

**Ending the Epidemic Task Force
Committee Recommendation
CR15**

Recommendation Title: Nutrition Assistance for Low-income Persons with HIV/AIDS

1. **For which goal outlined in the Governor's plan to end the epidemic in New York State does this recommendation apply?** *1, 2 and 3*

2. **Proposed Recommendation:** To help bridge the gap in nutritional support created by the October 2014 eligibility changes in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), provide additional funding for nutritional programs, including but not limited to food pantries, meal programs, nutritional health education and counseling services, for People with HIV (PWH) to ensure that low income New Yorkers will have access to critical food services and nutrition guidance to improve their health outcomes.

Adequate nutrition assistance improves health outcomes and enhances treatment adherence in PWH. Informed nutritional decisions and access to food assistance will optimize nutrition status, bolster immunity and enhance overall well-being for low-income PWH. An inability to purchase/obtain nutritious, culturally relevant food presents both health challenges and psychological stressors.

It should be noted that this recommendation is intended to work in conjunction with the direct food assistance outlined as part of CR44.

List of key individuals, stakeholders, or populations who would benefit from this recommendation

- PWH
- Local vendors
- Non-profit organizations serving PWH
- Community at large

List of measures that would assist in monitoring impact

- Conduct baseline and ongoing screening for food security
- Track HIV medication uptake

Footnotes or References

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Tufts University Nutrition/Infection Unit.

<http://www.tufts.edu/med/nutrition-infection/hiv/health.html>

Weiser SD, Frongillo EA, Ragland K et al. Food Insecurity is Associated with Incomplete HIV RNA Suppression Among Homeless and Marginally Housed HIV-Infected Individuals in San Francisco. *J Gen Intern Med* 24:14-20, 2008.



<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/food/efnep/about.html>

3. **Would implementation of this recommendation be permitted under current laws or would a statutory change be required?** Permitted under current law.
4. **Is this recommendation something that could feasibly be implemented?** Within the next year.
5. **Please list the TF numbers of the original recommendations that contributed to this current version:** TF268, TF273, TF218.

