



RUSA Bill F20-09

Author: Zain Ahmed, *Special Advisor to the President*; Hira Hussain, *Treasurer*

Sponsor: Executive Committee

Bill to Appropriate Donation to the Rutgers Student Food Pantry Amid COVID-19 Fall 2020 Outbreak

Whereas, food insecurity has always been an issue that affects students at Rutgers University;

Whereas, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have significantly worsened this issue increasing the number of students who are food insecure;

Whereas, the onset of the second wave of the pandemic is expected to put many students out of work and in need;

Whereas, Rutgers Student Food Pantry, under the leadership of Kerri Wilson, has been working tirelessly to combat this issue and provide food to students in need through additional distribution programs like the Mobile Food Pantry¹;

Whereas, there will be a need to buy produce since the Rutgers Student Food Pantry receives produce from the Rutgers Gardens Farm whose growing season ends at the end of November;

Whereas, there is a need to buy additional inventory, grocery and RU Express gift cards for students who have additional dietary needs;

Whereas, there is a need for additional student staff to increase the amount and variability of hours the food pantry can operate;

Whereas, there is precedent of RUSA donating money to the Rutgers Student Food Pantry in the Spring of 2018², the Fall of 2019³ and the Spring of 2020⁴, as well as future plans to further

¹ [November Food Distribution Schedule](#)

² [RUSA Bill S18-06](#)

³ [RUSA Resolution F19-02](#)

⁴ [RUSA Bill S20-05](#)

combat food insecurity with innovative projects such as aeroponics passed in the G.R.E.E.N. Act⁵;

Whereas, RUSA has unused funds originally allocated to Fall Retreat, Fall Elections, Fall Involvement Fair, and Fall ABTS Conference, due to these activities taking place remotely as a result of the Fall 2020 semester's operating status;

Be it hereby resolved, that the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) donates \$20,000 to the Rutgers Student Food Pantry from the following budget line items:

1. Fall Retreat Site: \$12,000
2. Fall Retreat Food: \$2,000
3. Fall Elections: \$1,500
4. Fall Involvement Fair: \$2,000
5. Fall ABTS Conference: \$2,500

⁵ [RUSA Bill F20-03](#)