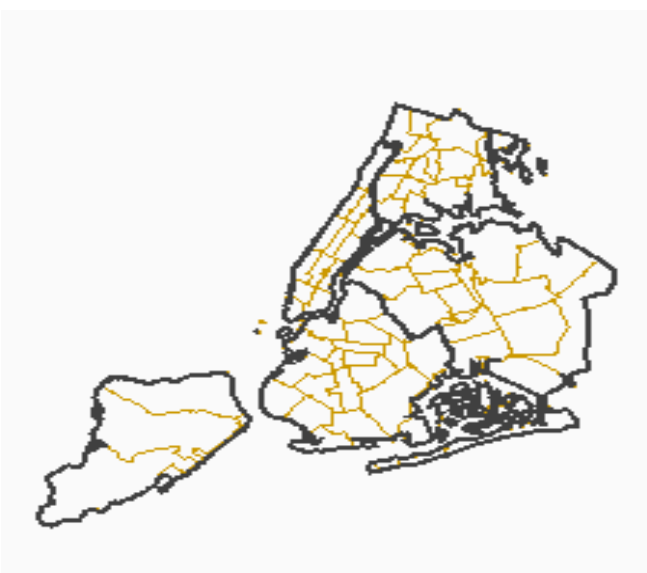


# *From Compstat to Foodstat: How New York City Neighborhood Based Data Can Help Increase Food Stamp Participation*

---



=



Prepared for the  
United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg  
Met Council on Jewish Poverty

---

By David Rubel, Consultant  
Community Development and Planning  
© July 2007

# ***From Compstat to Foodstat: How New York City Neighborhood Based Data Can Help Increase Food Stamp Participation***

---

By David Rubel, Community Development and Planning Consultant, October 2007

This position paper describes new strategies for increasing the number of people participating in the Federal Food Stamps program. For the past 15 years, New York City has been using neighborhood based performance data to better understand how government services are delivered and what changes can be made to make those services more effective. Beginning with the Compstat program at the New York Police Department, and moving on to Department of Health (HealthStat), Human Resources Administration (Jobstat), Department of Education (Learnstat) and Administration for Children's Services, City agencies are now required to use neighborhood data to improve performance. In the NYPD alone, Compstat has been widely praised as the strategy that has brought down the crime rate. The other City agencies have also greatly improved delivery by using neighborhood based data. One program that could greatly benefit from neighborhood based data is Food Stamps participation.

The importance of increasing Food Stamps participation in New York City has become a hot button issue. There are frequent articles in the local media and several powerful research studies and reports from elected officials, policy advocates and anti-hunger organizations<sup>1</sup>. Today, one can find widespread agreement across the political spectrum that Food Stamps enrollment not only helps needy families with income support and nutrition but also pumps hundreds of millions of dollars into the New York City economy. These dollars end up helping to bolster the neighborhood economy of poor neighborhoods.

Most importantly, significant gains have recently been made in reversing the sharp decline in Food Stamps enrollment that took place in the late 1990's. Between 2000 and 2005, Food Stamps participation increased by people. While these signs of improvement are encouraging, there is still a long way to go. This loss of income to New York City due to low Food Stamps participation is estimated at between \$478 million dollars a year (other estimates put the figure much higher)<sup>2</sup>. A missing piece in the Food Stamps discussion involves how enrollment is taking place on the neighborhood level. A close look at neighborhood data will reveal that the progress has been very uneven and much more can be done to change this.

Food Stamps enrollment data, broken down by community district, shows that some neighborhoods are making significant gains while others are not. With the involvement of local elected officials, community based organizations, food pantries and volunteers, there is a lot that can be done on the neighborhood level to increase enrollment. Community district data on Food Stamps enrollment, showing enrollment neighborhood by neighborhood, can play a crucial role here. The data should be carefully scrutinized.

## Main Findings

1. ***Enrollment gains on a neighborhood level have been very uneven:*** A piece of the picture that has been overlooked in the recent flurry of newspaper articles, policy reports and studies is the very uneven progress taking place on the neighborhood level. The data shows that during the period of 2000 to 2005, for the 59 New York City Community Districts, while some neighborhoods have seen large increases in Food Stamp participation, *others have lagged far behind*. 17 community districts saw enrollment gains of 29% or more while 17 other community districts saw enrollment gains of 14% or less.
2. ***Change can start on the neighborhood level:*** While there has been much progress between 2000 and 2005, almost every neighborhood is still far below the number of estimated people eligible to receive Food Stamps. The numbers vary widely among the Community Districts. The Food Stamp enrollment issue must also be addressed on a neighborhood level. Community based organizations with strong roots in immigrant and ethnic communities should also be brought into the campaign to increase enrollment. New strategies aimed at neighborhoods with the smallest gains are needed if community outreach and education activities are going to continue increase the number of people receiving Food Stamps. Funding to support community based Food Stamps enrollment is very pound wise since it generates more revenue for the City.
3. ***Food Stamps also pumps millions of new dollars into a neighborhood economy:*** The loss of income to New York City due to low Food Stamps participation is estimated at between \$650 and \$739 million dollars a year. The neighborhoods that are lagging behind in Food Stamps participation are also not benefiting from millions of dollars in economic stimulation. Food Stamps translates into more money for local grocery stores and more household income to pay for necessities such as rent. If 5,000 people enroll in Food Stamps, it means that an additional \$9 million dollars are circulating in the neighborhood economy.
4. ***The tracking system data is free and easily accessible:*** The enrollment changes in New York City Food Stamp participation can be carefully tracked through free data available through the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA). HRA provides annual updated data on Food Stamps enrollment broken down the 59 Community Districts. Neighborhood based coalitions of community groups can track their success with enrolling more families; HRA neighborhood Job and Food Stamp Centers can be held with greater accountability. Community groups can keep an accurate account of the number of successful applicants for Food Stamps. Community districts that have experienced the largest decreases can be targeted for more intensive assistance. The information will be made available to all concerned parties including HRA executive and Income Support/Job Center and Food Stamp site offices staff, local elected officials, community board members and citywide advocates. At the very least, it can be posted on a website for easy access.
5. ***Almost all of the net increase in Food Stamps enrollment has been to the benefit of the working poor.*** Much of the increase in Food Stamps participation took place with the non-Public Assistance and non-SSI population. According to the NYC-HRA, between January 2002 and January 2005, this group increased from 220,643 to 422,186; an increase of 201, 542 people. This statistic shows how much Food Stamps is a program for the working poor.<sup>3</sup>
6. ***Stagnant enrollment in 2006:*** For the last year that official data is available Oct. 2005 to Oct. 2006, Food Stamps enrollment on a citywide as well as for most neighborhoods has seen no significant increase in the past year. Many community districts actually saw a decrease in participation.

**Chart A-1. Five Year Change (2000 to 2005) in New York City Food Stamp Participation by Neighborhood**

CD	Neighborhood	Oct. 2000	Oct. 2005	Change	Percent Change
Bx 1	Mott Haven	24,874	30,328	5,454	21.9
Bx 2	Longwood	13,168	15,606	2,438	18.5
Bx 3	Morissania, Clermont	20,613	24,070	3,457	16.8
Bx 4	Grand Concourse	34,375	42,714	8,339	24.3
Bx 5	Morris Heights, Fordham	35,158	40,987	5,829	16.6
Bx 6	East Tremont, Belmont	22,146	25,078	2,932	13.2
Bx 7	Norwood, University Hts.	26,969	31,135	4,166	15.4
Bx 8	Riverdale, Kingsbridge Hts.	7,567	9,782	2,215	29.3
Bx 9	Soundview	28,679	33,335	4,656	16.2
Bx 10	Coop City	5,379	8,128	2,749	51.1
Bx 11	Pelham Parkway	9,518	12,487	2,969	31.2
Bx 12	Williamsbridge	13,777	19,455	5,678	41.2
Man 1	Downtown	1,017	1,427	410	40.3
Man 2	Greenwich Village	2,567	3,201	634	24.7
Man 3	Lower East Side-Chinatown	17,455	24,133	6,678	38.3
Man 4	Chelsea-Clinton	5,566	10,332	4,766	85.6
Man 5	Midtown	2,122	2,523	401	18.9
Man 6	Grammercy Park	2,089	2,719	630	30.2
Man 7	Upper West Side	10,381	12,544	2,163	20.8
Man 8	Upper East Side	2,560	3,168	608	23.8
Man 9	West Harlem	17,338	21,404	4,066	23.5
Man 10	Central Harlem	22,969	24,624	1,655	7.2
Man 11	East Harlem	26,026	30,065	4,039	15.5
Man 12	Washington Hts.-Inwood	38,749	44,068	5,319	13.7
Bklyn 1	Williamsburg-Greenpoint	34,774	39,354	4,580	13.2
Bklyn 2	Bklyn Hts-Cobble Hill	10,411	10,711	300	2.9
Bklyn 3	Bedford Stuyvesant	32,557	38,945	6,388	19.6
Bklyn 4	Bushwick	27,751	30,563	2,812	10.1
Bklyn 5	East New York	35,705	42,737	7,032	19.7
Bklyn 6	Park Slope-Carroll Gardens	8,484	8,864	380	4.5
Bklyn 7	Sunset Park-Windsor Terrace	14,521	17,795	3,274	22.5
Bklyn 8	North Crown Heights	16,642	19,580	2,938	17.7
Bklyn 9	South Crown Heights	12,252	14,929	2,677	21.8
Bklyn 10	Bay Ridge	6,445	8,929	2,484	38.5
Bklyn 11	Bensonhurst	17,263	21,832	4,569	26.5
Bklyn 12	Boro Park	30,941	37,544	6,603	21.3
Bklyn 13	Coney Island-Brighton Beach	21,811	23,964	2,153	9.9

Bklyn 14	Flatbush-Midwood	22,099	24,838	2,739	12.4
Bklyn 15	Sheepshead Bay	16,863	18,383	1,520	9.0
Bklyn 16	Brownsville	22,867	25,884	3,017	13.2
Bklyn 17	East Flatbush	15,105	19,007	3,902	25.8
Bklyn 18	Canarsie-Starrett City	10,764	14,782	4,018	37.3
Qns 1	Astoria	12,719	15,392	2,673	21.0
Qns 2	Woodside-LIC	4,900	7,016	2,116	43.2
Qns 3	Jackson Hts	11,218	15,148	3,930	35.0
Qns 4	Corona-Elmhurst	10,821	14,910	4,089	37.8
Qns 5	Middle Village-Ridgewood	9,552	11,338	1,786	18.7
Qns 6	Forest Hills	6,761	6,974	213	3.2
Qns 7	Flushing	9,221	12,006	2,785	30.2
Qns 8	Kew Garden Hills-Pomonok	7,546	8,614	1,068	14.2
Qns 9	Richmond Hill	9,819	10,867	1,048	10.7
Qns 10	Ozone Park-Howard Beach	6,004	6,588	584	9.7
Qns 11	Douglaston-Little Neck	1,635	2,392	757	46.3
Qns 12	Jamaica-St.Albans	20,236	22,840	2,604	12.9
Qns 13	Springfield Gardens	7,276	9,050	1,774	24.4
Qns 14	The Rockaways	15,813	16,883	1,070	6.8
SI 1	North Shore	15,059	19,143	4,084	27.1
SI 2	Mid-Island	4,319	5,984	1665	38.6
SI 3	South Shore	2,517	3,837	1320	52.4
Total		903,733	1,080,936	177,203	19.6

Source: New York City Human Resources Administration District Resource Statement. United States Census.

**Chart A-2. Five Year Change (2000 to 2005) in NYC Food Stamp Participation**  
*Ranking of Community Districts by % Change*

<b>RANK</b>	<b>CD</b>	<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Oct. 2000</b>	<b>Oct. 2005</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
1	Man 4	Chelsea-Clinton	5,566	10,332	4,766	85.6
2	SI 3	South Shore	2,517	3,837	1320	52.4
3	Bx 10	Coop City	5,379	8,128	2,749	51.1
4	Qns 11	Douglaston-Little Neck	1,635	2,392	757	46.3
5	Qns 2	Woodside-LIC	4,900	7,016	2,116	43.2
6	Bx 12	Williamsbridge	13,777	19,455	5,678	41.2
7	Man 1	Downtown	1,017	1,427	410	40.3
8	SI 2	Mid-Island	4,319	5,984	1665	38.6
9	Bklyn 10	Bay Ridge	6,445	8,929	2,484	38.5
10	Man 3	Lower East Side-Chinatown	17,455	24,133	6,678	38.3
11	Qns 4	Corona-Elmhurst	10,821	14,910	4,089	37.8
12	Bklyn 18	Canarsie-Starrett City	10,764	14,782	4,018	37.3
13	Qns 3	Jackson Hts	11,218	15,148	3,930	35.0
14	Bx 11	Pelham Parkway	9,518	12,487	2,969	31.2
15	Qns 7	Flushing	9,221	12,006	2,785	30.2
16	Man 6	Grammercy Park	2,089	2,719	630	30.2
17	Bx 8	Riverdale, Kingsbridge Hts.	7,567	9,782	2,215	29.3
18	SI 1	North Shore	15,059	19,143	4,084	27.1
19	Bklyn 11	Bensonhurst	17,263	21,832	4,569	26.5
20	Bklyn 17	East Flatbush	15,105	19,007	3,902	25.8
21	Man 2	Greenwich Village	2,567	3,201	634	24.7
22	Qns 13	Springfield Gardens	7,276	9,050	1,774	24.4
23	Bx 4	Grand Concourse	34,375	42714	8,339	24.3
24	Man 8	Upper East Side	2,560	3,168	608	23.8
25	Man 9	West Harlem	17,338	21,404	4,066	23.5
26	Bklyn 7	Sunset Park-Windsor Terrace	14,521	17,795	3,274	22.5
27	Bx 1	Mott Haven	24,874	30,328	5,454	21.9
28	Bklyn 9	South Crown Heights	12,252	14,929	2,677	21.8
29	Bklyn 12	Boro Park	30,941	37,544	6,603	21.3
30	Qns 1	Astoria	12,719	15,392	2,673	21.0
31	Man 7	Upper West Side	10,381	12,544	2,163	20.8
32	Bklyn 5	East New York	35,705	42,737	7,032	19.7
33	Bklyn 3	Bedford Stuyvesant	32,557	38,945	6,388	19.6
34	Man 5	Midtown	2,122	2,523	401	18.9
35	Qns 5	Middle Village-Ridgewood	9,552	11,338	1,786	18.7
36	Bx 2	Longwood	13,168	15,606	2,438	18.5
37	Bklyn 8	North Crown Heights	16,642	19,580	2,938	17.7
38	Bx 3	Morissania, Clermont	20,613	24070	3,457	16.8
39	Bx 5	Morris Heights, Fordham	35,158	40,987	5,829	16.6

40	Bx 9	Soundview	28,679	33,335	4,656	16.2
41	Man 11	East Harlem	26,026	30,065	4,039	15.5
42	Bx 7	Norwood, University Hts.	26,969	31,135	4,166	15.4
43	Qns 8	Kew Garden Hills-Pomonok	7,546	8,614	1,068	14.2
44	Man 12	Washington Hts.-Inwood	38,749	44,068	5,319	13.7
45	Bx 6	East Tremont, Belmont	22,146	25,078	2,932	13.2
46	Bklyn 16	Brownsville	22,867	25,884	3,017	13.2
47	Bklyn 1	Williamsburg-Greenpoint	34,774	39,354	4,580	13.2
48	Qns 12	Jamaica-St.Albans	20,236	22,840	2,604	12.9
49	Bklyn 14	Flatbush-Midwood	22,099	24,838	2,739	12.4
50	Qns 9	Richmond Hill	9,819	10,867	1,048	10.7
51	Bklyn 4	Bushwick	27,751	30,563	2,812	10.1
52	Bklyn 13	Coney Island-Brighton Beach	21,811	23,964	2,153	9.9
53	Qns 10	Ozone Park-Howard Beach	6,004	6,588	584	9.7
54	Bklyn 15	Sheepshead Bay	16,863	18,383	1,520	9.0
55	Man 10	Central Harlem	22,969	24,624	1,655	7.2
56	Qns 14	The Rockaways	15,813	16,883	1,070	6.8
57	Bklyn 6	Park Slope-Carroll Gardens	8,484	8,864	380	4.5
58	Qns 6	Forest Hills	6,761	6,974	213	3.2
59	Bklyn 2	Bklyn Hts-Cobble Hill	10,411	10,711	300	2.9

Source: New York City Human Resources Administration District Resource Statement. United States Census.

**Analysis:** In Chart A-2. the 59 Community Districts were ranked according to the percentage change that took place in Food Stamps participation between 2000 and 2005. The community district data shows that during the five year period (2000-2005) there was significant variation in Food Stamps enrollment across New York City. The column showing net gain or decrease is equally important to look at. The gains are very uneven. Some Community Districts had both large number and percentage gains, while other Community Districts had both very small number and percentage gains.

- 17 Community Districts had a percentage gain of 14% or less.
- 16 Community Districts had a percentage gain of 30% or more.

**Chart B-1. Number of People Eligible for Food Stamps and Not Enrolled**

CD	Neighborhood	Number of People at 125% of the Federal Poverty Level	Estimate of Food Stamp Eligible Persons	Oct. 2005 Enrolled	Estimated Not Enrolled	Percent of Total Estimated Eligible
Bx 1	Mott Haven	43,675	32,974	30,328	2,646	8.0
Bx 2	Longwood	24,486	18,486	15,606	2,880	15.6
Bx 3	Morissania, Clermont	35,346	26,686	24,070	2,616	9.8
Bx 4	Grand Concourse	63,909	48,251	42,714	5,537	11.5
Bx 5	Morris Heights, Fordham	61,879	46,719	40,987	5,732	12.3
Bx 6	East Tremont, Belmont	37,134	28,036	25,078	2,958	10.6
Bx 7	Norwood, University Hts.	54,019	40,784	31,135	9,649	23.7
Bx 8	Riverdale, Kingsbridge Hts.	20,864	15,752	9,782	5,970	37.9
Bx 9	Soundview	57,771	43,617	33,335	10,282	23.6
Bx 10	Coop City	16,440	12,412	8,128	4,284	34.5
Bx 11	Pelham Parkway	22,374	16,892	12,487	4,405	26.1
Bx 12	Williamsbridge	35,052	26,464	19,455	7,009	26.5
Man 1	Downtown	3,404	2,570	1,427	1,143	44.5
Man 2	Greenwich Village	11,909	8,991	3,201	5,790	64.4
Man 3	Lower East Side-Chinatown	56,706	42,813	24,133	18,680	43.6
Man 4	Chelsea-Clinton	15,832	11,953	10,332	1,621	13.6
Man 5	Midtown	5,385	4,066	2,523	1,543	37.9
Man 6	Grammercy Park	12,835	9,690	2,719	6,971	71.9
Man 7	Upper West Side	28,075	21,197	12,544	8,653	40.8
Man 8	Upper East Side	17,576	13,270	3,168	10,102	76.1
Man 9	West Harlem	38,923	29,387	21,404	7,983	27.2
Man 10	Central Harlem	45,133	34,075	24,624	9,451	27.7
Man 11	East Harlem	50,283	37,964	30,065	7,899	20.8
Man 12	Washington Hts.-Inwood	75,757	57,197	44,068	13,129	23.0
Bklyn 1	Williamsburg-Greenpoint	66,952	50,549	39,354	11,195	22.1
Bklyn 2	Bklyn Hts-Cobble Hill	26,033	19,655	10,711	8,944	45.5
Bklyn 3	Bedford Stuyvesant	57,611	43,496	38,945	4,551	10.5
Bklyn 4	Bushwick	47,400	35,787	30,563	5,224	14.6
Bklyn 5	East New York	67,359	50,856	42,737	8,119	16.0
Bklyn 6	Park Slope-Carroll Gardens	19,278	14,555	8,864	5,691	39.1
Bklyn 7	Sunset Park-Windsor Terrace	37,746	28,498	17,795	10,703	37.6
Bklyn 8	North Crown Heights	31,905	24,088	19,580	4,508	18.7
Bklyn 9	South Crown Heights	30,795	23,250	14,929	8,321	35.8
Bklyn 10	Bay Ridge	22,541	17,018	8,929	8,089	47.5
Bklyn 11	Bensonhurst	44,081	33,281	21,832	11,449	34.4
Bklyn 12	Boro Park	66,307	50,062	37,544	12,518	25.0

Bklyn 13	Coney Island-Brighton Beach	38,108	28,772	23,964	4,808	16.7
Bklyn 14	Flatbush-Midwood	48,648	36,729	24,838	11,891	32.4
Bklyn 15	Sheepshead Bay	36,528	27,579	18,383	9,196	33.3
Bklyn 16	Brownsville	40,824	30,822	25,884	4,938	16.0
Bklyn 17	East Flatbush	40,711	30,737	19,007	11,730	38.2
Bklyn 18	Canarsie-Starrett City	30,123	22,743	14,782	7,961	35.0
Qns 1	Astoria	49,717	37,536	15,392	22,144	59.0
Qns 2	Woodside-LIC	24,542	18,529	7,016	11,513	62.1
Qns 3	Jackson Hts	42,415	32,023	15,148	16,875	52.7
Qns 4	Corona-Elmhurst	42,890	32,382	14,910	17,472	54.0
Qns 5	Middle Village-Ridgewood	29,940	22,605	11,338	11,267	49.8
Qns 6	Forest Hills	16,852	12,723	6,974	5,749	45.2
Qns 7	Flushing	41,011	30,963	12,006	18,957	61.2
Qns 8	Kew Garden Hills-Pomonok	20,915	15,791	8,614	7,177	45.4
Qns 9	Richmond Hill	26,864	20,282	10,867	9,415	46.4
Qns 10	Ozone Park-Howard Beach	18,709	14,125	6,588	7,537	53.4
Qns 11	Douglaston-Little Neck	9,998	7,548	2,392	5,156	68.3
Qns 12	Jamaica-St.Albans	46,979	35,469	22,840	12,629	35.6
Qns 13	Springfield Gardens	18,137	13,693	9,050	4,643	33.9
Qns 14	The Rockaways	29,364	22,170	16,883	5,287	23.8
SI 1	North Shore	31,091	23,474	19,143	4,331	18.4
SI 2	Mid-Island	15,204	11,479	5,984	5,495	47.9
SI 3	South Shore	10,189	7,693	3,837	3,856	50.1
<b>NYC Total</b>		<b>2,062,534</b>	<b>1,557,212</b>	<b>1,080,936</b>	<b>476,276</b>	<b>30.5</b>

Source: New York City Human Resources Administration District Resource Statement; New York Department of City Planning 2000 Census Population Figures.

**Chart B-2. Ranking of Neighborhoods by Number of People Eligible But Not Enrolled in Food Stamps**

RANK	CD	Neighborhood	125% of the Poverty Level.	Estimated Number of People Eligible For Food Stamps	Oct. 2005 Enrolled	People Eligible Not Enrolled	Percent of Total Estimated Not Enrolled
1	Qns 1	Astoria	49,717	37,536	15,392	22,144	59.0
2	Qns 7	Flushing	41,011	30,963	12,006	18,957	61.2
3	Man 3	Lower East Side-Chinatown	56,706	42,813	24,133	18,680	43.6
4	Qns 4	Corona-Elmhurst	42,890	32,382	14,910	17,472	54.0
5	Qns 3	Jackson Hts	42,415	32,023	15,148	16,875	52.7
6	Man 12	Washington Hts.-Inwood	75,757	57,197	44,068	13,129	23.0
7	Qns 12	Jamaica-St.Albans	46,979	35,469	22,840	12,629	35.6
8	Bklyn 12	Boro Park	66,307	50,062	37,544	12,518	25.0
9	Bklyn 14	Flatbush-Midwood	48,648	36,729	24,838	11,891	32.4
10	Bklyn 17	East Flatbush	40,711	30,737	19,007	11,730	38.2
11	Qns 2	Woodside-LIC	24,542	18,529	7,016	11,513	62.1
12	Bklyn 11	Bensonhurst	44,081	33,281	21,832	11,449	34.4
13	Qns 5	Middle Village-Ridgewood	29,940	22,605	11,338	11,267	49.8
14	Bklyn 1	Williamsburg-Greenpoint	66,952	50,549	39,354	11,195	22.1
15	Bklyn 7	Sunset Park-Windsor Terrace	37,746	28,498	17,795	10,703	37.6
16	Bx 9	Soundview	57,771	43,617	33,335	10,282	23.6
17	Man 8	Upper East Side	17,576	13,270	3,168	10,102	76.1
18	Bx 7	Norwood, University Hts.	54,019	40,784	31,135	9,649	23.7
19	Man 10	Central Harlem	45,133	34,075	24,624	9,451	27.7
20	Qns 9	Richmond Hill	26,864	20,282	10,867	9,415	46.4
21	Bklyn 15	Sheepshead Bay	36,528	27,579	18,383	9,196	33.3
22	Bklyn 2	Bklyn Hts-Cobble Hill	26,033	19,655	10,711	8,944	45.5
23	Man 7	Upper West Side	28,075	21,197	12,544	8,653	40.8
24	Bklyn 9	South Crown Heights	30,795	23,250	14,929	8,321	35.8
25	Bklyn 5	East New York	67,359	50,856	42,737	8,119	16.0
26	Bklyn 10	Bay Ridge	22,541	17,018	8,929	8,089	47.5
27	Man 9	West Harlem	38,923	29,387	21,404	7,983	27.2
28	Bklyn 18	Canarsie-Starrett City	30,123	22,743	14,782	7,961	35.0
29	Man 11	East Harlem	50,283	37,964	30,065	7,899	20.8
30	Qns 10	Ozone Park-Howard Beach	18,709	14,125	6,588	7,537	53.4
31	Qns 8	Kew Garden Hills-Pomonok	20,915	15,791	8,614	7,177	45.4
32	Bx 12	Williamsbridge	35,052	26,464	19,455	7,009	26.5
33	Man 6	Grammercy Park	12,835	9,690	2,719	6,971	71.9
34	Bx 8	Riverdale, Kingsbridge Hts.	20,864	15,752	9,782	5,970	37.9
35	Man 2	Greenwich Village	11,909	8,991	3,201	5,790	64.4
36	Qns 6	Forest Hills	16,852	12,723	6,974	5,749	45.2
37	Bx 5	Morris Heights, Fordham	61,879	46,719	40,987	5,732	12.3
38	Bklyn 6	Park Slope-Carroll Gardens	19,278	14,555	8,864	5,691	39.1

39	Bx 4	Grand Concourse	63,909	48,251	42,714	5,537	11.5
40	SI 2	Mid-Island	15,204	11,479	5,984	5,495	47.9
41	Qns 14	The Rockaways	29,364	22,170	16,883	5,287	23.8
42	Bklyn 4	Bushwick	47,400	35,787	30,563	5,224	14.6
43	Qns 11	Douglaston-Little Neck	9,998	7,548	2,392	5,156	68.3
44	Bklyn 16	Brownsville	40,824	30,822	25,884	4,938	16.0
45	Bklyn 13	Coney Island-Brighton Beach	38,108	28,772	23,964	4,808	16.7
46	Qns 13	Springfield Gardens	18,137	13,693	9,050	4,643	33.9
47	Bklyn 3	Bedford Stuyvesant	57,611	43,496	38,945	4,551	10.5
48	Bklyn 8	North Crown Heights	31,905	24,088	19,580	4,508	18.7
49	Bx 11	Pelham Parkway	22,374	16,892	12,487	4,405	26.1
50	SI 1	North Shore	31,091	23,474	19,143	4,331	18.4
51	Bx 10	Coop City	16,440	12,412	8,128	4,284	34.5
52	SI 3	South Shore	10,189	7,693	3,837	3,856	50.1
53	Bx 6	East Tremont, Belmont	37,134	28,036	25,078	2,958	10.6
54	Bx 2	Longwood	24,486	18,486	15,606	2,880	15.6
55	Bx 1	Mott Haven	43,675	32,974	30,328	2,646	8.0
56	Bx 3	Morissania, Clermont	35,346	26,686	24,070	2,616	9.8
57	Man 4	Chelsea-Clinton	15,832	11,953	10,332	1,621	13.6
58	Man 5	Midtown	5,385	4,066	2,523	1,543	37.9
59	Man 1	Downtown	3,404	2,570	1,427	1,143	44.5

Chart B-2. shows a ranking of the Community Districts for the number of people who are most likely eligible for Food Stamps but not currently enrolled. The Community Districts are ranked by the numbers in column six “eligible not enrolled”. Column five and six add up to the estimated number in column four. Column seven shows the percentage of people who are eligible for Food Stamps and not currently enrolled. The formula used to arrive at this number comes from the Food Research Action Council (FRAC). The distribution of the *eligible not enrolled* group widely varies across the 59 Community Districts.

- ***17 Community Districts have 10,000 or more people eligible but not enrolled.***
- ***Enrollment is a much bigger problem in Queens and Brooklyn than it is in the Bronx.***
- ***The boroughs are also very uneven in their rates of enrollment. Queens has 20% of the total eligible but has 32% of the eligible but not enrolled. Enrollment efforts should definitely be targeted to Brooklyn and Queens.***

### Chart C. 2006 Data.

Between 2005 and 2006, there an actual net decline in City Wide Food Stamps Enrollment with almost every single community district showing either a decline or tiny gain.

CD	Neighborhood		Oct-05	Oct-06	Change
Bx 1	Mott Haven		30,328	29,579	-749
Bx 2	Longwood		15,606	15,412	-194
Bx 3	Morissania, Clermont		24070	23361	-709
Bx 4	Grand Concourse		42714	42562	-152
Bx 5	Morris Heights, Fordham		40,987	40,710	-277
Bx 6	East Tremont, Belmont		25,078	25,492	414
Bx 7	Norwood, University Hts.		31,135	31,659	524
Bx 8	Riverdale, Kingsbridge Hts.		9,782	9,686	-96
Bx 9	Soundview		33,335	32,738	-597
Bx 10	Coop City		8,128	8,133	5
Bx 11	Pelham Parkway		12,487	12,763	276
Bx 12	Williamsbridge		19,455	20,186	731
Man 1	Downtown		1,427	1,344	-83
Man 2	Greenwich Village		3,201	3,121	-80
Man 3	Lower East Side-Chinatown		24,133	24,197	64
Man 4	Chelsea-Clinton		10,332	10,008	-324
Man 5	Midtown		2,523	2,710	187
Man 6	Grammercy Park		2,719	2,649	-70
Man 7	Upper West Side		12,544	11,960	-584
Man 8	Upper East Side		3,168	3,214	46
Man 9	West Harlem		21,404	20,425	-979
Man 10	Central Harlem		24,624	23,752	-872
Man 11	East Harlem		30,065	29,182	-883
Man 12	Washington Hts.-Inwood		44,068	42,584	-1484
Bklyn 1	Williamsburg-Greenpoint		39,354	39,581	227
Bklyn 2	Bklyn Hts-Cobble Hill		10,711	10315	-396
Bklyn 3	Bedford Stuyvesant		38,945	38899	-46
Bklyn 4	Bushwick		30,563	31066	503
Bklyn 5	East New York		42,737	43486	749
Bklyn 6	Park Slope-Carroll Gardens		8,864	8475	-389
Bklyn 7	Sunset Park-Windsor Terrace		17,795	17376	-419
Bklyn 8	North Crown Heights		19,580	18929	-651
Bklyn 9	South Crown Heights		14,929	14836	-93
Bklyn 10	Bay Ridge		8,929	9228	299
Bklyn 11	Bensonhurst		21,832	22295	463

Bklyn 12	Boro Park		37,544	38091	547
Bklyn 13	Coney Island-Brighton Beach		23,964	23910	-54
Bklyn 14	Flatbush-Midwood		24,838	24555	-283
Bklyn 15	Sheepshead Bay		18,383	18749	366
Bklyn 16	Brownsville		25,884	25865	-19
Bklyn 17	East Flatbush		19,007	18864	-143
Bklyn 18	Canarsie-Starrett City		14,782	15114	332
Qns 1	Astoria		15,392	15527	135
Qns 2	Woodside-LIC		7,016	7201	185
Qns 3	Jackson Hts		15,148	15880	732
Qns 4	Corona-Elmhurst		14,910	15731	821
Qns 5	Middle Village-Ridgewood		11,338	11891	553
Qns 6	Forest Hills		6,974	7108	134
Qns 7	Flushing		12,006	12530	524
Qns 8	Kew Garden Hills-Pomonok		8,614	8840	226
Qns 9	Richmond Hill		10,867	11161	294
Qns 10	Ozone Park-Howard Beach		6,588	6602	14
Qns 11	Douglaston-Little Neck		2,392	2528	136
Qns 12	Jamaica-St.Albans		22,840	22130	-710
Qns 13	Springfield Gardens		9,050	9106	56
Qns 14	The Rockaways		16,883	17089	206
SI 1	North Shore		19,143	20015	872
SI 2	Mid-Island		5,984	6576	592
SI 3	South Shore		3,837	4085	248
<b>NYC Total</b>			<b>1,081,714</b>	<b>1,081,334</b>	<b>-380</b>

Source: New York City Human Resources Administration District Resource Statement FY 2006 and FY 2007

## Recommendations:

1. ***From Compstat to Foodstat:*** A new system of accountability for both HRA Food Stamp enrollment staff and community based organizations can easily be implemented. Data driven systems for improving accountability have been attributed with greatly improving the performance of City agencies. Modeled after similar uses of data in other government programs such as the Police Department (Compstat), Human Resources Administration (Jobstat), Department of Health (Healthstat), the annual changes in Food Stamps can be tracked, ranked and assessed. ***Data can become a powerful tool for increasing usage and strengthening program accountability.***
  2. ***An organized effort is already underway, a lot more can be done:*** In the past two years, a coalition of community based organizations, with funding from the United Way of New York City, has been very successful in increasing Food Stamps enrollment in their target neighborhoods. Known as the Food Card Access Project, 52,000 people have received Food Stamps as a result of the neighborhood based efforts<sup>4</sup>. The New York City Human Resources Administration (NYC-HRA) is also making significant strides to make the Food Stamps application process more user friendly. The Food Stamps enrollment issue also continues to maintain bipartisan support; from Washington to New York, both sides of the aisle support this program. On the local level, the New York City Council has been in the forefront for a more aggressive set of policies to encourage people to enroll in Food Stamps. While all of these efforts are important, a new focus must be directed to helping those neighborhoods that have the biggest gains to make in Food Stamps participation ahead of them.
-

**Methodology:** Chart’s C and D show the gap between the number of people living in New York City who receive Food Stamps and an estimated number of people eligible for Food Stamps. The estimate is based on a methodology for calculating Food Stamps participation used by the Food Resource Action Center (FRAC). The FRAC formula is based on research conducted by the United State Department of Agriculture. The FRAC formula is based on three factors: 1) the number of people living in households with incomes below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level; 2) assets calculation factor requires reducing the first number by 24.5%. 3) the number of qualified aliens (recent and legal immigrants). The estimated number of people eligible for Food Stamps used in this report is based on these three factors with the following qualifications. 130% of the Federal Poverty Level data is not available by Community District. A more conservative number of 125% of the Federal Poverty Level number for this report. The formula used here can only provide a reliable estimate. The factors used here would make these estimates on the conservative side. It is quite possible that the actual number is larger. Regarding the third factor, immigrants, since it has been more than five years since the Census was taken, most of the qualified aliens would now qualify for Food Stamps. Estimates of the number of people eligible for Food Stamps have used a range instead of a single figure. In the 2006 New York City Council Report *Empty Cupboards: New Yorkers at Risk of Hunger Face Continued Barriers to Food Stamp Enrollment*, a wide range is given for estimating the number of people eligible for Food Stamps. “Even after accounting for the factors that can render a person ineligible for food stamps, between 425,000 and 925,000 eligible New Yorkers are not receiving benefits.

**Background Statement:** In 2001, I wrote a position paper on the strategies for increasing food stamp participation in New York City. The paper argued that the drop in Food Stamps enrollment that had taken place between 1996 and 2000 was not only a problem for poor families but also for the economies of poor neighborhoods. A drop in food stamps participation also meant taking an average of \$20 million dollars out the economy of each of New York City’s poor neighborhoods. The position paper also explained how community district data modeled after the success of the Compstat program should be applied to Food Stamps enrollment. Community District data showing the large declines in Food Stamps between 1996 and 2000 was included in the position paper. The position paper was sponsored by three community based organizations (Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, St. Nicks Neighborhood Preservation Corporation and Citizens Advice Bureau) and was used by the United Way to help formulate their Food Access Program.

[www.wnyc.net/web/news/XcNewsPlus.asp?cmd=view&articleid=1065](http://www.wnyc.net/web/news/XcNewsPlus.asp?cmd=view&articleid=1065).

**Notes:**

---

<sup>1</sup>. Urban Justice Center.

<sup>2</sup>. Food Stamp Access in Urban America: A City-by-City Snapshot September 2005. Food Action Resource Center page 14.

---

<sup>3</sup> New York City Human Resources Administration District Resource Statement 2005-2006

<sup>4</sup> [www.unitedwaynyc.org/?id=17&pg=fcap](http://www.unitedwaynyc.org/?id=17&pg=fcap)

4. Food Stamp Access in Urban America: A City-by-City Snapshot. September 2005, *Food Research and Action Center*, The method used to estimate the number of people eligible for Food Stamps is based on the Food Research Action Center (FRAC) “Local Access Indicator”. Food Stamps eligibility is based on three factors: household income below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level; 2) legal residency requirement of at least five years and 3) asset resources below 2,000 per household. Because of these three factors, only an estimate is possible of the total number of people eligible for Food Stamps and not participating.

5. Commissioner’s Special Report. April 2005. New York City Human Resources Administration

6. **Empty Cupboards:** New Yorkers at Risk of Hunger Face Continued Barriers to Food Stamp Enrollment. January 2006. New York City Council. Oversight Committee.

7. Food Stamp Enrollment and Growing Hunger in New York City. . February 2005. New York City Council Oversight Committee