PA currently has the strongest protections against loan-sharking but predatory "payday" lenders are trying to undo that. Their loans target low-income individuals living paycheck to paycheck. The enormous fees and short repayment periods lead to debt traps that often last nearly 200 days.

SNAP (FEDERAL & STATE)
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or "food stamps") is the nation's largest nutrition assistance program. In 2015, SNAP helped lift more than 45 million Americans (roughly 160,000 in Allegheny County) out of poverty and keep food on the table.

WIC (FEDERAL)
WIC serves 1/2 of all babies born in the U.S., providing important nutritional and health resources to low-income women, infants, and children under 5, including: food stipends, nutrition classes, and health referral services.

SCHOOL MEALS (FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL)
Community Eligibility Provision funds free school meals for all students in high poverty schools without requiring paper applications. This saves schools time and money and provides students with stigma-free nutrition. Expanding access to school breakfast in public schools is also critical for healthy development and academic success.

SUMMER FOOD (FEDERAL & LOCAL)
Hunger doesn’t take a vacation. Summer meal programs play an important role in filling the nutrition gap children face when they don’t have access to school meals.

FOOD DESERTS (LOCAL)
Low-income people living in food deserts – communities without supermarkets – often have little or no access to good food choices. Ensuring access to healthy food for all requires innovative policy strategies.

VOTING (FEDERAL & STATE)
Participating in the political process and being informed about candidates' priorities is key to ending hunger and poverty. Meanwhile, the government must ensure voting access for all citizens.