Sherwood and Curt Weldon) suggested that instead of the deep Medicaid cuts in the House resolution, Congress should establish a bipartisan Medicaid Commission to develop comprehensive recommendations to reform Medicaid.

The remaining Republican members of the Pennsylvania delegation (Melissa Hart, Tim Murphy, Joseph Pitts and Bill Shuster) have supported Tom DeLay and House leadership throughout the budget process.

Readers who wish to communicate about the budget with their elected representatives are invited to Hunger Action's website, [www.pahunger.org](http://www.pahunger.org).

## Congress Watch

The fiscal mess in Washington is putting Congress in an uncomfortable position. The deficit is huge and growing by nearly \$500 billion a year. Taxes have been cut and are at the lowest levels in 50 years. To bring spending into better balance with revenue, Congress needs to cut spending and begin raising taxes.

So what has the U.S. House of Representatives chosen to do? Under the leadership of Tom DeLay (R-Texas), it has decided to reduce taxes on the very rich and cut spending that makes life a little easier for the very poor. Following are key votes.

### 1. To eliminate the Estate Tax entirely at the cost of \$74 billion a year:

YES: Dent, English, Fitzpatrick, Gerlach, Hart, Murphy, Peterson, Pitts, Platts, Sherwood, Shuster, Weldon.

NO: Brady, Doyle, Fattah, Holden, Kanjorski, Murtha, Schwartz.

### 2. To reduce the Estate Tax (at the cost of \$18 billion a year) so only the wealthiest 0.3 percent are required to pay:

YES: Doyle, Fattah, Holden, Kanjorski, Schwartz.

NO: Brady, Dent, English, Fitzpatrick, Gerlach, Hart, Murphy, Murtha, Peterson, Pitts, Platts, Sherwood, Shuster, Weldon.

### 3. To cut \$5.3 billion from agriculture programs (including Food Stamps); \$15 billion from Medicaid; and \$15 billion from the EITC, SSI, child care, foster care and TANF:

YES: Dent, English, Fitzpatrick, Hart, Murphy, Peterson, Pitts, Platts, Sherwood, Shuster, Weldon.

NO: Brady, Doyle, Fattah, Gerlach, Holden, Kanjorski, Murtha, Schwartz.

Kudos to Congressman Jim Gerlach for voting against the House Budget Resolution (see #3 above). Brickbats to all the other Republican members of Congress who use the deficit to justify cutting bread-and-butter programs but then vote to give away billions to the wealthiest individuals in America.

## Meals for Seniors

"Celebrate Long-Term Living" is the motto this May as groups across the United States mark National Older Americans month. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, one out of every five Pennsylvanians is over the age of 60, ranking the Commonwealth third in the U.S. in terms of the percentage of the population that is senior. And that figure is expected to increase 9 percent by 2010.

In Pennsylvania, county Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and private Meals-On-Wheels programs are at work to ensure seniors have access to nutritious meals. Each AAA has several senior centers throughout its county. In total across the State, there are over 650 senior centers, most of which serve congregate meals every weekday. In fiscal year 2003-04, AAA's served congregate meals to 136,501 people and delivered meals to 45,101. The number served by Meals On Wheels would be in addition to that figure.

Anyone over the age of 60, disabled living in a senior facility, or escorting a senior is eligible for the congregate meals. Depending on income guidelines, meals may be full-priced, reduced-priced or free. For home-delivered meals or Meals on Wheels, there are further restrictions, such as providing proof of disability or inability to leave the house.

The number of seniors participating in the congregate program is dropping both nationally and statewide. Amy Schweitzer, Aging Services Specialist at the PA Department of Aging, suggests an explanation: "This upcoming generation is much more mobile. They might come to a senior center for a computer class in the morning and an exercise class in the afternoon, but they don't stay for lunch."

In Cumberland County, the Cumberland

County Office on Aging (CCOA) oversees six centers countywide. While none of the centers reported a decline in those participating in their meal program, most agreed that attendance at the meals is linked to participation in center activities. Becky Reed of the Shippensburg Center explained, "Tuesdays and Thursdays are our big meal-count days because those are the big activity days - Bingo and speakers." Susan Bratton, director of the Mechanicsburg Senior Center, agrees that meals aren't necessarily what draws seniors to the centers. "Nonetheless," she says, "many of my seniors have told me that our lunch is their main meal of their day."

Unlike the decrease in congregate meals, the number of home-delivered meals is on the rise. Schweitzer perceives it to be a result of the rising number of seniors staying in their homes and not going into nursing care facilities. The PA Department of Aging Waiver Program has helped make this possible for many older Pennsylvanians.

Ruth Fields, coordinator of the Meals on Wheels of Carlisle, agrees, "It's not just here; it's all over Cumberland County. People want to be independent. They don't want to go to a nursing home or a senior center." The Carlisle program is privately funded and was established in 1968 by the First Lutheran Church. Currently, Forest Park Nursing Home prepares the meals and about 50 volunteers a week deliver them to those in need. Ms. Fields estimates that they have over 100 volunteers who share in the responsibility of delivering about 40 meals a day. And the number of meals is rising.

For further information on PA Senior Centers, go to [www.paseniorcenter.org](http://www.paseniorcenter.org). For your local Meals on Wheels program, go to [www.mealcall.org](http://www.mealcall.org).

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people in need. Most counties channel the money to local pantries and kitchens, which determine what specific foods are most needed in order to provide a nutritionally balanced package. This funding is absolutely crucial in parts of the State where there are few corporate food donors and pantries must depend heavily on SFPP-purchased food to meet local need.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives, in an April 12<sup>th</sup> session in which it looked at the whole budget for the first time, agreed unanimously to increase funding for the Program to \$18,500,000 (a 6 percent increase). When the Senate takes up this work later this spring, it will likely begin with the Governor's proposal of only \$15 million (a 14 percent cut from this year).

The final number won't be known until late June or early July and will depend on two factors: (1) whether state revenue received this spring is above or below projections; and (2) how many legislators have contacted House and Senate leadership to express support for the Program. Readers who wish to express their concerns about this vital source of pantry funding should contact their local legislators. Ask them to speak up for the State Food Purchase Program in Harrisburg!

### PA Legislative Session Calendar

May 2-4, 9-11

June 6-8, 13-15, 20-23,  
24\*, 27-30

\* House only



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## Conference Stirs It Up: Highlights Emerging Issues

The Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center, the Pennsylvania Nutrition Education Network and Pennsylvania Association of Regional Food Banks will co-sponsor the 5th Annual "Strengthening the Food Resource Safety Net" on May 24 – 25 at the Harrisburg-Hershey Wyndham Hotel and Conference Center in Harrisburg.

The conference will highlight the latest topics on hunger, obesity and other food and nutrition related problems. Participants will have opportunities to share ideas and to gain insight into emerging issues and initiatives.

What about the new requirement for school wellness policies? How will we control what foods are available in competition with the federal school nutrition programs? What changes will be coming to Pennsylvania as a result of the Child Nutrition Reauthorization of 2004? These questions will be answered by expert speakers from a variety of disciplines.

Conference speakers include Ellen Teller, Food Research and Action Center, Washington DC; Dr. Calvin Johnson, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Health; Carolyn Dunn Associate Professor and nutrition specialist with the Cooperative Extension Service at North Carolina State University; and Barbara Struempler, Extension Nutritionist, Professor, Auburn University.

The \$165 registration fee (\$140 if received before May 10) covers workshops, parking, continental breakfast, two lunches, beverage breaks, and a reception. A special registration rate of \$60 is available for students; call Marian Dunegan at (814) 863-0020 for information. Walk-in registrations will be accepted only as space allows.

Conference sponsors have applied for Continuing Education Credits from the American Dietetic Association.

To register on-line, visit: <http://conferences.cas.psu.edu/FoodNet/default.htm>

## THE PENNSYLVANIA HUNGER ADVOCATE

The Pennsylvania Hunger Advocate is made possible in part by a grant from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. It is published six times a year by the

### **Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center**

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The Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating the causes of hunger through advocacy, education and collaboration. Supporters of this work include food providers, growers, religious organizations, food industry members, advocates and consumers.

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