



State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

Broome County Health Department

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Reusable Bags for Food Pantry Clients

*Health Department Grant and Community Partners Work to Address
Transportation Barriers*

(BROOME COUNTY, NY) – As a member organization of the Broome County Food Council (BCFC), the Broome County Health Department’s Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) Grant organized for the donation of about 1,400 zippered bags to alleviate transportation barriers for food pantry clients.

Bringing many open bags onto public transit can create some hidden dangers: items can fall from bags and impede the driver’s safe operation or become a projectile in the event of a hard stop. Because of this, the Broome County Food Council received reports of food pantry clients having difficulty finding a safe way to transport their food home. To try and help, the CHSC Grant purchased insulated bags that zip closed at the top; these will allow for food pantry clients to bring multiple bags with them without sacrificing rider safety.

Upon hearing about this initiative, other community pillars were eager to help. The Community Foundation for South Central New York and the Junior League of Binghamton also donated bags to CHOW and the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. By distributing these bags across several high-need food pantries along BC Transit routes, this project can help hundreds of families in Broome County have easier access to healthy food.

“Fighting hunger is not just about providing food, it is about making sure people can access it safely and with dignity,” said Mark Bordeau, President & CEO of the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. “These bags make a big difference because they represent a community that listens, cares, and takes action to remove barriers for our neighbors.”

The Broome County Food Council’s Transportation Workgroup continues to work on finding a more sustainable and permanent solution to transportation to and from food access sites in Broome County. To learn more or become a member, visit their website:

<https://www.broomecountyfoodcouncil.org/>

CHSC is a five-year initiative funded by the New York State Department of Health to establish and support healthy behaviors in high-needs communities. The New York State Department of Health Division of Chronic Disease Prevention implements evidence-based, evidenced-informed, and innovative public health strategies in order to support New Yorkers to live healthier lives and eliminate health disparities by reducing the incidence and burden of chronic diseases and conditions. For more information, visit https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/obesity/prevention_activities/chsc/

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