The Week in News: Our Kitchen Loses $800K, Food Price Hike

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This week, the Food Bank For New York City was hit hard by the loss of nearly 50 percent of funding for our Community Kitchen & Food Pantry in Harlem. The city has reduced the number of sites serving free summer meals to kids this summer, and the price of grocery staples has risen. The good news: city farmers markets will give food stamp shoppers a boost on fresh produce purchases this summer!

Food Bank's Community Kitchen Loses nearly half its budget, **WABC, 7/5/11**
The free groceries [Vilma Frias] gets at the Food Bank's food pantry in West Harlem each month means the difference between being able to fill her sons' stomachs or not. But the program that keeps them and more than 4,000 other New York families fed is in jeopardy, after the Community Kitchen lost nearly half its budget due to state reallocations.

Fewer locations, but more free summer meals, **WABC, 7/6/11**
New York City is cutting back the locations serving meals to children this summer. The reorganization means 37 fewer food sites this summer, and will save the city about $11 million. Last summer the city served about 7 million free meals, and this year the goal is even more.

Food prices have been creeping up all year. According to the latest American Farm Bureau Federation Marketbasket Survey, 14 of the 16 supermarket staples it tracks have increased in price between the first and second quarters of 2011.

White House and Congressional Leaders Urged to Reduce Deficit without Increasing Poverty, **PR Newswire, 6/27/11**
At a critical juncture in the deficit reduction talks, the leaders of prominent national religious, civil rights, charitable, economic research, and low-income advocacy organizations are calling on Executive and Congressional leadership to honor the precedent set by previous deficit reduction negotiations that have reduced the deficit without increasing poverty.

City farmers markets offer food-stamp bonus, ***Crain's New York Business*, 7/5/11**
Through the city's "Health Bucks" program, shoppers using food stamps will receive $2 in coupons for every $5 they spend on fresh produce at participating farmers markets. The coupons are redeemable at 65 markets throughout the five boroughs.