

The Leo and Peggy Pierce Family Foundation

2023

The mission of The Leo and Peggy Pierce Family Foundation is to prevent and end hunger and food insecurity in the five-county Philadelphia region and in Indian River County, FL. The Foundation makes grants and investments to support activities that address food insecurity through direct service programs and/or advocacy efforts.

The Foundation supports:

At the Emergency Food level, activities that

- Enhance emergency food providers' capacity and infrastructure
- Improve the scope of county-wide client and pantry level data collection and dissemination
- Ensure nutritional soundness of emergency food and pre-packaged food pantry bags
- Connect emergency food recipients with benefits enrollment
- Build coalitions working to fight hunger and improve nutrition
- Link nutrition education with emergency food provision
- Provide food for priority populations who are most at-risk for food insecurity

At the Hunger Safety Net Level, activities that

- Raise awareness about food insecurity and hunger
- Provide legal services to ensure access to benefits and adequate funding of programs
- Link eligible households to benefits
- Improve benefits outreach and enrollment to under-served populations
- Support strategies that encourage and enable food retailers to accept SNAP/EBT payment for fresh foods
- Ensure that children have access to free lunch and breakfast programs at all schools
- Ensure that children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch have access to food during the summer and after school
- Help institutions that serve vulnerable populations provide healthier food

At the Food System level, activities that

- Advocate at the federal, state, and local levels for systems improvement and legislation

- Advance and/or implement the priorities of local, state and federal anti-hunger advocates
- Support community and urban gardening/farming
- Support local and regional food system improvements
- Recover and redistribute wasted food and produce
- Support food retailers to open, expand, and sustain affordable, healthy food choices in low-income communities (corner stores, farmers markets, grocery stores)