

Neighbor Leadership Council Policy Agenda 2026



One in 4 people in Allegheny County is food insecure.

The Neighbor Leadership Council is a group of community advocates with lived and work experience, striving for a better future. The council collectively agreed on the top six issues impacting their communities.

Food Access

Neighbors are experiencing:

- Losing access to SNAP despite eligibility
- SNAP benefits not lasting the full month
- Limited access to fresh and affordable food

Advocating for:

- Strong SNAP protections that reduce barriers and prevent theft
- Increased SNAP benefits to cover real costs of food
- Stronger funding for food banks and meal programs

Economic Stability

Neighbors are experiencing:

- Wages and benefits are not keeping up with the cost of living
- Difficulty affording basic needs (rent, food, utilities, gas)

Advocating for:

- Establishing a livable minimum wage in Pennsylvania
- Policies that support working families (paid time off, tax credits)
- Strengthening and streamlining the social safety net

Housing

Neighbors are experiencing:

- Rising rent and housing instability
- Risk of eviction or homelessness
- Limited access to safe and affordable housing

Advocating for:

- More affordable housing
- Stronger eviction protections
- Investment in housing assistance
- Stronger protections for tenants to have safe, healthy homes

Neighbor Leadership Council Policy Agenda 2026 cont.

Healthcare Access

Neighbors are experiencing:

- Difficulty finding providers
- Long wait times for appointments
- High costs for medications and care
- High rates of denials for care
- Unable to afford insurance

Advocating for:

- Expanded access to insurance including dental, hearing, vision
- More community-based and mobile health services
- Affordable prescription medications and health equipment

Utilities

Neighbors are experiencing:

- Increasing rates that lead to exorbitant utility bills
- Unexpected shutoffs and fees
- Difficulty accessing assistance programs

Advocating for:

- Representation of low-income experience on PUC
- Streamlined applications for assistance across programs
- Increased funding and eligibility for utility assistance

Transportation

Neighbors are experiencing:

- Long wait times, unreliable service, route cuts
- Routes that don't connect to jobs, healthcare or food access
- Paratransit is not convenient or accessible

Advocating for:

- Full funding of public transit, including paratransit
- Reliable routes that connect to jobs, healthcare, groceries and food pantries
- A bus stop at the Food Bank

Join us today!

Scan the QR code on the right or visit
pittsburghfoodbank.org/advocate.

