

September 28, 2022

11am-12pm on Zoom

**AN INFORMATION SESSION ON
SCHOOL FOOD
IN STAMFORD**

Presented by:

**STAMFORD
FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

A project of:



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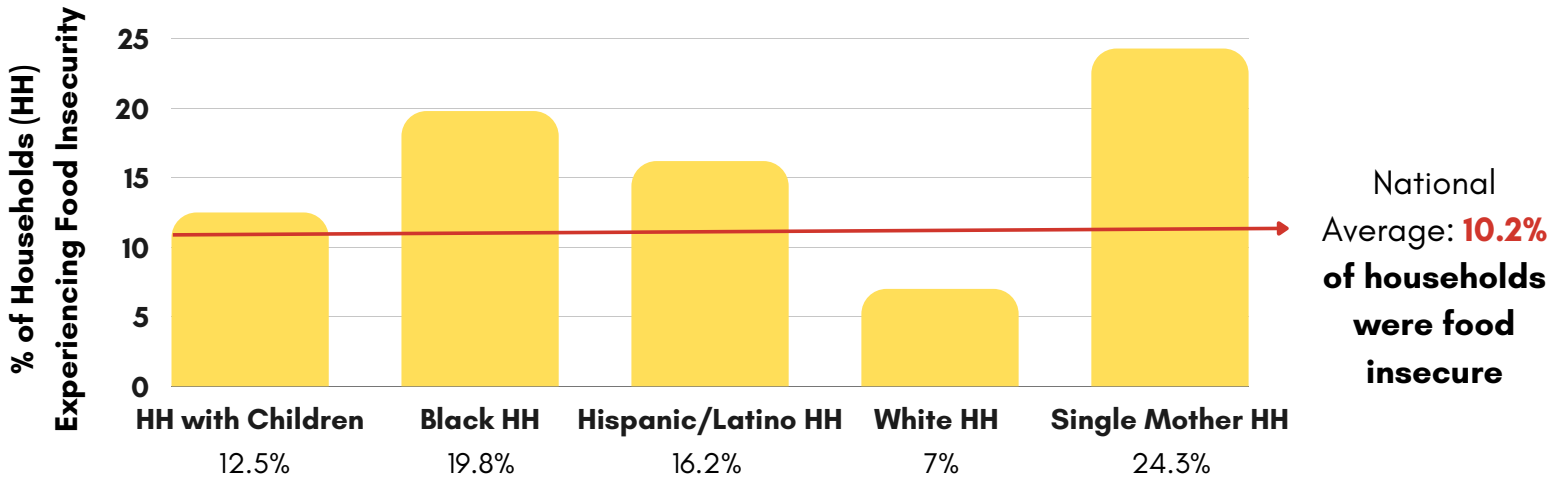
Tida Infahsaeng, Food Policy Manager, United Way of Western CT



Meg Hadley, Community Impact Program Coordinator, United Way of Western CT

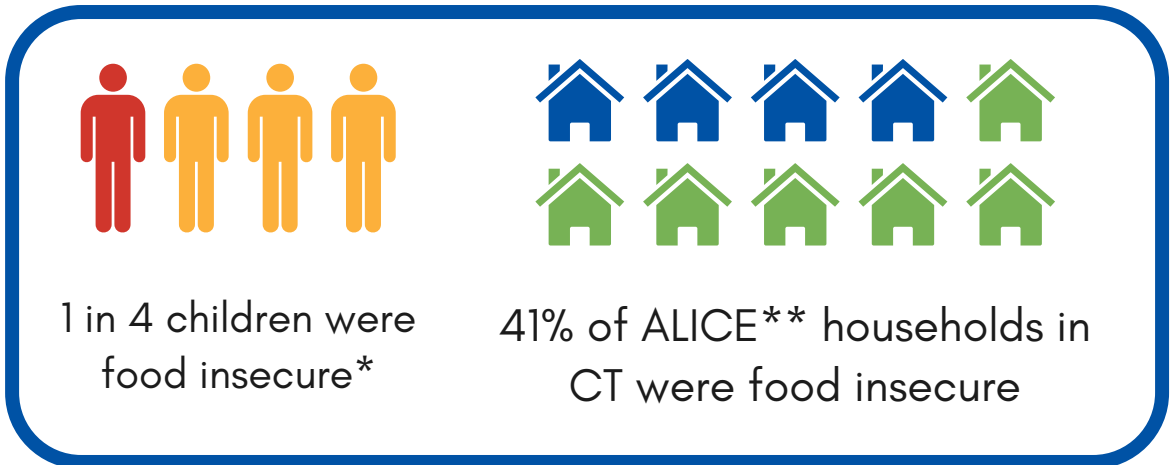
FOOD INSECURITY IN THE U.S.

National Food Insecurity by Household Composition, 2021



Food insecurity disproportionately impacts households with children and households of color, and these disparities worsened during COVID.

In Connecticut, in 2021:



*[DataHaven](#)

** **ALICE**
ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED

Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

Childhood food insecurity has negative effects on:

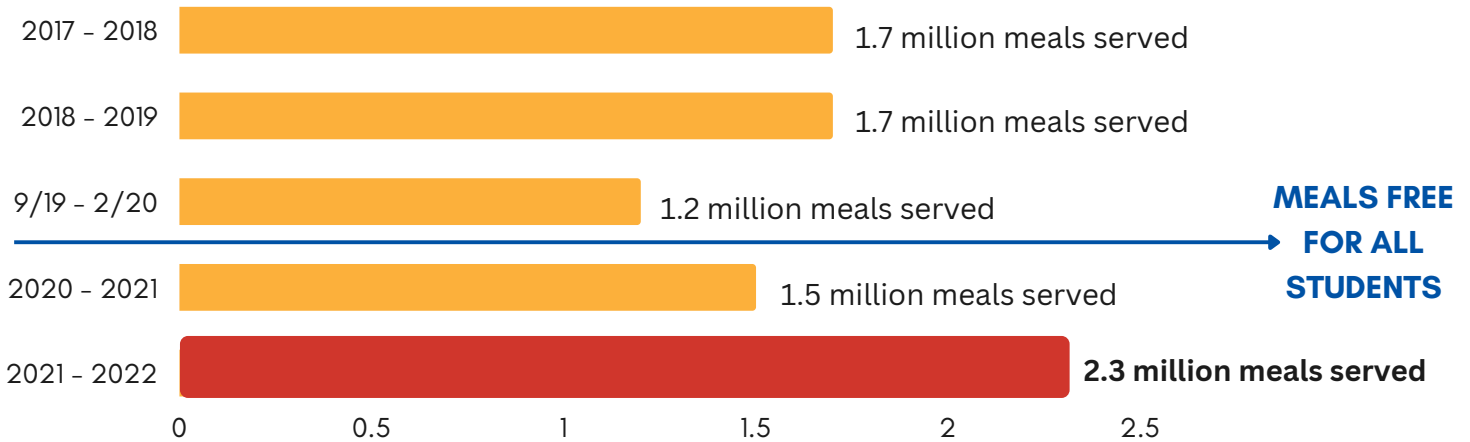
- Physical & Mental Health
- Cognitive Function
- Academic Performance

SPS SCHOOL MEALS

Due to federal waivers, breakfast and lunch were free for all public school students in the U.S. for the entirety of the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school year.



Meals Served (Breakfast & Lunch) by SPS between 2017 and 2022



The meals served in the 2021-2022 school year **increased by 35%** from before the pandemic. This demonstrates that students who did not previously qualify for free and reduced-price meals **may have needed the free meals.**

BENEFITS OF UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Food Security

Universal free school meals help combat childhood food insecurity and hunger with nutritious meals that have been proven to lower the risk of obesity, especially for children in poverty.



Equity

Universal free school meals encourage participation in school lunch and reduce shaming and bullying around receiving free school lunch and promote equity by eliminating out of pocket costs for all students.



Time & Cost Savings

Universal free school meals offer time and cost savings to families and the school district, including revenue that can be reinvested back into school meal programs.



Student Success

Universal free school meals improve student behavior & academic performance, reduce absenteeism, and promote a safe school environment.

WHY ARE SCHOOL MEALS FREE FOR SPS THIS YEAR?

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Food should be a universal benefit, like desks or textbooks!



The federal waivers for universal free school meals ended in June 2022. However, SPS can continue to provide free meals to all students through a program called **the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), a non-pricing meal service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas.** This means that breakfasts and lunches will be free for all SPS students for the next four school years.

STAMFORD HOUSEHOLD INCOME SURVEY

Because meals are free for all students, parents no longer need to apply in order for their children to receive free meals!

However, SPS knows that free & reduced-price lunch participation is often used to qualify families for other programs and services. Because of this, the district is offering the Stamford Household Income Survey.

This survey is **quick, easy, and confidential**. It doesn't ask for a social security number or immigration status. By filling out the survey, you can qualify your family and your district for some of the programs and benefits previously granted through free and reduced-price meal applications, such as:



School funding



Waived fees for AP Tests



Sports & camps



Waived fees for college applications



Free internet access

Stamford Public Schools
888 Washington Blvd., 3rd Floor
Stamford, CT 06901
Attn: Audrey Way
203 977 1177

HOUSEHOLD INCOME SURVEY

- This form is **NOT** a school meal application
- Stamford Public Schools collects household income data in order to understand district demographics, and to support families who wish to prove eligibility for discounts for camps, exams, or other services where such discounts apply

INCOME GUIDELINES
Guidelines to be effective from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

Number of persons in family or household size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly
1	\$25,142	\$2,096	\$1,048	\$967	\$484
2	33,874	2,823	1,412	1,303	652
3	42,606	3,551	1,776	1,639	820
4	51,338	4,279	2,140	1,975	988
5	60,070	5,006	2,503	2,311	1,156
6	68,802	5,734	2,867	2,647	1,324
7	77,534	6,462	3,231	2,983	1,492
8	86,266	7,189			
Each additional member add	+8,732				

If any member of your household receives food stamps, please provide the name and then proceed to Section 4. If no one receives food stamps, skip to Section 4.
Name: _____

Fill out the survey by printing out the PDF at the left and then doing one of the following:

- **Email to Audrey Way at AWay@StamfordCT.gov**
- **Bring the form into the office at your child's school**

- **Mail to:**

Stamford Public Schools
888 Washington Blvd., 3rd Floor
Stamford, CT 06901
Attn: Audrey Way



English



Español

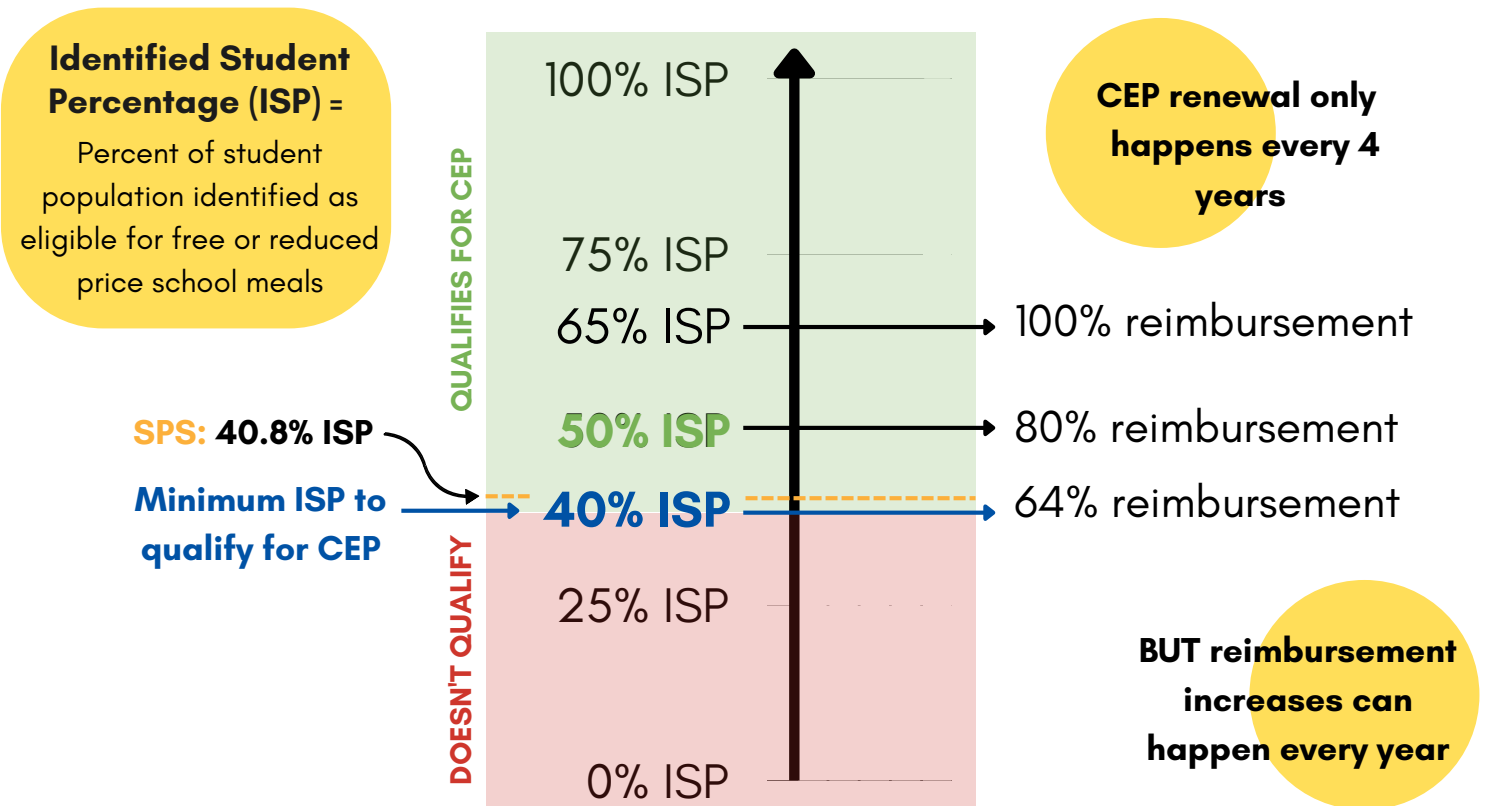
CLICK OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS THE FORM!

HOW DOES CEP WORK?

Qualification for CEP status is determined by the percent of the student population that is identified as being eligible for free or reduced price school meals, known as the **Identified Student Percentage (ISP)**.

The minimum ISP at which a district is eligible for CEP is 40%. Stamford Public Schools currently has 40.8% identified students. At this level, SPS is eligible to receive reimbursement from the federal government for 64% of the free meals served.

% of District's Students Counted in the ISP



Districts apply for CEP renewal every 4 years, and if a district's ISP dips below 40% before the end of that period, that district will no longer be eligible for CEP when the 4-year period is up. In the meantime, though, if a district's ISP increases, that district can be **eligible for annual reimbursement increases**, which are evaluated every April.

DIRECT CERTIFICATION THROUGH MEANS-TESTED PROGRAMS

Students can be directly certified as part of the ISP if they are enrolled in federal means-tested programs including SNAP, Medicaid/HUSKY, TANF, FDPIR, or if they belong to certain groups including homeless, foster, migrant, Head Start and Early Head Start students.



Stamford Public Schools believes that there may be many students who are eligible to receive free or reduced price meals but are not currently counted in the ISP. **SPS's goal is to increase the district's ISP to 50% or higher** to better reflect the need within the district. At this level, SPS would be eligible to receive **reimbursement for 80% of the meals served.**

The goal of our Food for Thought campaign is to help Stamford Public Schools **raise the ISP** by **sharing information** about SNAP and HUSKY with organizations, families, and other stakeholders in Stamford to **encourage families to enroll in these programs.**



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED



Organizational & Staff Commitment

The City of Stamford has committed to this campaign through its formal in-kind partnership with End Hunger CT!

Sign your organization up to be a partner as well by filling out our survey on the next page or by emailing one of us.



Events

Let the Food for Thought team know if you are hosting events that we could attend to share information. We are seeking opportunities to directly interact with SPS families who might be eligible for SNAP or HUSKY.



SNAP & HUSKY Trainings

We will be hosting a series of "SNAP 101" trainings, in partnership with End Hunger CT!, that will occur monthly in both English and Spanish. Send staff members to these trainings to learn the tools, facts, and language necessary for encouraging eligible families to sign up for SNAP and HUSKY and addressing common questions and misconceptions about these programs. Our first two (English) trainings will be held on Zoom on the following dates:

Thursday, October 13th, 10-11am

Tuesday, October 25th, 1-2pm



Social Media

Follow us on social media for updates and more information!



@stamfordc2c

@unitedwaywesternct

CLICK OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO VISIT OUR HOMEPAGE, SIGN UP FOR A TRAINING, AND FIND MORE INFORMATION!



THANK YOU!

Feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions.



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Tida Infahsaeng: tida.infahsaeng@uwwesternct.org



Meg Hadley: meghan.hadley@uwwesternct.org

SURVEY

Fill out this survey to:

CLICK
OR
SCAN!



Let us know how this session was



Sign up to stay informed and receive updates

A special thank-you to our partners in this campaign:

